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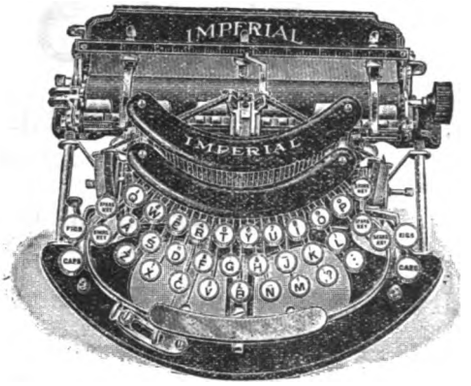

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The negotiations which have been taking place between M. Zographos, President of the Autonomous Government of Epirus, and the Albanian Government, were reported last week to have reached a satisfactory stage, and hopes of an impending agreement between the two parties were entertained in some quarters. This week interest in the Epirus question has been transferred from the Council Chamber to the battlefield. Fighting has been in progress for some days in the debated territory, and with the prospect of reinforcements for both sides, the Epirotes and Albanians appear to have definitely embarked upon a trial of military strength. The actual cause of the renewal of hostilities is obscure, but the point is immaterial in view of the fact that the armed forces of the two parties were never at any great distance from one another. The Epirotes make the Albanians the aggressors, and credit them with having planned an advance into the Argyrokastro valley. But if the insurgents were at any time on the defensive, they did not long remain so, for advancing at no great distance from Argyrokastro they occupied Kolonia, together with a long line of villages in that district. The Albanians claim to have been successful in a subsequent attack on the Epirotes, and to have recaptured a number of villages.

The news of the Epirote advance appears to have stirred popular feeling in Albania. Volunteers are being rapidly enrolled in Central Albania, and are hurrying to Koritza. The Epirotes, however, have the advantage of being an organised army, possessed of some artillery. Apart from a small force of gendarmerie, stated to be from 1,500 to 2,000 strong, the Albanians seem to rely upon more or less irregular levies recruited from Southern Albanian clan. As far as is known, no attempt has been made to concentrate these irregulars, and they have been left distributed along the frontier, making the advance of any disciplined force a comparatively easy matter. The plans of the Albanian Government are still obscure. As long as negotiations were in progress with M. Zographos they could not well embark upon any definite military enterprise. But events have now passed beyond the control of the responsible authorities, and only a forcible solution seems possible.

Compared with the late struggle in the Balkans, the fighting in Epirus is a small matter, and it is to this circumstance that we must attribute the apparent indifference of the Great Powers to events in Southern Albania. The hopes entertained of the negotiations between the Albanian Government and M. Zographos were based largely on the belief that Italy was exercising her influence in favour of a peaceful settlement. But if the fighting continues, there is the fear that the situation will not remain amenable to peaceful persuasion. Neither side is going to fight with kid gloves on, and even without excesses being committed, reports of atrocities will suffice to inflame passions both in Greece and Albania. The smallness of the numbers engaged is an additional argument against allowing a wider area to become embroiled. That there is a danger of this happening is proved by the reports of complications between the Epirotes and the Mussulmans in their territory. Last week it was stated that M. Zographos had ordered all adult male Moslems to be deported from Argyrokastro. Whether this step was actually taken does not yet appear, but further information throws light upon the attitude of the Autonomous Government. It is stated that about 1,500 Mussulmans from villages in the neighbourhood of Kourvalesi and Liapouria armed themselves with weapons concealed during the Greek occupation, and made an attack on Epirote troops guarding the frontier on the road to Tepeleni. The Mussulmans were eventually driven off, but, according to the same source, the Epirotes are clamouring for extreme measures against the Mussulman inhabitants.

The report emanates from the Epirotes, and may rest on no more solid foundation than a desire to justify action against Mussulmans such as M. Zographos was credited with last week. But before irreparable harm has been done there would seem to be sufficient ground to justify an inquiry into the case of the Mussulmans of Argyrokastro. It is noticeable that M. Zographos himself, in the course of conversation with a *Morning Post* correspondent, complained of the indifference of the Powers towards the Epirus question. He declared that he was personally more than ever averse from deepening the gulf between the two elements of the population whose destiny it was to live together in the Albanian State

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brought into existence by the mandate of Europe. No one, however, listened to him while there was an opportunity for peaceful negotiation, and it now only remained to him, he added, to end the combat by victory or death. M. Zographos makes out a plausible case, and if the Powers had shouldered responsibilities that were in reality their own, which they threw off on to their fledgling State, the Epirus question would have been solved by now.

An incident related by the Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* and the reports of the oppression of Bulgarians in Macedonia indicate how small is the advance made in some respects in the Balkans since the days of Abdul Hamid. Three Slavs of Dibra, engaged as milkmen in Constantinople, were arrested four months ago on charges even more impossible than those that recently secured the condemnation of Colonel Aziz Ali, and were imprisoned at the War Office. On March 17, three days after the signature of the Turco-Servian Peace Treaty, the Servian Chargé d'Affaires applied for their release, and received official assurances that they would be immediately liberated. On March 23 M. Georgevitch was informed that the Slavs had been condemned to death, and again he made representations to the authorities. He was unable, however, to obtain any proof that the men had been set at liberty, and on renewing his inquiries three weeks later, learned that they had been executed on March 30. If from Constantinople we turn to Macedonia we find the *rôle* of oppressor in other hands. Information received in Sofia from official sources depicts the condition of the Bulgarian population in the new Macedonian districts of Servia as being "worse than ever it was under the Red Sultan." According to one of the official reports, "the Turkish régime was not nearly so harsh, so cruel, and so merciless as the present Servian one." If such statements rested on unsupported testimony no attention would need be paid to them, but detailed information, and the steady stream of hapless refugees arriving at the Bulgarian frontier, makes it difficult not to believe that acts are being committed on Servian territory for which the Government would hesitate to accept responsibility. Charges of the most fantastic nature hurtle through the air in the Balkans and, naturally, breed scepticism among foreign observers of the course of events in these countries. But the Servian Government can hardly be in ignorance of the Bulgarian accusations. It would, therefore, be a very simple course to adopt to invite two Bulgarian officials and a neutral witness to visit the districts in question in order that they might testify to the inaccuracy of the charges brought against Servian officials. Failure to take such a step, in view of the authoritative nature of the indictment, cannot help being regarded as confirmation of the truth of the indictment.

Further progress is reported in the demarcation of the Turco-Persian frontier. The rapid headway now being made by the Boundary Commission gives reason to hope that the whole frontier will have been delimited before the end of the year.

The annual report of the Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government is a valuable supplement to the more comprehensive report of the British Agent-General. These documents record the contemporary history of Egypt in a wealth of detail, and with a peculiar knowledge that it is not always at the disposal of unofficial writers. In his present report just issued Sir Malcolm McIlwraith is at pains to account for "the continuous rise in crimes and serious misdemeanours which has unhappily been a marked feature of these reports for several years past." The cause that is most potent in Europe is missing in Egypt. Poverty to the degree of being always on the border line of starvation, and unable to withstand the further suffering imposed by cold and inclement weather, is hardly known in Egypt, where life is more easily sustained and the habitual charity of the people towards each other is more effective than organised charity. At the same time the standard of wealth among the agricultural classes is not high, and a general rise in the standard of living has given a marked impetus to the rapacity and greed that usually mark a peasantry for whom the most insignificant possession has a monetary value or its equivalent. A thirst for revenge when a real or imaginary injury has been suffered, the Judicial Adviser considers is a still more potent cause of crime in Egypt. Murder on the spur of the moment for some quite trifling provocation cannot be put down by law, he points out. A change in the temperament of the people which—as has so frequently been observed—the spread of education may be expected to produce can alone diminish the number of such deeds. But in spite of such a phenomenal increase in misdemeanours as that entailed in the record of 92,938 cases in 1913, compared with 13,932 in 1909, those who have the welfare of Egypt at heart need not be over-anxious. The people are expected to conform more or less to a British standard, and it may be doubted whether any nation of a temperament traditionally associated with warm climates could hope to come well out of the test within a few years of its first application.

The project for the foundation in London of a School of Oriental Studies is one that readers of THE NEAR EAST have particularly close at heart. Lord Curzon and Lord Cromer deserve to be warmly thanked for their strenuous efforts in furthering the cause of the school, and are to be congratulated on the success which they have achieved. The school is to be located in the London Institution in Finsbury Circus; it will be established as a school of the London University, but under a Royal Charter, and the King will be its Patron. Towards the estimated annual expenditure of £14,000 the Government has promised £4,000 and the Indian Government £1,250, while, a grant from the London County Council is also expected. On Wednesday the Lord Mayor presided at the Mansion House over a large and influential meeting, which had been arranged with the object of interesting the City in the project and of enabling the School of Oriental Studies to be opened in 1915 on a satisfactory financial basis. Lord Curzon spoke and reviewed the history of the scheme now nearing completion. He pointed out that to know the languages of the East was a great thing, but that to know the spirit of the East was a greater. With this dictum few people will find fault. As a nation we have prided ourselves in the past on combining the two accomplishments in our Indian administration. In the commercial world we have often succeeded in doing without either, finding other qualifications a satisfactory substitute. But competition has grown keener, and the weak points in our commercial armour have been found out by rivals, and they have put their knowledge to good use. The time has come, therefore, to repair that armour, and the School of Oriental Studies is to play its part in this work. It will also make good any defects that have arisen through one cause or another in the material upon which we rely for the administration of our Indian Empire. The school, therefore, as Lord Curzon insisted, has to be regarded as a great Imperial obligation, and as such we shall hope to see it successfully inaugurated and as successfully conducted.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 1.

Turkey's Naval Ambitions.

The event of the week has been the announcement, first made four days ago by Shefik Bey, the President of the Turkish Navy League, at a theatrical performance given in aid of the fleet, that the Government has ordered a Dreadnought from the Armstrong-Vickers group. Whether the contract has actually been signed is not known, but there are reasons to believe that the arrangement was entered into at the time when the Porte first granted the dock and shipbuilding concession to the group in question, and I have good reasons for believing that the "Mohammed Fatih" ("Mohammed the Conqueror") will be very shortly laid down in England. The new ship will be a super-Dreadnought, an improved version of H.I.M.S. "Reshadieh," armed with a primary armament of at least 13.5-in. guns, well protected and fast. The question who is to pay for the new battleship is, of course, a very difficult one. I learn on Ministerial authority that the Turkish Navy League has about £T800,000 in its possession at present, and hopes to raise further large sums by public subscription, especially in the provinces, and also after the Ramazan fast is over. On the other hand, Europeans who are well acquainted with the financial situation say that large parts of Anatolia have been drained as far as subscriptions go to arrive at the result indicated by the Ministerial authority whom I have mentioned; that it is somewhat doubtful whether Shefik Bey, who is shortly leaving for Beyrout, will be as successful in the Arab provinces as he has been in Anatolia, and that if the Government counts on paying for the new battleship exclusively out of the fleet subscriptions three or perhaps four years must elapse before she can be finally delivered. They also hint that the prospect that the Government will probably be compelled to contribute rather largely to the new battleship's cost may have an adverse effect on Turkey's prospects at the Financial Conference at Paris, where Western critics may remark that if the Porte can afford *articles de luxe* such as super-Dreadnoughts, it can bear a larger share of the public debt of the Roumelian provinces than has hitherto been supposed.

In any case the probability that Greece will promptly order a new Dreadnought to bring her naval strength up to the Turkish level is considerable. Turkey will then insist on ordering a fourth, and so on, till both countries find war cheaper than peace—or, till Russia, seeing a large battle squadron growing up at her southern doors, determines to strike. We should, perhaps, do the same were we in Russia's shoes. Germany's determination to find her future "on the water" has been one of the principal causes of Anglo-German rivalry in the past, and the margin between Russian and Turkish strength in the Black Sea is far less than that between England and Germany in 1899. Russia has three Dreadnoughts building in the Black Sea. They cannot be ready till 1916—such at least is the view taken by experts here. She has in addition three battleships of the "Evstafi" type, the old "Rostislav," and "Tri Sviatitelia," and one or two still older ironclads, with two modern cruisers and a dozen destroyers. The battleships now ready are of the pre-Dreadnought epoch. So before, or at all events by the end of this year, Turkey will have two Dreadnoughts with three old ironclads to pit against the half-dozen Russian battleships, and will not be much behind the Muscovites in torpedo craft. This determination, therefore, of the Turkish Government to be supreme in the Ægean may have disagreeable political consequences unless Europe may prevail upon Greece and the Porte to limit their naval armaments. Whether Europe is ever likely to move in this direction is doubtful enough. In Near Eastern matters "Europe" lets ill alone, and is wildly surprised and indignant when her interests suffer in consequence. For this her statesmen, who are too afraid of their rivals and too nervous to "call a bluff," are responsible.

The Evkaf Museum.

On Monday the new Museum of the Ministry of Evkaf was opened in the presence of the Heir Apparent and of many Turkish notabilities. It is well worth visiting, for, though the collection contained therein is small, it is choice and has been well selected. As guide-books, however modern, do not contain any mention whatever of the contents of the majority of the provincial Tekkés and of the libraries and other institutions administered by the Ministry, or, I should say, by the Departments of the Evkaf which have contributed of their store to the new museum, I may be pardoned for devoting some attention to the exhibits of the new museum. First, there is an excellent collection of exquisitely bound and illuminated Korans, which is alone worth visiting. Next there are some carpets of very great antiquity, dating indeed from the later Seljuk period, which must be of great interest to all lovers of Turkish and Persian art. There are a few good pieces of glass, celadon, and porcelain, the latter including some of the earliest examples of Kutahia ware, and a very fine Ming vase, obviously made for the Near Eastern market. The collection of illustrated manuscripts, if small, is very good. There are some attractive examples of brasswork, and, finally, there is a fascinating collection of historical relics. Among these last are the robes and other personal belongings of Sultana Khurrem, better known to Western historians as Roxalana, the Russian slave whom Suleiman the Magnificent took to wife; the dresses of the luckless male children of the Imperial family who were strangled by order of each Sultan as he came to the throne for "reasons of State"; the shirt of Sultan Selim II. which Hussein Hilmi Pasha recovered after it had been carried off by a Russian volunteer when Adrianople fell; a sleeved blue and white garment whereon the whole of the Koran has been written; the orange-sleeved shirt of Bayazid, "the Thunderbolt," brought from his cenotaph at Brusa; a garment which is also inscribed with the whole Koran, no doubt as a talisman against danger in battle. There are some who contest the authenticity of this relic, and say that Timur the Tartar, after he inflicted the most dreadful defeat that the Turks have suffered on Bayazid, took the personal effects of the captive Sultan with him to Central Asia, and that there is no proof whatsoever that he restored any of his trophies to the House of Osman after Bayazid's death. Yet is does not follow that the relic may not have belonged to the great fighting Sultan, even if it were not worn by him at Angora and may not have clothed his iron frame at Kossovo or Nicopolis. May I recommend all readers of The Near East who are likely to visit Constantinople to see this interesting and beautiful collection, which is within fifty yards of the Suleimanieh Mosque; and may I express the hope that Hairi Bey, to whose initiative the formation of this collection is due, may command that the labels and descriptions of each exhibit be written in French as well as in Turkish?

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 30.

The Khedive's Tour in the Delta.

Sunday being the birthday of H.H. the Khedive, a reception was held on that day at Abdin Palace. The attendance was most unusually large, probably owing to the fact that the reception was also a farewell one, his Highness being due to take up his residence for the summer in Alexandria on May 4. On Monday evening a banquet, to which the Ministers, the Advisers and Under-Secretaries, the Acting Ottoman High Commissioner, and many other high officials and notables were invited, was given at Abdin Palace in honour of the anniversary of the Sultan's accession.

On Tuesday morning the Khedive, accompanied by Rushdi Pasha, the Premier, and Sirri Pasha and Moheb Pasha, the Ministers of Public Works and Wakfs, left Cairo by motor-car and started on his tour in the Delta. The most elaborate preparations have been made by the Government, the provincial authorities, and the inhabitants. The tour is to last six days, and his Highness is to traverse every mudiria, the distance to be covered being about 550 miles. The programme has been divided into sections, and it has been arranged for a different Minister to accompany the Khedive through each section, the whole Cabinet assembling at Tanta and at Alexandria. In the course of his journey his Highness will visit a large number of notables, who have made the most extensive arrangements to receive him and have spared no expense to accord him a fitting welcome. It is many years since the Khedive has made a tour of his realm on anything like this scale, and it will be interesting to watch its effects.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly again stands adjourned—this time until Wednesday, May 6. It has been decided to refer back to Committee the Co-operative Agricultural Syndicates Bill, owing to the fact that the Government desires to make certain amendments which have lately been found necessary. After a long discussion it was agreed to increase the Committee of Agriculture by nine members taken from the Committees of Finance, Justice, and the Interior, so as to ensure that this important measure shall be studied with the greatest care. The decision to re-examine the Bill is an exceedingly wise one, for although it means that the promulgation of the law will be somewhat delayed, the measure is of such vital importance to the economic welfare of the country that if it were introduced with any ill-considered haste its effect might be disastrous.

At the last meeting the replies of the Government to the various requests and observations on the Budget for 1914-15 made by the Assembly were circulated amongst the members. Some of the latter wanted these replies submitted to the Finance Committee so that they could be discussed. It was pointed out that this was contrary to the Organic Law, but as a concession and on the condition that this was not to be taken as a precedent the Government gave way and agreed to allow the questions to be reopened.

Some of the Government's replies are interesting. With regard to the observations made by the Assembly on the question of the investment of the Reserve Fund, the Ministry of Finance considers that any deviation from the present policy of buying foreign bonds would be dangerous, and so it declines to entertain the Assembly's proposal to invest that fund in Egyptian stock. The Government's reasons are those set forth in The Near East at the time the Budget was under discussion. The Government agrees to insert in the annual accounts a statement of the sums advanced to the Sudan and of the military expenses incurred on its behalf and inserted in the War Office Budget, but it declines to publish an account of the interest due, seeing that as yet the Sudan is not in a position to pay any interest. With regard to the State domains, the Government agrees to the proposal to divide the Fayoum estate into plots of five feddans or multiples thereof, and to sell them on terms of payment by instalment. Already 5,700 feddans have been treated in this manner, and are on the point of being sold. It is interesting to note that negotiations are in active progress with the Powers for the reduction in size of the benches in the Appeal and First Instance Courts of the Mixed Tribunals, so as to provide more courts, and that there is every prospect of a satisfactory solution being arrived at very soon. With regard to the vexed question of the palm tax, which the Assembly wanted to have drastically modified, if not suppressed altogether, the Government declines to take any action, as not only does the financial situation not permit it, but it does not consider that the tax is either prejudicial to the date-palm owners or levied in a disproportionate manner.

Aziz Ali Bey El Masri.

Egypt's hero, Aziz Ali Bey El Masri, arrived on Sunday last, and all those who have watched the progress of his case since his arrest at Stamboul over two and a-half months ago now breathe freely once more. He arrived early in the morning at Alexandria, where he was met by his brother-in-law, Ali Pasha Zulficar, the Governor of Cairo, and a deputation from the Cairo Committee. Loud cheers were raised by the crowd of natives on the quay, and Aziz Bey on landing was accorded an enthusiastic reception. He left by special train for Cairo, where another ovation awaited him. Even at the house of his brother-in-law, where he is staying, crowds of natives, high and low, waited in the hopes of catching a glimpse and being able to cheer him.

Aziz Bey has been busy calling on all those who had taken an interest in his case. The afternoon of his arrival he drove to Abdin Palace, where the Khedive received him, and he has since called at the Agency and seen Lord Kitchener, whom he thanked for the assistance the British Government had given him. He has since his arrival been freely interviewed by representatives of the local Press and whole columns have been filled with accounts of what took place at the trial and of the charges preferred against him. The gallant officer, who expressed to me his deep gratitude to the British nation and the British Press, appears to be somewhat tired, and is now taking a well-earned repose after his terrible experiences. He is disinclined to discuss, *ad infinitum*, the details of his case. In fact, he says he wants to forget it; for he feels that whatever mistakes have been made will in due time be repaired.

The Murder of Captain Fawcett.

Alexandria received a terrible shock on Monday when it learnt that Captain Samuel Fawcett, Marine Superintendent of the Khedivial Mail Line, had during the previous night been murdered in his house. The details are not quite clear yet, as the preliminary inquiry has not been concluded; but it appears that Captain Fawcett, who lives alone in the Gumrook (Customs) quarter, returned home at about 11.30 on Sunday night, and, ordering a cup of tea, read the paper for a short time and then went to bed. At about one o'clock his servant, who sleeps on the premises, was awakened by his master calling out to him that someone was in the house. He states that he saw Captain Fawcett come out into the corridor with a candle and that he was then attacked by two or three men (he is not clear as to the number), whereupon he rushed out to warn the *bowab* and the two fetched the police.

When they returned they found Captain Fawcett lying dead on the floor of the corridor in a pool of blood and with the candle under him. He had been brutally stabbed in several places in the chest, at least two of the wounds proving fatal. An inquiry was at once opened, and the cook and the *bowab* were detained. Neighbours testified that at about the time of the murder they heard movements on the roof. The police have now arrested two natives, one, Abdullah Hassan, a notorious burglar, who was implicated about five years ago in another murder case, and who was found to have injuries on his

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head and foot. Witnesses have come forward to testify that he was sitting, uninjured, at a café in the same street as Fawcett's house earlier in the evening, and that he was seen limping down the same street at about the hour the murder took place. The police doctor appears to confirm the theory that he sustained his injuries in a fall from the roof. The other arrested man is also a bad character, and it is believed that suspicion rests on him owing to some bloodstains on his clothes. A coil of rope has been found in Captain Fawcett's house, and it is assumed that the murderers—from the state of the house there would appear to have been more than one assailant—used it to enter the house. For this reason suspicion rests on the servant as being an accomplice. His evidence has so far proved most unsatisfactory and contradictory. The *bowab* has in the meantime been released, as there is no evidence against him.

The inquiry continues. The police theory is that the murderers entered the house in order to steal, and that, being detected, they attacked Captain Fawcett. The latter was a most popular and respected member of the British colony. He had been in Alexandria for the past thirteen years, and his loss is much felt by his large circle of friends.

EGYPTIAN LEGISLATION.

The Judicial Adviser's Report.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The annual report of Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, which has just been published, is, as usual, full of interest, and contains many remarks on the progress of work during 1913 that are worthy of note. It is also remarkable for the very clear manner in which the various statistics are set out, and for the innovations which are noticeable on the system hitherto employed.

During the year under review some adjustments in regard to the disposition and size of the various categories of tribunals were made. As stated in the last report, the institution of the Cantonal Courts has enabled the number of Summary Courts to be increased. During 1913 thirty-one such courts were established, and two more are about to be set up in Cairo; a Central Tribunal was created at Mansura, one of the most important commercial centres of the Delta; and seven more Cantonal Courts were instituted, so that the native tribunals of Egypt will henceforward consist of eight Central Courts, ninety Summary Courts, twenty-eight Markaz Courts, and 235 Cantonal Courts. Yet notwithstanding these additions and modifications, the country does not appear to be over-endowed with law courts, for the work still shows a decided upward tendency.

Native Civil Jurisdiction.

The civil and commercial work of the Native Tribunals continues to increase considerably. The institution of Cantonal Courts affected the work of the Summary and Markaz Courts. The latter, in so far as civil cases were concerned, were abolished in February, 1913, and their arrears—3,475 cases—were taken over by the Summary Courts. The number of cases entered for trial by these courts increased by 35,123, or 20.4 per cent., and notwithstanding the fact that "owing to the rush of litigants to make their claims before the provisions of the Homestead Exemption Law came into force, the number of cases rose from 14,414, which was the average for the month during the preceding year, to 32,363 in March," the number of cases awaiting trial at the end of the year was reduced by 14 per cent. The same satisfactory feature is not revealed in the other courts. In the Appeal Court and the Central Tribunals (in Appeal) the number of cases entered for trial decreased by 5.5 and 8.9 per cent. respectively, yet those awaiting trial at the end of the year had increased by over 8 per cent. in each case; whilst in the First Instance Central Tribunals the increase in cases awaiting trial at the close of the year was double that recorded in new cases entered.

The Cantonal Courts.

As has been mentioned, the Cantonal Courts, which in the first year of their institution (1912) numbered thirty-six, have been increased to 235. Before them were brought 251,236 civil cases, of which 34,087 were Summary Court cases deferred to the Cantonal Courts with a view to effecting a compromise, and 1,756 were brought before that jurisdiction by agreement between both parties. The percentage of cases involving amounts under £E5 was 88.1. Of the Summary Court cases brought before them, 12.4 per cent. were settled by agreement between the parties, and 21.2 per cent. of the cases within their competence were similarly dealt with. The number of cases awaiting trial is 14,676, and of those in suspense 1,969, which "may be, on the whole, considered as satisfactory, allowance being made for the fact that the notables are still new to their duties."

The Judicial Adviser writes "that the general result is fairly satisfactory. The large number of civil cases brought before them would appear to show that they supply a general demand for a cheap and speedy system of justice, although it is questionable whether the supply has created the demand or whether the absence of any such tribunals in the past constituted a denial of justice. . . . There is, however, a general conviction that these courts are better fitted to deal with small debts and actions concerning movable property than with more complicated questions of real property." In consequence of the inexperience of the judges, many irregularities occur, "the most important of which is their tendency to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the Summary Courts." However, as soon as an irregularity is noticed instructions on the matter are promptly issued by the Ministry. On the renewal of mandates the greatest care is being taken to eliminate notables who have proved unsatisfactory and to replace them by better qualified men. That the notables as a rule give their decisions on equitable grounds is proved by the fact that the Summary Courts confirmed the sentences in the majority of the appeals lodged with them. The Judicial Adviser says that "the weak spot in the system is the execution of the judgments by the Omdas, of whose action complaints are frequent. For various reasons, they appear to be unwilling to carry out their duties in this respect, and the matter is one which requires considerable investigation." By all accounts it is not only in this respect that the Omdas have proved unsatisfactory.

Native Criminal Jurisdiction.

The criminal statistics constitute again an unpleasant feature. Crime has increased by 8.2 per cent. Whilst murder (for the first time for many years), rape, and destruction of crops show a decrease, second offences, manslaughter, arson, serious assaults, and cattle poisoning are on the increase, serious assaults leading the way with 61.2 per cent. increase. Second offences, which alone account for 12.5 per cent. of all the crimes, show a marked tendency amongst criminals to resort to large populated centres, and it is evident that the law in this respect is not being adequately enforced. From the statistics adduced, it appears that the urban population bears a much larger proportion of crimes of all kinds than the rural population.

Criminal inquiries increased from 212,916 to 231,429, of which 191,281 were classed as real cases. Misdemeanours, which for years had shown a decided tendency to increase, practically speaking remained stationary, and the Judicial Adviser remarks that "although on analysis this will not be found to be so satisfactory as it appears, yet it is a step in the right direction."

With regard to the work of the courts, 2,147 applications were made for cassation on points of law. Only forty-two of these were admitted. The Assize Courts had to deal with 6 per cent. more cases—2,442—which is, of course, the natural result of the increased criminality. Acquittals have been slightly more

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numerous; but it is shown that in this respect Egypt compares very favourably with France. The courts appear to have done their work expeditiously, but "it is regrettable that the interval between the commission of a crime and its final disposal continues to increase in duration." As in the civil, so in the criminal jurisdiction, the work of the Summary Courts has been increased by the abolition of the Markaz Courts in the provinces, and has risen from 40,521 to 81,612 cases (misdemeanours and contraventions). In delictual cases there is a marked increase in acquittals in the most important categories, which "would appear to disclose neglect in the preparation of cases or in their presentation," whilst the table of sentences certainly shows that these courts are too inclined to leniency. A general rise is noted in the periods of preventive arrest, this being "especially marked in the percentage of persons in Assize Court cases who underwent preventive arrest for periods of five months and upwards." The comparative tables of English assize statistics show that these periods are abnormally high.

Juvenile offenders show a slight decrease (12.6 per cent.). The Judicial Adviser draws attention to the fact that parents now make a practice of availing themselves of Law No. 2 of 1908, dealing with juvenile vagrants, in order to intimidate their unruly children; but although the machinery of the law is not intended to assist in the maintenance of domestic discipline, yet "the result is probably more satisfactory than if the State were compelled to lodge and feed a number of children whom it is the duty of their parents to look after." As last year, the serious problem of dealing with the very large number of vagrant children who infest the cities is dwelt on. It is pointed out that comparatively few can be arrested and sent to the reformatory, and that there do not exist factories and industries to enable the children to obtain work. "The matter is one of great and increasing urgency, and should be taken up by philanthropic societies and agencies or charitable persons."

(To be continued.)

REFUGEES FROM DARFUR.

The Nahud correspondent of the *Sudan Times* reports the arrival there on April 11 of a large party of the Beni Gelul, who had fled with their families and property from El Fasher. When they arrived near the Kordofan border they were overtaken by a force which had been sent by Ali Dinar to take them back to El Fasher. A fight ensued between the two parties, which cost the fleeing tribe five of its best men, and the Sultan's force a much graver loss.

The refugees suffered much hardship in their flight, many of their number having died from thirst. When news of their approach reached El Nahud. the Inspector, accompanied by the Mamur and force of police, left the town in order to meet them. He also issued orders to the owners of wells on the way to render them every possible help, and to supply them with the water they needed without any charge.

THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 2.

The King's Tour.

The excursion on the Danube which his Majesty King Carol, in company of the other members of the Royal Family, will make shortly, as in previous years, will be especially important, as his Majesty will, when visiting Silistria, which has recently been added to his dominions, lay the first stone of large barracks and other military buildings, and thence will visit the new territory, going as far as Dobritch. The day of the departure is fixed for May 10, and the excursion will last ten days. At Verciorova the King will be greeted by a representative of the Kaiser Franz Josef and on the Servian frontier by a deputation from King Peter, whilst down the river at Reni the Tsar of Russia will likewise send a representative.

The Visit of Ottoman Ministers.

The two Turkish Ministers, Talaat Bey and Damad Enver Pasha, have announced their intention of paying a visit of some days to this capital. It is stated at the Ottoman Legation that the visit is one of courtesy, and is in return for those paid by M. Take Jonescu and General Coanda. It is believed here generally that it has originated in the strong wish in Turkey for a still firmer friendship with this country than at present exists, the former believing that an understanding with Roumania can be most useful. It is even declared in some circles that the visits have a far deeper meaning than at first meets the eye, and that an actual defensive Convention is to be arranged between Turkey and Roumania, though inquiries in trustworthy quarters fail to elicit any confirmation of this suggestion.

The Russification of Bessarabia.

Much dissatisfaction is felt at the rumours of a strong policy of late displayed by the Russian authorities for the Russification of Bessarabia. It is stated that with this end in view for a long period Russian peasants in hundreds from the Governments of Tula and Rostoff have been persuaded to settle in Bessarabia, being given special facilities as an inducement.

This news hardly corresponds with that published some little time ago, that the Tsar intended to present Roumania with an important portion of Bessarabia as a wedding present to Prince Carol and with a view of securing Roumanian friendship.

Educational Measures.

A new idea in education is to be introduced into this country by the formation of a group of "wandering players" under Government direction and payment. The best of the actors at the National Theatre will take part in turns; instructive and patriotic pieces, with cinematograph films, will form the performances. All smaller towns and larger villages will be visited. The idea is to be inaugurated to-night at Ploeshti, with a performance under the patronage of H.R.H. the Crown Prince Ferdinand, when a classical piece by the Roumanian writers Josif and Aughel and a film giving episodes in the earlier struggles for liberty will form the programme.

A Story of the War.

An interesting and hitherto unknown episode of the second Balkan War, which relates how near King Ferdinand of Bulgaria was to being made prisoner, has been published in a Roumanian paper.

When the Roumanian cavalry was within three kilometres of Sofia, and when all routes to the capital were occupied by General Mustatza's horsemen, that commander, wishing to show the prowess of the Roumanian cavalry, started for Sofia with a squadron, resolved to seize King Ferdinand, and bring him as a prisoner to Bucharest. When the Chief of Staff General Averescu heard of this move he sent officers in motor-cars to the four roads leading to Sofia, with instructions to catch up with General Mustatza at all costs, and to order him to return, as King Carol had no wish to take King Ferdinand prisoner. The squadron was only caught up very close to Sofia, and so the ambitious general was forced to give up his unauthorised plan at the last moment.

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NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 2.

The Narodno Sobranje.

After a fortnight's adjournment for the Easter holidays, the Chamber resumed its sittings last Wednesday. In the first place the Royal decrees granting the Government 3/12th of the Budget for 1912, for carrying on the Administration during October, November, and December, 1913, and also 3/12th of the same Budget for January, February, and March, 1914, were submitted for sanction. After a heated discussion the Government proposals were adopted, and the emergency measures taken by the Cabinet before the sitting of the Chamber were thus legalised.

On May 1 the Socialists celebrated Labour Day, and all the labourers of the capital, led by their Parliamentary deputies, made demonstrations through the streets of Sofia and stopped before the building of the Narodno Sobranje. A special deputation entered, and handed a petition to the Prime Minister and the President of the Chamber stating their demands for legislative reforms tending to the settlement of the labour question. No disturbance whatever occurred during the demonstrations. The Finance Minister, Mr. Toncheff, has elaborated the regular Budget of the country for 1914, which attains the figures of 255,000,000 frs. (£10,200,000) and has been approved by the Cabinet. It will be submitted to the Chamber next week, and it is believed that it will have been adopted by the 15th of the month.

Resumption of the State Trial.

After an interruption of three weeks, the State Tribunal resumed its public sittings last Wednesday. The proceedings were begun by reading the voluminous indictment, a process which will last about ten days. No public interest is manifested in the matter, and there is hardly any attendance in Court except the defendants and their counsel.

Improvement of Greco-Bulgarian Relations.

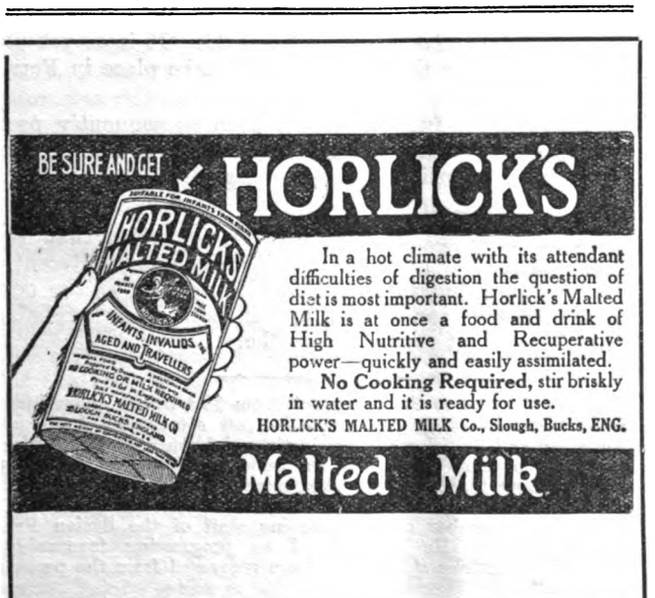
A decided improvement is noticeable in the official relations of this country with Greece, which desires as soon as possible to resume normal relations with Bulgaria, while Servia, on the other hand, constantly puts obstacles in the way. Since Bulgaria is far more closely interested commercially in Greece than in Servia, the Bulgarian Government is anxious to second the efforts of the Cabinet of Athens. Both Governments have agreed upon the appointment of M. Naum as Hellenic Minister here, and of M. Tasaroff, the present Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires in Vienna, as Bulgarian Minister in Athens. Both Ministers are expected to take up their respective posts shortly.

Administration of New Bulgaria.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, who is also Minister of the Interior, has prepared a Bill, which will be submitted to the Sobranje, for a separate administration of the new territories. This will lead to a wholesale reorganisation of the administrative staff in the provinces of the Littoral.

Macedonians in the Servian Army.

According to letters published in the Servian Press, the new recruits drawn from the Macedo-Bulgarian population of Servia-Macedonia have shown the greatest unwillingness to undertake military service in the Servian Army, and a detachment of recruits from Sktip publicly refused to take the necessary oath of allegiance when paraded for the purpose at the garrison town of Kraguyeratz, in Old Servia.



THE BULGARIAN CHURCH IN THRACE.

In pursuance of their considered policy for the debulgarisation of Macedonia the Servians have suppressed those of the former Bulgarian sees in Turkey which fell within their territorial jurisdiction in virtue of the Treaty of Bucharest. The Bishops of Ochrida, Bitol (Monastir), Skoplye (Uskub), Dibra, and Veles (Kuprulu) were compelled by the Servian authorities to resign their sees, and were then permitted to retire into Bulgaria. Shortly after this the Exarch Joseph withdrew from Constantinople and took up his residence in Sofia, so that the spiritual chief of the Bulgarian Church was, for the first time, to be found in the political capital of the Bulgarian nation. Of the Exarchist sees formerly in Turkey only two passed to the kingdom as the result of the War of Liberation—Strumitza and Nevrokop—but a new bishopric is being formed for Gumuldjina, and for this Mgr. Boris, exiled from Ochrida, is the Bishop-designate. It is expected that an appointment will shortly be made to the Exarchist see in Adrianople, and Mgr. Neophyt, who was deprived of Skoplye (Uskub) by the Servians, is believed to be the future Bishop. Mgr. Meletii, deprived of Veles, has been sent to administer the Bulgarian Church in Constantinople, and Mgr. Kosma, deprived of Dibra, is expected to go to Nevrokop on the first vacancy. No provision, however, has as yet been made for the extruded Metropolitan of Monastir. With the cession of the Bulgarian Dobruja to Roumania territory has been taken from the sees of Rustchuk and Varna, and this has been placed under the spiritual jurisdiction of Mgr. Bartolomei, the Roumanian Metropolitan of the Lower Danube, who has been showing great activity in introducing the new liturgy with the new political regime.

NOTES FROM SALONIKA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, April 30.

A Correction.

By some unaccountable aberration of mind I wrote in my last letter (April 15) that April 7 was St. George's Day, whereas it was really the anniversary of Greek Independence, and we are still looking forward to celebrating with the customary ceremonies the festival of St. George on Wednesday next, May 6, that being April 23 (Old Style). The fact is, when there are so many saints' days and fêtes in an official calendar, not to mention the anachronism of an "Old Style," one is apt occasionally to get somewhat mixed up.

The Refugees.

The coming and going of refugees are on a greater scale than ever, the arrivals by sea of Greeks from Rodosto being just now at the rate of two or three thousand daily. Naturally our authorities are sorely taxed to know what to do with them, but they are sending them off into the interior as fast as they can possibly transport them. How, when their destination is reached, they are to live until the harvest time of next year is another big problem our Government will have to solve, the probability being that the vast majority of them will have to be fed until then, seeing that the districts they are to settle in are altogether bare and desolate. And while these, mostly poverty-stricken and for the time being practically helpless, unwelcome thousands are flocking into the country, the Athens newspaper *Esperini* pours out the vials of its

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spite against the unfortunate Jews, whom it accuses of still refusing to accept Greek domination. It also counsels our new Governor-General to apply the law in the new provinces, and especially in Salonika, against the Jews with the utmost rigour. This rabid paper further adds that one way to Hellenise this town is to encourage the immigration in mass of Greeks, who would submerge the Jewish element. All one can say is that, if this is the policy to be followed, when the Jews here are thus submerged or driven out it will mean the death of Salonika. To say the least, this style of writing, so much indulged in by the Greek Press, is much to be deplored, as it makes all friendly feeling impossible and fosters ill-feeling between the races.

Fresh Band Activities.

A few days ago a good number of wounded soldiers are said to have been quietly brought in here, but nobody seems to know where or when fighting had taken place. There is, however, a strong feeling about that Bulgarian bands are being organised on a very extensive scale—one report gives the number as 18,000—with the object of creating trouble for Greeks and Serbs alike, and to provoke disorders necessitating the intervention of the Powers and the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest. The Serbs are said to have just made big hauls of rifles, bombs, explosives, and munitions of war in Bulgarian houses in the Ochrida and Resna districts; so perfect peace does not yet loom large in the future.

Sultan's Accession Day.

Monday last, being the anniversary of the accession of the Sultan of Turkey, the Turkish Consul-General here, Fuad Selim Bey, was officially visited by the foreign Consuls, the Grand Rabbi, and the Turkish notables of the town. The Consulates, as is customary on such occasions, flew their respective flags; but the Greek flag was conspicuous by its absence. As no mention is made of any of our military, civil, or religious authorities calling on the Turkish Consul-General it is to be presumed that relations between the two countries are somewhat strained.

M. Venizelos's Tour.

M. Souphoulis, transferred from Samos, to succeed M. Repoulis, the late Governor-General of Macedonia (whose duties as Minister of the Interior necessitated his return to Athens), arrived here this morning, and was received with the honours which, by Royal decree, it has just been fixed must be rendered to Governors-General. Over a week ago it was announced that, on coming here to take up the duties of his post, he would be accompanied by M. Venizelos and by M. Ractivan, the Premier wishing to judge for himself the needs of the new territories and of Salonika. The Chamber of Commerce and sundry committees have been working at the elaboration of schemes for the development of Salonika and the new territories, to be submitted to the Prime Minister, in whose enlightened views all our hopes of salvation for this town and district are centred. It was, therefore, a great disappointment when we were informed that, owing to the present unsettled political situation, M. Venizelos's tour would have to be postponed. Now, at the last moment, we learn from an Athens telegram that MM. Venizelos, Repoulis, and Ractivan are to leave this afternoon for this town, to arrive here to-morrow evening, and to leave on Sunday morning for Drama and Kavalla, their tour to last about ten days. It is much to be hoped that M. Venizelos will return this way, for twenty-four hours seem hardly sufficient in which to discuss all the vital questions to be brought before him.

THE PUBLISHER

would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

DEATH OF COUNT LEWENHAUPT

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Teheran, April 23.

News was received in Teheran on Monday that Major Count Lewenhaupt had been seriously wounded, and taken prisoner in an engagement with some brigands east of Hamadan. A detachment of gendarmes, headed by Major Sievfahrt, immediately left Teheran with Dr. Becker to go to his rescue. The following day we learned the worst, when a telegram arrived announcing the death of Count Lewenhaupt and two Persian officers.

For some time past the whole country side between Kazvin, Burujird, and Sultanabad has been laid waste by robbers, and the roads between these places have been unsafe and practically impassable. Matters came to a crisis when Major Moeller, a Swedish officer, returning from Burujird, was attacked by Abbas Dagabadi, near Sorkhab, and was wounded in the leg, and one of the Persian officers with him was killed. The ringleader, Abbas, was killed.

It was then decided to send out an expedition from Teheran against these brigands, and on Monday, April 13, Count Lewenhaupt left here with a number of gendarmes and officers for the purpose of destroying these robber bands. It appears that they were working in concert with other expeditions of the gendarmerie, under Major Terrell from Hamadan, and Major Karlberg from Kazvin. All went well with the gendarmes, and they soon came up with the robbers, from whom they succeeded in recovering much of the loot and animals that had been stolen. From all accounts it would seem that the Count's party fell into a cleverly laid ambush. On Sunday he had been engaged in a sharp conflict with the enemy, and at sunset he entered the village near Nobaran, some seventy miles west of Hamadan, whence the gendarmerie drove out a number of robbers who were known to be in hiding there. Count Lewenhaupt with two other officers went on to the top of a roof to watch the operations, when he noticed some robbers below, whom they fired on and killed. At once the whole village seemed to break out into a volley of firing, and the Count and a cadet, Seif-ullah, were killed on the spot. Another Persian officer was seriously wounded, and died the same night.

The whole community deplores the loss of such a gallant and able officer as Count Lewenhaupt, who had been a Chief Instructor to the cavalry of the Government gendarmerie in Teheran, and the sympathies of all are with his widow, Countess Lewenhaupt, whom he leaves with two small orphan sons.

No less to be mourned are the deaths of Major Hesn-es-Sultaneh, the superior Persian officer in the gendarmerie, and of the young Lieutenant Seif-ullah, who both fell with their leader.

Since the sad news reached Teheran on Tuesday, little information has come to hand. Major Lewenhaupt's body is being brought into Teheran, and is expected to arrive here on April 24. It is as yet uncertain whether the interment will take place in Persia or in Sweden.

Many social functions have been consequently postponed, among them being the reception at the Russian Legation on April 23, this evening.

Governorship of Luristan.

It is reported in authoritative quarters that the Governorship of Luristan is still unoccupied. Recently the Nizam-es-Sultaneh had decided to take up the post under certain conditions, but it now seems probable that he will not consent to go there.

With reference to the paragraph from *The Orient*, reproduced in our last week's issue, reporting an attack by Arabs on American and British travellers in the neighbourhood of Tiberias, our contemporary states in its issue of April 29:—"Later advices show that the man shot near Tiberias, as reported in our last issue, was not Mr. George Scherer, but Mr. R. T. Schearer, a member of the teaching staff of the Syrian Protestant College. He is reported as progressing favourably. Most of the articles stolen have been recovered from the persons arrested."

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SERVIA AND AUSTRIA.

(From Our Special Commissioner.)

Belgrade, May 3.

Never for a moment is one allowed to forget here that beyond the Danube and across the Save lies Austria-Hungary. Always in sight, by night and by day, is Semlin, the Dual Monarchy's frontier fortress, and it is pointed out with bitterness to the stranger from the rampart of the park beside the fortifications on the hill. After all, it is not to be wondered at; the horrors of the late war have been forgotten; the strife with Bulgaria is deplored; the acquisition of immense tracts of land in Macedonia is now taken as a matter of course; but never is the fact lost sight of that it was Austria-Hungary who impeded the Slav advance to the Adriatic, who was bent on keeping the Montenegrins and Serbs asunder, and did her utmost to make the eastern and northern frontier delimitations of Albania as unfavourable as possible to Servia and Montenegro. In the Red Book recently published by the Ball Platz in Vienna, Count Berchtold concisely defines (Dispatch No. 60) Austria's aims and policy during the late war. Two of the four points enumerated in this important dispatch directly concern Servia, namely, the "withdrawal of Servia from the Adriatic" (which resulted in the creation of Albania and led up to the second Balkan War) and "guarantees for Austria's economic interests, principally with regard to railway communication with Salonika," which in its turn led up to the purchase by Austria of the Orient Railway shares and the negotiations still pending concerning the internationalisation of the line.

The resultant feeling of mutual antagonism, smouldering but never allowed to die out, is one of the gravest effects of the war. Servia by herself cannot be expected to undertake a successful passage of arms with the Dual Monarchy; but there is a power behind her which let no man underrate—the power which wishes to link up Vladivostok with the Adriatic, thus acquiring a "warm water port" along the line of least resistance. Furthermore, Austria's attitude with regard to Servia and Montenegro—inasmuch as she opposed the extension of the latter's littoral by as much as one inch, and made her give up Scutari to the Albanians—has resulted in drawing the two Slav States closer together. The proposed commercial and Customs union between Servia and Montenegro may eventually lead to an absolute community of policy—even of national feeling—between the two, though, naturally, I have not been able to have this officially confirmed. It is significant, however, that Count Andrassy, the well-known Hungarian statesman, who has just returned from Montenegro, published an interview in the *Neue Freie Presse*, in which he stated that dissatisfaction was rife in Cettinje, and that a great many people were clamouring for "incorporation in the Servian Kingdom." The realisation of any such project depends almost exclusively on Austria herself.

The question of Albania torments Servia as much as it preoccupies Austria. It is less the *fait accompli* that irritates statesmen and strategists here than the delimitation of the eastern frontier. This, I am told here in the most authoritative circles, is progressing on the lines most unfavourable to Servian interests, which are mainly concerned with the facile protection and security of the railway lines to be built between Ochrida and Prizrend. The complaints are two-fold; on the one hand Albania has been given vantage points commanding Servian territory, thus necessitating an increase in the military force for defensive purposes, and secondly, the cost of railway constructions will be greatly increased (principally between Prizrend and Dibra) because the line, if it is to be built on Servian territory only, has to make a technically difficult and expensive detour to the east, instead of following the right bank of the Drin, as was rationally assumed would be the case by the writer on "Servian Railway Activities" published in The Near East, of March 20. On the other hand, the Austrian contention is that not enough territory has been ascribed to the new State, which is being "starved." It is regrettable that a happier delimitation could not (or cannot) have been found by means of compromise or compensation. There is no immediate danger, I am told; but, on the other hand, few statesmen are so bold as to consider the Albanian question definitely settled, and they are anxious to provide for and against eventualities. It is these eventualities which are the preoccupation of the moment, and they principally account for the latent antagonism between the Balkan Slav States and the Dual Monarchy.

Railway Plans.

M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister, accompanied by the Minister of Public Works, has left Belgrade for Mitrovitza, and I have been informed that one of the objects of the journey is to study the tracé of the Rashka-Mitrovitza continuation of the Skoplye-Mitrovitza narrow gauge railway. It will later be continued via Novi-Bazar to Uvatz in order to link up with the Bosnian line from Sarajevo. The survey has been drawn up by the Sociéte Franco-Serbe.

The newspapers state—and I believe the statement to be accurate, though I can obtain no official confirmation of it—that the preliminary survey of the line from Prilep to Tsarevo Selo, near the Bulgarian frontier (via Brod, Shtip and Kotchana), has been granted to a British company. The French company alluded to above, beside having been asked to survey the Rashka-Uvatz line, is to draw up the tracé of that section of the Adriatic Railway lying between Merdare (the line's present terminus) and Prishtina.

THE GENDARMERIE AT BURUJIRD.

In its issue of April 15 *L'Impartial*, of Teheran, gives an account of the operations of the Gendarmerie at Burujird, which opens with the statement that the expedition has nothing but success to chronicle up to date. It continues:—

"La situation peut se résumer ainsi. Au début des opérations, la gendarmerie s'est forcément tenue sur la défensive, les Lôrs entourant Bouroudjerde étant forcés de livrer combat. Après trois rencontres, les Lôrs, complètement battus, ont été obligés de quitter les environs de la ville. Leurs fortifications ont été prises d'assaut et rasés."

After defending the action of the gendarmes in following a cautious policy the account goes on to say:—

"Salar Ekram, chef des Yar Ahmadi, importante tribu de Lorestan, a été envoyé par le major Skjöldebrand en médiateur, en vue d'une soumission complète. Salar Ekram, après les premiers pourparlers, a écrit au major Skjöldebrand, le priant de suspendre les opérations en attendant la réponse des Lôrs.

"Souhaitons que le pacification de Lorestan soit ainsi terminée, et qu'une soumission complète des pillards termine cette campagne qui semblait si difficile. Les victoires successives de la gendarmerie ont certes rafraîchi les idées des pillards, comme la sévérité déployée leur a fait rudement sentir que l'expédition n'est pas allé à Bouroudjerde pour plaisanter.

"Les Lôrs ont quitté les villages du Silahkhor et se sont portés en masse vers les montagnes. La gendarmerie occupe les passes pour empêcher un retour offensif des pillards. Les environs de Bouroudjerde sont complètement dégagés. La population fait de continuelles ovations aux gendarmes et témoigne de son contentement."

PERSIA SOCIETY.

The Persia Committee held a meeting on Thursday afternoon last week at the House of Commons, under the presidency of Lord Lamington, and those attending included Mr. Dillon, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Morrell, Professor Browne, and Sir Thomas Barclay. Several resolutions were adopted at the meeting. It was resolved, in view of the approaching coronation of the young Shah in July, that the Government should be asked to urge upon the Russian Government the withdrawal from Northern Persia of the Russian expeditionary force. In another resolution emphasis was laid on the advisability of permitting the Swedish gendarmerie to operate throughout Persia, and not only in the southern provinces as at present. A third resolution was adopted with regard to a Trans-Persian railway from the north-west to the Indian frontier, and the Government was urged not to accept proposals on that subject until the approval of Parliament had been given.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

TURKS AND RAYAHS.*

Mr. Sidney Whitman in his new book about the Turks describes the fallen Sultan when in the height of his power. Those who look for the picture of Abdul Hamid of modern journalistic fiction or popular imagination will be disappointed. The author presents his readers with the portrait of a man unceasingly working for the welfare of his people, but enmeshed and choked within a wilderness of detail which should never have troubled the Imperial eye at all. Abdul Hamid was the slave of a faulty system, it burthened him like some horrible and incorporeal Old Man of the Sea, he strove against it, but the monster was his master. So fully was the Sultan's time occupied by what he considered it was essential that he should do himself that he had no time to keep in order his advisers, his favourites, and the rest of the people who made up the feared and hated "Palace Gang," and in time reaped, to his own detriment, the whirlwind of their sowing. But amid the multitudinous and overwhelming duties of his office the "Red Sultan" found time for the cultivation of personal friendships, for the performance of many acts of charity and kindness, and for the enjoyment of the society of birds. He also kept an eye upon the haughty diplomatists accredited to his Court, and at times restrained their pride within due limits. Mr. Whitman, indeed, expatiates at some length, but humorously withal, upon the magnificence of port and presence to be seen among the diplomatic colony of Pera, and slyly remarks that if an Ambassador can really enjoy the pleasure of being "somebody" in Turkey, it is very difficult for so stately a personage to take that exercise for which his digestion clamours, with the pompous display of dignity demanded by the protocol.

Passing from the Sovereign to his subjects, Mr. Whitman works hard to show that if the Turk is a Moslem he is not *ipso facto* a blackguardly and merciless oppressor—and, indeed, that he has been most unfairly laden with a burden of opprobrium for which some of his Christian subjects are responsible. Further, Mr. Whitman points out with much justice that the European Press for years past has been only too eager to publish any news tending to discredit the character or administration of Turks—because they are Moslems, just as it has frequently suppressed the unpleasant achievements of the subject races of the Turk—present or past—because they profess and call themselves Christians. In this connection we think Mr. Whitman runs the risk of misleading some of his readers by referring to the Christian subjects of the Porte as Rajahs instead of the more generally accepted transliteration Rayahs, and by describing certain Greek Uniat Christians as "Orthodox Catholics."

A good deal of space is devoted to a consideration of the Armenian difficulty in Turkey, a topic on which the author has much first-hand information, and he carefully describes the difference made between the treatment meted out to Gregorian Armenians in Russia and that reserved for them under the Ottoman dominion. He also makes it clear that at the time of the conspiracies the Turks, even in the extremity of the fear and excitement engendered by the Galata bomb-throwing, made a difference between Armenians and other non-Moslems, and even between the insurgent Gregorians and the loyal Armenian Catholics or Uniats. Like the Bulgarians, the Turks have ever been slow to uplift voice or pen on their own behalf, and Mr. Whitman is able to indicate to what an extent misrepresentation and journalistic imagination has added to the weight of accusations currently believed against the Turks on the subject of Armenian atrocities.

Much of Mr. Whitman's book refers to events of half a generation ago, and he deals with current problems only indirectly. His labours have been directed to a rehabilitation of the reputation of Turks in the past, and less to the indication of any future course of action, but the book is valuable for the fact that the author records the results of his own experience and observation, and does not dress his pages to catch the latest fashion of what the public is persuaded that it ought to think about Turks.

* "Turkish Memories." Sidney Whitman. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Francis Griffiths (34, Maiden Lane, Strand) will publish, early in 1915, a volume entitled "The Ukraine and the Ukrainians." It will deal in a most comprehensive manner with the Ukrainian nation, sometimes referred to as Ruthenians and Little Russians. The author is Mr. George Raffalovich ("Bedwin Sands"), Hon. Sec. of the Ukraine Committee in London. A few chapters will be reserved for recognised authorities on special subjects, such as "The Ruthenians of Canada," "The Oilfields of the Ukraine," "The Folk-Songs of the Ukraine," "Turkey and the Ukraine," etc. The book will contain over 500 pages and fifty full-page illustrations, including sketches by Mr. Frederick Carter. The price will be 10s. 6d., and the edition limited to 2,000 copies, not more than half of which can be reserved for England.

"Hebrew and Babylonian Traditions," by Professor Morris Jastrow, jun., will be published in May by T. Fisher Unwin.

Stanley Gibbons' "Monthly Journal" for April contains the first part of an interesting article on "The First Stamps of Servia," and information about the new issues of Albania, Epirus, and Greece.

Professor Edward G. Browne has a new work in preparation with the Cambridge University Press dealing with "The Press and Poetry of Modern Persia." The first part is devoted to a translation of a Persian treatise, at present unpublished, written by Mírzá Muhammad 'Ali Khan "Tarbiyat" of Tabriz, containing a complete descriptive list of Persian newspapers, with a preface and introduction, followed by an essay on certain productions of the Persian Press other than newspapers, more particularly the books and pamphlets of European origin or inspiration which helped to the "awakening" of Persia. Besides translating this work, Professor Browne has added a number of footnotes and some additional particulars to the text. The second part, which will also be issued separately, contains a selection of "Specimens of the Political and Patriotic Poetry of Modern Persia," compiled and edited by Professor Browne.

Messrs. Constable will shortly issue a book of personal impressions and adventures in Persia and the Near East by Mr. Arthur Moore, who was for some time correspondent of *The Times* in Teheran. The book, which is to be called "The Orient Express," will include the author's experiences during the siege of Tabríz in 1909, as well as those of his ride of a thousand miles from Teheran to the Persian Gulf, and of Turkey in the time of Abdul Hamid and during the Balkan War.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Turkish Memories. By Sidney Whitman. (William Heinemann, 7s. 6d. net.)

"*Where Pharaoh Dreams.*" By Irene Osgood. (John Richmond. 5s. net.)

"*Servian Conversation Grammar.*" By Woïslav M. Petrovitch. Method, Gaspey-Otto-Sauer. (Heidelberg: Julius Groos. London: David Nutt. 4s.)

ARABIC and ENGLISH IDIOM
(Conversational and Literary).
"A most interesting and valuable book."—PROF. MACDONALD.
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BY THE REV. CANON STERLING.
"A trustworthy and easily intelligible guide to the principles of the language."—PROF. MARGOLIOUTH.
ARABIC IDIOM, 7s. net; GRAMMAR, 12s. net.
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRUBNER & Co., Ltd., (8-74, Carter Lane, London, E.C.
The American Press, Beyrout; The Nile Mission Press, Cairo.

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SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

MANSION HOUSE MEETING.

A large and influential meeting was held last Wednesday at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, in support of the School of Oriental Studies. Among the speakers were the Marquess of Crewe, Earl Curzon, Lord Reay, Lord Inchcape, and Sir Montagu Turner, and the attendance included the Persian Minister, the First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy, Viscount Peel, Lord Redesdale, Lord Lamington, Lord Sydenham, Lord George Hamilton, Syed Ameer Ali, Sir W. E. Garstin, Mr. G. A. Lloyd, M.P., Sir Charles Lyall, Mr. Stanley Machin, Sir Carl Meyer, Mr. Charles Roberts (Under-Secretary for India), Sir Walter Prideaux, Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., Sir J. Dunlop Smith, Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., and Mr. P. J. Hartog, secretary of the Oriental Studies Committee.

The secretary read a letter from the Earl of Cromer to the Lord Mayor, saying: "It is with the deepest regret that I find myself prevented by illness from attending and speaking at the meeting which you have been good enough to summon for May 6 in support of the School of Oriental Studies. For the last four years I have had the success of this scheme at heart, and have done my best to surmount the not inconsiderable difficulties which have attended its inception. The only difficulties now remaining are of a financial character, and although I do not under-estimate them, I feel that we can confidently appeal to the citizens of London to help us carry through, within the next few months, a scheme which will be of service to the metropolis as well as to the Empire. I am convinced that the foundation of the school, which will be at once a training ground for those about to proceed to Africa and the East, and a centre of intelligence in regard to our vast Dominions in those parts, is of vital importance to the continued prosperity of our Oriental commerce and of our Oriental administration. It is a matter in which we can no longer afford to remain in a position of inferiority to other countries."

The Lord Mayor said the merchant princes of London were thoroughly in sympathy with the establishment of this School of Oriental Studies, and the City was anxious to remove the reproach that, while England was the greatest Oriental Power in the world, it possessed no school of Oriental studies that could be compared with those of Paris, Berlin, Vienna, or St. Petersburg.

Earl Curzon, who was received with cheers, moved: "That, in view of the great Imperial and commercial interests dependent on adequate provision being made for instruction in the languages, the literature, and the social customs of Oriental and African countries, this meeting desires heartily to support the scheme for the foundation of a School of Oriental Studies in the City of London."

First of all, he said, he would like to express the gratitude they all felt towards the Lord Mayor and their regret at the absence of Lord Cromer, who had been chairman of the committee which for four years had been dealing with the question of the establishment of a School of Oriental Studies. In the main that school, when it came into being, would owe its existence to Lord Cromer's influence and untiring perseverance. As the Lord Mayor had pointed out, this was a movement to place Great Britain in the same position with regard to the countries of the East which were administered by us, or with which we had relations of diplomacy or trade, that was occupied by Continental Powers, whose interests in the East were far inferior to ours. Germany spent £10,000 a year on a school of Oriental languages at Berlin; France, £8,000 a year on one in Paris; Russia, £8,000 a year on one in St. Petersburg, to which had lately been added a sister institution at Vladivostock, with a similar endowment; while even Italy spent £4,000 for a similar purpose. It was hardly credible, having regard to the position of this country in the East, that there should not be an institution of the kind in the British Capital. Our officers and Civil Servants who went out to the East were left to pick up the languages of the countries to which they were sent from munshis or interpreters or the native assistants whom they employed. Nor was there any machinery for teaching these men what was, from some points of view, even more important than languages, namely, an acquaintance with the ideas, traditions, customs, and beliefs of Oriental peoples.

To know the languages of the East was a great thing, but he ventured to suggest that to know the spirit of the East was a greater. There could be no doubt that the real key to success was a knowledge of the national character of the peoples and their point of view, their religious beliefs, their scruples, their prejudices, perhaps. To teach such knowledge would, he thought, be an important part of the work of this School of Oriental Studies.

During the past quarter of a century more than one effort had been made to remedy the state of things in this country to which he had made reference, but none was successful, and they finally dwindled down to the excellent but rather precarious teaching of a small number of Oriental languages in University College and King's College, London. This state of affairs lasted until, in 1906, an influential deputation went to the then Prime Minister, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, and made to him a powerful representation of the case. The Prime Minister gave a most sympathetic reply, and the result was the appointment of a Departmental Committee, presided over by Lord Reay. In 1908 Lord Reay's Committee reported, and that report was the basis of all that had happened since. It recommended the institution of a School of Oriental Studies in London, to be ultimately incorporated in the University of London, and to be reasonably endowed by the Government. The next stage was the discussion in the House of Lords in 1909. Lord Cromer and he (Lord Curzon) incautiously took part in that debate, the consequences of which were that the then Secretary of State for India, Lord Morley, pounced down on them and told them that they were to formulate and organise a scheme for the establishment of the school, to find a site for the building, sketch out a scheme of management, and find the necessary income. Their committee had sat ever since. With regard to the site, their attention was directed to the splendid building of the London Institution at Finsbury Circus, which had a magnificent library, large rooms, and a theatre, and was in a quiet position, well adapted to study. With the aid of the chairman of that institution, Lord Aldenham, they succeeded in buying out the interest of the proprietors, the Government promised £20,000 or £25,000 for repairs and alterations, and the building of a new block of class-rooms, and Professor Simpson prepared plans which would be carried out before the middle of next year. This institution was to be established as a school of the University of London, but under a Royal Charter. The bodies represented among the Governors would be the University of London, several provincial universities, the Foreign Office, the War Office, the India Office, the Corporation of the City of London, the London County Council, the Royal Asiatic Society, the British Academy, and the London Chamber of Commerce.

The committee estimated the annual expenditure at £14,000, and towards this the Government had promised £4,000 and the Government of India £1,250. They had hopes that the London County Council would make them a handsome grant. In fact, the Education Committee of the Council had, he believed, recommended a grant of £2,000 a year. With regard to the City, he appealed to the Lord Mayor to use his powerful influence with the munificent body over which he presided. The school would be valuable to the commerce of the City, and once it was established the present Lord Mayor's successors would claim it, and rightly claim it, as a City institution. He greatly hoped that they might be assisted, too, by those admirable bodies the City Companies. The committee desired to raise an endowment fund. It behoved the merchants of the City who traded with the East to support the scheme if they did not want to see the plums from the cake and the spoils of commercial enterprise taken by their indefatigable foreign rivals.

Lord Reay, in seconding the resolution, emphasised the importance of understanding the manners and customs of the peoples of the East. The resolution was carried.

Lord Inchcape proposed, and Mr. F. Faithfull Begg seconded, a resolution appealing to the commercial community of the City and the general public for funds to enable the school to be opened in 1915 on a satisfactory financial basis. This also was adopted.

The Marquess of Crewe proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor. He trusted that all those connected with the City of London would take a prominent and noble part in supplying the needs of this School of Oriental Studies, and he was certain that countless as were the objects which had been promoted and pressed forward in the Mansion House, there were not many more worthy of general support than the cause they had met to advocate that day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE TIDE OF PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—There was a deal of intrigue and counter-intrigue, "sensibly visible" in connection with the recent appointment of the Samsam-es-Saltaneh as Governor of Ispahan, which post, however, he took up in spite of all the intrigues against him. From what I hear I fear he now regrets his decision to accept the post. He is a greatly changed man from what he was in 1909, when he took forcible possession of the city; besides which he does not find things so easy, having from the very first met with Russian (aided by German) opposition and intrigue. The Russians naturally resented his appointment, and, to make things worse, the Russian candidate for the Ispahan Governorship (Sardar-i-Zafar) has taken up his residence in the city. He professes, so I am told, to have gone there to look after his property, and intended to remain only a short time, but he does not seem anxious to leave, rather does he seem inclined to "bide his wee" until the Samsam is utterly disgusted and takes *his* leave. It is openly said that the Sardar and the Russians are "hand in glove" and are secretly working for this object—not at all an unlikely surmise. Unfortunately, too, the Belgian Agent of the Treasury seems to worry the Samsam. As he is greatly influenced by the Russians his action is rather significant. Previous Governors used to be paid by the Treasury Agent a fixed allowance for the Ispahan Regiment, the police, road-guards, etc. Now the Agent refuses to pay without first being satisfied not only that the money is really spent for the intended purposes, but that the stated number of soldiers, police, road-guards, etc., are really enrolled and in evidence and properly paid; in fact, the Agent desires to exercise a real control over the Governor's budget; but the Samsam does not approve the innovation, with the result that he gets no emoluments at all. The Agent's endeavours to prevent useless expenditure are laudable and quite correct, but it is rather strange that nothing of the kind was attempted during the tenure of office of the Sardar-i-Zafar and the Sardar-i-Ashja, both of whom are friendly to Russia.

It is stated that the Zil-us-Sultan is expected to return to

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Persia for the Coronation of the Shah in July. His son, Akbar Mirza, has left Ispahan for Teheran to meet him, and as a corollary the manager of the Russian Bank followed close on his heels. It is within the range of Persian politics that the Russians may be aiming to bring back the Zil as Governor of Ispahan, in which case it is conceivable that there would be active opposition from the Bakhtiaris and more trouble for the unhappy people.

The Gendarmerie have had a most unfortunate set-back both at Kazerun and in the Lur country, yet they keep on "pegging away." The next force to be raised is at Ispahan, where Major Folke, as officer in command, lately arrived with a nucleus of thirty men; 200 are to be transferred from Burujird and 400 are to be raised locally. This force should eventually prove to be of great advantage in this district, since the wild Boer Ahmedis are again blocking the Ispahan-Shiraz road, and the road to the north of Ispahan is also insecure. It is somewhat strange that 200 gendarmes should be moved from Burujird at a juncture when it is presumed that a force is being specially raised with which to subjugate the Lurs who are blocking the advance of the Khorremabad Railway, but the ways of the Persian—as of the British—Government smack of the ways of Solomon's "man with a maid."

As stated in your Financial Section on March 3, Germany is doing her best to push her influence in the Ispahan province especially. The newly-appointed Consul is, indeed, likely to find plenty to do, since several influential Persians have already applied for German protection—against what or whom?—and the present German representative at Ispahan has already hired whole Persian villages and has brought others under his influence by renting them and then re-letting them to the self-same villagers at an enhanced rental; he not only thereby makes a handsome profit without risk or trouble, but brings the inhabitants under German protection and tutelage—shade of Beaconsfield! Germans at Ispahan!!—the mere recital is enough to make him turn in his grave. What a tribute to British diplomacy! We can only assume that the British Government is deliberately selling our birth-right to the Russians and Germans for something *less* than a mess of potage or that it is being utterly out-manœuvred, to our lasting disgrace. If we have not by our wibble-wobble policy *driven* a large number of the highest and most important personages into the enemy's camp we have at least allowed them to *glide* there through sheer incapacity to prevent it. British prestige counts for very little, and the less said about British prestige in Persia the better. The less likely are we to be laughed and sneered at. So far as trade routes and trade are concerned it would really seem as if the British officials, instead of assisting British trade, do their utmost to injure it. Goods which arrived at Bushire in December had to be re-shipped to Ahwaz at the end of March because there was no transport. And why? Because of an arrangement, said to have been the invention of British intelligence, whereby a so-called "hire" department was instituted in Bushire to control the number of animals hired in proportion to the stock held by the applicant for animals. Previously anybody was at liberty to engage as many animals as they required and to pay any hire agreed upon, but now the "hire" department allots the number of animals and fixes the rate of hire, the parties more nearly concerned being coerced and forced to adhere to this marvellous agreement, whether they like it or not. This will doubtless presently have a further retrograde effect on British "prestige." The Hamburg-American Line of steamers will shortly open agencies for transport all over the country. The Germans "will have none" of the "intellectual invention for impeding transport"; their steamers will bring goods out more rapidly, get them up country with greater facility, less delay and cost, and *we can only look on and smile.*—Yours obediently,

London, May 5, 1914. ABDULLA.

THE THRACIAN PERSECUTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—The letter from the chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League which was published in several papers last week is a painful instance of the slow death of prejudices. The Greeks would be merely paying for their iniquities during and after the war if the facts alleged by the Hon. Pember Reeves were at all near the truth. It is almost criminal to appeal to the sentiment of the public in such a way. I quite appreciate the fact that sentiment is the only argument that can be used in this connection, but sentiment should go all the other way. Judging by the support the Ottoman Association is now receiving from all parts of the country, I thought the old legends were things of the past. Here is a chairman of a pro-Greek Society who not only ignores the behaviour of the Greeks in the Epirus, who not only forgets their treatment of Jews and Moslems in Salonika and elsewhere, but who actually has the boldness to ask for sympathy for the "victims of the Turks." The Turks fly for their lives from New Greece; those who are too poor to leave live in constant fear; and sympathy is requested for—the Greeks!

While scores of thousands of Moslems were murdered in cold blood we were silent. Some people thought, perhaps, that once the war was over the last would have been heard of the lies disseminated by the so-called Christians of the Balkans. These people, who set up a most abominable precedent in civilised warfare, who stole, burned, pillaged, raped and murdered, are asking for sympathy! The Crusaders, they called themselves! Not Christian Crusaders, at all events—agrarian Crusaders, mere land-grabbers, if Mr. Reeves likes.

Before he rushes into print with exaggerated tales again he should think of the other persecutions—of Moslems this time—and of the Greeks' behaviour in Epirus and in their ill-gotten new possessions. Were it true that the Turks hunt the Greeks out of Thrace even more roughly than Mr. Reeves alleges, I submit to the common sense of your readers who know the Near East and the true facts about the last war that the Greeks deserve even worse punishment.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A MEMBER OF THE OTTOMAN ASSOCIATION.

May 1, 1914.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I have received to-day THE NEAR EAST of March 6, in which there appears a letter dated February 25, and signed "Margaret Robinson." This writer, who is neither Russian, nor Armenian, nor Turk, goes completely out of her own province when she takes exception to my letter of January 4, printed in the *Sunday Times*, and which she stigmatises as "bristles throughout with the word 'Orthodox.'"

As my letter in the *Sunday Times* was written with the express purpose of refuting the statements of a writer in the same paper signing himself "Henri M. Leon," who tried to prove that "the barking dogs" who were "perpetually shrieking about 'the wrongs of Armenia'" were what he called the Protestant "perverts," and as this same writer asserted that the Orthodox Armenians were "fairly contented" under Turkish rule, I was obliged to prove by facts and figures that the Protestant "perverts" numbered, according to latest statistics, only 49,000, and that these were largely recruited from the ranks of massacre orphans and massacre destitutes, whom (as I said in my letter) "the Good Samaritans of Protestants had protected, supported, and succoured." Also, I proved that the whole Armenian nation (excepting the small minorities of Protestants and Catholics, also the outcome of persecutions) is Orthodox, consequently "the barking dogs" comprised the whole Armenian nation; and, to substantiate my statement, I gave a list, beginning from 1862, of the initiators and leaders of the Armenian movement for emancipation from (I repeat here) "the Turkish hell."

Thus my letter bristled, according to your correspondent, with the word "Orthodox," which, she informs us, "is more detested in England than by the Moslem Turk." We Armenians care very little whether the word "Orthodox" is beloved or detested in England, but we do feel it would benefit the interests of humanity if international and political crimes were more detested in England than they are or have ever been.

On the authority of Pierre Loti and some others, your correspondent "Margaret Robinson" tells us that we Armenians are a race of usurers. As a matter of fact, from 75 to 80 per cent. of the Armenian nation is agricultural (the class that is looked upon in the world not as usurers, but the victims of usurers). Then the Armenian nation represents a large number of artisans, merchants, and traders; also the Church, the educational, medical, and legal professions are well represented; we have also a fairly good number of men of letters and artists; consequently a very small number must remain out of this nation to become usurers. I have lived in India, Burma, China, and Japan, and in these countries Europeans are a mere handful; but yet I have known of many usurers of pure British blood and nationality.

Your correspondent also asserts the opinion that the Armenian massacres were "under provocation." It speaks very poorly indeed for the "advanced people," whom she refers to with an assumption of so much pride, if they believe that massacres are provoked by the victims of the massacres, and if they put forward the plea of "provocation" as an excuse for such diabolical atrocities.

Further, in her letter your correspondent gives advice for which we have not asked. She volunteers a lot of information for which we either do not care or about which we know better; indeed, a people must know better what is to their own interest than other people can tell them. What we do know is that Armenia has been turned into a graveyard by the Turk, assisted by the "Concert of Europe," and as we are determined that Armenia must rise again from the dead, we will (having put our trust in God and seeking His help) take measures to ensure that end without consulting your correspondent "Margaret Robinson."—Yours truly,

(MRS.) DIANA AGABEG APCAR.

220A, Bluff, Yokohama, Japan,
April 19, 1914.

"A WHIRL OF ADVENTURE."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I have only just seen in your number of April 10 a criticism of the Williamsons' last book, "It Happened in Egypt." As a resident of over thirty-seven years in Egypt I am surprised that such a criticism should have appeared in THE NEAR EAST, in which it might be supposed that critics would be acquainted to some extent with the subject on which they write—and Egypt is the Near East. The case of the American bride of a Turkish Bey being held prisoner in the cabin of an outward-bound steamer has occurred, except that the Bey was considered Egyptian, which is of no importance as the title is Turkish. The whole of the incidents in the book might have occurred, and some very like them have already done so.

Ridicule is attempted with regard to the Hadji disguise, but the critic is evidently ignorant that one of the greatest men living did pass as a native—a disguise which deceived the natives, but not his friends. The book has found favour among readers who are "acquainted" with Egypt, which speaks more for it than the critic's declaration that it will only do so among those "unacquainted" with Egypt. I understand a novel may be nothing but invention from beginning to end, which this is not, and anyone with a knowledge of the country will agree with the views of

A THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS' RESIDENT.

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CURRENT COMMENTS.

Both Turks and Greeks are proclaiming aloud their respective opinions of each other, and so many assertions are made and denied that any impartial observer will greatly regret that the Porte has declined M. Streit's proposal that a Joint Commission should examine into the state of affairs both in Hellenic Macedonia and in Turkish Thrace with a view to finding out what really has happened. Both parties have communicated statements to the Press, but neither will believe the other, and in such cases the evidence of impartial witnesses cannot always be obtained. As I have already pointed out on several occasions, a great deal of the emigration of Moslems from the lost provinces into Turkey is due to the dislike of the average Turk to accept as superiors or even as equals those whom from time immemorial he has considered as rayahs and inferior beings—but it is quite possible that popular pressure may have been brought to bear upon the ceded Turks by triumphant majorities, with which officials were unable to cope.

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The Greeks are taking most energetic unofficial steps to raise money for the purchase of another Dreadnought, and the committee in charge of the collection of the necessary has hit upon an ingenious scheme for tempting even the most niggardly patriot to contribute his drachmai. Attractive certificates are issued for different values, and the collector-spirit is aroused by the possibility of acquiring a "set" of these, beginning with the humble 5 dr. and rising to the stately magnificence of the higher values. I may add that only one certificate has been prepared for issue at the face value of 1,000,000 drs.—the competition among millionaires for this unique specimen should be keen—and should materially add to the 14,000,000 drs. which have already been collected. As our Constantinople Correspondent's letter shows, the amount of money which has been accumulated by street collections, voluntary subscriptions and "benevolences" in Turkey for the Ottoman Fleet is now considerable. It is, however, open to doubt whether the Dreadnought is the naval unit best fitted for Ægean warfare, and amid the rock-studded currents which sweep amid the innumerable islands of the Archipelago one is tempted to suggest that a more numerous fleet of smaller vessels would be alike more useful and less liable to accidental disaster—apart from the risks of war—which might befall a very big basket holding a great many eggs.

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I gather that all is not well with the Epirotes; they have fallen out among themselves—not on the subject of diehardism or the prospects of last-ditchery, but about stamps. The Independent Committee of Epirus, on high artistic grounds, has declined to recognise the celebrated "skull-and-crossbones" stamps issued by the Chimariots, and asserts that its own set of "Rifleman" adhesives, which are of civilized appearance, are the true representatives of Epirote philately. At this rate the Balkan Peninsula will for some time continue to be the happy hunting ground of the collector of provisional issues, emergency over-prints, and war-specials, and if the sale for these fantastic creations remains as brisk as it has been for some time past no doubt the responsible authorities will again supply the market with tempting rarities of primitive design and a most alluring crudeness of execution.

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I see that the *Messager d'Athènes* waxes indignant once more about what it effects to consider the woes of the "oppressed majority" in Cyprus. It deplores the inability of the Greek members in the Legislative Council to impose their will upon the Moslem minority, and considers that "the administration of the Island suffers cruelly on account of this anomaly." In the same number, the *Messager d'Athènes* prefers a series of charges against the Ottoman Administration for the persecution of Greeks in Turkey, yet omits to draw the logical conclusion that but for the presence in Cyprus of the British officials, who share with the locusts and the drought the proud position of being the "curses" of that island, the non-Moslem population would be exposed to the rigours of Turkish rule, which are found to be so unpleasant in Anatolia and Thrace. But, really, I am inclined to take the whole effusion as an elaborate piece of humour on the part of our well-known Athenian comtemporary, the more so as it goes on to suggest that Great Britain should give Cyprus to Greece, in order that Sir E. Grey may be in a stronger position to insist upon the evacuation of the Dodecanese—also for the benefit of Greece? Of course, after the celebrated achievement of Mr. Gladstone, who withdrew from the Transvaal after that event had officially been made contingent upon the Vaal River flowing backwards, it is unsafe to prophesy. I am, however, probably safe in announcing that the British will cede Cyprus to Greece on or after that most appropriate date the Greek Kalends, which is generally expected will shortly precede the arrival of the Coqcigrues.

For months past the activities of the Foreign Office have been gravely hampered by the Ulster difficulty, and a correspondent in Syria tells me that the Germans are making great play with the incidents in Ireland for the purpose of belittling Great Britain in the Near East:—

"Here we are beset with rumours. Whether the German who is reorgansing the Turkish Army is really trying to set the Turks against the English or not I really don't know, we hear such conflicting accounts. One thing is certain—that the trouble in England is lowering our prestige out here terribly. Not only the natives, but all the Germans are convinced that our army was on the verge of mutiny, and even now they think we are in a tottering condition. The German Consul is a very bombastic little man, and does not at all mind our knowing what he thinks of the situation."

***

Those who take stock in omens may well prick up their ears at the news from Constantinople. I gather that extensive alterations and improvements have been in hand for some time past, and that the Padishah is shortly to take up his residence in Yildiz. This may suggest to some that the Sultan es Selatim is about to revert to the methods of his predecessor—but, at least, the removal would enable His Imperial Majesty to avoid the daily reminder of fallen greatness which is presented by the sight of his brother's residence, the Beylerbey Palace, on the opposite side of the Bosporus, to the Dolma Bagché. The fact that the Sublime Porte is being carefully repaired after the disastrous fire which affected it so seriously some months ago, may well indicate that the Osmanlis have determined that it is to remain the symbol of their State for many years to come, and that if the Guarded Realms were singed and charred in Roumelia by the fires of disastrous war, at least Stamboul is still under that dominion which Mohammed the Conquerer built upon the ruins of New Rome.

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Amongst the announcements of new books, I have just come across one title that fills my simple mind with astonishment, to wit: "Russia with Teheran, Port Arthur and Peking." About the two cities last named, I say nothing. But—Teheran! The book referred to is published by the painstaking Baedeker, and I note that it contains "maps and plans." Do the plans, I wonder, throw any light on Russian projects regarding Teheran? If so, it is certainly an unkind stroke on the part of the great producer of guide-books to give the show away quite so openly, even in these days of somewhat strained feeling between Germany and Russia. It not, why include Teheran—to say nothing of Peking—in the book? Surely Russia is a large enough field for any one volume—or for any living soul, except a Russian! Possibly, however, Baedeker is merely taking Time by the fore-lock in view of the rapidity with which events are marching.

***

I see that the Austrian authorities have suddenly realised that they have been most searchingly criticised in "The Hapsburg Monarchy," the recently published book of Mr. Wickham Steed, who had peculiar facilities for studying their procedure during the years that he was correspondent of *The Times* in Vienna. At present it is still doubtful whether this action has been taken because the author has been too outspoken about certain members of the Imperial Family, or has referred disrespectfully to the manners and methods of the great bureaucrats of the capital, or because he fails to express any admiration at all for the Austro-Hungarian policy in the Balkans. In any case, the action of the Vienna authorities will contribute materially to increase the circulation of the book, which, I understand, will shortly be republished in German and French.

***

In addition to the two Turcophile societies already in existence in this country, yet another is to be formed. According to information I have received, several influential people are interesting themselves in this new venture. The society is to be called the Turkey Society, and its chief aim is: "To promote the sympathy existing between the British and Ottoman peoples and to make them better known to each other by means of personal intercourse and publications." I understand that its objects are exclusively literary, economic, and artistic, and it has been agreed that the society should work along lines similar to those followed by the Persia and Japan Societies. Without doubt an organisation of this kind can do very important and necessary work in spreading knowledge and dispelling prejudices, and I wish the Turkey Society all success in its beneficent labours. Amongst those gentlemen who are mentioned as probable members of the council of the society are Lord Denbigh, Lord Bury, Professor Browne, the Right Hon. Ameer Ali, Sir Thomas Barclay, and Mr. E. N. Bennett.

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914.	1914.		1332. Jum'da II.	5674 Iyar.
May 8	April 25	Friday	12	12
9	26	Saturday	13	13
10	27	Sunday	14	14
11	28	Monday	15	15
12	29	Tuesday	16	16
13	30	Wednesday	17	17
14	May 1	Thursday	18	18

To-day, being the 12th of Jumada II., 1332, according to the Moslem calendar, is the birthday of Abdul Aziz Effendi, a nephew of the Heir to the Throne of Osman, and son of H.I.H. Seif-ed-din Effendi.

Tuesday will be the anniversary of the wedding of Princess Anastasia, of Montenegro, to the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievitch, at Yalta, in 1907. Her Imperial Highness was previously married to Prince George Romanoffski, Duke of Leuchtenberg.

Tuesday will be the anniversary of the marrage in 1864 of Princess Clotilde, sister of Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, to the late Archduke Joseph, who was the son of the last Palatine of Hungary, and died in 1905.

Wednesday will be the wedding-day of Princess Maria of Greece, who married the Grand Duke George Michailovitch of Russia in 1900.

Wednesday, being 17th of Jumada II., is the birthday of H.I.H. Eumer Hilmi Effendi, who was born in A.H. 1305 (March 2, 1888). Although His Imperial Highness is the Sultan's second son, he is only thirteenth in the succession to the Throne, according to Ottoman practice.

On Thursday, 18th Jumada II., 1332, two Imperial Princesses celebrate their wedding days. Princess Fatma Sultana, the youngest daughter of the late Sultan Murad Khan, who died in 1904, and another of the present Padishah's nieces, Princess Muniré Sultana, were both married on the same day (July 29, 1907) in A.H. 1325, the former to Damad Refik Bey, the latter to General Damad Salih Pasha. The fortunate husbands of Imperial Princesses in Turkey are proclaimed on marriage *Damad-i-Padishahi*—son-in-law of the Sultan—or *Damad-i-Shehriari*—Imperial son-in-law—as the case may be.

Our Roumanian Correspondent writes that the Infante Alfonso d'Orleans of Spain, with his wife the Infanta Beatrice, left Bucharest on Thursday by train for Constanta, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Princess of Roumania. The Royal guests left by the State Service steamer "Romania" for Constantinople, where they will remain for a few days, returning to Spain by way of the Mediterranean.

It is announced that the visit of Queen Eleanor of Bulgaria to the United States has been postponed until the situation in America is more favourable.

On Monday, 27th ultimo, Sir George Barclay, the British Minister in Bucharest, and Lady Barclay gave a grand soirée, at which the Crown Prince and Princess of Roumania, Princess Marie and the Infante and Infanta Alfonso d'Orléans of Spain were present.

M. Chedo Mijatovitch, the well-known writer on Servian affairs, who used to represent his country at the Court of St. James's as the representative of the late King Alexander, has returned to London.

SYRACUSE.—Grand Hotel Villa Politi. Splendidly situated. First class.

Prince Alexander Ypsilanti, who greatly distinguished himself during the second Balkan war, has been appointed Prefect of Corfu in succession to M. Varatassis.

Lord and Lady Lamington and Sir Gerard Lowther were amongst the guests at the wedding of Lord Gerald Wellesley with Miss Ashton on Thursday last week.

According to a message from Salonika, dated May 1, M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, M. Repoulis, Minister of the Interior, and M. Ractivan, Minister of Justice, arrived at Salonika on Friday evening last and were cordially received by the inhabitants. A large crowd cheered them on their arrival at the station.

Princess Lüdwig of Löwenstein-Wertheim has returned to 8, Upper Belgrave Street, from Egypt, where she flew from Cairo to Luxor with Mr. Olivier in a Farman biplane, taking many interesting photographs en route.

The Hon. Mrs. Byng left for Port Said by special train on April 28, in order to embark on the P. and O. steamer for England. General Byng, who accompanied his wife as far as Port Said, returned the same evening to Cairo.

His Excellency M. Gennadius, the Hellenic Minister, was present at the dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund last Friday, and on Saturday his Excellency was amongst the guests at the Royal Academy banquet held at Burlington House.

Writing from Belgrade, our Special Correspondent in the Balkans informs us that General Popovitch has been relieved of the command of the troops in New Servia, and is being replaced by General Bojovitch.

It is announced that Damad Enver Pasha, the Turkish Minister of War, will shortly move into the estate of the late Süleiman Effendi, brother of the Sultan, at the top of the Bebek hill.

The *Jeune Turc* states that Kiazim Bey, of the Turkish Ministry of Finance, who is attending the International Financial Conference in Paris, will be replaced by Ferid Bey, Director of the Mint.

The Khedive has conferred the Second Class of the Medjidieh upon Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., Director of Education in the Sudan.

Mahmoud Kiamil Bey has been appointed Under Secretary of State for War at the Seraskierate in Stamboul.

H.E. Abdul Halik Bey, the Vali of Bitlis, who has shown great energy and administrative capacity in his new post, received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Medjidieh on the anniversary of the Sultan's accession.

Ali Munif Bey, Under Secretary of State for the Interior, and H.E. Rahmi Bey, the Vali of Aidin, received a similar honour on the same occasion.

C. Serkis Bey, of the Turkish Embassy, has left London for the Continent on leave.

In a communication to the *Daily Telegraph* of May 4, sent from Bucharest, Dr. E. J. Dillon flatly contradicts the rumour that the intended marriage of the Crown Prince of Greece and Princess Elizabeth of Roumania had been broken off.

Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo Police, left for England on April 30.

The marriage arranged between John Cyril Douglas Fenn, Colonial Civil Service, and Evelyn Blanche Lawford will take place in Cyprus on Saturday, June 6.

The marriage contract of Dr. Omar Nolan, late Controller of Public Security in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, now Inspector General of Police in Turkey, with the daughter of Ahmed Bey El-Bakri, was signed recently at Heliopolis at the residence of Ahmed Bey. Dr. Omar Nolan was represented by Bahgat Bey Wahby, and the marriage contract was written by the Grand Cadi of Egypt. Among those who were present at the ceremony were Prince Omar Toussum, Prince Aziz Hassan, Prince Mohamed Ali Hassan, Rushdi Pasha, the Premier, Ibrahim Pasha Halim, Dr. Ali Bey Labib, El-Sayid Abdul Hamid El-Bakri, and other notables.

The death has occurred at Bournemouth of Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Shaw, late of the Royal Army Medical Corps. He served in the Sudan Expedition of 1882, when he was mentioned in despatches, receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star. He also served in the Sudan Expedition of 1887, when he was again mentioned in despatches and received another clasp.

The Servant Minister to Bulgaria, M. Tcholak Antitch, who has been to Belgrade, has now returned to Sofia.

M. Poulieff, the First Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation in Belgrade, has been appointed to a similar post in Athens.

Dr. Semenoff, Chief of the Department of Public Worship in the Bulgarian Foreign Office, succeeds M. Poulieff in Belgrade.

M. de Lázló, who was recently honoured with a commission to paint certain members of King Constantine's family, has received the Cross of Commander of the Order of the Redeemer.

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M. Varatassis, the Prefect of Corfu, has been appointed Hellenic diplomatic representative in Durazzo—*en mission spéciale*. For some time past M. Varatassis has been in charge of the Greco-Albanian negotiations for the evacuation of Epirus.

Professor Politis, Professor of International Law at the University of Paris, who was Legal Adviser to the Greek Peace Delegates during the negotiations which ended with the signature of the Treaty of London, has been appointed Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens.

Count La Combe, the French Vice-Consul in Cyprus, having been appointed to the Consulate at Newcastle-on-Tyne, left Larnaca on April 29 for a short tour in Palestine, to be followed by a holiday in France, before taking up his new appointment in England. The departure from Larnaca of Count and Countess La Combe, where they have made themselves so deservedly popular, is an event which is greatly deplored by the European community there, for a void has been created which it will be hard indeed to fill. Before leaving Count La Combe was the guest of the members of the English Club, Larnaca, at a farewell dinner.

We regret to learn that Miss Young, who has been staying with Sir Reginald and Lady Oakes (her aunt) at Heliopolis, is ill with typhoid.

Miss Diana Beaumont has returned from Cairo to her cousins, the Misses Wade, at 21, Charleville Road.

Mr. E. A. Harrison, managing director of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son (Egypt), has arrived in London this week from Cairo.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Boileau have returned to 21, Draycott Avenue, from Egypt.

The Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius, the Roumanian Minister and Mme. and Mlle. Mishu, and the Servian Minister, were present at the dance given by Lady Mond last Friday evening at 35, Lowndes Square.

A Paris message announces that M. Olivier Taigny, Counsellor of Embassy, has been appointed the French representative on the International Commission on Hellenic finance.

Dr. Dillon, the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, was in Bucharest at the end of last week, en route for Albania.

The King has been pleased to grant to Mr. Arthur Trevor Williams, Director of Customs, Port Said, authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Osmanieh, conferred upon him by the Khedive, authorised by the Sultan.

The King has been pleased to grant to Mr. Alexander Ashton, Chief Engineer at the Ports and Lights Administration, Port Said, authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Medjidieh, conferred upon him by the Khedive, authorised by the Sultan.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. John Selden Willmor to be His Majesty's Consul for the eastern coast of the Red Sea, to reside at Jeddah.

The *Orient* announces that Professor and Mrs. van Millingen, of Robert College, Constantinople, and their daughter Frances have returned to Turkey after an absence of ten months, mainly in the British Isles.

On the occasion of the retirement from the Army of El Lewa Phipps Pasha, the following farewell order was issued to the Army :—The Sirdar wishes to place on record his great appreciation of the excellent services rendered by El Lewa P. R. Phipps Pasha during the fifteen years he served in His Highness the Khedive's Army, in which amongst other appointments, he held the command of the 14th Sudanese. El Lewa Phipps Pasha also filled the following posts :—Assistant Civil Secretary, Sudan Government; Private Secretary to the Sirdar and Governor-General, and for the last eight years filled the responsible position of Civil Secretary, Sudan Government, with marked ability and well-deserved success. The Sirdar, on behalf of all ranks in the Egyptian Army, desires to wish El Lewa Phipps Pasha every success in his future career.

Amongst the recommendations of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society to the Fellows were the following :—That Sir Francis Younghusband should succeed Captain H. G. Lyons, F.R.S., as one of the honorary secretaries, and that one of the new members of the Council should be Colonel P. Molesworth Sykes, C.M.G., C.I.E.

Colonel T. E. Hickman, C.B., D.S.O., M.P., who has been placed on retired pay, served with the Egyptian Army under Lord Kitchener, and for the Sudan operations of 1886 was promoted brevet major, and obtained the D.S.O. For his services during the campaign of 1898, which led to the final reconquest of the Sudan, he was promoted to brevet lieutenant-colonel while still only captain in the Worcestershire Regiment.

Professor W. Ridgeway lectured on "The Early Iron Age in the Ægean Area" at the third general meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, held on Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Wilfred Post, of Konia, is steadily recovering from the attack of typhoid from which he has been suffering, and his brother, who had been in attendance upon him, has returned to Constantinople.

The *Orient* reports that among American Consular nominations recently sent to the Senate are the following :—Mr. A. W. Weddell, transferred from Catania, Sicily, to Athens, Greece; Mr. C. F. Brissel, from Amoy, China, to Baghdad; Mr. Leslie A. Davis, from Batoum to Harpout; Mr. William H. Gale, from Athens to Colon, Panama; Mr. F. Willoughby Smith, from Aden to Batoum.

A correspondent informs us that the name of the newly appointed German Consul at Tabriz is Herr Wilhelm Liken, not von Lindon, as printed in our issue of April 24.

The Venerable Theodore Edward Dowling, D.D., since 1906 Canon Residentiary of St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem, and Archdeacon in Syria, has been compelled, owing to continued ill-health, to tender his resignation of the honorary post of Archdeacon in Syria. The Archdeacon in Syria has had a long and wide experience in Canada, Turkey, Europe, Egypt, and Syria. He was formerly Rural Dean of Fredericton, New Brunswick; Chaplain of the Crimea Memorial Church, Constantinople; Chaplain at Assuan, Egypt; and Chaplain at St. Luke's Mission at Haifa under Mount Carmel. In 1902 he was appointed Canon of St. George's, Jerusalem, and in 1906 Archdeacon in Syria. Dr. Dowling was a diligent student and writer of books, and acted as Bishop's Commissary for intercourse with the Eastern Churches. His books, chiefly on ecclesiastical subjects connected with the Near East, are, no doubt, well-known to many of our readers.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

CRAIG.—April 27th, at 89, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, the wife of J. Douglas Craig, Sudan Civil Service, of a daughter.

MONCK-MASON.—On April 17, at the British Vice-Consulate, Adana, Turkey in Asia, to Mr. and Mrs. A. G. E. C. Monck-Mason—a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

ELLIS—PITCHFORD.—On the 30th April, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Worthing, by the Rev. C. J. Hollis, M.A., Vicar, Bernard Pemberton, youngest son of the late A. A. Ellis, Esq., of King's Norton, to Elizabeth Annie, widow of John Pitchford, Esq., of Penarth, and elder daughter of the late Wilson Pasha and Mrs. Wilson of Cairo.

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1914.

BULGARIA AFTER THE WAR.

Few people who know Bulgaria and its inhabitants have doubted the ultimate capacity of the country to rise superior to its misfortunes. But the actual rate of recovery from the effects of two severe wars is proving a matter for surprise even to the most optimistic observer. The moratorium proclaimed during the struggle in the Balkans was terminated last September, some six weeks after demobilisation. Since that date the number of bankruptcies has shown no appreciable increase over the figures for a similar period under normal conditions; but more significant still is the fact that the revenue from taxation during the months of January and February should be stated to have shown a marked improvement upon the revenue for the same months in ordinary years in the past. In a recent statement made to the Sobranje the Minister of Finance was able to point to the fall in the rate of exchange from 20 per cent. at the end of 1913 to 7½ per cent. at the present time, with every prospect of par being reached before long. There remains, however, the question of the floating debt, which amounts to more than four hundred million leva, represented by requisitions, Treasury bonds, and advances by the National Bank. To meet these obligations recourse is to be had to a foreign loan, the negotiations for which are said to be proceeding satisfactorily. Apart from the desirability of paying off foreign advances and reducing the Treasury bonds placed in France and Russia, the Government will be anxious to place the National Bank in funds in order that the latter may be in a better position to support the commercial and industrial development of the country. For it is in this direction that Bulgaria's political salvation lies. The indomitable industry of her people, aided by wise statesmanship on the part of the Government, will do more to rehabilitate Bulgaria in the Balkans and to place her once more on a sound economic footing than the most successful appeal to arms.

A country that has had to pass through the experiences of Bulgaria during the last eighteen months is likely to be beset with something more than financial problems. The temptation to probe deep into the sources of her troubles has been strong, and Bulgarian politicians have been unable to withstand it. The carrying out of this task has come to be regarded as a patriotic duty, and preliminary revelations have only served to whet the appetite for more. Counsels of perfection must inevitably fall on deaf ears when political passions have been roused as they have been in Bulgaria, and the country now appears to be committed to an attempt, or a series of attempts, to locate within the narrowest limits the blame for its past misfortunes. The event alone can prove whether these inquiries will serve any useful purpose. With parties in the Sobranje equally balanced, even after two elections, it might be thought that the Government would elect to avoid any action calculated to inflame party feeling, and by confining itself to absolutely necessary legislation would hasten the adjournment of the Chamber, in order that political peace might be restored as far as possible. But the session is proving a stormy one, and the strength of the Opposition has encouraged it to introduce once more international considerations into purely domestic affairs. In regard to the projected loan, the necessity for which cannot be disputed, it would have been thought that the sole aim of all parties must be to obtain the money on the best terms and as quickly as possible. The Government decided to make application to Germany. It has been taunted by the Opposition with the allegation that its foreign policy has left it little hope of being able to raise a loan in Paris, but with some inconsistency the Opposition has subjected the application to Germany to a violent attack. This attitude shows that the old sympathies and antipathies, which have been Bulgaria's bane in the past, are still as keen as ever. Nothing could be more regrettable than that the country's need of funds should be made the occasion for reviving discredited policies. The Bulgarian Government has a large amount of accumulated experience to draw upon in regard to loan negotiations. The flotation of a loan is intended by the lender to be as profitable a proceeding as possible, and an undertaking to place orders with the lender's nationals has become a recognised feature in the loan contracts of minor Powers. Bulgaria can hardly be unaware of the disadvantages of these monopolies, and must realise that it is always better to keep open the approach to two markets than to one. With two sources available for loan purposes the monopoly system can be avoided, or at least curtailed, and we should be sorry to see the taunts of the Opposition apparently justified by the Government's acceptance of terms which would restrict the usefulness of the loan and commit Bulgaria to a foreign policy based on international rivalries. If, on the other hand, the Opposition has no ground for its suspicions, it is doing a disservice to the country by trying to advance claims which bear the stamp of having originated abroad.

The foundation of all that the Balkan States have achieved was laid by an agreement among themselves. For years previously they had grouped themselves in opposing camps as hangers-on of powerful patrons, and it was not until they had cut themselves adrift from this subservient policy that they came within reach of their destiny. There is no ground for supposing that Bulgaria or the other Balkan States will be able to consolidate their new possessions in any more effective way than by the renewal of the agreement among themselves. The personal ambitions of individual politicians may be flattered by means of overtures elsewhere, but they cannot fail to realise that they are adopting the one method calculated to unsettle their country and retard its economic development. It is admitted that the pace cannot be forced in the direction indicated. The Bulgarians as a whole we believe to be prepared to let bygones be bygones in regard to their former allies. Only an unkind fate, therefore, can prompt the Servians to keep open the old sores by the recurrence of frontier incidents and a policy which in the eyes of the Bulgarians at least amounts to one of extermination or compulsory emigration. With regard to the relations between Greece and Bulgaria, however, it is possible to detect some small improvement. In spite of bitter memories which an excitable Press, with no traditions of dignity and self-restraint, continues to inflame, the statesmen and merchants are doing everything in their power to emphasise the community of interests of the Balkan States as a whole. The less any one political party in a country seeks to improve its position by the support, imaginary or real, of a Great Power, the more will the nation be encouraged to look to itself and the other peoples of the Balkans in order to make the Near East a factor in the political and economic history of Europe.

*** SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD who are proceeding to England or the Continent for the Summer may have their copies of "The Near East" posted to any address without extra charge, on furnishing particulars of their movements to the Publisher 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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THE SUDAN AND COTTON.

By W. Lawrence Balls.

III.

The southern portion of the Sudan is capable of raising a large amount of rain-grown cotton, but of inferior quality, largely like Indian; and it will probably take several generations of administrative work, railway construction, and organisation before the bulk of this supply is appreciable. Between Khartoum and the rain-districts, however, there lies a country with big possibilities, though its present appearance is not suggestive of them. This Gezira plain forms the triangle between the Blue and White Niles, with its northern point at Khartoum and its southern base along the latitude of Wad Medani; its base and altitude are both about one hundred miles. South of Wad Medani the surface is such as would require much levelling before irrigation could be extended to it, but from there to Khartoum it is as flat as a bowling-green, and with a similar camber, from south to north and from east to west, ready for irrigation.

Possibilities of the South.

Assuming that the whole area could grow Egyptian cotton, there would be one million acres under the crop each year on a three-course rotation. It is probable that the western area will probably give better results under American, but for purposes of irrigation the area is homogeneous. The supply of water will be derived from a barrage on the Blue Nile near Sennaar. Ponded up behind this barrage, the water will overflow down a canal running along the eastern side of the Gezira, parallel to the Blue Nile, and free-flow water will be available from Wad Medani onwards. The work already begun will irrigate about 700 square miles, out of a total possible area of 5,000 square miles, and canalisation will be extended to the rest of the area later. The productivity of the land will probably be rather less than has been assumed, for reasons given below, and will most likely average about 350 lbs. of lint to the acre, which will amount on 1,000,000 acres to about half the present crop of Egypt, of quality corresponding to the ordinary Brown Egyptian. The time taken to develop the whole area will be limited by the supply of labour, and full development can scarcely be effected within twenty-five years, while 1950 is a more likely date.

In the year 1950 the Sudan will probably export more than two million kantars of Egyptian from the Gezira, one million kantars of Upland from the same district, and one-third of a million kantars each of Upland and of Egyptian from the northern area and from Tokar with Kassala.

Such an area as the Gezira must therefore have a fascination which "science for science's sake" could not give, and which—for a tourist—must outweigh its climatic peculiarities.

Scenery of the Gezira.

Immediately the train leaves Khartoum station on its way south, the typical Gezira scenery begins and persists. Considered as scenery, it is nothing special. It is better described in negatives. There are no hills, undulations, nor even hummocks; there are no crops (in January); there are no people to speak about; there are no stations except once in forty minutes; there are no plants except scattered scrub, and a dark line on the eastern horizon, where the vegetation along the Blue Nile is flickering in the mirage. On the other hand, there is unlimited mirage and glare and heat, even in the cool weather. There are signs of past cultivation of rain-crops, in the form of little banks of earth and the remains of maize-stalks, especially towards the south, for the rainfall is rising from four inches at Khartoum to fifteen inches at Wad Medani. These fifteen inches are not distributed over the year like an English rainfall of twenty-five inches, but are concentrated in a couple of months; often a cloud-burst washes the seedling crops out of the ground over several acres.

In January, however, when the cotton will be ripening, there is no sign of this, and the general outlook is intermediate between that from the desert railway and in the Atbara scrub. The people at the wayside stations are dark coffee-coloured, frequently of an Arab cast of feature, clothed in one piece of cotton cloth or less, according to age, and looking thoroughly alive to the external world.

A fellah soldier, chaffering with them for water-melons, throws this cheerful keenness of expression into sharp contrast, and when the tourist finds that every weed on the Tayiba farm has its proper native name, which is regularly used for reference or description, the contrast with Egypt becomes stronger still.

The Tayiba Experimental Station.

At the end of six hours' gentle toasting the train runs into the hard edge of a green rectangle. Probably the green is very dusty and dull, and would be a blot on an English landscape, but in the setting of grey glare it looks dark emerald. Down by the river is the tall chimney of the Tayiba pumping station, with frame bungalows, offices, and stores in between. The cultivated area receiving water from the pumps for this trial demonstration of the possibilities of the Gezira amounts to 1,900 acres in its third year, administered by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and represented locally by most excellent hosts.

That the Tayiba farm should have been run entirely as a demonstration of straight cultivation, without comparative experimental treatments from which deductions could be made, must be written up against it as a fault, but probably a necessary one. Still, when an hour's cursory examination shows that Gezira cotton bristles with problems like a thorn-bush, it worries the tourist not to be able to test his provisional hypotheses on actual data, especially when all available data could have been kept with the fullest detail and in sufficient quantity if they had been arranged in the first instance.

It might be challenged as a rash act to generalise on the behaviour and possibilities of 5,000 square miles by watching the behaviour of three square miles in one corner; but the Gezira is remarkably uniform except in its temperature relations, and much of the uncertainty has been eliminated by the Chemical survey. This excellent piece of work has shown that the top four feet of soil scarcely varies. What little change there is moves steadily from heavier land in the south to higher proportions of sandy constituents in the northern apex. The soil is deficient in nitrogen, like others of its kind, and the inclusion of a leguminous crop in a three-year rotation is therefore essential, leaving the third year to grow the food-crop of maize or wheat. The appearance of the unimproved soil is deceptive, the silt particles being aggregated into clumps which are broken down by heavy waterings, such as irrigation would provide, thereby puddling the soil. A soil of this nature cannot be cultivated without free drainage, but at present the natural drainage is sufficient in many places, because the natural water-table is over fifty feet below the surface. In certain spots, however, the land lies wet after irrigation, indicating that the natural under-drainage is hampered by impermeable beds. Since the root of cotton probably descends quite ten feet below the surface in the Sudan conditions of soil-temperature, a much deeper layer than four feet has to be taken into consideration, and it is more than likely that such trapping of drainage may take place erratically over large areas. Further, the experience of the Punjab and Wyoming shows that even a very deep natural water-table may be raised to the surface, quite apart from the superficial water-logging of clay patches. Combining these facts with the effects of the two-metre drains at Khartoum North Farm, it seems clear that drainage provision is highly necessary for the permanent success of the Gezira project, and that only a few years without it might suffice to do serious injury to the credit of the district.

The Labour Supply.

Intimately linked with the provision of drains is the question of labour supply. Without the means of removing all stagnant water, it is impossible to organise an anti-mosquito campaign, and if mosquitos were allowed to flourish in the Gezira it would lower the health and efficiency of the native labour to a serious extent, quite apart from the certainty of malaria for the few white men in control. Labour is too scarce as yet in the Sudan to allow of any reduction of efficiency in the available individuals when the rapid development of a big project is at stake.

The growth of the plants at Tayiba presents many points of interest. The same legginess is notable as at Khartoum, but in other respects they are very different. The flowering branches run out to the normal length, and the leaves have the normal shiny appearance. Defoliation from dry night-cold is unknown, but spells of excessive heat still produce their effect. Another remarkable weather effect is the varnishing of the whole plant with a shiny coating of nectar, excreted in excess by the plant itself, and not by green-fly. This condition has been noted in Upper Egypt, though to a less extent, and the observations of Mr. Wright at Tayiba indicate that it is produced by the usual combination of causes—namely, damp, windless weather, with a warm soil. The after-effect is again defoliation, probably through choking of the leaf-pores, with consequent over-heating in sunshine, and reduction of assimilation.

The Gezira and the other Sudan cotton areas also are thus liable to climatic factors of uncertainty in their yield which no cultural skill can avoid, and the crop might easily by reduced by 10 per cent. over the whole area by any one of these three climatic effects alone.

Insect Dangers.

Lastly, there are no insect troubles at Tayiba as yet, an invasion of boll-worm, which probably came from a single moth, having been stamped out. It is quite hopeless to expect that economic insects will not attain the same importance in the Gezira as they have assumed in Egypt, so that a reduction of 15 per cent. from the present yield at Tayiba may be fairly anticipated. The risk of damage by locust invasions from the south is preventable, except in extreme cases, though at a price.

All things considered, it does not seem justifiable to assume that the Gezira can possibly give so high a yield of cotton

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per acre as Egypt can, and about 350 lbs. per acre seems a reasonable average for a series of years, or three and a-half million kantars, of which two and a-quarter will be Egyptian, from the south-eastern portion.

To investigate the water-supply was beyond the tourist's powers, but it is certain that water must be given to a later date than that originally contemplated—namely, February 15. If water is withheld after this date the later pickings cannot mature, and if extensive defoliation has taken place during the winter there may have been delay in the second picking, which would thus also be lost through water-shortage. Moreover, the wheat crop cannot fill its grains without late water, and its yield also falls off by 50 per cent. Up to the present the date for the Tayiba cultivators has been extended until the end of March, and it remains to be seen whether this extension can be given permanently over the whole Gezira when the duty of water under Gezira conditions is accurately known.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Question of Darfur.

The current number of the *Contemporary Review* has an important article, by Frank R. Cana, on "Egyptian and Sudan Frontiers." With reference to the Franco-Sudanese frontier, and in particular the question of Darfur, the writer says:—

The solution of the Darfur question, while it must give Great Britain the means of making the frontier respected, and of suppressing the slave trade, need not entail the overthrow of the native government. This is indeed undesirable. Ali Dinar is the representative of a line of Sultans who ruled Darfur, previously to its conquest by Zubeir Pasha, for some 400 years, and in Darfur there is the chance of building up a native State that shall enjoy all the blessings of home rule. It has elements making for prosperity. . . . . Darfur's foreign affairs must, however, be in the hands of its suzerain, and this can best be accomplished by the appointment of a Resident at El Fasher, and the placing of the armed levies of the Sultan under the control of a British officer, one of whose duties it would be to guard the Wadai frontier.

We also quote below the concluding paragraph of the article, which neatly sums up the writer's view:—

It will be seen from what has been written that there is much to gain and nothing to lose by coming to a speedy and definite agreement with Italy and France respectively regarding the western frontier of Egypt and the Sudan. It is no case of expansion on the part of Great Britain, but of removing possible causes of disagreement with Powers with whom we are on excellent terms. Especially is it desirable that the Darfur question should be settled, for at any moment an untoward incident there might cause a wave of fanaticism to sweep over the Sudan.

Turkey's Misfortunes.

In the *Asiatic Review* (April) the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., draws attention to "the spirit of burning resentment that extends through all Mohammedan countries" at the unjust treatment of the Ottoman Empire. The article is entitled "Turkey and the Sicilian Vespers," and the writer develops the historical parallel implied in the title as follows:—

The anger which is felt from and beyond India to Adrianople at the treatment meted out to the Turks is very natural, for the Muhammadan, though he may often live in the waste places of the earth, even in the depth of the desert, is not ignorant of the tragedy that has befallen his spiritual kindred. To him the calamity of the Balkan War appears a conspiracy of Europe, as carefully considered and as well engineered as was the slaughter of the Sicilian Vespers.

It is urged that the geographical argument is of greater validity than the ethnological argument in deciding whether Turkey should surrender Chios and Mytilene or not. The writer says:—

We have guaranteed to Turkey Imbros, Tenedos, and the Rabbit Islands, and the reasons for this action have been purely selfish. For these islands dominate the Dardanelles, and a great part of our food supply passes through the Dardanelles. We recognise that the Greek possession of these islands might constitute a danger to us, and so firmly and quietly we eliminate that risk. On the other hand, where the danger exists only for Turkey we not only acquiesce, but are even ready to take a part in initiating this new peril to the Ottoman Empire. For it is not denied that from Chios and Mytilene there will arise a new Hellenic propaganda whose purpose will be to create a second Macedonia in Asia.

"Minorities in the Balkans."

A note under the above heading in the *Daily Graphic* of May 1, says:—

Although from time to time some echoes of the bitter cries of the religious and racial minorities in the New Balkans manage to escape the rigid censorship of their new masters, Europe has but the faintest idea of the abominations of which they are the victims. We have heard a great deal lately about the sufferings of the Greeks in Eastern Thrace, but they are as nothing in comparison with persecutions of the Mussulmans and Bulgars of New Greece and New Servia, and the oppression with which the inhabitants of the New Dobrudja are threatened by the Rumanian Government. Everywhere, indeed, the result of the so-called War of Liberation has been to establish new bondages—and bondages on a larger and far more galling scale than any that were practised by the Turk. Europe has not only the moral duty, but she has also the legal right to forbid a continuance of these scandals.

An Estimate of King Ferdinand.

In an article on "Personal Impressions of the Sovereigns of Europe," in the *Strand Magazine* (April), H.R.H. the Infanta Eulalia of Spain refers to King Ferdinand of Bulgaria in the following terms:—

Another Sovereign of the Orleans family, little known as yet, but certain to become important, is King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, the strength of whose secret hand has been shown in the recent downfall of the Turkish power in Europe. He is a son of the only daughter of Louis Philippe of France, and therefore my cousin by marriage; and I knew him intimately before he was called to the Throne of Bulgaria. He has made that country almost single-handed, building it up commercially, attracting money to it for railroads and industrial developments, and administering its finances as ably as he administers his own private fortune. His cleverness in using rightly for his own ends circumstances that would pass unperceived by anyone less astute has made him already one of the marked men of Europe. . . . I venture to prophesy that the "Concert of the Powers" in the Balkan situation will find him much too able for them. He has a wonderful mind.

With many of the writer's conclusions there is little latitude for disagreement, but we can hardly understand her description of King Ferdinand as "little known as yet," unless it is intended as a touch of sarcasm on her part!

Persian Influence on Judaism.

The *Interpreter* for April has an interesting article, under the title "Persian Influence on the Development of Biblical Religion," by the Rev. C. T. Harley Walker, M.A. We quote the following passage:—

The later Judaism is distinguished from the earlier by the fact that it possesses a more systematic and fuller eschatology. Mazdeism had a systematic eschatology. There are important differences between them, as Charles and Söderblom have pointed out and Bousset admits. The beginnings of eschatology, it is true, are found in the earlier stages of the religion of Israel. But surely we may account in part for the new emphasis on this subject by attributing it to Persian influence. Still more plain are the traces of Persian dualism in later Judaism. The whole of world history to the mind of the faithful disciple of Zardusht was one long conflict between Ahura-Mazda, the supreme God, and Angra-Mainyu, the author of 9,999 diseases and vices and misfortunes generally, between truth and falsehood, between light and darkness. Judaism rejected the names and myths in which this conception was embodied. But under its influence Satan, "the adversary of Israel," the accusing spirit becomes "the head of the kingdom of evil." The older prophets were familiar with the thought of "the enemies of Jahweh" and of "sin," but they would have been puzzled by the idea of "a kingdom of evil."

Hospitals in Constantinople.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Lancet*, in its issue of March 28, gives some interesting details of the additional municipal hospitals which it is proposed to erect in Constantinople. The moving spirit in this beneficent enterprise is the Prefect of the city, Dr. Djemil Pasha. It is stated that:—

He has prepared a very extensive report on the matter, and hopes to realise his project in the course of five years. As a beginning, Djerrah-Pasha Hospital in Stambul, which has 200 beds, will be increased to 500, and the female Hasseki Hospital, with 250 beds, to 600. In each of these institutions there will also be provided 100 beds in a separate pavilion for infectious cases. In the quarter of Chishli, above Pera, there will be constructed a great hospital with every modern requisite. Scutari on the Asiatic side and Emirghian on the European will get a new hospital, each with 500 beds, of which 200 will be for women, as well as special pavilions for contagious diseases. Also a number of municipal dispensaries will be erected on the Princes' Islands, in the Sea of Marmora, at Makrikeuy, Stambul, and at Beicos, on the Upper Bosphorus. The children's hospital at Chishli, of Abdul Hamid's fame, will be greatly enlarged, having added also 100 special beds for newly born infants. I have indicated that Dr. Djemil Pasha has undertaken a difficult task, and the financial question presents formidable difficulties, as Turkey is exceedingly poor at present.

Articles to Note.

"The London School of Oriental Studies," by F. H. Brown, in the *Westminster Gazette* (May 4).

"The Day's Work in Albania.—V.," by Anthony Bradford, in the *New Age* (April 30).

"The New Situation in the Balkan Peninsula," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.
On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	May 7....	97⅛—⅜ p.t.
Athens.....	May 4....	25·12 drs.
Bucharest.....	May 7....	25·47 leu.
Constantinople ..	May 7....	109¼—110 pl.
Sofia.....	May 4....	26·96—27·14 leva.
Teheran.....	May 6....	55 krans

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The success of the Turkish Loan appears to have given rise to a good deal of jealousy in certain quarters, which have consequently been doing their best to minimise that success as far as possible. It has been represented, for instance, that only about 50 per cent. of the loan was subscribed by the public, and attempts have been made to represent that as the outside figure. This is sheer nonsense. To my knowledge the greater part of the loan was taken up by the public, and no amount of idle gossip or inspired rumours will alter the fact. Another point which the Turcophobes have been working for all it is worth—and a great deal more—is that the issue price was against the success of the loan. It is much more likely that the Mexican trouble and the generally unsettled state of the market on the day when the loan came out accounted for its not being oversubscribed, as Turkish loans in Paris usually are. The uncertain state of French finances at the present time must also be taken into account. And, regard being had to all these points, Turkey is to be congratulated on its success.

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The long innings of the politicians in the Balkans is beginning to draw to its close—even the most recent adversaries are beginning to think of commerce, too long neglected for the expensive joys of war and tedious diplomacy. The Cabinets of Athens and Sofia have agreed to re-establish all their respective Consulates which existed before the war, and have arranged to recognise new Consular establishments at Salonika for Bulgaria and at Dedeagatch for Greece. It is to be hoped that this will lead to a decided improvement in the relations of the two countries—such matters probably being safer in the hands of merchants than in those of professional politicians, journalists, or even diplomatists. Germany is also establishing Consulates at Skoplye (Uskub), in New Servia, and Shkodra (Skutari), in Albania.

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Turco-Bulgarian relations have now become so entirely normal that it is possible to discuss some highly interesting questions which affect both parties strictly on their merits. For example, the Mixed Commission for delimiting the frontier laid down by the Treaty of Constantinople across the delta of the Maritza—a necessary but unproductive task—is also to turn its attention to the canalisation of that river. It would be an immense gain to Adrianople and Central Bulgaria if the Maritza were to be made navigable for the comparatively small steamers which carry most of the Levant trade at present. The modern engineer is a man of immense resource, and, given money, can do almost anything. Nor should the present project prove unduly expensive. Adrianople, which is 100 miles from the sea, is only 134 ft. above it, and Svilengrad (Old Mustafa Pasha), in Bulgaria, is twenty-two miles further inland and 70 ft. higher.

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The claims of Finance are very imperative nowadays, and nowhere more so than among those younger members of the comity of nations who depend upon the graces of the European bourses for their butter, if not for their bread. The victors in the recent war against Turkey have gained considerable areas of territory—which tend to become, as a rule, more or less depopulated—and Finance has decreed that they must shoulder the mortgages, so to speak, with which the late proprietors had encumbered that portion of their estates. It is a radical change from the German principle which was acted upon in 1871, when the unfortunate French not only lost Alsace-Lorraine, but had to present the Emperor William with £200,000,000 in cash as well. Under the new system it is stated in a telegram to the *Cologne Gazette* that the Porte is to be relieved of over £T24,000,000 worth of debt in consequence of the loss of its Roumelian and insular possessions. Of this Greece, the largest beneficiary among the Allies, is to take over £T14,315,406, Servia is to become responsible for £T4,451,473, Bulgaria for £T4,075,590, and Montenegro for £T151,040. Indebtedness is even to be hereditary, the infant State of Albania, being as it were the daughter of a debtor-parent, is born in debt—to the extent of £T1,090,685, which is presumably considered to be her share of the expenditure upon improvements undertaken by the Turks in Shqipenia!

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In view of the official approval of the doctrine that every square kilometer of national territory is proportionately burthened by the national debt of its possessors I should like to know how much of the Bulgarian national debt is to be taken over by Roumania with the 7,525 square kilometers of Dobruja which she has recently annexed. According to the amount of Bulgarian indebtedness before the war, this sum should be at least 4,867,170 frs.—without counting the cost of the first Balkan war, during which the lost Dobruja was part and parcel of Bulgaria.

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There are very good grounds for stating that various rumours that have appeared both in the Greek and the Continental Press regarding the Greco-Austrian and Greco-Servian commercial conventions rest on no solid foundation. I am informed that a perfectly reasonable and even friendly spirit has marked the negotiations, and that no attempt has been made to infringe the sovereign rights of Greece.

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The arrival of the Germans at Alexandretta and the comprehensive preparations which are being made by them to convert what has hitherto been a comparatively sheltered anchorage off an unimportant village into a first-class harbour, railway terminus, and commercial headquarters, has profoundly affected the position of Great Britain in Cyprus. When we first occupied that island it was as a place of arms, and subsequent events in Egypt have greatly diminished its value as a military centre, while its lack of harbours has prevented Cyprus from becoming a naval station. Now, however, golden opportunity once more holds out her hand to the island of the Lusignans, and it appears possible that the commercial prosperity of Cyprus may revive until it even surpasses the wonderful record of mediæval Famagusta. What has been neglected for years may now be remedied under the bracing effects of vigorous German competition in the Levant by an important British commercial combination having Cyprus as its headquarters and chief distributing centre. In these days of magnificent engineering enterprise, the construction of a first-class harbour of vast capacity, capable of being entered by the largest ships alike from east and west, in what is now the salt lagoon of Akrotiri, is eminently practicable, and should be inexpensive in comparison with the sums which are now being spent on harbour works in the Eastern Mediterranean and Ægean.

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For years past we have been accustomed to seeing prestige-hunting foreigners mark out for themselves "spheres of interest" and zones of commercial development in Turkey, and if we have said anything about it it has been some zoological reference about "carcases" and "eagles," or the "lion's share." We have certainly observed the difficulties which have beset the Porte on account of this brazen attitude on the part of those who openly consider themselves to be the political heirs-presumptive of Sultan Mohammed Reshad; but our feeling has at most been altruistic. Now we have an opportunity of contemplating the action of neighbours, whom quite recently we were in the habit of patronising and praising, engaged in perfecting their arrangements for the dissection of our own political corpse. Foreseeing the disruption of the British Empire, the Italians are working hard to peg out a claim in Egypt and to educate and colonize Alexandria, so that when the time comes the tradition of the Cæsars may be revived by the military occupation of a former Roman province. So resounding a success as that in Libya deserves repetition. Egypt is desirable, Great Britain plainly on the point of dissolution. Therefore, say the Italians, let us colonize that to which history entitles us and absorb it at the proper time. If things are really as bad as that, and El Lord is to have no further say in Egypt, may I venture humbly to point out to the traditionalists of the Tiber that the Roman occupation of Cleopatra's kingdom was subsequent, and, therefore, less valuable for traditional purposes, to the rule of the Ptolemies, which would, on that principle, entitle the Greeks to the dominion of Egypt, provided that they can square the Persians, who have a prior claim to any of them?

***

When the future economic historian of Egypt reviews the events of this year he will doubtless mention as one of the most significant the appearance of the first number of the *Journal* of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce. The prophet's

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mantle is often assumed with a light-minded irresponsibility, but it will be readily admitted that in this case no rash or groundless prophecy has been hazarded. The *Journal*, which is in the vernacular, is well printed and in every respect a very creditable achievement for so young an institution as the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce. It contains articles and information on subjects likely to be of interest to the members of the chamber, such as foreign trade, Egyptian markets, shipping movements in the Levant, and forthcoming adjudications in the Government departments. It is true that the chamber at present consists of only some eighty members, chiefly Moslem merchants of Cairo. This, however, is only a beginning, and it is hoped that the Alexandrian native merchants and members of the Coptic and other important communities will join. The movement is significant not so much for what it has accomplished as for what it promises to fulfil. It shows at least that Moslems are capable of working together for common ends in the commercial sphere. But, more than that, it points to the future rôle of the Egyptians in the commercial and industrial life of Egypt. It is admitted that the wealth of the country is mainly agricultural. Nevertheless its trade and industry are capable of being extensively developed, and that development has already begun. Most certainly the Egyptians should be encouraged to qualify themselves to share in the great work of the future, and the first number of the well-printed *Journal* we have received is a sign that some of them, at least, are awake, and ready to seize their opportunities.

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The remarks of our Alexandria Correspondent (page 31) regarding the operations of the local "Oil Trust" in Egypt and their results upon the use of oil engines for the purposes of irrigation will doubtless be read with much interest by those of our readers who remember the article on "Oil Engines in Mesopotamia" which we published a few weeks ago. For the state of affairs depicted by our Alexandria Correspondent is precisely that to which the agriculturists of Baghdad and Busreh fear that they will be reduced if the monopoly for oil is granted in Turkey without some steps being taken for their protection. The Egyptian fellah often finds it impossible to run his pumping plant as it is, we are told, owing to the price of oil; and that is just what the cultivator on the Tigris and the Euphrates fears may be his lot. But whereas in Egypt, which is go-ahead and prosperous, the fellah can find other openings for his energy and enterprise, in Mesopotamia, which is to all effects only on the threshold of a new development, the stopping of his irrigation plant must inevitably mean ruin to many a poor man who was just beginning to hope for better times at last. And, it must be remembered, the very fact that a Baghdadi (for instance) will go to the trouble and expense of installing a pumping plant argues that he is of the progressive type to which the country must look largely for its salvation. It has not too many such men as yet, and if these natives are to be sacrificed in order to put money into the pockets of German speculators, it will indeed be a thousand pities.

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The pacific penetration of the Sahara has been advanced another step. A French Cabinet Minister last week opened the railway between Biskra—in the "Garden of Allah"—hitherto the railhead of the Algero-Tunisian system and Touggourt, on the caravan route to the south. The ambition of the builders is that the line should ultimately reach Lake Chad, but they still have many weary and waterless miles to go and, at the present rate of desiccation, it is quite possible that the lake will have disappeared as a geographical feature before the railway is able to reach its shores. I am rather inclined to think that strategy may have something to do with the building of this extension, and that the French might not have found any pressing necessity to push their railhead so much further south had the Turks remained their neighbours in Tripoli. It is a remarkable fact that the importance of the time-honoured caravan routes across the Sahara from the rich countries to the South is steadily dwindling. This is undoubtedly due to the opening up and pacification of the coast belt which lies between Sokoto and the sea—and it is probable that the current of commerce will be flowing so strongly southwards by the time the French railway reaches the Chad area that it will be able to do but little to revive the passing glories of the northern trade route.

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A correspondent in Turkey writes that Russia has obtained from Turkey the right to appoint a Russian delegate to the Ottoman Public Debt. This was a surprise to me, for I have learnt nothing to the same effect from any other source. From inquiries made over here I have not been able to obtain any confirmation of my correspondent's statement. In fact, one informant, who is in a singularly good position to know the facts, said that he had received no news of the appointment, and remarked that it was exceedingly unlikely that Russia could have obtained her desire. It is, however, a sign of the persistency with which Russia has urged her claim that such rumours should be current in the Near East. I see no reason to alter the opinion which I have expressed on a previous occasion with regard to this matter. There is no objection to her having a delegate provided that other countries have two. My correspondent's remarks on this point are worth quoting. "The Russian delegate," he writes, "is to represent Russia, whereas all other delegates represent foreign bondholders. In other words, Russia is aiming at a *political*, not a financial, appointment. Ought we not, therefore, to claim the right to have a similar representative—our new man to represent Great Britain?" A sentiment which—should Russia get her representative—I hope will not be lost sight of by those who watch over our interests.

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A correspondent who hardly disguises his nationality under the name with which he signs a most interesting letter on "The Tide of Persian Affairs," addressed to the Editor, is most outspoken on the subject of British commerce and prestige in the realms of Sultan Ahmed Shah. He is fully justified in his lament. Our Persian policy is certainly far from perfect, and our Persian commerce vastly less comprehensive than it was. But what will you? How may a player win who abides by all the rules of the game while his adversary plays "all he knows"?

COMMENTATOR.

TRADE OF BAHREIN.

The report for the year 1912-13 on the trade of the Bahrein Islands contains many items of interest. According to the report, which has been drawn up by Major A. P. Trevor, the trade of the islands may be arranged under three heads, viz., the movement of pearls, of specie and of general merchandise. The first-named dominates the whole situation, as the second and third depend almost entirely upon the condition of the pearl trade. Were the take of pearls suddenly to cease, or even be very greatly reduced for some years, the vast majority of the urban population of Bahrein would have to leave the country, and the movements both of specie and merchandise would be reduced to an insignificant figure, as the majority of those inhabitants of Bahrein who are not directly or indirectly connected with the pearl trade are poor cultivators whose wants are few.

The pearling season of 1912 was on the whole a good one, the take being up to the average and the market fairly good until just the end of the season, when it became depressed on account of the outbreak of the Balkan War. As regards the import and export of pearls, the figures for that year showed an increase of 11.2 and 1.9 per cent. respectively. The increase in imports was due to the presence of representatives of two European pearl dealing firms, who bought large quantities of pearls at good prices. The news of this brought in the tawashes (Arab pearl dealers) from Katar and the Hassa coast and even Trucial Oman with pearls for sale, and consequently the imports increased. There can be no doubt that very large quantities were bought personally by dealers which do not figure in the statistics at all. In the season of 1913, when the report was being compiled, many more Europeans dealers came, three French firms and one British firm being represented. It seems possible, if this goes on, that Bahrein will become the market for all Persian Gulf pearls.

There are no industries in Bahrein worthy of the name except the pearl fisheries, and no industries are likely to be started for some years to come at any rate. Nor do there seem to be any promising openings for British trade in Bahrein. India is doing as well as can be expected, and the principal commodities in demand are not manufactured in the United Kingdom. Major Trevor warns exporters that in view of the backward state of the country and the absence of roads, etc., there is no demand for motor engines, pumps, and similar machines at present. Many firms dealing in this class of articles waste their time in circularising the Political Agent. He adds, however, that if there were a direct service of steamers to Bahrein it might be possible for British sugar and perhaps some other minor commodities to compete with Continental sugar and other goods. At present the heavy freight viâ Bombay makes British sugar too expensive.

Smuggling into Persia does not appear to have been quite so brisk during the year in review, but whether that is one of the causes of the reduced imports into Bahrein or merely a result is difficult to determine. There is no doubt that there were large stocks of rice and sugar, the two principal imports, on hand at the beginning of the year; this may account to some extent for the fall in imports.

Trade disputes are usually settled by a body of leading merchants called the Mujlis-ul-Urf, in accordance with local custom. Settlement by the Mujlis according to usage or by a Kazi by Mohammedan law are the only means of settling trade disputes or of recovering debts when one of the parties is a Bahrein subject, as no legal codes exist, nor is there any legislature.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 2.

Ottoman Insurance Company.

The balance sheet of this company for the year ended December 31, 1913, reflects the general improvement of insurance business in Turkey during the past year, which for most companies was a profitable one.

The premiums of the fire branch of the company are given as £T93,772 during 1913, as against £T88,063 in 1912. After deduction for reinsurance, the net revenue of this branch was £T31,680 in 1913, as against £T26,211 in 1912. The losses paid amounted to £T26,444 in 1913, as against £T67,323 in 1912, of which the company's share was £T7,714 in 1913, as against £T19,936 in 1912. The premiums in the life and transport branches, which are of minor importance, amounted to £T2,461 and £T1,175 respectively during 1913. The working year shows a net profit of £T10,722, which is deducted from the loss during 1912, £T23.934, and the difference of £T13,211 is carried forward to the debit of 1914.

Ottoman Public Debt Receipts

The total revenues collected by the Ottoman Public Debt during the year ended February (old style), 1914, as reported telegraphically, amount to £T8,653,057, as against £T6,937,796, being the definite figures for the previous year.

The ceded revenues amount to £T4.545,760 to February, 1914, as compared with £T4,165,858 during the year ended February, 1913. The surtax on salt amounts to £T433,656, as compared with £T200,886; that on spirits to £T118.127, as compared with £T77,713; various tithes to £T2,656,338, as compared with £T1.978.128.

The sales of the Tobacco Regie Company during the year ended March, 1914, amount to £T3.119.000, as compared with £T2,558,000 during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Treasury Returns.

The Treasury receipts during the month of January (Old Style), 1914, as shown by the published returns, amounted to £T2,024,735, as compared with £T1,970,007 during the corresponding month of the previous year. If, for sake of careful comparison, deduction be made of certain receipts not figuring in the present returns, some of which from outlying districts have not yet been reported, although appearing in the last year's total returns for that month, this surplus is further increased to £T86,663 for the remainder of the Empire during January, 1914. While there is a very considerable decrease in the receipts during this month in the tithes on cereals, olives, and tobacco, of £T170,000, as also in the military exoneration tax of over £T100,000, increases occur in all the revenues without exception, and this is particularly noticeable in Customs duties, the general heading "Various Revenues," and the war tax.

The actual total receipts reported for the eleven months of the present fiscal year are in excess of those during the same period of the previous year by £T684,133, and if deduction be made of the items already referred to (which, while appearing in the returns of the previous year, do not find a place in the present returns), this surplus is further increased to £T753,051 for the remainder of the Empire during this period. The war tax and the subscription for the war fund to date amount to £T1,689,239. The Customs receipts during January, 1914, were greater by £T100,000 than during the corresponding month of the previous year, the increase being almost entirely in the import duties. During the first eleven months of the present fiscal year the duties on imported goods exceed those of the same period of the previous year, and, notwithstanding the loss of territory, represent an apparent increase of just over five millions of Turkish pounds in the imports during the same period as compared with last year.

Foreign Specialists.

The contract for a period of five years is to be signed by the Ottoman Ambassador in Vienna during this week engaging Mr. Begmann, a functionary of the Austrian Department of Forests, designated by the Austrian Government, who enters the Ottoman service as Director-General of Forests. The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to engage six French specialists, who will be attached to various agricultural schools in the provinces. The contracts of their engagement have been forwarded to the Ottoman Ambassador in Paris for signature.

Electricity for the Prince's Islands

The French firm of Delaunay-Belleville have submitted offers for the electric lighting of the Islands, as also the establishment of electric tramways. The same firm have made propositions for the supply of water to the Islands of Prinkipo by the drilling of artesian wells. The company is said to have withdrawn its proposal for a metal bridge between Halki and Prinkipo, and has substituted plans for a travelling pier in its stead.

Order for British Firm.

I learn just as I am writing this letter, that Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., Ltd., represented locally by Mr. A. Yaremdji, have taken an order for some 60 million stamps of five different denominations, to be issued by the Comité de la Flotte (Navy League). It will be remembered that it was the same British firm that printed the last successful postal issue and the Adrianople commemorative stamps.

THE FINANCES OF THE LEBANON.

Shoucair Pasha's Report.—I.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

About a year ago your Beyrout Correspondent contributed to your columns a series of admirable articles dealing with the reforms that it had been decided to introduce into the administration of the Lebanon, and that were still required to "endow this poor province with real prosperity and advancement." To all those who read these articles it must have been apparent that the financial position of the "Mountain" was in a very precarious condition, and in view of the fact that one of the clauses appended to the protocol of appointment of the new Governor-General, Ohannes Koyounjian Pasha, promised "the preparation of the preliminaries of a general scheme of reforms bearing on the finances of the province," a report which Said Shoucair Pasha, the able Director-General of Accounts to the Sudan Government, and a Lebanese by birth, recently drew up at the request of the Governor-General, acquires very topical interest.

Shoucair Pasha, as one might expect of a man of his reputation and ripe experience, deals very thoroughly with the question. He opens by declaring that the Organic Law of 1861 (subsequently amended in 1864) has outlived its time, and that since the signatories certainly, from the very circumstances under which it was drafted, had no intention of thereby restricting the progress of the province—which is the effect it is having to-day—part of its provisions should be revised, if not abolished. And he then proceeds to examine the situation and explain his suggestions for the extrication of the Lebanon from its present serious financial position.

He has divided his study into three sections: (1) the steps to be taken to wipe out the Budgetary deficit; (2) the existing fiscal system and the reforms that are necessary; (3) the Budget and its administration.

With regard to the deficit, which amounts to £T27,000, this is due to the facts that, as in other countries, the cost of living has risen, and that the alteration in the social position of the Lebanon has necessitated an increase in the strength and in the pay of the Gendarmerie and the creation of a new seat for the district of Deir el Kamar in the Administrative Council. Shoucair Pasha points out that in seeking a means to adjust the deficit the idea of reducing the salaries of the officials must not be entertained for one moment, since as it is they barely suffice to meet the cost of living to-day. Far more sensible is it to endeavour to provide the necessary funds by reduction of expenditure in other directions if possible and by studying in particular what new sources might be tapped for increasing the revenue without further taxing the inhabitants. In this connection the report contains some most important and valuable suggestions.

According to Article 15 of the Organic Law of 1861 and 1864, the Lebanese taxes, the amount of which could be increased up to £T35,000, were to be devoted to the administration and to other expenses of public utility. Any surplus remaining was to go to the Imperial Treasury; and, on the other hand, if the general administrative expenses exceeded the authorised revenue, the Imperial Treasury was to make good the deficit. Basing itself on this Article, the Lebanon Government asked the Sublime Porte to pay to it the sum of £T27,000, the deficit on the 1913-14 Budget. But the Porte has turned a deaf ear to this request—indeed, since 1880 it has not paid the Lebanon one cent towards its administration—and Shoucair Pasha very sagely remarks that in the circumstances the Lebanese would be ill-advised to rely upon the Porte's execution of its obligations, and that they must therefore seek relief in other directions.

He declares that the Lebanon has been most unfairly treated both as to its financial relations with the Central Government and as to its frontiers, and that if only its economic rights were respected its revenues would prove all sufficient for its requirements. He is of opinion that it is to the mutual interest of the Porte and the Lebanon that the latter should be financially independent of the former, and that the abolition of Article 15, accompanied by certain obviously equitable concessions by the Porte, is a *sine quâ non* of the maintenance of the financial stability of the "Mountain."

In the first place, whilst the Imperial Treasury pays nothing to the Lebanon, the latter, notwithstanding its poverty and its restricted area, contributes, indirectly, to the Porte from £T80,000 to £T100,000 per annum. This statement may probably appear astonishing in certain quarters, but Shoucair Pasha clearly demonstrates that it is perfectly correct.

It is a recognised principle nowadays that Customs duties are the rightful reversion of the country consuming the goods on which these duties are levied. The Lebanon, however, has no port where it can levy import duty, and between it and the other vilayets there is no Customs frontier; consequently, all dues levied on goods imported into and consumed in the Lebanon are taken by the Ottoman Treasury. Shoucair Pasha does not suggest the creation of a Lebanese Customs Service, nor does he propose the institution of Customs dues on goods imported into the Lebanon from the other vilayets, but he considers that, in all equity, the Lebanon should be allowed to participate in the Customs receipts. He suggests that the example of the relation of Egypt and the Sudan should be followed, and that just as Egypt pays the Sudan the sums collected by her Customs on goods destined to the Sudan, so the Ottoman Treasury should hand over to the Lebanon Government whatever sum is levied by its Customs on goods consigned to and consumed by the inhabitants of the "Mountain." The amount to be restituted could be assessed every year by a commission, but basing himself on various data Shoucair Pasha considers that the sum reverting to the Lebanon Government under this head would be from £T80,000 to £T100,000. It is, of course, possible that the Ottoman Government would reply to such a proposition that the Customs dues are its rightful reversion in return for the protection it affords the Lebanon. In that event, Shoucair Pasha is of opinion that it would be fairer for the Powers to define the situation, fix the annual tribute due by the Lebanon, and accord to the latter the right to obtain, on the basis of the Egypto-Sudan arrangement, the restitution of the dues levied on its importations. On the face of it, this proposal is most reasonable, and it certainly appears iniquitous that the Powers, who forced the Organic Law on the Porte in the interests of the Lebanon, should connive at the present state of affairs, which is seriously affecti ng that province.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria. May 1.

Owing to the favourable weather conditions of the past winter, the cereal crops have been particularly successful. Wheat, barley, and beans have been less satisfactory in Upper Egypt owing to 400,000 feddans having remained uncultivated in consequence of the low Nile. On the other hand, in Lower Egypt the wheat crop has been very abundant in quantity and very fine in quality.

Egypt, formerly the granary of Rome, exported only a few years ago wheat and beans, but to-day the production is not sufficient for local requirements, and we have to import considerable quantities of flour, wheat, and maize. Egypt has doubled its population since the British Occupation, and it is to be hoped that the Mariut region may be provided with water so as to increase the local production of cereals.

Bucharest. May 2.

Lately much grain has been exported from this country to Austria-Hungary, a state of things which has only once or twice occurred before, in famine times. During the month of March the following quantities were exported by rail by the Nugheni-Itskani frontier: 15,407 tons of maize, 16,000 tons of wheat, 770 tons of barley, and 800 tons of oats.

Braila. May 2.

We have had fine warm weather, with occasional showers, throughout the week, and prospects respecting this year's crops are so far excellent.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East.

Mosul. March 31.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March:—

The rainfall during the month was satisfactory, and the outlook for the crops is favourable.

The mild winter and good pasturage have been beneficial to the breeding industry, and good supplies of wool are expected.

Except for a small inflow of cereals from Diarbekir our market has been quiet. In view of the hopeful outlook for the new crop prices of cereals here have recently suffered a drop.

Homs. April 10.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March:—

There has been almost a complete lack of rain during the month. This has arrested the growth of the crops at the moment when they had greatest need of water. As a result the crops have been put back about a month, and all the advance, as compared with last year's crops, which was made during the favourable weather at the end of last year until February, has actually been lost. It is reported that in some small centres the crop is hopelessly damaged. If the drought continues for about three more weeks the suffering in our district will be great.

In consequence of the drought cereals have been in good demand, and prices tended to rise.

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EDGAR WRIGHT Manager

23 Moorgate Street

Aleppo. April 18.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March:—

Reports concerning the crops are so far favourable, but the persistent lack of rain causes some uneasiness amongst agriculturists. If the drought continues during April, it is predicted that the crops will be seriously injured.

Our market has remained quiet. Imports are satisfactory owing to sales to buyers in the interior.

Exports, however, are stagnant, both in consequence of the unremunerative prices in Europe, especially for cotton, and the delay in the arrivals of products for export. Cereals continue to obtain low prices.

CURRANTS IN GREECE.

(From Our Trade Correspondent.)

Athens, April 27.

The Parliamentary Commission which was appointed to examine into the currant question and into the standing of the "Société Privilégiée pour la protection de la production et le commerce de raisin de Corinthe" has now issued its report. After examining one by one the various methods which have been adopted since the currant crisis commenced, the Commission expresses its opinion that the Société and all the related companies and measures (the Currant Bank, the Retention Law, etc.) have proved a failure. But it comes to the conclusion that under existing circumstances the abolition of the Société Privilégiée would not be advisable since the production, which has been supported by similar means for some twenty years, could not possibly stand being suddenly deprived of such support. Thus, it is indispensable, the Commission considers, to keep the Société Privilégiée going, but with some restrictions and alterations in regard to the management and in the way of dealing; or it would be better still for the Société to be taken over by the Government itself, so as to be under its control.

As to the financial standing of the Société Privilégiée: the first three years the Société distributed a dividend not exceeding the usual bank interest; in 1905 Dr. 6 per share (of Dr. 250=£10), in 1906 Dr. 15 per share, and in 1907 Dr. 25. The five following years there were no profits realised. On the contrary, the Société had losses amounting as follows:—To August 9, 1912, Dr. 1,400,000: 1908, Dr. 719,173; 1909, Dr. 591,579; 1910, Dr. 773,964.

Following is a table showing the crops and quantities of currants reported in the years 1905 to 1913:—

	Crop. Lbs.	Dry Currants. Export. Lbs.	Fresh Currants. Export. Lbs.
1905....	341,500,000	238,931,000	—
1906....	288,500,000	229,200,000	3,514,000
1907....	228,500,000	265,300,000	2,411,000
1908....	400,000,000	226,700,000	3,354,000
1909....	405,000,000	256,200,000	6,193,000
1910....	255,000,000	248,982,000	5,246,000
1911....	334,000,000	239,655,000	14,300,000
1912....	345,000,000	251,933,000	16,657,000
			To 20th March, O.S.
1913....	325,000,000	200,000,000	18,800,000

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending April 24:—The sales this week on our market amount to 184 cases of manufacturing descriptions at 14s. to 15s. 6d. Sellers are firmly maintaining the position owing to severe frost and snowy weather which set in in the upper districts; and until they ascertain what damage has been caused no change can be effected. The large demand by all the shippers, too, has further strengthened the market, and to-day no eligible material guaranteed 11 per cent. can be procured at anything under 15s. Common mixed low grades have fetched this week 13s. 6d. to 14s., and more sightly and uniform goods, with a doubtful render of 10 per cent., have changed hands at 14s. 3d. The arrivals are 4,546 cases, against 2,368 at same date last year.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar. London, May 7.

The Beet market dull and easier in the beginning of the week, but owing to American reports of an advance of prices became steady, with moderate business passing for May at 9s. 3½d.; August, 9s. 6½d.; October, 9s. 7½d.; and October-December, 9s. 0½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Refined sugar has been steady and unchanged for English. Foreign is firmer, first marks granulated being quoted, ready, 11s. 4½d.; June-August, 11s. 6½d.; October-December, 11s. 9d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Other descriptions are quoted as follows, all f.o.b.: Say's cubes, prompt, 15s. 1½d.; loaves, 14s. 3d., f.o.b. Paris; German and Austrian cubes, prompt, 13s. 3½d.; May-August, 13s. 5½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Large supplies of cane sugar were offered at auction this week, and met a rather slow demand, though at about steady prices; Demerara mostly sold at 13s. to 15s. 4½d.

Coffee.

Large supplies were offered at auction, and all met a good demand at steady prices, Costa Rica low mid. to mid. selling at 69s. to 79s. 6d., and bold 76s. to 85s. East Indian small sold at 63s. to 65s. 6d., low mid. to mid. 67s. 6d. to 75s. 6d., and bold 71s. 6d. to 81s. The speculative market opened easy, but is closing steady, though at a 3d. to 6d. decline, May having been sold at 41s. 1½d., July 41s. 9d., and September 42s. 6d.

Seeds.

Linseed has been steady, but generally quiet, London-Calcutta spot and afloat and up to April-May being quoted 49s.; June shipment is offered 49s. 3d., June-July 49s. 9d. Rapeseed is firmer. Yellow Cawnpore, May-June, offered at 53s. 6d., and brown ditto sold at 50s. 3d. to Hamburg. Cotton-seed is very dull and inactive, London-Egyptian being quoted for May £7 15s., June £7 15s., November-January £8 7s. 6d. per ton. Haricot beans are quiet and practically unchanged. There is little variation to note in canary seed. Stocks are small, and although buying is mostly of a retail character prices keep firm in all descriptions.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cakes remain unchanged on the spot, and a quiet trade prevails, while forward positions, although somewhat firmer, attract rather more attention. Best London made are offered at £7 10s. to £7 15s., fine seedy Calcutta are firmly held at £7 10s. to £7 15s. for April-May shipment, and best quality Russian are offered at £7 10s. to £7 12s. 6d. Cotton cakes are in better demand, and a good trade has been done during the week, but owing to a plentiful supply of Egyptian prices are becoming easier; April-May shipments, however, attract more attention at £4 7s. 6d. to £4 8s. 9d. English makes are slightly easier, being offered at £4 15s. to £4 17s. 6d., and Bombay £3 17s. 6d.

Decorticated cotton cake and meal find better inquiry at £7 15s. to £7 17s. 6d. per ton ex quay. Locust beans are still scarce, and the little which is offered is held firmly at £6 10s. for whole and £6 15s. for kibbled.

Corn, etc.

Wheat.—The cargo market is firm and slightly dearer. Barley is firmer, South Russian May-June being offered 21s. 1½d. Oats are steady and unchanged. Maize generally held at 6d. advance owing to unfavourable weather reported during the week.

IVORY REPORT.

In their report dated May 1 Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartleet state:—The second sale of the year commenced on the 28th ulto. and terminated on the 29th ulto. The supply offered was moderate, totalling about 75½ tons. This quantity was mostly sold with good competition at firm prices all round. The supply offered consisted of the following assortments: Zanzibar, etc., fourteen tons; Egyptian, thirty-six tons; West Coast, eight tons; land carriage, seven tons; waste, eight and a-half tons, etc.; remainder, rhinoceros, walrus teeth, etc. East Indian, Zanzibar, etc.—Sold at steady values. Billiard ball ivory very firm. Egyptian and Tripoli.—In good supply, and sold well. Hard rather dearer. Scrivelloes steady. West Coast African.—Sold well at firm values. Abyssinian on the same basis as Zanzibar. The next sale will take place July 21, 1914.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 1.

Prices have remained almost stationary. The bulls have been less active, and the technical position of the market is more healthy. Local speculation is playing only a secondary part, and for the time being it is impossible to foresee anything that is likely to cause an increase in prices. The demand from abroad is better, and in view of the increasing requirements of spinners the position may be regarded as good.

Reports regarding the new crop are very satisfactory. Water for irrigation is abundant everywhere, and already the plant presents a good appearance.

Unlike other years, exporters are hardly buying any of the new crop. This is accounted for by the large stock of old crop cotton held in Alexandria, which the spinners will not be able to use up entirely before the new crop is gathered.

Exports continue to mount up, and will in all probability exceed last year's total. So far we have exported 800,000 bales. Cotton seed continues to decline, owing to the falling off of the demand from abroad.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. May, 17 2/32, November, 18 3/32. Exchange, three months' date, 96¼.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	22,000 ..	10,000 ..	16,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,532,081 ..	7,416,254 ..	7,191,013
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	3,250 ..	3,500 ..	4,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	187,482 ..	186,059 ..	182,831
Shipments to Manchester	7,750 ..	Nil. ..	6,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	199,574 ..	191,647 ..	206,833
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	14,000 ..	8,500 ..	10,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	366,923 ..	344,775 ..	321,749
Shipments to U.S. America	3,500 ..	2,000 ..	3,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	68,986 ..	114,821 ..	96,911
Shipments to all parts	28,500 ..	14,000 ..	23,750
Ditto since Sept. 1	822,965 ..	837,302 ..	808,324
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,767,000 ..	1,390,000 ..	1,334,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to April 29, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool..	184,232	182,560	178,779
" Manchester	191,824	191,647	200,574
Total Shipments to Great Britain	376,056	374,207	379,353
Shipments to France and Spain	102,742	101,269	90,011
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	169,988	163,780	154,895
Shipments to Russia	58,912	52,930	51,946
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	1,719	662	798
Total Shipments to Continent	333,361	318,641	297,650
Shipments to U.S. America	65,486	112,821	93,499
Ditto to India and Japan	19,562	17,573	14,119
Total Shipments to all parts	794,465	823,242	784,621
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

April 27.—"Britannia." May 1.—"Venetian.' May 2.—"Corsican Prince," Manchester, May 4.—"Caria."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—Egyptian Spot.—There has been a slight falling off in the demand, the total sales amounting to 2,300 bales, against 2,700 last week. Inquiries have been principally for medium grade of Afifi, Nubari, Assili. A fair business has been done in Soudan cotton. In lower-grade Sakellarides a small business has been done, but for the better grades, in which the selection seems to have considerably augmented latterly, there has been very little demand. Joannovitch and Upper have only been in limited request. Quotations for Afifi, Nubari, and Upper grades are raised 5 points. Other grades unchanged.

The *Manchester Guardian* reports (April 30) that the export branch in ordinary makes of Manchester goods is dull. The Levant buyers, although they have orders to place, are waiting for better financial reports.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, May 6.

Compared with a week ago the conditions prevailing in the market have shown very little change. The tone has continued quiet, and prices have been generally unaltered. There seems to be lack of enterprise on the part of buyers at the moment, and most of the transactions have been of a sorting up character. More interest is now being taken in the prospects for supplies in the raw material. In the American belt the conditions for planting have not been altogether favourable, and owing to bad weather it is generally believed that the growth will be about a fortnight late. The position is also rather irregular in Egypt, and the outlook is very uncertain. In piece goods suitable for Egypt a dragging business has been met with in most quarters. No improvement in the general demand can be recorded. Buyers seem to be afraid to purchase for distant delivery. It is said clearances abroad are not altogether satisfactory. The Levant also continues slow, and there are no signs of an early improvement in the turnover. Although operations have not been at a standstill for India, the sales show a distinct falling off compared with a week or two back. There are hopes of China giving larger support in the near future, but at the moment the bids are very poor, and it is only where makers accept decidedly low figures that sales can be arranged. There is considerable irregularity in the position of manufacturers. Some makers are firm and want fairly long delivery, whilst others are in want of orders and can complete contracts quickly. In yarn circles a rather slack state of affairs has been reported. In both American and Egyptian qualities for home use buyers have purchased from hand to mouth. The wide difference in cotton futures between current and distant months has a rather adverse effect upon trade. There has been some business done for India in bundles, but delivery is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange. The Near Eastern outlets have been quiet, and there has not been much done for the Continent.

SETTLEMENT OF NEW BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 2.

The Cabinet is now considering the amended proposals of a Belgian company for settling the refugees in New Bulgaria. The company offers to undertake the building of several towns along the coast of the Ægean Sea, on a modern architectural system, with schools and all other indispensable accessories. In the first instance the company is prepared to spend £2,800,000, and will undertake to arrange for the employment of the inhabitants.

FURNITURE IN EGYPT.

The importation of furniture into Egypt is, according to a Belgian Consular report, relatively considerable. During the year 1912 it amounted to £142,986. Many articles in bent wood come from Austria; England and France supply furniture de luxe; and Italy detached pieces in walnut of an ordinary quality which are put together at destination.

French drawing-room furniture, especially of Louis XV. and Louis XVI. styles, enjoys considerable patronage in Egypt. In detail, this furniture, composed of a couch, two chairs, two armchairs covered with silk, a cheffonier, a folding screen, etc., are sold at from £90 to £100 sterling.

Drawing-room furniture after the style of Louis XVI., in European walnut of Italian manufacture, composed of eleven pieces—sofa, armchairs, and chairs, covered with imitation silk—are sold at £25 to £30 sterling.

The local furniture industry recruits its labour from the well-organised professional schools, and offers increasing competition with imported European importation.

There are at present 46 furniture factories in Egypt—37 at Cairo, 7 at Alexandria, 1 at Port Said, and 1 at Tantah. The furniture sold in Egypt is the same as that used in Europe. It is worth bearing in mind that the chattels preferred are those of large size, embellished with carving, and covered with silk in brilliant colours.

GREEK TOBACCO-WORKERS' STRIKE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, April 29.

After much negotiation, the strike of the tobacco workers in Kavalla, Drama, Pravista, and here was settled by means of concessions on both sides, and it was arranged that work should be resumed on Monday last. At the last moment, however, the men in Kavalla repudiated the agreement arrived at by their representatives, elected a new committee, and decided to continue the strike until the whole of their original demands were granted. They have maintained this attitude, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Salonika and Drama workers, who have loyally stuck to the arrangement and gone back to work; but Pravista joined the Kavalla malcontents. In the last town there was some demonstrating, which was quickly suppressed by the police; so things are quiet there, but the tobacco establishments are strongly guarded by soldiers. It is thought the Kavalla workers cannot hold out long, as their funds are supposed to be running out.

EGYPT PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

The second annual general meeting of the Egypt Promotion Association was held at Shepheard's Hotel, Cairo, on April 23. Mr. E. A. Harrison occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Sir Reginald Oakes, Messrs. Baehler, Wild Bey, Flood, Clay, Pecher, Vezey, de Lancker, Meimarachi, Hergel, and Abramson.

The work of the association was explained by the chairman. The annual report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted, and the belief was generally expressed that the efforts of the association to promote an increase in the number of tourists to Egypt had been well carried out.

The annual report of the association for 1913-14 shows the excellent work it is carrying on. Egypt has had the best season on record, and for this the efforts made by the association are doubtless in part responsible.

For the advertising campaign of 1913-14 the efforts of the association were mainly devoted to Great Britain and America. Next year's efforts are to be concentrated in Germany.

It is stated that the financial support the association has met with has been fairly satisfactory so far, but it is difficult to make many of those who undoubtedly reap a benefit from the tourist traffic realise that it is in their interest to join the association, and it is hoped that contributions may largely increase in the future so as to permit of extension of the functions of the association, and thus to bring them more on a level with those of other tourist centres.

The balance-sheet for the year ending March 31, 1914, shows a total income of £E1,847; of this £E635 went for descriptive booklets in English, £E300 for special advertising in the English papers, and £E146 for bioscope matinées. A most satisfactory feature is the low expenses of management.

The trade in paper of all kinds is showing considerable development at Tripoli. The articles most in demand are paper for the packing of fruit (the importation of which, in 1912, was 600 bales of 100 kilog., the size commonly used being 45/60 in reams of 480 sheets, with 40 reams per bale) and letter paper (value of annual imports of 21,000). There is also a demand for plain letter paper (dimensions, 20/39 cm.).

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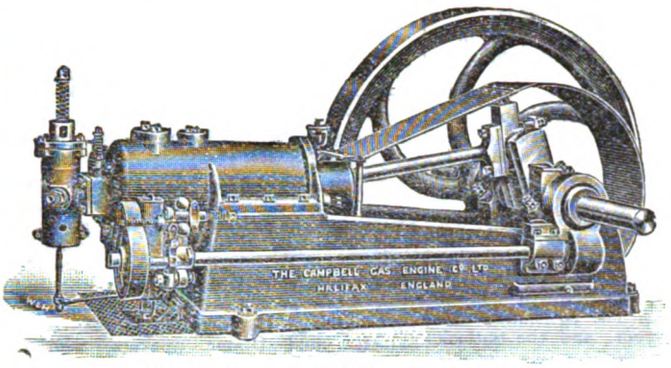

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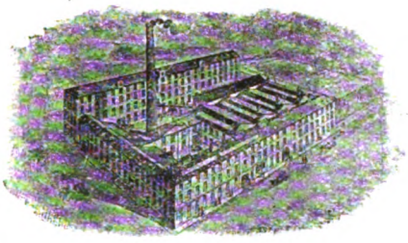
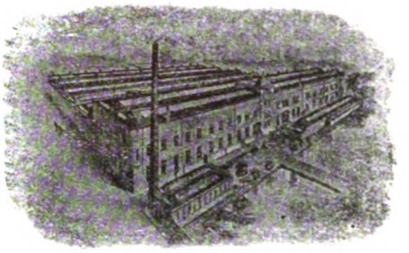

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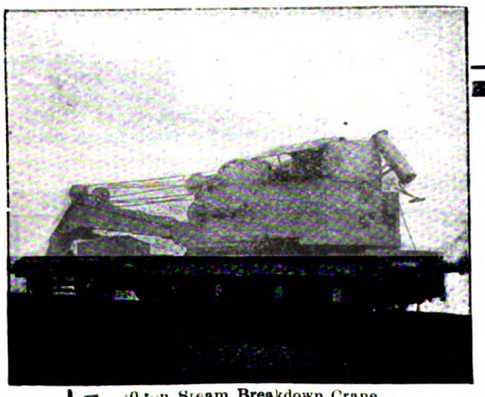

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Engineering Notes.

Motor Boats for the Ægean.

Our Sofia Correspondent informs us (under date of May 2) that the Bulgarian Government three months ago ordered from an engineering firm at Trieste three motor boats for use at Porto Lagos. The first of these boats, which has been named "Zora," was expected to arrive at Porto Lagos about the 5th inst. It is 3.5 metres in length, and 1.62 metres in the beam, and is fitted with a 22-h.p. benzine motor engine capable of driving it at 18.5 kilometres an hour. The cost of the boat is given as 15,000 francs (£600).

Motor Cars in Southern Greece.

In a recent report the United States Consul at Kalamata remarks upon the lack of motor-cars in Southern Greece. He states that though Kalamata is a city of over 18,000 inhabitants, with a good quota of wealthy and well-to-do people, the automobile has yet to make its permanent appearance. Many years ago a second-hand car was purchased by a local tradesman, but it quickly got out of order and was shipped away. Since then only one automobile belonging to an American tourist has entered the town. The public conveyances of Kalamata consist of ten or twelve old and dilapidated carriages and a tram-line, which connects the city with the port, one mile distant. There are no private vehicles of any description. This latter fact will perhaps make the sale of the first automobile difficult, because no one is accustomed to have a conveyance of his own, but, on the other hand, it is thought that a car of undoubted service and low price once sold and seen to give satisfaction will influence other sales. The roads are fair in several directions. On Sundays and holidays every available carriage is requisitioned for the beautiful sea drive, which extends for several miles along the coast of the Gulf of Kalamata. There are many business men who either live at the shore and come to the city daily, or whose business takes them from Kalamata to the harbour several times a week.

Searchlight for the Near East.

A portable searchlight, which has recently been constructed, will undoubtedly be found very suitable for either military or general service in the Balkans. This searchlight, which carries a parabolic mirror of 35 centimetres diameter, has an effective range of from 1,000 to 1,500 metres, only weighs 300 kilograms, including all accessories, benzine, water and oil supplies required to work it for from eight to ten hours, and 200 metres of insulated wire. The apparatus can be taken to pieces so that it may be transported by four draught animals, each carrying about 80 kilograms; one carries the searchlight, its stand and benzine reservoir; another the dynamo and its accessories; another the motor with an oil reservoir; and the fourth, two rolls of wire, the tools, and the water supply. This searchlight is suitable for work in mountainous country, and can be moved readily over any ground. The motor of 4 to 6 h.p. revolves 15,000 times per minute, a supply of 15 litres of benzine suffices for from eight to ten hours' work.

Ploughing Tractors.

It is admitted that ploughing tractors have been doing excellent work in the Near East during the last few years. They have been turning over vast tracts of virgin soil which would have had to remain uncultivated if the owners depended entirely on animal traction. Oil tractors are mostly employed, and are in general favour, but sometimes, and especially in extremely hard and stiff lands, it is found that they are not sufficiently strong for the work for which they are most needed. In such cases a compound steam tractor is more economical and the only one that could plough up some of the stiff soils. The application of superheated steam to this type of tractor enables it to compete with many of the newest systems of agricultural motors. The advantages of convenience and economy in running cost possessed by the oil tractor have at times given it a great advantage, and the interest taken was so general as to considerably limit the prospects of the steam tractor, especially in countries where it is not always easy to procure adequate supplies of suitable water. However, in spite of all this, the steam engine has already caught up the internal combustion engine as regards economy, and it is doubtful whether any type of tractor of equal power and capacity is so low in running cost as the superheated steam tractor. One of these tractors, attached to a six-furrow plough, turned over five acres of clover lea in about nine hours, the furrows being 4 inches deep and 10 inches wide, at a cost, including wear and tear and depreciation, of 5s. per acre. This is less than half the cost of ploughing with horses, to say nothing of the great saving of time. The superheated steam tractor entirely overcomes the difficulties incidental to steam engines in localities where water is scarce; and when not employed in ploughing or for haulage it can be found of great utility for driving threshing and other farm machinery. It has also been proved that a well designed and constructed superheated steam tractor requires much less attention than the petrol-driven vehicle.

Important Shipbuilding Order.

The Times understands that a large order is about to be placed with British shipbuilders by the Hungarian Levant Steamship Co., Limited, of Budapest. It is believed that the company contemplates ordering six large passenger and cargo steamers from different firms, and that the amount to be paid for each is about £100,000. Probably the fall in the price of ship-plates, due partly to the action of German steel-masters in cutting the prices and partly to reduced activity in this country, is responsible for the decision to order the vessels at this moment. The cost of labour is certainly no lower than a few months ago.

Ispahan Telephone Service.

The British Consular report for the year ending March, 1913, states that the Persian telephone service, first established in the town of Ispahan in 1910-11, numbered, when the report was written, about 120 subscribers, and that wires had been carried as far as the villages of Sehdeh, about sixteen miles, and Najafabad, about twenty miles, west of the town. A scheme for the further extension of the line westward was then under consideration.

ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S OIL PROPERTIES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 2.

The question between the Roumanian Government and the refineries over the price of lamp oil, which had reached a state of deadlock, is again to be taken up, and it is hoped that a solution to the question will now be found.

Ever since the question of the price of lamp oil for the State came under discussion between the Government and the oil companies, rumours have been current that the State was in treaty with a large Roumanian financial group for the exploitation of its petroleum-bearing property, which up till now has lain idle on account of the prohibitive conditions of concession. It is now stated that the State will have its part in the undertaking, and therefore be able to obtain its supply of burning oil at a very favourable figure, and far under that yet contracted for with the companies. It is reported that a considerable amount of capital has already been subscribed.

OIL FIRE AT KHARTOUM.

The *Sudan Times* reports that recently a serious fire broke out at the petroleum warehouse west of the town. About 800 or 900 cases of petroleum, and 650 cases of lubricating oil, belonging to the Vacuum Oil Company, were destroyed. A quantity of oil and alcohol belonging to the Government was also destroyed. The total loss is estimated at £E3,000.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

AUSTRIAN ENTERPRISE IN ANATOLIA.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 3.

It is reported here that an important Austrian group is negotiating with the Ottoman Government for the purchase and exploitation of large forest tracts in Anatolia. At the head of the group is Count Mikcs, chairman of the Zabolaer Sawmills, and interested in the venture are Götz and Co. and Gebrüder Grödel, of Vienna. It is stated that the negotiations with the Ottoman Government are on the point of being concluded. It is the intention of the combine to erect extensive sawmill works in Anatolia, and to devote themselves exclusively to a seaborne export trade.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Span Bridges.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply, transport, and erection of three swing span bridges and four lift span bridges. Tenders to be sent to Director-General, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, 3, Soliman Pasha Street, Cairo. September 30.

Paper-cutting Machine.—Tenders are invited by the Director of the Printing Department, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for supply of a paper-cutting machine. May 27.

Tarred Rope, Etc.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of 75 cwts. of tarred rope and 241 cwts. of Italian rope. May 25 (L.).

Raw Silk.—Tenders are invited at the Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, for the supply of raw silk necessary for making the Holy Carpet. June 18.

Iron Hooping.—Tenders are invited for the supply to the War Department Stores, Citadel, Cairo, of 2,000 okes of iron hooping. May 25.

Barley.—Tenders are invited at the War Department Stores, Tura, for the supply of 20,150 ardebs of barley. June 2.

Cyprus Cattle.—The Director-General, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of Cyprus cattle for the Serum Institute, Abbassia. May 22.

Water Vans.—The Central Administration, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of three double water vans. June 22.

Table Linen, etc.—The Ministry of Public Instruction, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of table furniture, linen, ink, etc., for the schools. June 15.

Chairs.—The War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 130 chairs, bent wood, cane-bottomed, at the Citadel Stores, June 1.

ROUMANIA.

Copper Pipes, Etc.—Tenders are invited by the Roumanian State Railways, Bucharest, for the supply of red copper pipes, steel or soft iron water pipes, and forged, puddled, and homogeneous iron bars. May 18.

Martin Steel Sheets.—Tenders invited at the State Railway Offices, Bucharest, for the supply of 110,550 kilogrammes of Martin steel sheets for rails. May 24.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

M. Stefanovitch, late Servian Minister of Commerce, has left Belgrade for Athens on behalf of his Government to sign the agreement concerning the Servian position in Salonika. He will also be in charge of the negotiations for the conclusion of a new commercial treaty with Greece.

Our Athens Correspondent informs us that M. Zeveleki, manager of the Smyrna branch of the Banque d'Orient, has been arrested on a charge of fraud involving a sum of 800,000 frs.

According to recently published statistics Sofia has increased in population from the 20,856 inhabitants of the 1880 census to 117,964 in 1913.

The Austrian advance of thirty million francs to Bulgaria last autumn, was to have been paid back on April 30, but the term has been prolonged until October 31. This advance will have to be redeemed out of the forthcoming loan.

The Roumanian Parliament has dissolved after reading for the third time the Bill for the revision of the Constitution. The new elections will begin on May 31, and the Constituent Assembly which is to carry out the revision will meet on June 18.

The receipts from the two Golden Horn bridges for the month of March were £T8,525, as compared with £T6,627, £T5,928, £T6,575, and £T6,618 for the preceding four years respectively. The trolley running across the Karakeuy Bridge has brought up the receipts there considerably.

The *Orient* reports that a rich Armenian of Egypt has given the sum of £T10,000 to establish an agricultural school at Adana, with the promise of further funds as they may be needed later for its maintenance.

Messrs. J. Smith, Hargreaves and Co., of 11, Fountain Street, Manchester, have opened a London office at 9 and 10, Foster Lane, E.C., which will be in charge of Mr. W. Lake. The telephone number is Bank 8511.

The *Lokalanzeiger* states that a German Consulate is to be established at Uskub, and adds that this step, in the interests of German trade, was under consideration before the outbreak of the Balkan war.

Mr. J. H. Hartley, manager of the engineering department of Messrs. Edwards and Son, Constantinople, is at present on a visit to this country.

The production of crude oil in the Roumanian fields for March (O.S.) was about 160,000 tons, an estimated increase of nearly 25,000 tons over the February production.

The Roumanian Government recently placed orders for 3,000 tons of rails with an Austrian firm. Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that a similar quantity is likely to be required, and ordered, during the summer.

In the second half of June a Pan-Hellenic exhibition illustrative of the wine and spirit industry is to be held in Athens. Prizes will be awarded to the makers of the best wines. Wine making apparatus will also be shown, but no prizes are to be awarded in this section.

M. Victor Numa Legoupil, of 21, Boulevard Beausejour, Paris, President of the Ottoman Mining Company (of Cassandra, Thrace), who died in Paris, October 7 last, left estate in the United Kingdom valued at £5,187.

The Monthly Report of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government, for March, states that during March 2,372,920 kilos of gum, valued at £55,842, were exported, via Port Sudan, and 3,076 kilos, valued at £75, exported via Halfa.

The Persian Government have decided to prohibit the importation of morphine into Persia. Chemists of repute, possessing diplomas, will, however, be allowed to import morphine, for medical purposes, provided that they give an undertaking not to sell it for other than such purposes.

ALBANIA'S COMMERCIAL FUTURE.

With the constitution of Albania as an autonomous principality (says the *Electrical Review*) a new epoch of industrial and commercial progress may be expected to supervene concurrently with the development of the country's resources.

The chief port for imports and exports and for the moment the most considerable business place for transactions with Southern Albania is Valona. Direct dealing with inland localities is, for the present, hardly feasible.

Shipments either outwards or inwards are effected mainly by Austrian and Italian ships. All the articles of daily requirement are comprised among the goods imported, for the country possesses no industries. Later on, with the gradual development of the country, a certain demand for machines will arise, and, of course, in the first place, for those appertaining to agriculture and the tilling of the soil. The circumstances of payment in Valona may be described as on the whole good. No bankruptcy has occurred for some years, and the war has made no difference in this respect. The usual terms are cash against documents. The sending of travellers to Albania is recommended, as signs of an economic awakening are evident, and exports in late months have shown a rising tendency. With respect to the Customs treatment of travellers and their samples, the Turkish regulations for the moment are those prevailing. A permit to travel must be obtained; but at Valona the regulations are not strictly enforced, and there is no need to have passes *visé*. The coinage in use is gold Napoleons (of 10 or 20 fr. value), which are current everywhere. In Valona their value is 95 piastres. The construction of both an Austrian and an Italian hotel is proceeding.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS IN PERSIA.

The most favourable season for commercial travellers to visit Persia, according to a French consular report, is the autumn (October and November).

The daily expenses of a commercial traveller at Teheran, says the report, may be estimated as follows:—Room 5 to 8 francs, meals (breakfast, luncheon, and dinner) 6 to 7 francs. If board and lodging is taken monthly, the expenses are from 275 to 325 francs per month per person.

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Shipping Intelligence.

BRAILA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Braila, May 2.

Larger arrivals of grain and a better grain market abroad have caused a more active enquiry for spot tonnage this week and a larger volume of business has been effected; the number of steamers in port is, however, still in excess of the demand, so that a rise in freights has been impossible. The ruling rates from the Danube (Braila or Galatz) are to-day: 7s. to Rotterdam and 7s. 3d. to Antwerp or Hamburg, whilst from Sulina 6s. to Rotterdam and 6s. 3d. to Antwerp is the utmost obtainable. There has been a small enquiry from Braila for West Italian ports at rates averaging 8.50 fr. according to destination.

Large quantities of maize are reported to have been sold to Hungary and Galicia and this cargo is thus lost to the Danube freight market.

The water in the Danube has risen six inches since my last advices, so that vessels can now load up river and can cross Sulina bar drawing 23 feet.

BAHREIN S.S. SERVICE.

In the report for the year 1912-13 on the trade of the Bahrein Islands by the British Political Agent, a fact is mentioned which British shippers might do well to note. It is stated that there is no direct service of steamers to the United Kingdom from Bahrein, and that if there were it would no doubt ultimately increase the import of goods from the United Kingdom.

The following steamship lines call at Bahrein:—(1) British India Steam Navigation Company weekly up from Bombay and Karachi and fortnightly down to Karachi and Bombay. (2) Hamburg-Amerika Linie about once a month on outward voyage only. (3) Bombay-Persia Line from Bombay, occasionally. (4) Arab Steamers, Limited, from Bombay about once every three weeks, the steamers calling again on return voyage from Busreh. The steamers of the last-named company continued to call during the year, but since its conclusion only one or two have called. One steamer called for pilgrims in September. Very few Bombay-Persia vessels have been here during the year. The mail service (British India Steam Navigation Company) from Bombay was changed back to a weekly one from July 1, 1913, which was a great boon.

CHURCHES IN GREEK STEAMERS.

Like some of the carriages on the Russian Trans-Siberian Railway, each of the ships building at Cammell Laird's shipyard at Birkenhead for the National Steam Navigation Company of Greece has been fitted with a little church.

The first of these vessels, which have been named the "Basileus Konstantinos" and "Basilissa Sophia," after the King and Queen of the Hellenes, and which are approximately 500 ft. long, will be launched in June.

The Press Association's Grimsby correspondent is officially informed that the Great Central Railway Company has completed the sale of their continental steamer "Lincoln" to the Achaia Steamship Company at Patras, Greece. The "Lincoln" was built in 1883, and has been mostly engaged in the Grimsby-Hamburg trade.

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PROPOSED NEW BLACK SEA HARBOUR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 2.

The question of the improvement of Reni as a harbour is once again under the consideration of the Russian authorities, and is causing alarm among business people in Galatz, as the plans drawn up some time ago included the building of a railway through that part of Bessarabia, whose sole means of transport at present is the river Pruth, and the consequent diverting of nearly all grain grown in that district from Galatz, as its shipping station, to Reni.

Some Russian engineers are stated to be now at Reni inquiring into the matter, which looks as though some work, at any rate, were to be undertaken. Some time ago, when the plans proposed (which include the construction of a large quay, a small dock, warehouses, etc.) were being prepared, every shipper and steamship agent of standing in Galatz was approached as to whether he would move his place of business to Reni, special facilities in the way of exemption from quay dues being offered for lighters and steamers, exemption from export tax on grain, etc. A large sum (many millions of roubles) was at that time actually set aside for the undertaking, but was subsequently appropriated for other more necessary work elsewhere.

GREEK STEAMER ASHORE.

The "Penelope," a Greek steamer, is badly ashore off Cape Bougaroni, near Algiers. She was bound from the Black Sea with a cargo of wheat to Hamburg. Her hull (says *Syren and Shipping*) is insured in London for £21,000, and her grain for £25,000. She lies on rocks, and is reported to be leaking badly. 25-30 guineas is paying on her for re-insurances.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—Left New York for Gibraltar May 2. "Castalia."—Left Bombay for Liverpool May 2. "Circassia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left Gibraltar May 3. "Elysia."—Birkenhead/Bombay. Passed Perim May 2. "Italia."—At Leghorn. "Massilia."—Left Liverpool for Bombay May 4. "Olympia."—At Glasgow. "Perugia."—Palermo/New York. Passed Gibraltar May 3. "Scindia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left Port Said May 4.

The s.s. "Olympia," for Bombay direct (via Gibraltar and Suez Canal), will leave Birkenhead on May 12.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Constantinople April 27. "Esneh."—At Alexandria April 17. "Hathor."—Swansea/Alexandria. Left Malta May 4. "Karnak."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Malta May 2. "Khephren."—At Liverpool May 2. "Meroe."—At Glasgow. "Moeris."—Constantinople/Liverpool. Passed Gibraltar May 4. "Sebek."—Newport/Naples. Passed Gibraltar April 27. "Seti."—At Tyne April 25. "Siptah."—Left Liverpool for Constantinople April 30. "Tanis."—At Constantinople April 27.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—Galatz/Antwerp. Passed Constantinople April 30. "Barnesmore."—At Sulina April 26. "Barrowmore."—At Antwerp. "Cranmore."—At Swansea. "Edenmore."—At Antwerp April 26. "Fenmore."—At Rotterdam March 9. "Foylemore."—At Swansea April 25. "Gorsemore."—At Birkenhead April 17. "Heathmore."—At Liverpool April 30. "Incemore."—Piræus April 29. Passed Constantinople May 3. "Jessmore."—At Varna May 3. "Kenmore."—Left Liverpool for Piræus April 24. "Larchmore."—At Galatz April 17.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—On Syrian Coast May 2. "Corsican Prince."—Left Alexandria for Manchester May 2. "Creole Prince."—At Manchester April 28. "Highland Prince."—Left Syrian Coast for Constantinople May 2. "Kaffir Prince."—Syrian Coast/Liverpool. Left Malta April 28. "Merchant Prince."—At Manchester. "Norman Prince."—At Alexandria April 19. "Orange Prince."—At Manchester May 1. "Saxon Prince."—London/Alexandria. Left Malta May 3. "Sailor Prince."—At Manchester April 18. "Stuart Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria April 22. "Tudor Prince."—At Alexandria April 26. "Trojan Prince."—On Syrian Coast May 2.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Carpentaria."—At London. "Chanda."—Bombay/Antwerp. Left Port Said May 2. "Chakrata."—At Bombay April 26. "Chinkoa."—London/Bombay. Passed Ushant May 4. "Chupra."—London/Bombay. Left Suez April 25. "Chyebassa."—London / Calcutta. Left Suez May 2. "Malda."—Left London for Calcutta May 2. "Manora."—Calcutta/London. Left Madras May 3. "Mashobra."—At Calcutta April 26. "Rohilla."—At Southampton. "Rewa."—At Southampton. "Takada."—London/Calcutta. Left Colombo April 30.

The s.s. "Chantala," for Karachi, Bombay, and Persian Gulf, will leave London on May 14.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arcadia."—Bombay/London. Left Aden May 4. "Assaye."—Left Shangai for Bombay May 5. "Banca."—At Bombay April 2. "Caledonia."—Left Bombay for London May 2. "Candia."—London/Calcutta. Left Aden May 1. "China."—Calcutta/London. At Marseilles May 5. "Delta."—Shanghai/Bombay. Left Singapore May 1. "Devanha."—At Bombay April 13. "Macedonia."—London/Bombay. Left Port Said May 5. "Mantua."—Bombay/London. Left Gibraltar May 3. "Nankin."—London/Calcutta. Left Malta May 3. "Osiris."—Left Brindisi for Port Said May 3. "Persia."—At Bombay May 1. "Salsette."—Left Aden for Bombay May 3. "Sardinia."—Left Calcutta for London May 1. "Sicilia."—Calcutta/London. Left Gibraltar May 4. "Simla."—London/Calcutta. At Colombo April 23. "Sumatra."—At Bombay March 27. "Simla."—At Calcutta April 29.

The s.s. "China," for Gibraltar, Bombay, Karachi, and Indian Coast Ports, will leave London on May 22 and Marseilles on May 29.

Cunard Line.

"Caria."—At Alexandria May 4. "Carpathia."—Naples/New York. Passed Gibraltar April 30. "Cypria."—At Liverpool. "Laconia."—At Naples May 5. "Lycia."—Left Malta May 4. "Pannonia."—Left New York for Mediterranean April 30. "Pavia."—At Swansea May 3. "Phrygia."—At Venice May 4. "Saxonia."—At Genoa May 4. "Tyria."—At Liverpool May 2. "Ultonia."—At Fiume April 30. "Veria."—Swansea/Naples. Passed Gibraltar May 1.

Ellerman Lines.

"Alexandria."—At Liverpool April 23. "Andalusian."—At Messina April 30. "Assiout."—At Batoum April 29. "Asturian."—At Liverpool April 21. "Austrian."—At Alexandria April 29. "Avon."—At Swansea May 3. "Bavarian."—At Constantinople April 29. "Belgravian."—Smyrna/Lisbon. Left Malta April 28. "Britannia."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Left Malta April 29. "Castilian."—At Alexandria April 7. "City of Cambridge."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Swansea April 30. "City of Khios."—At Alexandria April 22. "City of Oxford."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria May 5. "Fabian."—Swansea/Patras. Passed Gibraltar April 30. "Malatian."—Lisbon/Syra. Left Malta May 1. "Oporto."—Left Newport for Port Said March 31. "Perim."—At Liverpool May 4. "Persian."—Left Alexandria for Smyrna April 24. "Venetian."—Left Alexandria for Malta May 1.

BULGARIAN INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

A U.S. Consular report, recently published, states that Bulgarian industries, though not very far advanced at present, are beginning to compete in the local markets with some lines of imported goods. Among these enterprises are factories for the manufacture of food products, including alcoholic beverages, rough textiles, chemical products, attar of rose, perfumeries, and furniture. At Panaguiste, Bulgaria, an American concern is engaged in the manufacture of hand-woven rugs of fine quality. The weaving is done by young Bulgarian girls, and the enterprise has proved successful financially. The entire product of this factory is shipped to New York, the rugs being woven according to a special design ordered in advance. Until recently there was a shoe factory in operation at Sofia, managed by Americans. This enterprise was a success, but has now passed into Bulgarian hands.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Cairo Electric Railways and Heliopolis Oases.

The ordinary general meeting will be held on May 19 at the offices of M. Carton de Wiart to receive the directors' report and consider the balance-sheet, etc., and will be followed by an extraordinary general meeting to discuss modifications of the company's statutes.

Fayoum Light Railway.

The report for 1913 hardly makes satisfactory reading for the shareholders. The system has 168 kilometres of open line, a share capital of £E100,877, and 4 per cent. debenture issues, totalling, including amortisations, £E99,606. There are, in addition, debts of £E28,064 to the Anglo-Belgian Company and £E45,386 to the bank, the total liability under all heads being £E331,928. The total receipts for 1913 were £E27,296, as against £E28,004 during the previous year. Of these £E16,688 came from the carriage of passengers and £E10,189 from the movement of goods. 26,875 first-class and 884,276 third-class passengers were carried, while 118,665 tons of goods were moved. To this gross tonnage, cereals 24,477 tons, cotton, 15,720 tons, and building materials 41,110 tons were the principal contributors. From the report it would appear that the net revenue receipts aggregated only £E6,808, and of this the cost of the General Administration was £E983,803, £E1,887,767 went as interest to the bank, and £E2,266,645 to the Anglo-Belgian Company, who would appear to be privileged creditors, as interest on and amortisation of the loan already referred to. The net result is a credit balance of £E1,670 (against £E3,585 the year before), a sum which is insufficient to pay the debenture interest. £E1,000 is being utilised to pay 1912 arrears of debenture interest to the extent of 1 per cent., and both the interest on and amortisation of debentures for 1913 is deferred, the small balance having been carried forward to current revenue account. During the year Mr. Auguste Doncker was appointed to be manager of the Light Railways.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil.

A communication issued last week stated that it was gathered from a telegram received from Gemsah that the production of pure oil from well No. 13 saved April 29 was estimated at 681 tons. The specific gravity of the emulsion was stated to be .984, and the telegram further stated that an analysis made at the refinery at Suez of the oil produced from well No. 13 on April 28 shows that it contained 30 per cent. of water by volume. As this was a much smaller quantity than the specific gravity telegraphed on that day would seem to indicate, a telegram had been sent asking for further information. The following telegram was received from Gemsah on May 1:—Well No. 13 production saved yesterday (Thursday) estimated at 806 tons of oil specific gravity, emulsion 990 at 62. Well No. 14 stopped flowing, fluid standing 52 ft. below surface; are making preparations for baling test. The company announced that it does not purpose sending any more reports to the Press unless the information received involves some material change in the situation.

Mid-Balkan Syndicate.

It was resolved at a meeting held on April 3, and confirmed at a meeting on April 22, that the syndicate should be wound up. Mr. G. Twynam, Poultry Chambers, has been appointed liquidator, and a meeting of creditors is to be held at his offices next Monday afternoon.

ORIENTAL RAILWAYS QUESTION.

A Reuter's message from Buda-Pest, dated May 5, reports that the semi-official *Pester Lloyd* makes the following statement with regard to the Oriental Railways question: "As Austria-Hungary cannot accept the Servian counter-proposal, no other way remains for the Monarchy but to demand the restoration of the railways. This is not merely a right guaranteed by the Turkish concession, but corresponds also with the obligations which Servia has assumed in her treaty with Turkey, as well as with the decisions of the London Conference of Ambassadors on the subject."

EGYPT'S GOLD EXPORTS.

Apropos of our Alexandria Correspondent's remarks upon the shipment of gold from Egypt, the following paragraph from the *Scotsman* is of interest:—

There are rather interesting cross movements in the foreign exchanges just now. Egypt has lately been in a position to part with gold, and it is understood that there is still a fairly large amount available for export. Recently, when the value of the rupee was high, the Indian exchange banks, instead of taking gold from London to supplement Council drafts, took the gold from Egypt, thereby preventing the return of gold from Alexandria to London. Owing to the fall in the rupee exchange the Indian demand has ceased, but France has lately been offering facilities for the import of gold, and has attracted some from New York. She is now looking to Egypt, and Egyptian gold, which, failing the Indian demand, would have come to London, is now, I understand, being diverted to Paris. One shipment has already been made.

PIRÆUS CUSTOMS.

Our Athens Trade Correspondent, writing on April 25, reports that the Piræus Customs receipts from April 1 to April 10 amounted to 583,162 Dr. in paper and 113,448 francs in gold, as compared with 833,752 Dr. in paper and 118,964 francs in gold for the corresponding period of last year. The falling-off may be attributed to the fact that consignees of Colonials have postponed withdrawal of their goods until the new reduced tariff comes into force.

A BIG LAND DEAL.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that an important land transaction has been carried out between the Daira of Prince Seif-ed-Din and the Gharbieh Land Company and Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company. The deal shows that, though business is at a standstill, the fundamental economic situation of the country is not in any way affected. The business in question consists of the sale to the Daira by each of the above companies of about 2,000 feddans, or 4,000 feddans in all, the companies receiving, in part payment of the price, houses which the Daira had recently purchased, and which may be considered among the best built in Alexandria and the most advantageously situated. The deal is interesting (says the *Gazette*) because it supplies the companies with the funds necessary to carry on their business and develop their unproductive assets, and whatever sacrifices may have been made as to the price, and we understand that a sacrifice was made, is compensated for by the advantage of the companies' realising part of their assets and thus being in a position to develop the remainder. The deal is also an advantage to the Daira, which thus acquires two of the finest domains in Lower Egypt at a most reasonable price. Our contemporary understands that the negotiations between the parties were of a prolonged and difficult nature, that the Meglis el Hasby went most carefully into the details, and that the transaction also had the Government's approval after a full examination of the matter. It seems, therefore, that we may congratulate both parties on the success of this deal, which is one of the biggest that has been carried out for some time.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ALEXANDRIA WATER.—The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting will be held in Alexandria on May 28. The transfer books will be closed for fourteen days immediately preceding the meeting.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OIL.—Production for the week amounted to 3,352 tons, of which 157 tons were from Hurgada, Well No. 3.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN OIL.—Production for the week ended May 2 was 284 tons.

BANQUE DE CREDIT SERBE.—The net profits for 1913 amounted to 159,907 dinars. The dividend has been fixed at 7 per cent.

CIE HELLENIQUE D'ELECTRICITE SYSTEME THOMSON-HOUSTON.—A dividend of 3 frs. per share is payable on Coupon No. 20.

CREDIT PETROLIER ROUMAIN.—The net profits for 1913 amount to 919,846 lei, as compared with 611,055 lei in 1912. The dividend is 15 per cent., an increase of 5 per cent.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 20 amounted to £E7,326, an increase of £E598 over the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Receipts for the week ended April 30 amounted to £1,230, an increase of £348 on same period for last year. Total from commencement of year amounted to £20,909, a decrease of £1,111.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at the offices of the Bank, Alexandria, on May 12. The dividend proposed for 1913-14 is at the rate of 8s. per share, of which 4s. per share has been already paid.

MANUFACTURE DE CIGARETTES LE KHEDIVE.—Profits for 1913 amount to 136,874 frs. A dividend of 6 per cent. on preference and of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares is proposed.

MINES DU LAURIUM.—The profit for 1913 is 2,580,837 frs. as against 2,725,036 frs. in 1912. A dividend of 25 frs. per share is to be paid.

ORIENTAL GAS.—An interim dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. free of tax on account of the year ending on the 30th prox. has been declared. The dividend is at the same rate as last year, and will be payable on the 27th inst.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended May 2 amounted to £7,639, an increase of £3.047 over the corresponding period of last year.

PERSIA FIVE PER CENT. LOAN (1911).—The Imperial Bank of Persia announces that the coupons due on May 15 on the Imperial Government of Persia Five per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911 will be paid at their offices or at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for week ended May 2, 808 tons. Cable from Ploesti, dated May 4:—"Moreni, Well No. 30 (depth 2,506 ft.), have extracted one length of drill stem; now engaged in extracting remainder. Well flowed for six minutes, when disturbed producing ten tons. Well No. 24 struck oil sand at depth of 1,214 ft.; now cleaning. Well No. 39, total depth 1,148 ft.; indications good. Chiciura, Well No. 1, total depth 2,103 ft. Well No. 6 deepened 137 ft. during week.

SOCIETE BELGE-EGYPTIENNE DE L'EZBEKIEH.—A dividend of 26 frs. per share on the preference shares and of 1 fr. on the ordinary shares (Coupon No. 14) will be payable on June 15. On July 1 156 4½ per cent. obligations hypothécaires, drawn for payment on April 23, will be repaid.

SOCIETE HELLENIQUE DES TRAMWAYS D'ATHENES, PIREE, ET EXTENSIONS.—A dividend of 4 drachmai per share has been paid.

SOCIETE OTTOMANE D'EXPLOITATION DU PORT DE SALONIQUE.—The accounts for 1913 show a net profit of 126,001 frs. as compared with 129.908 frs. for 1912. The dividend proposed is 10 frs. per share, as last year.

UPPER EGYPT HOTELS.—A dividend of 5 per cent. was declared at the annual general meeting held on April 25. Payment at the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo, or Alexandria.

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Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAM, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,500,000.**
Paid up Capital - -	**500,000.**
Reserve - - - - -	**680,000.**

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Tuesday, June 2.

STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is May 11.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., May 12.	Wed., May 13.	Thurs., May 14.
Tues., May 26.	Wed., May 27.	Thurs., May 28.

LONDON, May 7.

Depressed.

The markets remain very depressed. There is liquidation in almost every section of the House. It is improbable that any further failures will occur, but it is equally unlikely that we shall see better prices until all the pawned stock has been disposed of. One or two large firms have been talked about, but their affairs have been satisfactorily arranged.

A Sensation.

The sensation of the week has been the announcement that the Canadian Government had agreed to guarantee 45 million dollars of bonds to the Canadian Northern Railway. But the terms of the guarantee are so stringent that the City fears that they have only been made to provide for an inevitable default. A disagreeable feeling has been roused by the attempt to force bondholders of the Mexican Northern Power into foregoing their rights. It is strongly felt that these perpetual attempts on the part of Canadian financiers to hustle bondholders out of their impregnable position must be stopped. One or two new issues have appeared. Leyland Motors went very well, but the Pecol Oil Combine will probably be treated with the contempt it deserves. The Chicoutimi Freehold Estates bonds and the West Penn short-dated notes do not seem desirable securities. But the Spratt's debentures are a gilt-edged security. It is now formally announced that Harrod's will take over the famous firm of Dickins and Jones, and will make an issue of £700,000 5 per cent. preference shares.

Money is a shade harder. The perpetual demand for gold at a very high premium creates an uneasy feeling.

Egyptian Unified Bought.

The Foreign market has been upset by the failure of Neufville and Co., of Paris. London houses are not heavily interested. Bulgarians are harder at 85. There has been a steady demand for Egyptian Unified, which are 99½ ex dividend, and the inscribed stock has also been bought. Greek Fours are better at 52. Hungarian Rentes keep very steady at 83, and Turkish Unified are also better at 82. Most of the dealers in the market are short, and this keeps the quotation hard.

Home and Foreign Rails.

Home Rails are a shade harder, but there is no business. The speculators in the deferred stocks are struggling to get out, but investors continue to purchase small lots of the heavy lines.

Very little business is doing in American Rails, but it is believed that Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb, and Co. will acquire control of Missouri Pacific and provide the funds for the short-dated notes falling due in June. Eries have been bought, but the general tone of the market is dull. The news from Mexico, which was good a few days ago, now assumes a despondent tone.

Rubbers Flat.

Rubber shares have been flattish. The auctions went off moderately well, but the bulls were unable to put up the price of crepe. Linggi report was not liked, the dividend having been halved. Kuala Selangor figures were as good as anyone expected, and 100 per cent. dividend is not only paid, but also seems to be assured for the current year. The shares look cheap.

Egyptian Oil Collapse.

In the Oil market we have seen a serious collapse in Egyptian Oil shares. The weekly output fell by a half, and we are informed officially that the oil from No. 13 well contains 30 per cent. of water. No one quite knows whether this water is a temporary difficulty or whether it will, in the end, overwhelm the oil. As a result the weak bulls rushed to get out. There has been a very large business doing. Another disquieting feature of the Egyptian field is the serious reduction in output from the Hargada field. Spies have been weak, and North Caucasian have also been sold. Dealers, however, believe that we shall get a further revival in the Oil market, and some brokers anticipate a rise in Shell, consequent upon an increased dividend which is confidently looked for.

Mines Neglected.

Mines are neglected. The Central Mining passed its dividend, having devoted the whole of its profits to depreciation. The Goerz group show a depreciation of nearly half a million, and there has been no news from South Africa to counterbalance the depressing influence of these two reports. Broken Hills have been a shade harder, but both Tin and Copper look weak. There has been a little gambling in the Russian group, but prices move within narrow limits. The Burmah Corporation has placed its shares on the market at 5-16 premium, but there is little business. The Kirkland Lake rig continues, and holders should get out.

Egyptian's Improved Tone.

In the Egyptian market business has been small, but, on the whole, the tone is better. There has been some buying in small blocks and very little selling. National Banks have been inquired for at 14½, and a few hundred shares have changed hands at 9-16. Agricultural Banks have also been dealt in, the price being 4¾-4 13-16. The deferred are nominally 250-280. Land Banks are 6½. Bank of Abyssinia are 5s. 6d. Delta Light preferreds have been inquired for at 8 9-16, and a few shares have changed hands. Delta Lands are 8s. 9d. There has been a good deal of buying of Behera in small blocks, and 9 1-16 is now bid. Union Fonciere are unchanged, but there is business in Alexandria Water at 12⅝. Aboukirs are 23s. United Egyptian Lands 1s. 9d. Sidi Salem are nominally 5s.—8s. There are a few buyers of Egyptian Trusts at 5s., and there has been a fair demand for Salts at 14s. 3d. New Egyptian are 10s. 6d., but Markets are unchanged at 25s. Khedivial Mail preferreds have been done at 3¾, and the ordinary are round about 10s. There are buyers about of Daira Sanieh at 3s. Ginners are nominally 13-16, and Gharbieh Land are quoted 1½, but without business.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market there is very little trading. Cuban Ports move backwards and forwards, and are now 32½, a preposterous price, for nothing has been settled with the Cuban Government. Shipping shares have been weak on the Royal Mail report and the rumour that a big rate war is likely to occur.

THE TURKISH DEBT.

Though nothing has been heard of late regarding the International Financial Commission which was appointed to apportion a part of the Turkish debt between the Balkan States on the basis of the benefits likely to accrue from the division of the conquered territory settled by treaty, it is, says the *Daily Telegraph*, apparently steadily at work. At any rate, according to the foreign Press, the Porte has asked the French Government to transmit to the foreign members of this Financial Commission what it considers an equitable division of the public debt and the other obligations of the Ottoman Empire. According to this table, Greece is to be invited to shoulder £T14,315,406, Bulgaria £T4,075,590, Servia £T4,451,473, Albania £T1,090,685, and Montenegro £T151,040. In addition, Turkey has tabled claims for damage caused during the war. It is hardly necessary to point out that the Turkish ideas and those entertained by the Commission may not agree; but certainly a large amount of the public debt will be taken over by the Balkan States, so that the revenues ceded to the Debt Council may be assured for the administration of the debt.

ROUMANIAN LOAN.

Under date of May 6, the Paris correspondent of the *Financial Times* reports that it is rumoured that negotiations are pending between the Roumanian Minister of Finance and a French syndicate for a loan of £12,000,000.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
ALEXANDRIA, May 1.

The Share Market.

The market is quiet, and little business is being done. Speculators are beginning to take less interest in the share market with the approach of summer, which here coincides with a marked slackening in business. The cotton season is nearing its end, and Egypt is now exporting the gold which has served to finance the gathering of the crop. This week we have sent £150,000 to India, which has also absorbed the greater part of the £6,150,000 exported since the beginning of the year. The small investor continues to buy lottery bonds of the Crédit Foncier, Turkish Railway bonds, etc., while the fellaheen invest their available money in agricultural land. The lack of capital, however, interferes with the bringing under cultivation of new lands, and the construction of blocks of dwellings is hindered by the same cause in Cairo, Alexandria, Mansura, Tanta, and Port Said. It is stated that the Government is considering the imposition of fresh taxes for the purpose of financing its great schemes of irrigation and drainage.

The Oil Trust in Egypt.

In spite of the discovery of new oil wells in the Red Sea littoral and the fact that the oil refinery at Suez is working night and day, the price of oil still remains exorbitant. Owing to the operations of the Trust, the price of oil here is practically double what it is in other countries. The Egyptian production of oil having been cornered by the Trust, there is hardly any hope of any considerable reduction in price in the future. This is highly unfortunate for the country at large, for a very large quantity of motor-driven machinery has been installed for the purposes of irrigation, as a result of the low Nile, and the agriculturists often find themselves unable to run their pumping plant owing to the high price of oil. The Government might very well devote some attention to this matter, and particularly insist that the retail business should not be at the mercy of the speculator.

Alexandria Central Buildings Co.

The capital of this company has been increased from £100,000 to £120,000. The premium realised by the issue, amounting to £E5,240, has been placed to the reserve. In order to regularise the financial situation the company has decided to issue £5,000 of 4 per cent. mortgage debentures, which will bring the total amount of debentures up to £60,000, of which £7,900 are unissued, £500 are redeemed, and £51,600 in circulation. These debentures have been issued below par, but the resultant loss has been made up for by the profits realised on the sale of properties. The net profits for 1913 amount to £E6,362, which allows of a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the shares. The decreased dividend is accounted for by the falling-off of receipts due to the reconstruction of one of the company's properties. The company anticipates higher profits for the current year.

Soc. des Immeubles d'Egypte.

This company owns ten properties situated right in the centre of Alexandria, which figure on the balance-sheet for the sum of £E395,647. The reserve fund amounts to £E65,370. The net profits for the last financial year, after allowing for redemption of the 4 per cent. debentures and expenses, amount to £E20,627, to which has to be added £E9,225 brought forward from 1912. A dividend of P.T. 35 per share has been distributed, and £9,050 are carried forward.

Recent Failures.

Amiragan Brothers and Co.—Assets, £E2,885; liabilities, £E7,456.

Bakr Mehemed Choel.—Assets, £E5,300; liabilities, £E8,347.

El Hag Oman Abu el Dahab.—Assets, £E16,827; liabilities, £E10,193.

Nejib and Kamel Adli.—Assets, £E18,725; liabilities, £E18,141.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

We published in our issue of April 24 the text of the chairman's speech at the annual meeting of shareholders of the bank. We now give the balance-sheet for the past year:—

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1913.

LIABILITIES.

	£E M.M.	£st. s. d.
Capital—300,000 Shares at £10	2,925,000 —	3,000,000 0 0
Reserve— Statutory £E1,462,500 — Provision for contingencies 24,375 —	1,486,875 —	1,525,000 0 0
Current deposit and other accounts	3,529,109 242	3,619,599 4 5
Mixed tribunals	1,510,995 096	1,549,738 11 2
Ministry of Finance	1,810,564 407	1,856,989 2 9
Do. special account	26,630 410	27,313 4 10
Bankers' accounts	189,831 126	194,698 11 10
Cheques and bills payable	125,717 114	128,940 12 7
Acceptances as per contra	29,835 —	30,600 0 0
Rebate of interest on bills not yet due	21,627 767	22,182 6 6
Staff provident fund	40,082 961	41,110 14 7
Dividends unclaimed	4,292 636	4,402 14 1
Profit and Loss Account— Balance £E236,587 114 Less interim dividend.. £E87,750 —	148,837 114	152,653 9 0
	11,849,397 873	12,153,228 11 9

ASSETS.

	£E. M.M.	£st. s. d.
Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	485,724 994	498,179 9 7
Sundry securities	457,798 316	469,536 14 8
Accounts current	887,277 486	910,028 3 10
Advances on merchandise	2,675,917 457	2,744,530 14 6
Advances on local and foreign securities	1,627,674 032	1,669,409 5 3
Advances otherwise secured	819,480 359	840,492 13 6
Sudan Government	802,764 095	823,347 15 10
Clients' liability for acceptances	29,835 —	30,600 0 0
Bills of exchange	1,292,179 446	1,325,312 5 0
Local bills discounted	295,325 159	302,897 12 0
Bills receivable	29,646 626	30,406 15 11
Buildings, furniture, etc	275,392 211	282,453 11 0
Money at call and at short notice	299,203 125	306,875 0 0
Bankers' accounts	226,332 477	232,135 17 6
Cash: Notes £E.463,883 500 Silver and nickel „ 414,175 824 Gold „ 766,787 766	1,644,847 090	1,687,022 13 2
	11,849,397 873	12,153,228 11 9

Contingent Liability on bills rediscounted .. £E 568,072 195 = £582,638 3 0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£E. M.M.	£st. s. d.
Transfer to Securities Account for depreciation	32,601 501	33,437 8 9
Directors' remuneration	8,775	9,000 0 0
Current expenses	137,530 631	141,057 1 2
Interim dividend	87,750 —	90,000 0 0
Final dividend	131,625 —	135,000 0 0
Balance carried forward	17,212 114	17,653 9 0
	415,494 246	426,147 18 11

Cr.	£E. M.M.	£st. s. d.
By amount of gross profit for the year ended December 31, 1913, after making provision for reduction of Buildings and Furniture Account and for bad and doubtful debts	420,545 029	431,328 4 9
Less: Rebate of interest on bills not yet due	21,627 767	22,182 6 6
	398,917 262	409,145 18 3
Balance of last year brought forward	16,576 984	17,002 0 8
	415,494 246	426,147 18 11

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Dr.	£E. M.M.	Cr.	£E M.M.
Notes issued	2,700,000 000	Cash	1,350,066 285
		Securities	1,349,933 715
	2,700,000 000		2,700,000 000

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LTD.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Office in Alexandria on Thursday, the 28th May, 1914, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant of the Act of Parliament.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed for fourteen days immediately preceding the meeting.

Dated, Alexandria, 25th April, 1914.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Manager.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. April 27.	Latest prices. May 6.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	101	101
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	84	84
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	97	97
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	101	99
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	86
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	56½	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	56½	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	51½	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	79	79
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	72	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	87	87½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	94½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	91½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	98½	96
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	86½	86
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	81	82
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	71	71
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	72
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 1/16	4⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	80
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	15⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3¼
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	14½	14½
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8½
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	19	19
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	91
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	86
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	2⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	¼
Do. Do. Def.	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	9
Do. Pref.	—	4⅝
Building Lands of Egypt	—	⅝
Daira Sanieh	—	2/10½
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	8/9
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99¼	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/3	5/3
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	2	1⅝
„ „ Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9¼
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	96
New Egyptian Co.	10/3	10/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	—	⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	1 5/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	97
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1⅜
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	1½	1½
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/-	14/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89⅜
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	—	£197½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2 1/16
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	22/-	22/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	7/3	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	3⅜
European Oilfields	6/-	6/6
Oilfields Finance Corporation	3 1/32	⅞
Red Sea Oilfields	—	1⅛
Roumanian Consolidated	26/-	25/9
Shell Transport	5 5/8	5 5/32
Suez Oil	8/3	7/3

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. April 30.	Latest prices. May 7.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	635	633
Canal de Suez Shares	4995	4970
Do. do. Jouissance	4190	4225
Do. do. Founders	2300	2240
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	729	728
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	148	151
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	443	445½
Do. do. do. Act.	200	200
Land Bank of Egypt	162	166
Mines Balia-Karaidin	493	489
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	160	153
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	507½	510
Do. do. Ord.	45	42
Do. do. Pref.	48½	46½
Tabacs Ottomans	468	462
Turkish Unified Con.	81.80	81.85
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	405	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	375.50	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	411	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	366	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	371	371

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	April 23.	April 30.
Agricole et Industrielle 4½ Debs	409	408.75
Do. do. Priv.	370	870
Do. do. Cap.	187.50	187.50
Do. do. Div.	135	120
Anglo-Belgian Co.	10.25	10
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	115	120
Do. do. Div.	132.50	131.25
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	450	473.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	67.50	67.75
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	406	406.25
Do. Priv.	521.25	524.25
Do. Div.	130	122.50
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	356	366
Do. do. Cap.	47.25	45.75
Do. do. Fond.	90	80
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	60	58
Do. do. Div.	40	38
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1356
Do. do. Ord.	495	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	302.50	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	395	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	104.75	104.75
Do. do. Div.	95	95
Tramways du Caire Priv.	309.50	519
Do. do. Jouiss.	531.25	513
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	250	250
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	8	8.75

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	April 24.	May 1.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.455	Fcs.454
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.454	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.461	Fcs.461
Do. do. Shares	£15 4 6	£15 4 6
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.12	£T.6.45
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.410	Fcs.410
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.170	Fcs.170
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.102	Fcs.100
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.99	Fcs.99
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.38	Fcs.34.25
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.31.30	£T.30.85

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	April 22.	April 29
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3 1/16	3 1/16
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12⅛	12⅛
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 112	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. ⅝	⅝
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 44½	44½
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 348½	343⅜
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 274½	274½
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs 268	268
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance	Fcs. 185	185
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/9½	12/6
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
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THE NEAR EAST

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MAY 25 1914

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 158.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A more hopeful aspect has been introduced into the situation in Epirus by the intervention of the International Commission of Control. At the request of the Albanian Government the Commission approached M. Zographos, head of the Provisional Government of Epirus, with a view to securing the immediate cessation of all hostilities and of any forward movement. In the event of the Epirote forces being withdrawn the Commission undertook to see that the Albanian troops were also withdrawn, and to communicate to M. Zographos the concessions which the Albanian Government was prepared to offer the Epirotes. If these concessions should be accepted, the Commission was prepared to use its influence to secure their execution and maintenance. In reply to this request M. Zographos at once gave orders for the cessation of hostilities, and a truce has been in force in Southern Albania since May 7. Negotiations are now in progress at Santi Quaranta between the International Commission and the Provisional Government.

The action of the Commission has not been taken without the consent of the Great Powers, and we may welcome their intervention, though tardy, in a situation that was rapidly going from bad to worse. Hitherto, unfortunately, it has been the fashion for certain foreign diplomatists deliberately to throw sand into the mechanism of the Albanian State in order to provide opportunities for insisting upon giving "expert advice" in the matter. The Powers, although still snapping and snarling over the delimitation of the northern boundary of the new State—a task which should be as nearly as possible a question of geography and not of politics—have at last agreed to pour oil—if not on the wheels of the Albanian administration, at least on the troubled waters of the Epirote difficulty. Prince William will be well advised to come to terms with the Epirotes, but he is dealing with people who are accustomed to bargain, and the Epirotes in the end will probably accept considerably less than they at first demanded. Popular feeling in Greece is restive under the strain imposed on it by the policy adopted by M. Venizelos in abandoning Epirus to its fate. If the Epirotes are satisfied with the terms offered them, Greece has no cause to cavil. On the other hand, if any excuse were given to the Greeks for continuing the agitation until the Greek Prime Minister were driven from office, Albania would be the loser and might be confronted with a more serious situation than the one which it is now seeking to solve.

Reports from Macedonia speak well of the improvements that have already been introduced under Greek rule. New industries are springing up where conditions are favourable, while Kavala, the chief town in the tobacco-growing area, is connected with the railway at Drama by means of an excellent service of public motors. The refugees from Turkish Thrace, however, constitute a serious problem for the Greek authorities. Our Salonika correspondent stated last week that the refugees, who are arriving in their thousands, were being drafted off into the interior as rapidly as possible. Encampments of these unhappy people are to be met with at various points along the line. Their maintenance may well tax the present resources of the Greek Government, but there can be little doubt that any expenditure for this purpose will be money well spent. They will form a useful agricultural population for Macedonia, and for this reason a special effort ought to be made to prevent them from drifting into less desirable occupations. One thing to avoid is the concentration of the able-bodied men in large camps with nothing to do. They may have to be fed for some time to come, but the authorities should see to it that the men earn their food either by tilling the ground with instruments provided by the State or in employment on public works which are badly needed in the country. If the men are drafted to the districts where their work is needed the problem of looking after the women and children will be less difficult.

No little interest attaches to the visit about to be paid by the Turkish Minister of the Interior to Bucharest. When M. Take Jonescu, the then Minister of the Interior of Roumania, visited Constantinople in the course of his mission to facilitate the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Greece, it was arranged that at the earliest opportunity Talaat Bey would avail himself of M. Take Jonescu's invitation to be his guest in Roumania. Circumstances have prevented that visit from being paid until the present time, and now Talaat Bey has an opportunity of combining with it a diplomatic errand. The treaty between Greece and Turkey left the question of the Ægean Islands unsettled. The Porte has not yet acquiesced in the trans-

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fer of the islands of Chios and Mitylene to Greece, and desultory negotiations have been in progress with a view to effecting some modification of the Powers' decision in regard to the Ægean Islands. Roumania's mediation has been sought, and when M. Venizelos was last in Bucharest fresh proposals on the subject were submitted to him by the Roumanian Government on behalf of the Porte. The suggestion made, it is understood, was that six islands in the Dodekanesos should be taken by Greece in exchange for Chios, Mytilene, and Samos. Neither this nor any other proposal has been accepted by the Greek Government, which is by no means minded to forego the material advantages to be derived from possession of the first two islands.

In the meantime additional arguments in support of their respective claims are being sought by the Turkish and Greek Governments in the purchase of extra Dreadnoughts. Turkey for the moment is one vessel to the good in the prospective strength of her navy. But a Greek journal states that the Argentine Government has consented to sell to Greece a Dreadnought, provided the transaction is ratified by the Argentine Chamber. Should this announcement be true and the transaction take place, it is to be feared that the settlement of Macedonia by a Greek agricultural population will be subordinated to this rivalry in naval armaments. The interests of both Turkey and Greece would be better served by expenditure on the economic development of their respective territories. The Roumanian Government has already been instrumental once in bringing the two countries to an agreement, and it is to be hoped that it will succeed now in persuading them that an understanding on the subject of the islands is a far sounder policy to adopt than to cripple the financial resources of both States for many years to come in an attempt to settle a question which at any moment may be taken out of their hands by a higher authority.

The long-drawn controversy between Austria-Hungary and Servia over the Orient Railway seems to be as far off a settlement as ever. The former had hoped to secure a predominant voice in the control of the railway by the purchase of shares. Servia, however, has decided that the interests of the country require that the State should take possession of all railway lines in Servian territory. It was hoped at one time that a compromise could be effected by a scheme of internationalisation. The proposal, however, after having been the subject of discussion for several months, has been virtually rejected by the Servian Government. Austria-Hungary shows no sign of abating her claim, and it is to be feared that a stage has been reached when the negotiations may be broken off and a definite rupture between the two countries ensue.

Financial considerations continue to dominate the situation in Persia. The Government lives from hand to mouth, but owing to mistrust of Russia hesitates to formulate any fresh request for funds. Rightly or wrongly, the impression prevails that the Russian Government never does anything for nothing in Persia. Every time a Persian wish is met, such is the general belief, a *quid pro quo* has to be granted, which, as a rule, takes the form of a consolidation of Russia's position in the North. If such a view is resented in Russia, it would be easy to disabuse the Persian mind. In the present instance, it is known that the country is at a standstill for want of funds. There is no need to wait until Persia in the extremity of her need is forced to appear as a suppliant before the protecting Powers. The necessary loan could be offered, and the negotiations concluded, without any reference to an increase in the strength of the Cossack Brigade or the hint that fresh concessions are awaiting the ratification of the Persian Government.

Persian affairs were the subject of a series of questions in the House of Commons last Tuesday. It is a matter for regret that the Government cannot bring itself to take the public more into its confidence in regard to the situation in that country. In reply to an inquiry whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had any information with regard to the emigration on a large scale by Russian peasants and farmers from Turkestan and from European Russia into Northern Persia, the answer given was a monosyllabic affirmative. A further question elicited the information that a superintending emigration officer and other officials had been appointed to regulate and organise the settlement of these Russian emigrants, but the spokesman of the Government could not say what amount of land had been acquired for this purpose by Russians in the valleys of the Gurgen and the Atrek. Here is surely a critical development in the situation in Northern Persia. Those who are familiar with what Russia has accomplished in Eastern Siberia by means of organised settlement and the part played by emigrants in her political and military schemes will at once realise the significance of this settlement of Russian peasants "on a large scale" in Northern Persia. No doubt the position of the British Government in regard to this matter is somewhat delicate, but there can be no excuse for ignoring Russia's action. When asked whether the British Government would urge Russia to withdraw her troops before the Shah's coronation—a proposal that was made some time ago in these columns—the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs took up the cudgels warmly on Russia's behalf. The withdrawal of troops from Kazvin and Tabriz—not altogether unconnected with the inadequacy of the supply of winter quarters—was to be regarded as a practical illustration of Russia's good faith, and "it could hardly be urged that all the Russian troops should be completely and suddenly withdrawn until it is evident that this would not be followed by any outbreaks of disorder." But in the face of a steady influx of Russian emigrants the withdrawal of a few thousand troops is a farce, as far as the maintenance of the integrity of Persia is concerned. The British Government can hardly be ignorant of this fact, althoug it seems anxious to shut its eyes to it. At the same time it is to be found asking Russia's support for the Trans-Persian Railway scheme, which is to undermine the elaborate scheme of defence that has been built up for the protection of our Indian Empire.

An appeal is being made for funds for the completion of Khartoum Cathedral. The Cathedral, it will be remembered, was consecrated in January, 1912, but lack of funds has delayed the construction of the edifice according to the original plans. A sum amounting to £11,000 is now required to carry out work already in hand or immediately necessary. The honorary treasurer in England of the Khartoum Cathedral Committee announces that a sum of £4,000 has been promised on the condition that the balance, £7,000, is received or promised before October 1 next. In view of the large number of people who visit the Sudan yearly, the appeal should be assured of a ready response.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 8.

The Kurdish Trouble.

Of the persons taken prisoners during the fighting at Bitlis, or afterwards arrested, eleven have been executed; seventy-six who have been proved to have had no connection with the outbreak, or who are regarded as mere dupes, have been acquitted; the remainder are being tried. All seems quiet in the Bitlis region, and the columns sent in pursuit of the parties of insurgents who fled after their failure to take Bitlis appear to have met with no opposition worth mentioning. All, too, is quiet in the Diarbekir and Mosul region, save near Barzan, where some of the Sheikh of Barzan's people are still "out," and are occupied in sniping the soldiers who pursue them from one hill to another. They will doubtless tire of this amusement before long.

Talaat Bey's Mission.

The Minister of the Interior, Talaat Bey, leaves to-morrow for Livadia, accompanied by the ex-Generalissimo Izzet Pasha and several military and civil dignitaries who are deputed to greet the Tsar, who is now at Livadia, on behalf of the Sultan. I understand that they bear an autograph letter from his Majesty and certain presents to the ruler of Russia. It has been the custom of the Turkish Government to send a complimentary mission to the Tsar in time of peace on each occasion that H.I.M. visited his southern summer resort. Both Mahmud Mukhtar and Rifaat Pashas have headed missions of this sort. No political signification need be attached to Talaat Bey's mission, but his journey to Bucharest, which he will make after visiting the Tsar, will be fraught with much political importance, as it is known that the Minister desires to ask Roumania to convey certain proposals made by the Porte concerning the future of the Ægean Islands to the Hellenic Government, and hopes that Roumania may be able to suggest a formula which will satisfy both parties. This hope, however, is not very strongly held in the highest official circles here; even Talaat Bey, who is known to have a high opinion of the statesmanship of M. Venizelos, is not very optimistic; and it is believed that no progress will be made towards the settlement of the question of the islands until Turkey has two Dreadnoughts wherewith to back her arguments.

Rumours that Greece may purchase a third Dreadnought from Chili or Argentina are again being circulated here. Meanwhile the Government has signed the contract with the Normand firm, which has always turned out excellent torpedo craft, for six large destroyers of a type, it is believed, similar to that now being built for the French Navy. Two submarines, or, to be strictly accurate, submersibles, have been ordered at the Creusot works. These eight vessels will cost about £1,000,000 more or less.

Armenian Reforms Programme.

The two Inspectors-General of the Armenian Vilayets, Major Hoff and M. Wesntenenk, have arrived. They are full of zeal and good intentions—so say those who have had the pleasure of meeting them—but they naturally confess to a certain ignorance of local conditions. They will not leave Constantinople till their powers have been settled and the Bill for the better government of the eastern vilayets has been passed by the Chamber of Deputies, which meets on the 14th instant. I need only add that they have made an excellent impression on all who have met them, Turks and Europeans alike.

Municipal Activities.

There is much talk of a fusion of the Municipality of Constantinople, or Prefecture of the city, as it is called here, and the Vilayet of Stamboul. Meanwhile the improvements in the capital are making steady progress under our excellent and enlightened Mayor, Dr. Djemil Pasha. The public garden at the Old Serai is green and bright, and when it has been finally completed will be a most attractive spot. The electric trams are running merrily, and now that the wattmen have ceased to try to break records in crowded streets are much less terrifying. The service, however, requires a larger number of cars. The lack of accommodation is particularly noticeable in the early mornings when the swarms of official and other employees descend from the suburbs to Stamboul, and in the early afternoon when they return from work. The road from Scutari to the picturesque Alem-dagh woods is half-finished, and there is talk of the early commencement of a tramway to Alem-dagh from Scutari. I may add that Smyrna, which does not wish to be behindhand, is now anxious to contract a loan, for which the Vali, Rahmi Bey, is negotiating. The projected Adrianople loan scheme has been dropped for the present.

The Refugees Problem.

Much ill-feeling has been caused not only among the Greeks, but among the Turks of Thrace, by the "dumping" in that very unfortunate province of a large number of Albanian "muhadjirs" from Novi-Bazar and the North of Ipek. The Turks have already petitioned the authorities to remove these immigrants, who, they say, are more accustomed to the mauser than to the spade, and show no signs of developing into anything but cattle-stealers. Some have been removed, and have been sent to Anatolia. Whether they will be received with transports of enthusiasm by the inhabitants of the districts where they are planted is doubtful indeed. Some of the Kirk-Kilissé Turks have openly expressed the opinion that the Government would be well advised to allow the expelled Bulgars of that region to come back, on the ground that now that Turkey and Bulgaria are friends they will not be a source of danger, and that as workers they are unsurpassed. These views are worth noting, as they confirm the opinions expressed by The Near East as to the economic unwisdom of the course which Turkey and the Balkan States are now pursuing with such fervour. Already many of the Rumeliot refugees are a burden to local charity. They work for short spells—long enough to get enough to keep their families alive for a few months and to buy tobacco, shoes, and a few other necessities—and then relapse into a dignified coma, to the great annoyance of their employers, who had hoped, trustful souls, that the curse of Anatolia, the shortage of labour, was going to be removed by the advent of thousands of fresh hands. Some of the refugees who have been settled on the land are working well, but, speaking generally, much time must elapse before any large proportion of them becomes self-supporting.

SALONIKA FREE ZONE.

A Greek correspondent writes:—While in Salonika (on the 1st inst.) Mr. Venizelos, in company with Mr. Ractivan, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Repoulis, Minister of the Interior, received Mr. Cleon Hatzilazaros, with a committee of leading citizens, to whom he said: "I am very glad that I have to make a very pleasant announcement to you. It has just been decided to construct the necessary works for the establishment of the free zone. The works in connection therewith will be begun within two months."

The zone will be constructed in accordance with the plans of Mr. Cronmer, the German engineer, who proposed for it a site of several acres beyond the Custom House.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 7.

The Khedive's Tour.

H.H. the Khedive arrived in Alexandria on Monday evening after a tour through the Delta which, to judge by the accounts to hand, was little short of triumphal. The most extraordinary efforts were made by the native notables whom he honoured with a visit to organise a fitting welcome, and to entertain him in what they considered the proper style. Vast sums were spent on special furniture, whole streets were decorated and illuminated; one notable managed to obtain the loan of some cannon and, on the arrival of His Highness at his estate, had a full salute fired; another is said to have served him coffee in a gold cup encrusted with jewels and worth several hundred pounds. These are only a few instances of the extremes to which the natives went, and it is no exaggeration to say that the amount spent privately on this week's entertainment must approach six figures. The receptions accorded the Khedive at the chief towns, Zagazig, Tanta—where with the Ministers he prayed at the Mosque of Said El Bedawi—Mansura, and Damanhour—where a great luncheon was given—were immense, and culminated in a warm welcome which he received on his arrival at Alexandria. One of the most remarkable effects which his tour has had has been an outburst of poetry, with which his enthusiastic subjects have flooded the vernacular press. Indeed, at well nigh every stopping place some local poet or his spokesman (very often a schoolchild) recited most eulogistic poems to His Highness, who must surely have been impressed by all this enthusiasm. To-day, the first reception of the season will be held in Alexandria at Ras-el-Tin Palace, and after that affairs will settle down to their normal condition. For the past week the Ministers have been engaged in a sort of chassée-croiseé across the Delta in the wake of the Khedive.

The Agricultural Co-operative Syndicates Bill.

The Assembly has resumed its sittings, but the question which prompted the adjournment—the Agricultural Co-operative Syndicates' Bill, which had been referred back to committee—has not yet been settled. It is understood that there are several important points on which the delegates do not see eye to eye with the Government; but no doubt some satisfactory compromise will be arrived at, for all agree on the excellence of the principles underlying the scheme, and its great utility.

Apropos of this measure, *El Moayad*, with whose position on the Egyptian political stage your readers are no doubt acquainted, published on Thursday a most violent article, in the course of which it accused the Occupation of having worked for the past thirty years in Egypt solely for its own ends. The writer declared that this Agricultural Syndicates Bill was nothing short of an inquisition, that it was intended to take away from the Egyptians the last shred of their personal liberty, which had already been slowly and steadily whittled away, since it gave the British Agent the power to control and know all the secrets of the Egyptians. The article particularly criticised Lord Kitchener, and called upon the Legislative Assembly to decline to have anything to do with the Bill.

The publication of this article by *El Moayad*—at the present juncture especially—came as a great surprise, and it was fully expected that the violence of its comments would call down on the heads of the owners the wrath of the powers that be, in the shape of some administrative action. But, as far as the outward eye can see, nothing has been done. That *El Moayad* perceived that it had made a false step is proved, however, by the fact that the following day it published an article, in which it pointed out that it had already written in favour of the project; that the previous day's article was written by a correspondent for whom it accepted no responsibility, and that it printed his contribution so that both sides of the question might be known to its readers. This explanation is, however, too thin to hoodwink anyone, and there appears but little doubt that a deliberate attempt was made to upset the whole policy of the Government, and shipwreck one of its most important measures.

Talking of the vernacular Press, it may be remembered that some few months ago I drew attention to the fact that one of the great London dailies was giving its moral support in the shape of a regular telegraphic service under its own name to a Cairo native paper, and that as the latter has always been noted for its anti-occupation policy, this combination had aroused considerable surprise and adverse criticism. Evidently my remarks have had some effect, for the arrangement in question has now been cancelled, and has been replaced by a service which no longer gives to this paper the cachet which its policy certainly never merited.

The Murder of Captain Fawcett.

The enquiry into the murder of Captain Fawcett still continues. The chain of evidence against Abdulla Hassan seems to be gradually drawing closer round him. A woman, said to be one of his wives, has come forward and stated that he came to her house at two o'clock on the morning of the crime with his foot and arms injured, whereas Abdulla Hassan declared that he had spent the night with his sister. Moreover, none of the tramway officials can prove his statement that he received his injuries in a tram accident at Mex. Of the two other men under arrest, one, Hussein Ahmed, is suspected of being an accomplice, but the other, Ahmed Bakr, is believed not to be implicated. The rope-merchant who sold the rope found on the premises can give no details of the purchaser. The cook has now been released, as it was evident that he was innocent, and that his contradictory evidence was due to fright.

The police maintain that Abdulla Hassan is the chief of a band of burglars, and that the motive for the murder was not revenge. They believe that he and his companions intended to break into the house of a rich old native, which adjoined Captain Fawcett's apartments. Either they mistook the house, or, as the houses were connected, they wanted to use the murdered man's rooms as a means of gaining access to those of the rich native, and, being interrupted, they attacked and killed the owner.

FAIRS v. FIELDS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 8.

Following on the fair at Tanta, which was attended by 65,000 people, we have the fair at Dessouk, which has so far drawn together 60,000 of the fellaheen. The Fellah pays small heed to his fields, which just now require close attention for the sake of the cotton crop, but goes off to amuse himself at the fairs. Unfortunately this year these fairs have not proved so beneficial as they usually do to the merchants, the Fellah not spending his money so freely as he generally does on these occasions.

LAND ALLOTMENT IN THE SUDAN.

One of the most useful works recently started by the Sudanese Government (says the *Sudan Times*) is the reopening of the Kamlin farm. It has there an area of 150 feddans in excellent condition for cultivation, with a pumping plant. This land has been apportioned among the natives of the district, whose crops failed last year. The land is rented to them at the rate of £E4 per feddan. The rent will be quite sufficient for running the pump and supplying the land with water. The cultivators expect to make a profit of £E15 on each acre, in the meantime making up for the shortage of grain from which they suffered.

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EGYPTIAN LEGISLATION.

The Judicial Adviser's Report.—II.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

Reference is made to the unsatisfactory number of cases the sentences in which had not been executed at the end of the year. "Steps will be taken to hasten the execution of these sentences, and in future more control must be exercised by the officials concerned to prevent recurrence of such delays in the execution of sentences." The series of criminal statistics is completed by some interesting figures comparing the degree of education, the profession and average age of criminals in Egypt with those of England and France. In regard to education, only 11 per cent. of male criminals in Egypt are literate, whilst all the female criminals are illiterate. In England 88.4 per cent. of the male and 82.9 per cent. of the female criminals are literate, and in France the proportions are 90.5 and 86.1 per cent. respectively. Under professions 56.2 per cent. of Egyptian criminals come from the agricultural class and 18.5 per cent. from the artisan and commercial class; in France the figures are 23.8 per cent. and 55.6 per cent. respectively. It is noteworthy that in both countries the proportion of officials and servants is practically the same. The most criminal age both for men and women is: in Egypt, from 15 to 25 years; in France, from 20 to 30 years; and in England, from 30 to 40 years.

The Judicial Adviser deals very thoroughly with the question of crime in Egypt and the motives underlying its persistent increase. Space does not permit of my summarising his remarks, which, indeed, would lose a good deal of their cogency and interest by condensation. He offers sound advice to both Parquet and judges on the question of the improvement of this unsatisfactory state of affairs. The former he recommends to arrive speedily on the scene of the crime, as "the only reliable testimony in this country is that which is obtained in the first twenty-four hours after the commission of a crime"; and he advises them to pay due regard to the comfort and convenience of witnesses during the inquiry, "a total disregard of which is sometimes observable and acts as a contributory cause of the general disinclination to assist the authorities." With regard to the judges, he advises them to "remember that it is their duty to pass really deterrent sentences, . . . and to treat witnesses and victims in such a manner as to encourage others to regard the tribunals as their natural protectors and not their enemies."

Mixed Tribunals.

There has been a general increase in business in the Mixed Courts during the past year, 26,876 new cases having been entered for trial as against 24,250 in the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that all the courts have dealt most effectively with this extra work. The Court of Appeal had to deal with 64, the Alexandria Court with 442, the Cairo Court with 328, and the Mansura Court with 1,369 more cases than during the preceding year; but, in spite of this, the arrears in all but the Mansura Court, which increased by 162, were reduced, those of the Appeal Court falling by 22 and those of the other two courts by 207 and 20 cases respectively.

A slight diminution in the number of judicial sales of real property is again recorded, but with regard to the proceedings for the distribution of the proceeds the position is still unsatisfactory. Although only 28 more new affairs were introduced and the courts made great exertions, the arrears increased by 144 cases. As the Judicial Adviser says, "Measures must plainly be adopted by the courts for dealing with this unsatisfactory state of affairs." Bankruptcies showed a marked decrease (380 as against 573), but Sir Malcolm is doubtful whether this is an indication of any great improvement in the economic situation. He inclines to agree with the Procureur-Général that this decrease may rather be attributed "to the new provisions of the judicial tariff, which require a deposit of £E12 for a declaration of bankruptcy."

In this connection the annual report of the Procureur-Général, which is in French and is annexed to the Judicial Adviser's report, contains some very apt and interesting observations. M. Eeman complains, very rightly, of the laxity of traders in the matter of allowing credit.

School of Law.

For the first time the Khedivial School of Law appears in the Judicial Adviser's report, this institution having been transferred from the Ministry of Education at the end of 1912. As was explained at the time in The Near East, "various reasons induced the Government to make this change, the principal one being the fact that the students of the School of Law are usually destined for a legal career, which will bring them in after life into more or less close contact with the Ministry of Justice," which is therefore better qualified to control and direct the studies. With this end in view a Council of Direction, consisting of the highest legal functionaries, has been created for the school. During 1913 there were 269 students, of whom only 48 were on the French side. Out of these only 51 failed at the examinations—or 18.9 per cent., as against 27 per cent. in 1912. The English section, again, headed the final diploma lists with five students. In the opinion of the examiners, "the students of last year showed themselves to be of superior calibre to those of the preceding year or even of the last few years." With regard to the external candidates, 49.18 per cent. failed at the examinations, and from what the Judicial Adviser writes and the quotations he makes from examiners' reports, it would appear that some restriction should be placed on the admission to the examinations of these students, who are very often unsuccessful ex-students of the school, and who, being employed in other occupations, cannot find the time necessary to proper study. Various modifications in the regulations and course of study, etc., have been made, and they should certainly have for result the infusion of "a more practical spirit into legal education," the discouragement of mere cramming, and of that "well-known and highly regrettable tendency of students to rely on their memories rather than on their brains," and the production of young graduates "better equipped for grappling successfully, whether as advocates or magistrates, with the difficult cases that present themselves in practice."

Legislation.

Owing to the alteration in the Organic Law last summer, the additions to the Native Statute Book were not as great in 1913 as in 1912, although many projects had been prepared. In addition to those already referred to in The Near East, there is under consideration a Code of Personal Status, giving to the Native Courts the administration of tutors, curators and procurators, which has been hitherto enjoyed by the Meglis Hasbys. This law, like the rest, has to await the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

With regard to Mixed Legislation, a law reforming certain portions of the procedure came into force on January 1st last. It suppressed the procedure known as *défaut faute de couverture*, under which a party could make default not only after appearing at the first hearing, but even after appearing at several successive hearings, and it made various amendments which should stop many of the present abuses. The Judicial Adviser, in pointing out that the creation of the Mixed Legislative Assembly has enabled various partial reforms to be introduced into the procedure, states that "even now it will be observed that that Assembly does not appear to be particularly disposed to make any very bold innovations in the existing procedure," but he closes with the hope that if the labours of the Commission that has been appointed to draft a new Code of Native Procedure prove successful, "the Mixed Procedure will, in due course, benefit thereby."

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 6.

Fighting in Epirus.

Although the negotiations between the Autonomous Government of Epirus and Major Thomson, representing the Albanian authorities, have led to an agreement on five of the seven points under discussion, hostilities between the Epirotes and the Albanians still continue. Last week the latter made a most determined attack on Argyrokastro, the headquarters of the Autonomous Administration. The assailants, to the number, it is believed, of some 2,000, succeeded in occupying the monastery of Tsepo, to the north of the town. The hierolochites fled before this unexpected onslaught, and spread panic far and wide. They were rallied, however, by a corps of Greek Garibaldians, under M. Romas, and in the end the Albanians were dislodged with loss, and seventy of them were captured. My informant tells me that among the killed was a Bulgarian officer, and he asserts that he heard orders given in Italian during the fighting and even saw an Italian flag in the field against the Epirotes. From the same source I learn that Akif Pasha has been instructed to march with 1,500 to assist in the defence of Koritza against the hierolochites, who are meditating an attack on that town. The Epirotes have succeeded in taking Herseg and Frasheri, which were handed over to the Albanian authorities at the time of their evacuation by the Greek regular troops. I gather that the result of this fighting has been rather to weaken the position of those who hope to settle the Epirote difficulty by negotiation, and fears are expressed that Essad Pasha Toptan may still endeavour to carry out his original plan of crushing the autonomist movement by a personal campaign at the head of his own men, which would make him master of Albania and place the Mpret completely under his control.

Internal Affairs.

The unsatisfactory reply of the Powers to the Hellenic Note on the question of evacuating Epirus and their polite refusal to guarantee Hellas in the possession of Chios and Mytilene, coupled with the distressing situation of the Greeks in Thrace and the news that Turkey has ordered a third Dreadnought, has greatly heartened the Opposition in its fierce attacks upon M. Venizelos's administration. It is possible for an outside observer to perceive that the unexpected success and unlooked-for aggrandisement of Greece must necessarily expose her to international jealousy and diplomatic intrigues, and that force of circumstances has compelled the Prime Minister to make certain sacrifices in Epirus and concessions in Salonika, but no competent observer can justly accuse M. Venizelos of diplomatic incapacity.

The Theotokists abuse the Prime Minister for not having definitely thrown in the lot of Greece with the Triple Alliance, while the Rallists cannot pardon him for having arrived at so good an understanding with Roumania, which is considered to be a satellite of that political combination. Both parties unite in upbraiding him for having yielded to Italian pressure in the matter of the Albanian frontier and in demanding what M. Venizelos means to do about Greek naval supremacy. Finally, even General Zorbas, the leader of the Military Revolution in 1909—who is now retired—has emerged to join in the attack on the Cretan patriot who overthrew all his precious schemes and restored to the headship of the Army the Diadoch, now King Constantine, whom the Military League had dismissed. These people accuse the Prime Minister of being a megalomaniac, regardless of the fact that he, probably alone in Greece, is capable of seeing clearly through the storm of difficulties which assails the country and of steering a moderate course.

Relations with the Porte.

Ghalib Kemaly Bey, the Ottoman Minister in Athens, has recently been displaying great activity in his endeavour to prove that the Moslems resident in Hellenic Macedonia are exposed to persecution and oppression. Doubtless his object is to secure a basis for his argument that the treatment meted out to Greeks in Thrace is purely by way of retaliation for Hellenic action towards the Turks in Macedonia. In spite of the manifest exaggerations which have been circulated by Ghalib Kemaly Bey, it must in all fairness be admitted that the state of Macedonia leaves much to be desired. This may, however, be charged to the shortcomings of the late régime, and is not entirely the fault of the Greek administrators. The Prime Minister is constantly working to improve matters in these new provinces, and much is expected from the appointment of the new Governor, General M. Sophoulis, from Samos.

ALBANIAN NATIONALISM AT KORITZA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Koritza, April 26.

Since my last letter the Koritza district has been quite quiet, and a considerable number of Christian volunteers are assisting the Albanian authorities in the policing of the town and neighbourhood. The inquiry into the recent outbreak is still being carried on, and the prefect, a local Christian, in view of the dangers which are expected owing to the machinations of the insurgent Epirotes, has requested that martial-law should be proclaimed. So far, however, he has not been authorised to do this from Durazzo. According to the evidence which has been collected by the Court of Inquiry, the recent *coup manqué* was undoubtedly inspired by the Hellenic authorities. The court is in possession of the names of all those Greek officers who raided up to the very gates of the town at the head of 300 regular troops and three machine-guns. It has been officially established that the raiders killed twenty-five Albanians and six Kutzo-Vlachs, and that they murdered two women. There are also thirty wounded. The Greeks had nearly sixty killed and a good many wounded; indeed, it is currently reported that no fewer than 150 wounded Greek soldiers retreated to Kastoria. The conspirators had secretly introduced a number of Greek comitajis into the town, but there were very few Albanians concerned in the rising, among the latter being the Metropolitan, Mgr. Germanos, and his kavass, Soulo. As I told you in my last letter, his All Saintliness was arrested and sent to Elbasan for trial, but as for Soulo, he was able to escape, although wounded. With the Bishop several members of the Diocesan Council were also arrested for having devoted themselves to the propaganda of political Hellenism instead of attending to the religious duties for which they had been elected. In order to put an end for good and all to the intrigues of Hellenizing ecclesiastics, the Orthodox inhabitants of Koritza have elected a new Diocesan Council and a Vicar to fulfil the functions of the Metropolitan. The Albanian liturgy, the use of which was forbidden in the days of the Turks and under the religious tyranny of the Greeks, has been adopted in the churches. The vicar and the newly elected Council have sent a petition to the Mpret imploring his Highness on no account to give way to the Greek pretensions.

The following is the text of the petition as sent to the Mpret by the Diocesan Council of Koritza:—

> We, the undersigned, in our capacity as representatives of the Orthodox Albanians at Koritza, have the honour to submit to your Majesty that we have learnt from foreign newspapers that Greece, under the pretext of guaranteeing our churches and our schools, has had the impudence to meddle with the internal affairs of Albania. If this news be true, we, as Albanian citizens, and as subjects of your Majesty, declare that we consider ourselves to be capable of looking after our own interests, and that we shall ask our own Government to meet our wishes, but that we shall never permit outsiders to have the right to interfere in matters relating to the moral and political independence of our nation as a whole and of our Orthodox Church in particular.

To-day, at a service celebrated in the Albanian language in the Church of St. George, two patriotic sermons were preached by the Vicar and by another priest.

The southern districts continue to be occupied by armed Greeks in the name of the somewhat comic "Autonomous Government" of Epirus, but the Netherlands officers in command of the Albanian gendarmerie assert in their official reports that practically all the comitajis are Greek regular soldiers under the command of men trained as officers in the Hellenic Army.

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, May 10.

Constitutional Revision.

The debate on the proposal for the revision of the Constitution was brought to an end on Friday last, May 5, when the proposal was voted in both Houses. The Conservative Party took no part, except in presenting, some days ago, a declaration generally condemning the idea, and declaring that expropriation is unnecessary, and that the time for an extended suffrage has not yet come.

Parliament was then adjourned till May 31, when the first elections for the Constituent Parliament begin. The Constituent Parliament will meet for the first time on June 18. It is expected that a Commission to study the question will then be chosen, and that Parliament will be prorogued till the autumn.

Roads in New Roumania.

In the Ministry of Public Works everything is being done to push forward the work on the high roads in the annexed territory and the improvement of those already existing. The three high roads:—(1) Turtukaia-Silistria, (2) Silistria-Dobritch, and (3) Dobritch-Constanza are to be completed this month, and those that are being repaired will also be ready for use. About 200 miles will be macadamized this season.

Postal Convention Signed.

The postal convention between this country and Servia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro was published on Tuesday. The prices fixed are: for telegrams, 5 centimes per word, with a minimum of 1 fr. A letter of 20 grammes 10 centimes; and for money orders 10 centimes per 25 frs. Press telegrams sent between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. will be taken at half-price.

The Cabmen of Bucharest.

A school for cabmen is to be provided in Bucharest. The sons of cabmen are to have all preference whilst driving, and the plan of the town is to be taught. A newspaper remarks that "It is hoped that the scholars will be instructed in the use of civil language, and not to behave as the present cabmen of Bucharest do, who are perhaps the most brutal and impertinent of any capital in Europe." This is indeed a most undeserved remark, the Bucharest cabmen, with some few exceptions, being wonderful drivers and very civil-spoken. Probably the writer lacks experience in such matters, and never has had a *rencontre* with a Vienna or Berlin "kutscher."

THE ROUMANIAN ARMY.

Reorganisation and Enlargement.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes that very important changes are to be made in the Roumanian Army by increasing the number of men called to the colours. Hitherto, for want of funds, four regiments of infantry possessed only two battalions in place of three, and these are now to be brought up to full strength. Up till now, for this reason, large numbers of recruits were sent back, and these will now be used to form forty new reserve battalions of infantry, so that the Roumanian Army will possess eighty reserve battalions of infantry, a most important reinforcement, as well as five regiments of field artillery (Nos. 21 to 25). These regiments will, on a peace footing, exist *en cadre*, and will serve on war footing as two reserve divisions for each Army Corps, and in connection with this reorganisation five new territorial commands, two cavalry division commands, and one Calarash (heavy cavalry) Brigade command will be created.

The 8th Calarash Regiment will be reorganised, and five light howitzer battalions in regiments of six batteries each will be added; the mountain artillery receives another battery, and each of the five Roshori (light cavalry) regiments, which hitherto have not possessed machine gun sections, will now have one each.

Further, the number of non-commissioned officers of higher grades is to be increased gradually, and a special school of instruction will be introduced, whilst the number of pupils in the various military schools will be sensibly increased.

The general treatment and pay of the rank and file is also to be increased. Sixteen million francs in this year's Budget is set aside for the above improvements. Other important work to be undertaken by the Ministry of War is:—

Artillery barracks at Dobritch, costing 380,000 frs.; cavalry barracks at Dobritch, costing 350,000 frs.; infantry barracks at Dobritch, costing 200,000 frs.; two barracks for infantry and artillery at Turtukaia (Tutrakan), costing 800,000 frs.; infantry barracks at Baltchik, costing 820,000 frs.; infantry barracks at Silistria, costing 220,000 frs.; infantry barracks at Cararua, costing 200,000 frs.; the total cost being, therefore, 2,970,000 frs.

The work, which must be completed in two years, is to be tendered for at the Ministry of War on May 11 and 12, O.S. A further 5,000,000 frs. is to be spent in the erection or repair of different barrack buildings in Roumania.

NEW SERVIA.

The Movement of Peoples.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)
Belgrade, May 11.

The migration of the population in the old Turkish provinces now occupied by Greece, Bulgaria, and Servia is certainly one of the questions of the moment in the Balkans, and I have therefore obtained the following official information concerning the emigration from New Servia:—

During the last fifteen months 250,000 Moslems have left the Balkans via Salonika. Of these, 90,000 have migrated from New Servia, but their numbers are continually increasing, carriage loads leaving every day at the rate of anything between 200 and 1,000 per diem. This migration will increase after the crops have been realised in August and September, and it is believed that when the three-year limit (during which time the Moslem Turks have to opt whether they will leave the country or become Servians) has come, at least two-thirds, or even four-fifths, of the Moslems will have left the country. In the absence of trustworthy statistics, and placing the population of New Servia at 1,600,000, of whom, roughly, half are Moslems, the population will, according to the above computation, have sunk to below one million. The Government, I am assured, is opposed to this migration, and to hinder it has forbidden the sale of land. Fares, however, on the railways have been reduced by one-half for these migrants.

To attract emigrants to New Servia, the Government offers land free under the following conditions: For every family, 5 hectares, but if it consists of more than one male an extra 3 hectares is given for every male over sixteen years of age; another 5 hectares is allowed to the emigrant possessing cattle or agricultural machinery. Fares to New Servia for these farmers are merely nominal. The land pays no taxes for three years, but cannot be sold until it becomes the absolute private property of the emigrant—that is to say, after he has been in possession fifteen years. It is anticipated that about 10,000 emigrants will return this year from America; and up to the present about 2,000 demands have been received from Slavonia, Croatia, and other Slav districts in Austria-Hungary.

Map of the Balkans.—The Royal Geographical Society publishes in the May number of the *Geographical Journal* a map of the Balkan Peninsula between 39° N. (Gulf of Arta) and about 45° N. (Ploesti and the extreme north of Servia), with the latest boundaries shown in colour. The boundaries are based upon the Treaties of Bucharest and Constantinople, and a proper hesitation is shown as to the temporal sovereignty over Mount Athos. Some of the proposed railways are shown in addition to all the existing lines. The map indicates mountains in brown, and is not overloaded with names, but no regular system appears to have been followed in the nomenclature.

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NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 9.

The Chamber and the Late Wars.

Yesterday the Chamber began a debate upon a proposal to institute a Parliamentary Commission to inquire how far the Gueshoff and Daneff Cabinets were responsible for the disasters through which the country lately passed. The motion having been duly proposed, M. Karakasheff, a Stambolovist deputy, suggested that the Commission should first inquire whether the treaty concluded with the Balkan States corresponded to Bulgaria's national ideals and was to her advantage; and demanded a strict inquiry into the undertakings entered into by the Government after the battles of Lozengrad and Lule Burgas. The leader of the "Narrow" Socialists, M. Blagoeff, demanded that the scope of the inquiry should be extended to include the preparations for war. He severely criticised the Russophile policy of the Gueshoff and Daneff Cabinets, and censured the conclusion of secret treaties with Russia, which brought nothing but harm to Bulgaria. M. Kirkoff, Socialist, who spoke next, wished that inquiry should also be made as to the responsibility of the King for the nation's misfortunes. The debate will probably last over another four or five sittings.

To-day printed copies of the regular Budget for 1914 were distributed to the deputies, and the Budget debate will begin as soon as the present one is concluded. In this year's Budget, for the first time, an item of 240,000 leva (£9,600) figures in the Budget for the appanage of Crown Prince Boris.

The Bulgarian Church in the Dobruja.

After closing the Bulgarian schools in the Dobruja and driving away the teachers, the Roumanian administrative authorities turned their attention to the churches, handed them over to Roumanian priests, and expelled the Bulgarian. A deputation of the latter have waited on the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, and made urgent representations to him upon the serious situation and lack of religious freedom in the Dobruja.

Refugees from Asia Minor.

The stream of Bulgarian refugees from Asia Minor continues unabated. Yesterday the Bulgarian liner "Bulgaria" disembarked at Dedeagatch a further 850 of these poor people, 650 from Panderma and the rest from Kuleli Burgas. They state that the Turks in Asia Minor have lately begun to persecute them and rob them, apparently with the express object of driving them to emigrate.

The Queen's Postponed Visit to the U.S.

In view of the trouble between the United States and Mexico, Queen Eleanor has postponed her visit to the former country. As soon as her purpose of visiting America was known, the Greek colony in the States began an active agitation, distributing leaflets containing attacks on Bulgaria and charges against the correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkan Peninsula. These tactics have aroused much indignation among the Americans resident in this country, who have drawn up a manifesto strongly protesting against them, and denying the unfounded accusations.

Russia and Bulgaria: Remarkable Telegrams.

A great sensation has been caused by disclosures made regarding the exchange of some remarkable telegrams hitherto known to very few people here. Immediately after the victories at Lule Burgas the Tsar of Russia sent to King Ferdinand a telegram saying: "Your troops are still safe and your banks still hold plenty of money. Turn your attention and forces towards Macedonia, the object of this war. Conclude peace with Turkey." To this King Ferdinand is reported to have replied that the prestige of the nation and of the dynasty would suffer if he followed the course suggested; that he was obliged to go forward by the enthusiasm that had taken possession of the Army, otherwise the dynasty would fall. Then the Tsar, through M. Nekludoff, replied that henceforth the Bulgarians must do as they pleased, but without profit, since they had allowed themselves to go further than the earlier conventions between Russia and Bulgaria warranted.

NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 1.

The "Limassol Week" was moderately successful. The programme was a full one, the chief attractions being the races and the sports. The weather was not all that could have been expected for the time of year, and heavy rain—which, however, benefited the course—necessitated postponing the first day of the race meeting to the 22nd. The attendance on both the 22nd and 23rd was fairly, though not exceptionally, good; but the entries were few. Captain Orr's Messoud again carried all before him, and has enhanced his reputation. Among other runners whose performances in the future will be watched with interest are Ref-Ref, Aris, Baghdad, Zephyros II., and Kildare. It is hoped to see them among the entries at the November meeting at Nicosia.

The Pan-Cyprian athletic sports attracted large crowds, and continued daily from the 23rd to the 26th. Some of the events were hotly contested, but several were devoid of interest to the ordinary spectator.

An animal and agricultural show was held on the 24th and 25th, but owing to the more exciting fixtures for that week, which claimed the time and attention of all, it was somewhat crowded out, and fell a good deal behind the one held at Limassol three years ago, when the late Mr. C. Sozos was the life and soul of the local organising committee.

H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Goold Adams were at Limassol for the week, and, in addition to the principal events, at which they were present, had a full programme of minor semi-official engagements. Among other visitors were the Chief Secretary, Captain Orr, and Mrs. Orr.

The Legislative Council reassembled on the 28th ult., and progress, even though slow, is presumably being made with the Estimates.

TABRIZ "TOWN IMPROVEMENTS."

Tabriz, April 1.

M. Orloff, the new Russian Consul-General, proposes to have the streets of Tabriz paved with stone and widened. These streets are dusty in summer and muddy in winter. The Consul-General proposes to pay the expenses of paving, etc., by a voluntary subscription from the citizens of something over 20,000 tomans; and he thinks that with a little persuasion he could collect 60,000 tomans. He can do it easily. The Persians could pay that sum without feeling that they had lost a shahi. Shuja-ed-Dowleh alone could subscribe 100,000 tomans and fill his purse again from some other source. All the land-owners whose lands face the main streets, and who intend building shops or stores, have been informed that they must move the foundations of the old walls two yards (one Persian arshin) back, so that the streets may become wider gradually.

M. Orloff intends to spend part of the 60,000 tomans (or more) for lighting the streets at night. The work of paving and widening, etc., has been entrusted to an Armenian named Stepan Khan Eliazarian (who is also assistant to the mayor). The Consul-General and the Khan were driving the other day in a carriage through the streets, and making arrangements to start the work as soon as possible.

Mirza Firooz Khan.

FRENCH NATURAL SPARKLING TABLE WATER.

Perrier

"The Champagne of Table Waters."

KEEPS YOU FIT.

HOT CLIMATES.—Perrier, now famous all over the world, is the ideal drinking water for hot climates. Its delicacy and vigour stimulate the digestion and brace up the system.

P.C.B.

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NOTES FROM PERSIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Teheran, April 27.

The remains of Major Count Erik Lewenhaupt and Major Hesn es Saltaneh were brought into Teheran from the Bagh-i-Shah yesterday morning. An escort was provided by the Gendarmerie, the Cossack Brigade, and the Police, followed by the band of the Gendarmerie playing a funeral march. Immediately in front of the two hearses, which were covered with wreaths, rode the Swedish officers, and the chief mourners followed after, with the Turkish Ambassador and the representatives of the foreign Legations and the officials of the Persian Government.

On Sunday a service was held at the Atabeg Palace in memory of Count Lewenhaupt. After a solo anthem had been sung by Mme. Andin, the first portion of the burial service was read by the Rev. J. L. Potter, D.D., the head of the American Mission in Teheran. General H. Hjalmarson, Chief Instructor of the Gendarmerie, then delivered an impressive oration, at the close of which he advanced to the coffin and placed thereon the Service Medal of the Persian Empire. Major Borrell also gave an address on behalf of his brother officers, and the brief service terminated with the playing of the Swedish National Anthem by the band of the gendarmerie. The remains of Count Lewenhaupt will be taken to Sweden during the course of the present week.

General Hjalmarson left for Europe on leave this morning.

It is reported that Nizam-es-Saltaneh, who, it was recently stated, had accepted provisionally the Governorship of Luristan, will shortly leave Teheran to take up the post.

PROGRESS AT MESHED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, April 16.

"A Time of Peace and Quiet."

For some months past the city of Meshed has been quiet on the surface. What developments may be going on secretly are not matters of common talk among the people, though we often hear remarks to the effect that it is about time for something to happen after so long a time of peace and quiet.

But peace and quiet do not necessarily mean that there are no changes going on. The *personnel* of the foreign colony has largely changed. Colonel Percy Molesworth Sykes, C.M.G., C.I.E., the traveller, explorer, and writer, who was British Consul-General here for about eight years, has been succeeded by Colonel T. W. Haig, C.M.G., the well-known author and eminent Orientalist, and the entire staff of the British Consulate-General has changed within a year. Mr. Eldrid, who was for several years manager of the English Bank, has been succeeded by Mr. Wilkinson. The Belgian chief of the Revenue and Customs Departments has gone, and those departments are now administered by the staff who were here at the time of his departure. Prince Dabija, the Russian Consul-General, after thirty-five years' service in Persia, is retiring this spring, and I am told that M. Nickolsky will be transferred from Kermanshah to replace him. Among the Persians also there have been changes. There is a new Karguzar, and a new Military Commander.

The Russian garrison remains about the same strength, and about 200 time-expired men were recently replaced by new men. At present there are about 200 Russian soldiers and officers and two machine guns, with an additional thirty men in Meshed, 100 guarding the road to the Russian frontier, and another 100 soldiers at Kuchan. All told, there are between three and four thousand Russian subjects in Meshed, including officials, soldiers, merchants, tradesmen, artisans, etc.

Town Improvements.

There have been improvements in the physical aspects of the city. There has always been a public square in the north-west quarter of the town, which was an eyesore for many years because it was uncared for and used as a dumping ground for refuse of all kinds. It was here that public executions took place. The gallows has been removed and the square cleaned up, and recently the Government has made walks around the four sides of it, erected a bandstand in the centre—where Persian musicians discourse heartrending music every afternoon—planted trees along the four walks, made flower beds in the centre around the bandstand; and lamp-posts have been erected around the sides of the square, and the bandstand hung with lamps, so that at night it has a very good appearance. The populace take advantage of this open-air space, and every afternoon about sunset, and on Thursdays, Fridays, and on holidays especially, it is thronged with a motley crowd of men and boys. A wide avenue has been opened leading from one corner of the public square past the British Consulate-General towards the bazaars. Facing on this avenue, a large portion of the garden attached to the Governor-General's palace has been thrown open as a public park, and its old mud wall replaced with a neat iron fence set on a low wall of masonry. A systematic organisation for sweeping the streets has been introduced, and this part of the city is kept fairly clean. All these improvements add much to the general appearance of this part of the city, and no doubt contribute something to better sanitation.

An Attractive City.

A new building is being erected on the north side of the public square for the Post Office and Telegraph Office. As one comes from the bazaar and follows along this new avenue passing along the side of the square, a short distance beyond the square brings him to the city entrance, which is known as the Arc Gate. Here there used to be an ordinary city gate, the gate itself, the street leading out of it, and the bridge over the moat, just outside, all being dangerously narrow. Serious accidents occurred at this place from time to time. But all this has been changed. The street has been widened, the gate has been done away with, and in its stead two round towers of white brick and good appearance have been built to mark the entrance into the city; a new and wide bridge has been built over the moat; and wide avenues are being constructed leading from the gate to the north, the west, and the south. Land is being walled in, and undoubtedly the expansion of Meshed is to be in this direction. The north-west part of the city is where practically all the foreigners live, and is sometimes spoken of as the Russian quarter. This quarter, with its well-kept park and public square, wide avenue, good entrance, avenues outside, and stone-paved, well-swept streets inside, presents a more attractive appearance than I know of in any other city of Persia. Living as we have been these last years, midst the groans and death agonies of poor old Persia, it is pleasant to write something on the brighter side of life, even though it may have only a local interest or value.

I may say that the climate of Meshed is splendid. It is not too hot in summer, and is refreshingly cold for a short time in winter, the thermometer sometimes going down to eight degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. Just at present the spring weather is beautiful. We have had an abundance of rain, and it almost seems as if one can see things grow from day to day. The crops ought to be good this year. The expense of living in Meshed is high, and has noticeably increased during the past two years. Fuel is a prominent item in living expenses. Wood is commonly used, and as there are no forests near it is getting very scarce. There seem to be deposits of coal within easy reach of the city, but the enterprise to work them is lacking.

The Elections in Meshed.

The election of deputies from Meshed for the new Parliament has not yet taken place. The city is allowed to return fourteen deputies, and it is said that as many as 400 men aspire to election. They are from all classes, including ecclesiastics, merchants, and officials. I am unable to say how many of these men, if any, are inspired by the proverb, "Deputyship is the ladder to Ministership."

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NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, May 2.

Easter Celebrations.

Now that the Easter ceremonies are over, Jerusalem is beginning to settle down again to a quiet life. The unusual number of visitors, pilgrims, and travellers has been a great boon to the city after the two lean years of war, when people were afraid to visit Palestine because Turkey was at war, though they were hardly safer in Europe or more distant from the seat of action than we were here. This year for Eastertide, in addition to the great number of travellers from Egypt, Europe, and America, there were about 12,000 Russian pilgrims, over 1,000 Armenians, 1,000 Copts, and many Greeks and Bulgarians in the Holy City, as well as many Jews, who came for the Passover (April 10). The crowds at the wonderful Greek Church ceremonies of the Washing of the Feet and the Holy Fire were extraordinary. As such numbers of fasting and excitable pilgrims entail extra anxiety upon the authorities, the Government sent in 200 soldiers from Damascus, but there was not even one small flare-up from first to last. This is surely a tribute equally creditable to the pilgrims' self-control and the good temper of the troops keeping order, who get considerably more shoves and blows than they give. The Greek Easter was celebrated with all its usual magnificence in Jerusalem, in striking contrast to the sombreness and almost mourning that marked it at Constantinople, where the present state of Greek subjects in Epirus and elsewhere seemed entirely to outweigh the Easter rejoicings. The absence of all the usual pomp and festivities at Constantinople has caused much comment, and is certainly remarkable.

Selim Bey's Flight.

The Turkish aeroplane carrying Selim Bey has safely reached Jerusalem from Beyrout early this morning. Everyone is rejoicing that Turkish pluck and perseverance in this department has met with success. As a matter of fact, the townspeople have been saying lately that if only Turkey would pay less attention to airships and more to her distressed and neglected subjects it would be more satisfactory in the end.

The Question of a Water Supply.

A welcome fall of rain last week has brought up our rainfall to 17 ins.—bad enough, but the crops in many places have been saved. At Hebron the rainfall is only 15½ ins., as against the previous lowest record of 16½. The drinking water supply will soon become a matter for acute anxiety. As it is, the townspeople were buying water in January, whereas in an ordinary year this is not necessary before July or August. Christians, Moslems, and Jews all united in praying for rain, and the recent falls (heavier in April than in January) have wonderfully lightened the anxiety for the future. The distress in the country is only equalled by the prevailing apathy of the people, who have almost given up hoping for better times; and when a report from Beyrout reached us that the French had seized the town and country round no one seemed even excited at the idea.

Jewish Hospitals.

Tidings of Jewish activity come from Jaffa and Haifa. At Jaffa the Jews are said to be establishing an ophthalmic hospital; and at Haifa Baroness de Rothschild is presenting an hospital to the Jewish colony, towards the upkeep of which she will personally contribute 6,000 francs annually. There is already a splendid English hospital at Haifa, founded in 1890 by the present Bishop in Jerusalem, Bishop Blyth, and most ably worked by Dr. D. A. Coles and a small but devoted staff; but Haifa is a growing place, and if the Jews gather their sick into their own wards there will undoubtedly be more room for the Gentiles, who come from all parts of the country and from great distances to be under English treatment.

A Typhus Outbreak.

There is a bad outbreak of typhus in the prison at Jerusalem. Some of the patients have been removed to hospital for treatment, and others are in a quarantine hospital near the Mount of Olives, or rather in a building used for the purpose.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Greeks in Albania. May 7.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that, in spite of the decisions of the London Conference and the Frontier Commission, the Koritza district is being attacked by Greek forces with cannon, and that the Albanian gendarmerie has been obliged to withdraw, and that in the Kolonia district many villages have been burned and women and children killed; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

Sir E. Grey: I have received reports to the effect referred to, but the information which reaches his Majesty's Government from different sources is very contradictory, and they are not in a position to check its accuracy. According to the statement of the Greek Government all their troops have been withdrawn, and are now within the new frontier. The International Commission of Control, at the invitation of the Albanian Government, are endeavouring to secure a settlement of the disorder.

Pillaging by Montenegrins. May 11.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had received any information from our Consul in the district regarding the fate of Hoti and Gruda, and whether he would use the good offices of the Government to suggest to the Montenegrin Government that they should compensate those inhabitants of Hoti and Gruda whom they had driven from their homes and who had been forced to flee for safety to Scutari, or to reinstate them, and rebuild their houses which the Montenegrin troops had burned and pillaged.

Mr. Acland (Under-Secretary): I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon. member of April 27 (reported in The Near East). I have no information on which I could base action such as that suggested by the hon. member.

Crucifixion of Albanians.

Mr. Herbert also asked the Foreign Secretary if he proposed to make any statement with regard to the reported crucifixion of Albanians captured by the Greek Epirotes.

Mr. Acland: I have no information on this subject.

Moslems in Thrace. May 7.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert also asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps the Government intended to take regarding the recent memorandum addressed to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers by the Porte dealing with the ill-treatment of Moslems in the ceded territories of Thrace, notably in the territory of Karajova; and whether 163,000 Moslems had been compelled to leave their ancient homes through this ill-treatment since November, 1912, and that mosques and cemeteries were being profaned and burned.

Sir Edward Grey: No such memorandum has as yet reached his Majesty's Government. Large numbers of Moslems have left the ceded territories during the past year, but I have no official information as to the outrages referred to by the hon. member.

Russia in Persia. May 12.

Mr. Ponsonby asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the approaching coronation of the Shah, his Majesty's Government would urge the Russian Government to withdraw their expeditionary force from Northern Persia in fulfilment of official pledges already given, in order that the Shah might be enthroned as ruler of a country the sovereignty and integrity of which was not seriously impaired.

Mr. Acland: The Russian Government have previously given assurances regarding the Russian troops in Persia, of which the recent withdrawals of over 2,600 men from Kazvin and of some 500 men from Tabriz are a practical illustration, but it can hardly be urged that all the Russian troops should be completely and suddenly withdrawn until it is evident that this would not be followed by any outbreaks of disorder in the north of Persia such as have recently occurred in the south.

Sir G. Scott Robertson: Can the hon. gentleman say where the money is to come from for this ceremony, and is he aware that the Government of Persia is in grave financial difficulties just now?

Mr. Acland: I am sorry to say I am aware of that. I wish I could make some suggestion, but money is very hard to get just now.

Mr. Ponsonby further asked the Foreign Secretary whether he had any information with regard to the emigration on a large scale of Russian peasants and farmers from Turkestan and from European Russia into Northern Persia; whether Russian commissioners had been appointed to regulate and organise the settlement of these Russian emigrants; and what amount of land had been acquired for this purpose by Russians in the valleys of the Gurgen and the Atrek.

Mr. Acland: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As to part two, I understand that a superintending emigration officer and other officials have been deputed to inspect the territory to which the emigrants have proceeded. On the third part of the question I have no information.

Alleged Outrage on Moslems.

Mr. Pike Pease, on behalf of Sir J. D. Rees, asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give the House any information regarding the alleged burning and crucifixion of Moslem Albanians by Epirote insurgents.

Mr. Acland: It is reported that some villages have been burnt and the inhabitants in one instance killed; this, if true, is sufficiently distressing. I have no information at all confirming reports of crucifixion.

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Treaty of Bucharest.

Replying to Mr. Aubrey Herbert, who asked whether Great Britain had yet signified her assent to the Treaty of Bucharest, and, if so, what were the conditions on which that assent had been given, Sir E. Grey said: "His Majesty's Government are in communication with the Powers on this subject. Different views are held by the Powers as to whether express recognition of recent territorial changes is required, and, if so, in what form and on what conditions it should be given."

A Consul's Speech.

May 12.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he could now inform the House what disciplinary measures had been enforced against Mr. Consul-General Eyres for his anti-Turkish speech.

Mr. Acland (Under-Secretary): This matter is still under consideration.

Trans-Persian Railway.

Dr. Addison asked whether an opportunity would be given for the House of Commons to discuss the question of the Trans-Persian Railway before the Government came to any decision in the matter.

Mr. Acland: I should hope so, before any final decision, in view of the importance of the matter.

Dr. Addison: Is there any undertaking, direct or indirect, that this Government will participate at all?

Mr. Acland: I do not think so. The general discussion is still going on.

Dr. Addison: Are we to understand that we are entirely free from any commitments in the matter?

No answer was returned.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SERVIAN FOR ENGLISHMEN.*

Mr. Petrovitch has now added to the three grammars with which his countrymen are assisted in the learning of English, French, and German a fourth for the benefit of Englishmen and Americans who wish to acquire the Servian language, a tongue which, as the author points out, is spoken by some 8,000,000 free Serbs, inhabiting the kingdoms of Servia and Montenegro, and Croats in Hungary, Dalmatia, and Bosnia. Whether the Kyrillic alphabet be used by the Orthodox Serbs or the Latin by the Roman Catholic Croats, the language is the same, and has the great advantages of being pronounced as it is spelt and spelt as it is pronounced. Arranged on the well-known Gaspey-Otto-Sauer method, Mr. Petrovitch's grammar very soon escapes from the necessary Ollendorfian platitudes on which tradition demands that all knowledge of a foreign language should be based, and encourages the student to acquire an insight into Servian history and ballads in the process of translating from one language into the other. There are numerous reading exercises, combining practice in the use of both alphabets with information about Servian writers and literature, and Mr. Petrovitch has very wisely included a number of examples of the Kyrillic cursive-script. A double vocabulary of some size is included, but we should like to see a chapter for the use of commercial travellers included in the next edition, and a strengthening of the vocabulary by the insertion of more mercantile and financial terms.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

We have received a copy of the second edition of "The Book of Ruth" in Hebrew, published by the Manchester University Press. This edition is a reprint of the first, the vowels being omitted from the text in order that the student may practise putting them in himself. The addition of blank pages, with a suitable writing surface, opposite the text, and intended to serve for notes, should enhance the usefulness of the book.

Mr. Allister Macmillan has lately spent four months in the island of Malta, the object of his visit being to collect material for a book on Malta and Gibraltar which will be an important addition to the series of Empire publications issued by the house of Macmillan. We understand that Mr. Macmillan has obtained the services of some of the best writers in the island, who will deal with various special aspects of Maltese life with intimate and expert knowledge. The illustrations should prove of special interest, for Mr. Macmillan took away with him a collection of excellent photographs.

* "Servian Conversation Grammar," by Woislav M. Petrovitch, Heidelberg, Julius Gross. London: David Nutt, 212, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C. 4s.

We have received Vol. III., Part II., of "The Agricultural Journal of Egypt," and it must be said that the new number maintains the high standard which earlier numbers set. There are three important articles relating to the subject of the pink boll worm, and the methods of destroying that destructive pest. We have nothing but praise for the useful tables and diagrams, and the two really beautiful coloured plates with which the text is illustrated. One of these plates shows the various stages in the life history of the common boll worm in such a way that identification should not be difficult. The other is also useful, showing insects affecting cotton, dates, and pomegranates. Other well-written and practical articles deal with "Tree Planting in Provincial Towns," "The Cultivation of Plums in Egypt," and "Sweet Potatoes," together with useful Botanical, Etymological, and Mycological Notes.

On May 28 Messrs. Smith, Elder will publish an illustrated volume entitled "Travel and Politics in Armenia," by Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and the Rev. Harold Buxton. Lord Bryce has written an introduction, and Mr. Aram Raffil has contributed chapters on Armenian history and culture.

"The Curse of the Nile," a volume by Douglas Sladen, which, originally published at 6s., ran into several editions, is shortly to be republished at 2s. by Mr. Stanley Paul. Mr. Sladen is at present engaged upon another work dealing with the Near East, and is preparing a book entitled "How to See Egypt," which will be published by Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. during the autumn. Mr. Sladen is a master of descriptive writing, and his work on Italy is the standard *vade mecum* of the Englishman in that country.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Orient Express. By Arthur Moore, F.R.G.S. (Constable and Co., Limited. 7s. 6d. net.)

L'Asia Minore e l'Italia. By Giuseppe Bevione. (Fratelli Bocca, Turin. 3.50 lira. Broché. 220 pp.)

DISCOVERIES IN BABYLONIA.

In connection with the Victoria Institute, Dr. T. G. Pinches delivered a lecture on the latest discoveries in Babylonia at the Royal Society of Arts recently. Dealing with the Creation stories, he said the results of Babylonian conceptions concerning the origin of the Universe and the life therein seem to have been three—the two principles of evil with whom Creation originated on the one side, and Merodach and the good and just Gods of heaven who created mankind "to redeem" (seemingly) Tiawath, Apsu, and their evil offspring and followers on the other. Discussing the inscriptions discovered at Niffer, the lecturer considered that it is probable that all the Flood legends are much older than the time when they were written. The third tablet contains on the much-effaced obverse the names of the kings immediately after the Flood. In the opinion of the lecturer it seems not unlikely that the Babylonian chronological document will prove to be a completion of that recognised by George Smith among the treasures of the British Museum in 1873. As to the newly discovered tablets of Erech, it was probable that a hundred thousand more at least awaited discovery. As far as Dr. Pinches had been able to examine them, the new inscriptions were of the later period of Babylonian history, and were mostly trade documents, generally or often mentioning transactions connected with the religious life of the place. The small collections embraced the period from Nabopolassar to the period of the Seleucidæ. As to how the temples of Babylonia obtained their great riches, he considered they came from the offerings of the faithful. The histories of the Babylonian temples had yet to be written, but if the material accumulated as it was now doing this would be possible before long, and many would be the revelations as to their resources.

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The American Press, Beyrout; The Nile Mission Press, Cairo.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE ISLANDS OF THE ÆGEAN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In your number of May 1, "Macedonicus," in replying to Mr. Simmons, makes what appears to me a very arrogant and, may I say, impertinent remark. Referring to Mr. Simmons, he says: "It is curious to find that Turkey still has such doughty champions as your correspondent. Perhaps if he had seen the Near East at as close quarters as I have he would be less ardent in his support."

What precisely does "Macedonicus" mean? That everyone who sees the Near East at as close quarters as he comes to a point of view unfavourable to the Turks? Such a statement would be so glaringly opposed to facts as not to be worthy of a contradiction. In reality the opposite of this is the case—that Turkey's friends in Europe (and they are not a few, and are, I believe, increasing) are nearly all men who are intimately acquainted with the Near East. It is my personal experience that among the European society in Turkey those who have travelled and seen most of the Near East are the most favourably disposed to Turkey. Her enemies are very frequently those in whose eyes is the beam of prejudice.

As for "Macedonicus's" vaunting of the Greeks' naval prowess, it must be obvious to all that her fleet has had a wonderfully easy war. By the sole lucky fact of their having bought the "Averoff" in time the Greeks were in a position to prevent the Turkish fleet—which contained no strong modern unit—from coming out of the Dardanelles. The rest was a rather pleasant and gratifying sail round. It does not say much for Greek seamanship that a solitary cruiser of the enemy—and that a damaged one—was able to range for months over the Eastern Mediterranean without being caught. As for the future, who can tell? Greece is not the only country who is making efforts and sacrifices to strengthen her navy.—

Yours, etc.,

Constantinople, May 8. C. MAYO.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—"Macedonicus," in his letter from Cairo of the 17th ult., published in your issue of the 1st inst., says that Mr. B. Simmons' letter of the 3rd ult. is "interesting if not quite convincing." May I be permitted to retort that "Macedonicus's" own letter is not only unconvincing, but is full of that vague abuse of Turkey which has been used so freely in the past, but which—especially in view of the great efforts that the Ottoman Government has been and is making in the direction of reforms and of the notable results which have already been achieved, in spite of five years of war and calamities, since the establishment of the Constitution—is not only unfair, but defeats its own object when Greece and the Greeks are held up as an example and, if you please, as the proper successors to the Ottoman Empire.

Is there *no* limit to the calm self-complacency and insufferable self-righteousness with which a certain section of Greeks and their sympathisers persist in comparing Greece and its people with the Turks? I and all other well-wishers of the Ottoman Empire can, of course, find much to criticise in many departments of life and administration in Turkey; but, on the other hand, there is also very much to be admired and encouraged. Does "Macedonicus" really think Greece perfect in government, administration, etc., etc.? If so there is really no use in arguing with him. Your issue of the 1st inst. in two places ("The Situation at Salonika," on page 828, and the paragraph beginning "Philhellenes and lovers of religious freedom," under Current Comments on page 829) are only two examples of many and sweeping charges that can be made from the opposite point of view. If, however, he admits that Greece and the Greeks are *not* perfect, let him take up a less strenuous attitude. Turkey welcomes fair and helpful criticism; but you will, I think, agree that that of "Macedonicus" is neither. I could, if I did not desire to spare your space, point out that his line of reasoning with regard to land and sea forces in connection with the taking of Chios and Mytilene is incorrect; for, briefly, if Greece had been fighting Turkey single-handed she would have been far too busy nearer home to have been able to bother about capturing a couple of islands. I cannot, also, I fear, enter into the spirit of "Macedonicus's" raptures about the repetition of "glorious victories of old"—they are beside the mark. I am only sure of one thing, and that is that Greece would be very ill-advised to tackle Turkey without assistance. It is one thing to wage war on a more or less unprepared enemy in company with powerful allies, but quite another to act alone.

I fear also that "Macedonicus" will not find many to sympathise with him in his emotion at the fall of the Greek Empire under Constantine. History shows, I think, pretty clearly that the Greek Empire practically fell to pieces owing to its inner corruption and lack of cohesion and warlike spirit. The religious tyranny displayed by its rulers to any but their own particular form of faith had its full share in the *débacle*, whereas the toleration shown by the Moslems won them numerous bloodless surrenders (I need only quote as an authority for this Arnold's "The Preaching of Islam.")

If, therefore, Greece pretends to be a suitable heir to the Throne of the Osmanlis she will have to first learn to be tolerant of other religions and nationalities than her own, and, so far, she does not seem to have succeeded very well in this. Your correspondent himself, in his very letter of praise of the Greeks, shows himself full of intolerance of one kind by his statement that "Turkey is doomed" and his "failing to see the necessity" of Turkey's continued existence. Is this the language of conciliation or true diplomacy with regard to a nation which has so lately suffered the severest of misfortunes and yet is now full of enthusiasm for progress and doing its best to take the place which belongs to it of right both historically and by virtue of the deep-seated religion of its population?

History will show that Turkey is very far indeed from being moribund, and I should think that the very endurance she has shown in her hours of trial would be sufficient proof of this. Now that the road of progress is once again open to her she ought to be able to count at least on benevolent neutrality in the people of other nations; but it would appear that nothing will satisfy the extremists amongst Greek sympathisers but the extinction, forcibly, if necessary, of the Turk. This is a pity, for the wish is doomed to disappointment. Turkey is very unlikely to be extinguished—certainly not by Greece.

Let me, in conclusion, ask your correspondent to try and draw a little more distinction between Turkey under the old régime (when the nation was oppressed under an absolute despotism that crushed all attempts at progress) and the new Turkey since the Constitution. Let me also ask him to cease taking a part in that unfair abuse and lack of fair play which have so distinguished the Balkan nations who, themselves, took in vain the name of Christianity by masking under a hypocritical pretence of religion their own sordid territorial ambitions, and who cannot even now accord fellow Christians that religious toleration as to which they presume to preach to Turkey.—Yours, etc.,

Constantinople, May 7, 1914. ARTHUR P. TULLY.

THE THRACIAN PERSECUTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Those of your readers who are interested in and in touch with recent events in the Balkans will have read the letter of "A Member of the Ottoman Association" of May 1 with somewhat mixed feelings. He states, referring to the Hon. Pember Reeves' letter, that "it is almost criminal to appeal to the sentiment of the public, etc."

I have before me Pierre Loti's "Turkey in Agony," which, I note, is published for the Ottoman Committee (I do not know if the Ottoman Association and Committee are synonymous, but no doubt their objects are identical). While it is impossible, from an artistic point of view, not to admire the sentiments and picturesque pen pictures of M. Pierre Loti, it is equally impossible not to realise that his writings express sentiment and sentimentality only. If anybody will trouble to study carefully the history of the Balkan Peninsula from early times up to the present day he will find that M. Pierre Loti tends to create a very inaccurate impression on people's minds. Your correspondent appears to object to others doing the very thing he is doing himself.

Again, your correspondent writes: "While scores of thousands of Moslems were murdered in cold blood *we were silent* . . . the last would have been heard of the lies disseminated by the so-called Christians of the Balkans." First, as regards figures: no doubt it has been difficult to compile accurately the total death-roll from all causes during the recent wars. Personally I think it would be a great exaggeration to speak of the published estimated figures as "scores of thousands." When one has the numbers of combatants of each nation who were killed or died deducted from the total I do not think it leaves many scores of thousands of murdered Moslems with which your correspondent may harrow our feelings.

Perhaps he can support his statement by actual figures, which would be very interesting.

As regards the words "we were silent," I do not know who the cryptic "we" may be, but I conclude it is the "Ottoman Association." If your correspondent will turn up the files of newspapers of the late summer and autumn of last year he will find that the pro-Turk Press was very busy then, and has been up to the present time, though, owing to the disgust of its readers at the revolting pictures published, there is a distinct cessation of atrocity-mongering by the Press concerned.

It will also be noted that, while the pro-Turk Press was vilifying the Bulgarians and other Christians, the Greeks joined in the chorus, and at the time seem to have been welcomed by the Pro-Turks.

Now, following on Balkan precedents, your correspondent seems to have fallen out with his former allies and abuses them.

To my mind all this mud-slinging by partisans, be they pro-Turks, pro-Greeks, or pro-Albanians, is much to be regretted. If these wish to make out their case and influence the thinking public they can hardly expect to do so by indulging in mutual recriminations. I heartily endorse what you write in your leading article, "Bulgaria After the War," concerning the excitability of the Press and the harm this does.

The Press has given English people an entirely erroneous impression of the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula, no matter what nation they may belong to. I must, of course, except our premier paper the *Times*.

All your correspondents, including myself, seem to have found excellent qualities amongst the various peoples of the Balkans. Surely it would be much better for every reason if partisans

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would cease making capital out of sordid incidents, and work firmly and soberly for the welfare and peace of this fascinating and interesting corner of Europe.—I am, etc.,

G. W. C. HOLLIST, M.R.C.S., etc.

Riseley Lodge, Maidenhead,
May 9, 1914.

RUSSIAN SUNSHINE IN PERSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—W. B. Stainton, in a recent letter addressed to the Editor, says that I have "changed my earlier opinion of having Russian sunshine in Persia," and that I am "not enamoured any more with their sunshine," etc. As I do not happen to have his letter under my hand, I may not quote him quite correctly, but I think that is the sum of what he said. And he makes his "inference" from one of my letters, in which I said that "it is hard to think that Azerbaijan is still a part of Persia."

It is true that an "inference" was to be drawn from my letter, but Mr. Stainton has made the wrong inference.

There is nothing in my letter (published January 9) to show that I have changed my opinion of 1912, and that I do not care to have Russians in this province any more! The only "inference" that was to be drawn from my letter was that Azerbaijan is no more a province of the Shah's kingdom, and that its political affairs are managed not by the Regent's Cabinet, but by the autocratic will of the Russian Vice-Consul Vedinsky. The whole force, tone, and the argument of that letter was to prove that this province is a Persian province *in name only*, that Azerbaijan *is a Russian province*, with the Russian Consul as Governor-General and Shuja-ed-Dowleh (appointed by the Russians) as their Chief of Police. Ask any man in Tabriz—be he a Persian, Armenian, Kurd, Jew, or Russian—and he will at once tell you that Azerbaijan is a Russian province and is ruled by the Russians, although nominally governed by a Persian. In one of my letters I have tried to demonstrate in a more positive and convincing manner that this province, *in reality, is a Russian province*. The British Government and Englishmen living in London look upon Azerbaijan as Persia; my whole aim, intention, and desire was to prove that Azerbaijan *is not* a part of Persia, and never will be hereafter!

A Russian military officer of high rank, to my inquiry whether they intend to remove the Russian troops from this province soon, replied: "Never! We have not even thought of leaving Azerbaijan again." And they never will! M. Orloff, the new Russian Consul-General, has come here with the powers of a Viceroy, as was shown by the pomp of his reception. Shuja-ed-Dowleh is a puppet, a mere figurehead, who could be removed by the Russian Consul within fifteen minutes from the Governorship of this province, and a Russian appointed in his place in about as short a time! But Shuja-ed-Dowleh has made himself too useful to the Russians in the past; his services were too great and could not be bought with money. Hence he is given the opportunity to gather in some harvest for himself, although he is too old (seventy years) to enjoy them all for long. Nor is it likely that he will be removed from the Governorship, for he does as he is told, and never moves a step without first informing the Russian Consulate and getting their consent! He is just the sort of man that the Russians like to have—a man who will do what they tell him to do, no matter what happens; a man who has no conscience, no idea of good and bad, right or wrong, who will do simply what he is ordered to do, and will have no scruple in choosing his means for destroying an opponent!

I always read carefully the letters of Mr. Stainton, as he seems to know a good deal of Persia, Persian people, language, and Persian affairs, but he will pardon me for saying that I fail to see where he gets his "inference" from my letters that I have changed my earlier opinions.

Tabriz, April 1. MIRZA FIROOZ-KHAN.

"A WHIRL OF ADVENTURE."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—A careful perusal of the letter signed "A Twenty-seven Years' Resident," which appeared in your issue of last week, leads me to the conviction that your correspondent honoured my review with but very scanty attention before he sat down to condemn it. He is at pains to convince me that the incidents related in the Williamsons' book might have occurred—I quite agree.

With regard to the Hadji disguise, it must be remembered that circumstances alter cases, and the circumstance of "Captain Fenton's" recognition by a lady at a distance can scarcely be compared with the other incident to which your correspondent refers.

It would be unfair to the authors of "It Happened in Egypt" to dilate further now upon the reasons which prompted me to deal with their book as I did. Opinions differ. But incidentally I did not, as their champion intimates, say that their work would interest only those unacquainted with Egypt.

YOUR REVIEWER.

THE PUBLISHER
would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

CURRENT COMMENTS.

It is known, on the authority of Servian newspapers, that the Macedo-Bulgarian recruits from New Servia are manifesting the greatest possible reluctance to become Servian soldiers, and boggle over the Oath of Allegiance to King Peter when paraded for the purpose of being sworn in. Drastic measures are reported to have been taken by the Servian authorities against the recalcitrant conscripts, but I cannot help thinking that some eager journalist has been drawing the long bow when the *Pester Lloyd*, as reported in the *Daily Mail*, announces that the Servians have shot an entire battalion of Bulgarian recruits from Ipek. My natural suspicions about this story find a certain amount of confirmation from the facts that no Macedo-Bulgarians are, or were, to be found in the neighbourhood of Ipek, and that as the district in question now forms part of Montenegro, its annual contingent of recruits would not find themselves required to serve in King Peter's army.

***

The ways of the Levant are sometimes remarkable, and just at this moment the Greeks are full of complaint about the edicts recently issued in Constantinople and Rhodes. In the former city little boys must now no longer run about wearing sailor caps decorated with the ever-victorious name of His Hellenic Majesty's ship "Averoff." It is considered that such a practice may have an adverse effect on the street collections for the Ottoman Navy, and in any case the name evokes unpleasant memories of the late war in the hearts of patriotic passers-by capable of reading Greek. In the City of the Knights, however, the Italians are showing themselves to be even more sensitive to historical allusions calculated to revive forgotten stories of disaster. Every schoolboy is supposed to know that Æneas fled from Troy and was accepted in the Court of Augustus as having been concerned with the origin of Rome; also that Æneas suffered defeat at the hands of the Argives and other Greeks on the plains of windy Nion. In consequence of this, I learn that Italian *amour propre* does not permit the exhibition in Rhodes of cinematograph films dealing with the fall of Troy, as tending to reflect discredit upon the prestige of the Army of Occupation and inspire the local Greek residents to acts of patriotic and anti-Italian impoliteness.

***

With regard to these reports of trouble with Bulgarian-speaking recruits in Servian Macedonia, I notice that the Bulgarian Press, which might reasonably be expected to be full of vociferous interest and comment, is soberly confining itself to the reproduction of those comments and criticisms which appear in Servian newspapers. Yet it is a matter which concerns Bulgaria nearly, and it is satisfactory to find that it is becoming possible once more for a Balkan people to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune with stoical silence.

***

Two weeks ago, in this column, I reported, on the strength of a correspondent in Janina, that the bottom had fallen out of the Epirote movement. This statement finds a certain amount of confirmation from the preparations which are being made to put forward M. Zographos as a Parliamentary candidate of an Athens constituency on his retirement from the Presidency of the Autonomous Government at Argyrokastro. He is to stand, apparently, at the forthcoming bye-election as an anti-Venizelos candidate, in place of the gentleman who has become Mayor of Athens.

***

The Swedish-officered Gendarmerie force of Persia is certainly attracting a great deal of attention just now, and opinions appear to be almost equally divided as to the merits or demerits of the force. Reading between the lines, I receive the impression that most of the "merit" is due to the Swedish officers, and most of the "demerit" to the material which they have had to work with. But while I am very ready indeed to recognise the value of the work done by the gallant Swedes, I cannot help wondering whether British officers, used to handling Orientals, might not have made a better job of the business. However, my object in mentioning the force was not to criticise it, but to pass on an item of information that has reached me from a correspondent in Persia. Writing in the middle of last month, the correspondent referred to states that the gendarmes recently despatched to Burujird appear to have inflicted severe losses upon the Lurs, who had been plundering and ravishing the districts south of the town. This was at the beginning of April. The gendarmes, however (the writer added), did not apparently consider it prudent to advance into the hills before they had brought the villages in their immediate neighbourhood under comparative control. This certainly seems a wise policy to pursue. The Gendarmerie has uphill work before it still, and it must be content to wait for results—and I wish it luck!

CORSAIR.

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CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914.	1914.		1332. Jum'da	5674
May	May		II.	Iyar.
15	2	Friday	19	19
16	3	Saturday.....	20	20
17	4	Sunday	21	21
18	5	Monday	22	22
19	6	Tuesday	23	23
20	7	Wednesday	24	24
21	8	Thursday	25	25

PERSONAL & SOCIAL

Her Majesty Queen Natalie of Servia celebrates her birthday to-day.

To-day is also the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Andrew Vladimirovitch of Russia, brother of Princess Nicholas of Greece.

To-morrow will be the birthday of Prince Paul, second son of Prince Mirko of Montenegro and his wife Princess Natalie, who was born a Constantinovitch, and is a near relative of the House of Obrenovitch, the former Royal Family of Servia.

Sunday is the birthday of Princess Arthur of Connaught, Duchess of Fife.

Tuesday is the birthday of Prince Carol of Albania, the only son of the Mpret and Mpreteresha. The little Prince will then be one year old.

Tuesday is also the birthday of Prince Roland Bonaparte, father of Princess George of Greece, and only surviving male member of the elder branch of his family.

Tuesday will be the anniversary of the wedding (1897) of Princess Anna, fourth daughter of the King of Montenegro, to Prince Francis Joseph of Battenberg, brother of the late Prince of Bulgaria, and uncle of the Queen of Spain and of Princess Andrew of Greece.

Thursday will be the birthday of her Highness the Mpreteresha of Albania.

The King of Roumania has conferred the Medal of Military Virtue on the Infante Alfonso d'Orleans of Spain.

H.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth of Roumania is expected shortly to visit her aunt the Infanta Beatrice d'Orleans of Spain in Madrid.

Prince George Constantinovitch of Russia, whose elder brother, Prince John, married Princess Helena of Servia, arrived in Constantinople on May 8.

The Sultan has accepted a copy of the poetical works of Faik Ali Bey, Mutessarif of Uskudar (Scutari-in-Asia), which were presented to his Imperial Majesty by H.I.H. Abdul Mejid Effendi, the brother of the Heir-Apparent.

Prince Mohammed Ali, brother of the Khedive of Egypt, arrived in Rome on Sunday to return the visit to Cairo last winter of the Duke of the Abruzzi. His Highness was accompanied by Khali Pasha, President of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, and on Tuesday was received in audience by King Victor Emmanuel, who gave a State banquet in his honour.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred on Sir John Sandys, Public Orator in the University of Cambridge, the Insignia of Commander of the Royal Greek Order of the Redeemer.

The King of Montenegro has conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Danilo on M. Alexander Marghiloman, formerly a Roumanian Cabinet Minister.

Lord Lamington has consented to be President of the Research Defence Society, in succession to the late Sir David Gill.

Following an old-established custom, a special mission, presided over by Talaat Bey, Turkish Minister of the Interior, proceeded last Friday on board the Imperial yacht "Ertogrul" from Constantinople to Livadia for the purpose of conveying the birthday greetings of the Sultan to the Emperor Nicholas.

Baron de Giers, the Russian Ambassador in Constantinople, left for Livadia last Saturday in order to be present at the reception of the special Ottoman Mission.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes under date May 10:—

On Monday last King Carol received in audience M. Simos, the proprietor of the well-known Greek journal *Patris*. This journalist has lived a long time in Roumania, and by means of his paper has contributed to establishing a better feeling between this country and Greece.

Russian papers announce that the Tsar is shortly to visit Kishinieff, and that on this occasion King Carol will journey to that town to meet his Imperial Majesty. Here nothing is known of any arrangement of the kind, and it is generally denied.

The Countess of Cromer and Sir Gerard and Lady Lowther attended the memorial service for the late Lady Alfred Paget, which was held, by the permission of the King, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, on Thursday of last week.

Lord and Lady Metcalfe and Sir Gerard and Lady Lowther were amongst the guests entertained at dinner by the German Ambassador and Princess Lichnowsky on last Friday evening at the Embassy, Carlton House Terrace.

Captain and Lady Joan Mulholland have arrived at 10, Westbourne Street, Hyde Park, for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Quilter have returned to 13, Grosvenor Street from Egypt. Mrs. Quilter is taking out her sister, Miss Pamela Tudway, who is staying with them for the season.

His Highness Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, was one of the guests at the State banquet given on Saturday by their Majesties the King and Queen in honour of the King and Queen of Denmark.

The Turkish Ambassador, the Hellenic Minister, the Roumanian Minister, and the Servian Minister accepted invitations to be present at the ceremony, which was performed by His Majesty the King on Thursday last week, of opening the King Edward the Seventh's Galleries, the imposing addition to the British Museum buildings which has recently been completed.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Mishu were amongst the guests of Mr. William Gillett at dinner at the Bachelors' Club on Wednesday last week.

H.E. Sir Reginald Wingate Pasha, Governor-General of the Sudan, is leaving Khartoum at the end of the month for Cairo, where he will remain for a few days before proceeding to Karlsbad for the "cure."

Our Cairo correspondent writes:—In the course of his annual report, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, the Judicial Adviser, pays a well-merited tribute to the late Fathy Pasha Zaghlul, who was Under-Secretary of State for Justice, and whose "premature death at a comparatively early age is a real loss to his country, and especially to the Ministry of Justice." He also places on record his appreciation of the excellent work done in the School of Law by Mr. W. H. Hill, who after seven years as Principal has been promoted to the important post of Chief Inspector of Native Tribunals, and expresses his confidence in his successor, Mr. Sheldon Amos, Judge in the Native Court of Appeal, who is a distinguished jurist, and has been a frequent lecturer and examiner in the School of Law in the past.

H.E. Mansour Shakour Pasha has arrived in Brussels from Cairo.

M. Venizelos, the Hellenic Prime Minister, arrived in Athens from Salonika on last Monday.

M. Agamemnon Schliemann, son of the famous professor and archæologist, and Deputy for a Thessalian constituency, has been appointed Hellenic Minister in Washington, where the Legation has been vacant for some time.

Several other diplomatic appointments of considerable importance are also announced from Athens. M. J. Dragoumis, the Hellenic Chargé d'Affaires in St. Petersburg, has been promoted Minister in that capital; M. N. G. Theotoky, Chargé d'Affaires in Berlin, has also been promoted Minister; and M. Panteli Psycha goes to Bucharest as Hellenic Minister, vice M. Papadiamantopoulos, whose appointment dated from the end of 1912.

The following members of the Hellenic Diplomatic Service have been gazetted:—M. Spiro Levidis, as Councillor of Legation in Paris; M. L. Kaftanjoglou, in a similar capacity to Buenos Ayres; and M. P. Skassis, to Rio. It is expected that the latter will shortly be sent as Minister to The Hague.

M. A. Kapsambeli has been gazetted Hellenic Consul-General at Odessa, and M. J. Karatza in Berne.

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M. Taigny, Councillor of Embassy, has been appointed to represent France on the International Financial Commission in Athens.

Turkhan Pasha, the Albanian Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, left Durazzo on Wednesday morning for Rome, where he will discuss with the Marquis di San Giuliano, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the present grave condition of Albania.

M. Nedcoff, Bulgarian Consul-General at Adrianople, has been appointed chairman of the Mixed Commission which is supervising the State-aided emigration and exchange of properties between Bulgarian and Ottoman Thrace.

M. Theodore Pavloff, who has hitherto been Consul at Valona, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the newly constituted Bulgarian Legation at Durazzo.

Rifaat Bey, ex-Minister of Finance, has been appointed President of the Turkish Senate.

His Highness Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha has left Constantinople for Berlin.

Sureya Bey Vlora, brother of his Highness Ferid Pasha Vlora, formerly Ottoman Grand Vizier, has been appointed to represent the Mpret of Albania in Vienna.

Batzaria Effendi, who is a Kutzo-Vlach, and was formerly Minister of Works, is expected to accompany Talaat Bey on his forthcoming visit to Roumania.

M. Philippe Nogga, who was at one time expected to be Albanian Minister in Vienna, has been appointed Minister of Finance in Turkhan Pasha's Cabinet.

Sir Francis Younghusband was the guest of honour at a luncheon given last Friday in New York by the Pilgrims of the United States.

Mr. Algernon Blackwood, who spent the greater part of the winter in Egypt, is now in Switzerland, and is expected to return to London shortly.

Mr. W. J. Locke has returned to Europe from Egypt.

Mr. William le Queux has lately returned from the Nile, where he had gone to obtain local colour for a novel which has just been published.

Mr. Arthur T. McKillop has been appointed Inspector-General of Agriculture in Egypt.

Captain Orr, Chief Secretary in Cyprus, will be taking early leave.

It is probable that Major Bolton, Commissioner of Limassol, will again act as Chief Secretary during Captain Orr's absence.

Mr. W. Bevan has been appointed Director of Agriculture, Cyprus.

Mr. J. B. Wodehouse, who served for some years in the Cyprus Police, and was at one time Private Secretary and A.D.C. to the late High Commissioner of Cyprus, will be married on June 10 to Miss Gladys Tyrrell.

The engagement of Eileen, only daughter of Colonel S. Grant, late R.E., of Brinnington, Minehead, to Captain John Kennedy, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Egyptian Army, is cancelled.

It was reported at the annual meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society on Tuesday that the society had become entitled to a legacy left on trust by the late Major-General Furlong for the promotion of Oriental studies.

The annual meeting of the Persia Society will be held on May 20 at 22, Albemarle Street, at 4.45 p.m. The Right Hon. Lord Lamington, G.C.I.E., G.C.M.G., will preside. At 5 p.m. Professor E. G. Browne will lecture on "The Religious Influence of Persia."

At the International Congress of Tropical Agriculture, to be held from June 23 to 30, several papers will be read on the problems of Egyptian agriculture by the following specialists in the subject:—Three papers by Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, F.E.S., Consulting Agriculturist to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture: (1) "Problems in Connection with Cotton Cultivation in Egypt"; (2) "Technical Education in Tropical Agriculture," and (3) "The Organisation of Agricultural Departments in Relation to Research Work"; two papers by M. Victor Mosseri, member of the Egyptian Institute: (1) "Cotton in Relation to Alkali in Egypt" and (2) "Various Manures Applied to Cotton in Egypt"; two papers by Mr. B. F. E. Keeling, Director of Physical Services Survey Department, Gizeh: (1) "Water Supply in Egypt" and (2) "A Fertility Map of the Egyptian Delta"; and a paper by Dr. L. H. Gough, F.E.S., Entomologist to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, on "Problems Connected with the Pink Boll Worm."

We learn that when Professor Thoumaian, B.D., the new Ottoman Deputy, and only Christian Minister in the Ottoman Parliament, reached Constantinople the other day, he was received with acclamations by some 150 well-wishers (both Christian and Mohammedan), who insisted there and then on his addressing them a speech, both in Armenian and in Turkish. Both the Christians and the Mohammedans received him with tears, kissing his hands in Oriental fashion, and escorted him in triumph. He is to remain in the East little more only than the few months during which the Parliament sits; and his family continues to live at Chigwell.

In connection with the appeal for £3,000 from the people of England to help the refugees in Albania, Mr. E. Telford Erickson, the head of the American Mission at Elbasan, spoke at the Memorial Hall last Friday evening. He had already, he said, raised £20,000 in the United States for the purpose, but £3,000 more was needed to complete the full programme. Miss Edith Durham, who also spoke, said there were many thousands of refugees in Albania who had literally nothing but the rags in which they stood.

A Reuter's message from Khartoum, dated May 12, reports that Mr. H. Morgan, a civil judge in the Sudan Government service, has been found shot, mortally wounded, at Port Sudan. No details have yet been received of the affair, which is believed to have been the result of an accident. Mr. Morgan has been a Judge in the Sudan since 1904. He was the fifth son of Mr. Walter Morgan, formerly Chief Justice of the Madras Presidency, and was educated at Harrow and at Pembroke College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1887, and joined the Chester and South Wales Circuit.

We regret to record the death of M. Ch. Gennadieff, Private Secretary to Tsar Ferdinand, and brother of the former Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is now one of the defendants in the State Trial in Sofia.

The funeral of Mr. R. W. Tidrick, of the American Mission at Dolief Hill, Upper Nile Province, who was badly mauled by a lion, and whose death from his injuries we recorded in THE NEAR EAST of April 24, took place on April 21 at the residence of the American Mission, Khartoum.

We regret to report the death in Paris of M. Charles Phérékyde, formerly First President of the High Court in Bucharest. M. Phérékyde was brother of the President of the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies, and brother-in-law of M. Alexander Marghiloman.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

FREELOVE — SMITH. — At the English Church, Port Sudan, on May 6, Captain Ernest Freelove, Harbour Master, to Violet Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Smith, of South Norwood, and formerly of Alexandria.

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FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1914.

CHURCH AND STATE IN SOUTHERN ALBANIA.

The custom of the Turk in considering that a man's nationality is adequately represented by his religious confession has given rise to no little confusion in the West as to the precise meaning of names and epithets when applied to Christians in the Balkans. Thus a century ago all Christians in the Ottoman dominions in Europe, which then reached from Matapan to the Bukovina, were considered to be "Greeks" in that they were the spiritual subjects of the Œcumenical Patriarchate. Political changes have robbed the Phanar of jurisdiction over all that the Porte has lost in Roumelia, "the country of the Roumis"—that is to say, the "Romans," Ῥωμαῖοι, as the Greeks of the Empire styled themselves. In all the kingdoms which have grown up, when once the shadow of the Horse-Tails had been removed, the Church, while remaining Orthodox, has in becoming national lost its "Greek" character, and is no longer an engine for the hellenization of unwilling Slavonic or other populations—for a Servian or Roumanian Bishop the Œcumenical Patriarch is merely an exalted brother for whom tradition may demand respect; but the Patriarch is not a Pope, his spiritual jurisdiction stops short at the Ottoman frontier, and no priest or prelate outside the Sultan's dominions, except possibly on Mount Athos, can be expected to own any supremacy in an ecclesiastical official of the Porte.

It is this very fact that political separation from Turkey in Europe involves emancipation from the Phanar which is so important a factor in the settlement of the Albanian difficulty at the present juncture. One of the main arguments of the Athens Press, and of those journals in the West which dance to Athenian piping or play Athenian tunes, has been that the frontier drawn by the Powers for Southern Albania has given a great number of Greeks to an alien State, and subjected them to the domination of a hostile race of an inferior civilisation. On these grounds Hellenes have been recruited at large over the whole Greek-speaking world to assist in the rejection of the Albanian yoke by the Epirotes, and on these grounds much sympathy is accorded to the movement in the West. The interesting letter of our Correspondent at Koritza, however, throws a rather new light upon these arguments. He tells us that the Orthodox inhabitants of Koritza, folk who have always figured as "Greeks" in the Turkish census and in the statistics of Phil-Hellenes, have begun to use the Albanian liturgy, a proceeding forbidden under what he describes as "the religious tyranny of the Greeks," and have abolished the old diocesan council, as its members "devoted themselves to the propaganda of political Hellenism instead of attending to the religious duties for which they had been elected." Now Koritza has always been represented as the stronghold *par excellence* of Hellenism in Southern Albania. It is surely a very curious commentary on the value of the arguments adduced in support of the Epirote movement that no sooner is the Hellenic Army withdrawn than the local "Greeks" use their first moments of "abandonment to barbarous Albania" to give up the liturgical use of the Greek language, to chase the Hellenizing priests from their places of power, and to offer armed resistance to those misguided Hellenes who sought to "liberate" them with the assistance of troops and machine-guns. More than that, these very "Greeks," for whose schools and churches Albania is to be compelled to give guarantees satisfactory to the Autonomous Government of Epirus, have informed their new Sovereign that they are quite capable of looking after their own interests and are opposed to outside meddling "in matters relating to the moral and political independence of our nation as a whole and of our Orthodox Church in particular."

We have consistently argued against any armed intervention on the part of the Powers, or any group of them, in Southern Albania. Such intervention would have been tantamount to an official acceptance of the Greek arguments at their face value. The object lesson of Koritza shows that these must be to a certain extent discounted, and that many people whose Hellenic character is being protected by *hierolochites*, recruited largely by imported or professional patriots, will turn out to be Albanians once the political and ecclesiastical pressure to which they are at present subjected be removed. We are quite ready to admit that there are in Epirus a large number of Hellenes, people who wish to pray and speak and think in Greek and as Greeks, but we cannot disguise our opinion that a great many of the inhabitants, apart from Moslems, will eagerly support an Albanian Orthodox Church of their own, just as Servians and Bulgarians, on gaining political liberty from the Porte, have rejected the domination of the Phanar, which has ever enjoyed the reputation of very naturally using its whole influence on behalf of Hellenism.

The Epirote difficulty tends to shrink to its proper proportions. A good deal of its menacing appearance has been due to skilful inflation, which is now shown to be largely artificial. It has very reasonably made a strong appeal to the patriotic instincts of the average Greek, who, like most people, seldom subjects statements in support of a cause he has at heart to a searching criticism. It has, moreover, been seized upon by the political adversaries of M. Venizelos, and used as a weapon against that great statesman both in the Chamber and the Press. Democracies are very easy to ride if the rider gives his mount free rein, but they tend to become restive if submitted even to the most wholesome restraint. The Greek Prime Minister, who fully realises that the almost undreamed of gains which the Treaties of London and Bucharest have secured to Greece have excited the envy of some of her neighbours, just as they are based on the humiliation and disappointment of others, is wise enough to restrain the appetite of acquisition or retention of territory. He knows that Roumania is the friend of Greece only so far as the maintenance of the existing *status quo* is concerned, and that impatience has been on several occasions manifested in Bucharest at what is there considered to be the unconscionable behaviour of the Greeks. It must be remembered that Roumania is much interested in the Albanian settlement, and that if a Greco-Roumanian *entente* is still in existence there is a close family relationship between the Courts of Bucharest and Durazzo. In any case, neither the Powers, nor Roumania, nor, we imagine, M. Venizelos wish to see a new Crete established in South Albania, with an Autonomous Chamber periodically to declare its annexation to Greece and eager deputies to clamour for admission to the Hellenic Parliament at awkward political moments. To such a solution of the Albanian difficulty a wholesale emigration of the discontented minority would be far preferable, such a sorting of discordant ethnological factors as is in progress already in Hellenic and Servian Macedonia and in Ottoman Thrace. Such an operation in Albania, if properly controlled and State-aided, could be divested of that cruelty and hardship which undoubtedly accompanies it in those areas, and would most assuredly contribute to the establishment and maintenance of a lasting peace.

*** SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD who are proceeding to England or the Continent for the Summer may have their copies of "The Near East" posted to any address without extra charge, on furnishing particulars of their movements to the Publisher 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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SERVIAN ASPIRATIONS.

INTERVIEW WITH M. PASHITCH.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 10.

M. Pashitch, Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary of Servia, granted me a short but interesting interview yesterday. Several important points were brought into relief in the course of our conversation.

The Orient Railways.

I drew the Prime Minister's attention to a semi-official *communiqué* which had appeared in the *Neue Freie Presse* on Thursday from Buda-pest, where meetings have been held of the Austrian Committee, composed of Government officials and representatives of the banks holding the shares in the railway. (The *communiqué* stated that the bankers were dissatisfied with the policy adopted by the Government, and that the latter were now inclined to abandon their conditional adhesion to the French proposal of the internationalisation of the line, and to revert to the old *convention à quatre.*) M. Pashitch was of opinion that the negotiations would still continue for some weeks, but the outcome would be that Servia would acquire the exclusive right to exploit the line—in other words, that she would buy the shares. Reciprocal treatment by Servia would give Austria certain advantages in connection with the linking up of the Bosnian and Servian lines. Furthermore, the satisfactory settlement of the Orient Railway question might possibly lead up to the revision of the Austro-Servian commercial treaty so ardently advocated by Austrian exporters and importers, and equally firmly opposed by Servia, who sees no reason to modify any of her treaties at the present moment.

The foregoing gives an authoritative view of the trend of the negotiations. Incidentally, I may mention here that I likewise spoke to the Minister of Public Works, the most bitter opponent of the French proposal, who has even gone so far as to state that he would immediately resign if the line were internationalized. In his opinion, Austria is willing to sell the shares held by her, the sole question being the price. The Austrian delegate left Belgrade a few days ago with Servia's lowest terms, and now the compromise has to be found between the Austrian demands and Servian proposals. If necessary, the Minister suggested, the price could be settled at Paris at the Conference, or at the Hague. This reference to the Paris Conference is not devoid of interest; it serves to show, moreover, the desire on the part of Servia to have the matter settled once and for all, and as soon as possible. From the beginning Austria's attitude has been illogical. Prior to the war, the Servian section of the Trans-Macedonian line was Servian, regulated by the *convention à quatre;* now that Macedonia is Servian as far as Gievgeli, why not adopt the same *convention (à cinq)* without procrastination, instead of trying to heighten the tension between Austria and Servia? It serves no good purpose, and in the long run Austria-Hungary is bound to climb down.

Albania.

M. Pashitch is positive on the question of Albania. When the formation of the new State was first mooted, he published a statement in *The Times.* He has not a word to retract from what he then said, and not only that, but anyone reading that statement to-day will see that what he prophesied has come true. There is and can be no optimism concerning Albania in Servian official circles. "Albania may yet be a source of grave danger to Europe." From what I have seen and heard here, and from reading even such pro-Albanian papers as the Austrian Press, where now and again in non-inspired articles the truth is allowed to leak out, I cannot but draw attention to the growing feeling of uneasiness throughout the Balkans as regards the future of bolstered-up Albania.

Regarding Servia's access to the Adriatic—that is to say, the final trans-Albanian section of the Adriatic railway and Servia's port on the sea, M. Pashitch considers that nothing will be done for the next two or three years. Servia has enough to do at present to organise and develop her old and her new territories. Salonika will be her only port for years to come, at least until the Albanian problem has been finally settled. In the meantime peace is essential, and consequently the creation of a firm, free, and self-restrained State, ensuring peace on Servia's western frontier, is an immediate necessity.

Salonika.

The agreement between Greece and Servia concerning the latter's free zone at Salonika will be definitely signed within the next few days, I was told by the Prime Minister, the principal questions having been already settled. The only details available for publication so far are: (1) The Servian zone will amply meet Servia's requirements, the Greek Government having fully realised that the future of the port depends almost exclusively on trade with the neighbouring kingdom; (2) there will be loading and unloading facilities, and ocean-going steamers will be able to discharge and take cargo within a stone's throw of the Servian warehouses.

New Loan.

According to the Prime Minister, no negotiations of any sort or description have taken place concerning the much-talked-of new loan. This autumn the Skuptshina will be asked to empower the Government to negotiate a loan for the purpose of covering railway construction expenses and the purchase of war material; but it is not anticipated that any new loan will be floated in 1914. So far no money market has been officially approached.

National Politics.

Questioned regarding national politics, M. Pashitch—a venerable statesman whose worst enemies recognize his skill in manipulating difficult political situations—scoffed at the rumours which have been even more persistent than usual concerning an impending change of Ministry. The great question of the moment is military rather than administrative (whether generals commanding should have precedence over prefects of the various districts, etc.). The question of the Constitution for New Servia has, for the moment, fallen in the background, but if M. Pashitch, as is to be presumed, is still in office in March next year, the Grand National Assembly will be convoked to decide the constitutional procedure to be followed.

Capitulations.

The last question I put to M. Pashitch concerned the capitulations of the New Territories. *De facto*, of course, the Capitulations were abolished the moment the Servian Government apprised the Powers of the incorporation of the New Territories in the kingdom of Servia; but *de jure* they still exist, because the Powers have not officially recognized their abolition, in spite of the fact that at the ambassadors' meeting in London the change in the map of the Balkans was naturally the basis of all negotiations. In order to avoid in future any misunderstandings such as that which took place a few weeks ago between our consul and the Servian officials in Monastir, common steps will eventually be taken, said M. Pashitch, by Servia, Bulgaria, and Greece together to have the abolition of the Capitulations effectively recognized by the Powers.

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H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

M. Venizelos.

In a leading article under the heading "Princes and Statesmen," which appeared in the *Times* for May 11, the attempt that is now being made to discredit M. Venizelos and to reverse his wise and moderate policy receives outspoken censure. We quote the following passage:—

Nobody who knows the virulence of Greek party passion and the avidity of Greek office-seekers will feel surprise at this campaign. It resembles those which were the staple of Greek political life until the Cretan lawyer saved the Monarchy from revolution, reformed the Constitution, and breathed a new spirit into the army and the nation four short years ago. The great events of those years thrust the old personal and party rivalries into the background. Now they are being revived and directed against the man whose authority is an obstacle fatal to the reign of petty intrigue and of personal corruption. We shall not, however, easily believe that manœuvres of this sort can cause the nation or the Crown to forget the services which M. Venizelos has done them. Their conduct will be watched with interest, for it will afford the outside world a test of the political instinct and capacity of both. It is in the choice of their servants that Kings are best able to show their own judgment as statesmen. What would Prussia have been without Bismarck or "Sardinia" without Cavour? Yet neither of these makers of united nations was altogether acceptable to the Monarch whom he led on to the desired goal. William I. and Victor Emmanuel had many differences with their great Ministers. They had, however, the largeness of mind ot recognise the immeasurable superiority of their servants to themselves, and the self-control to sacrifice to the policy of those servants many personal ideas and feelings of their own. Nations as well as Kings must learn to judge statesmen by their careers as a whole, and to give their confidence freely to those who have proved their worth, even when their action runs counter to the popular will.

The Baghdad Railway.

An instalment of a very important article by A. Géraud appears in the current issue of the *Nineteenth Century*, its title being "A New German Empire: The Story of the Baghdad Railway." The history of that much-discussed project is traced in some detail. In the following passage the writer deplores the probable results:—

Brought face to face with the powerful instrument of economic and political hegemony which Germany has created for herself, the other Powers must either fall back upon "compensations" and accept such safeguards as they afford, or abandon the heritage of a long past. Hence we have the consolidation of zones of economic interest—zones in which the respective Powers will feel, so to speak, on their own ground—a consolidation which is now in progress. This is the first stage of dismemberment. This dismemberment, I greatly fear, will not serve the real interests of the Western Powers. France and England, ruling great empires outside Europe, but preserving in Europe only the moderate territorial size of old kingdoms, have everything to lose by the formation of a greater Europe, which cannot but enlarge the already formidable territorial domain of the neighbouring empires. In that Europe of to-morrow they will be relatively smaller.

That the German design was allowed to proceed without effective opposition is not at all creditable to the foresight of English, French, and Russian statesmen. The writer asks:—

Why is it that England, France, and Russia, whose historical interests cannot fail to be seriously injured by the German enterprise, have allowed it to become an accomplished fact? Because of their fear of taking the necessary initiative, because of their cowardly confidence in the unexpected, in the *deus ex machina*, who would suddenly arise and endow the directors of the Triple Entente with that sureness of vision and that firmness of action in which they have been completely lacking for the last ten years. They began by allowing the Germans, although they were the latest arrivals in the East, to obtain the concession. Let us not speak of Russia, whose *mot d'ordre* until the Potsdam meeting had been "Not a single railway in Asia. Nature herself gives us a monopoly of economic and political actions which means of transport, opening the way to rival civilisations, would destroy. Let the immense Russian glacier, borne onwards by its own weight, sweep over the plains of Asia Minor." But England! and France! Before Germany became so formidable at Constantinople both of them had an opportunity of forging an iron link between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf.

Albania's Difficulties.

An article in the *Outlook* (May 9) on "The Position and Difficulties of Prince William of Albania," by H. Charles Woods, gives a good account of the problem with which the Mpret is faced. With regard to the question of Southern Albania, the writer's opinion is as follows:—

Whilst, as I have already said, I am in favour of a strong and determined Royal policy, and whilst to lead a victorious army to the conquest of Southern Albania would certainly greatly enhance the prestige of the Prince amongst all sections of his people, to risk almost certain defeat would not only be to jeopardise the whole future of the country, but also to place its ruler more firmly than ever in the hands of a Minister whose influence is even now all-powerful. Consequently, liable to serious objections as they may be, the only safe courses open to Prince William are again to send emissaries to enter into negotiations with the insurrectionaries, or to go himself, at the head of a peaceful expedition, to the very heart of the disputed zone with the object of taking over districts which have been allotted to him by Europe and of settling with the inhabitants themselves the nature of the *régimé* destined for the moment at least to secure the integrity of Albania.

"Zionism and Christian Missions."

Dr. E. W. G. Masterman contributes an interesting article under the above title to *The East and the West* for April. The writer is of opinion that:—

As the hope of political co-operation with the Young Turks seems to be, at present at any rate, impracticable, the immediate and certainly the wisest plan is that of peaceful penetration. That this must necessarily be a slow movement is a great thing in its favour. No greater disaster to the movement could occur than an enormous influx of immigrants at once. The land of Palestine is not one which can support greatly increased numbers before there has been a vast expenditure of capital on restoration after the devastations of centuries.

Further, he warns those enthusiasts who are in too great a hurry:—

The keen Zionist of Europe all too often forgets also that Palestine is a very poor land, with no mineral wealth, a very scanty water supply, and nothing but agricultural products to sustain its population. For nearly half the year there is no rainfall at all, and almost all over the land all verdure disappears at the onset of early summer.

A more important question even is, What will be the effect of "this semi-tropical climate upon the stamina of the Jews who come from colder lands to settle in Palestine? Will it be possible for them to be exposed from generation to generation to the influence of this climate without the whole race gradually degenerating down to the level of the indigenous inhabitants?" Dr. Masterman continues:—

Unfortunately, the idea is too common that Zionism has for its purpose the affording of a refuge for the persecuted and destitute. Prosperous and wealthy Jews in Europe and America have no wish to leave their comfortable surroundings to live in the Turkish Empire in comparative exile and discomfort. They are more inclined to subscribe to send there those who are unsuccessful elsewhere. If they visit the land at all it is but as passing tourists. The hopes of Zionism can never be realised if this attitude is to continue. The best kind of colonisation for the land is the settlement of the Jew of moderate means, who will develop, by a wise expenditure of capital, his own estate, and employ, as far as possible, other Jews as labourers on the land.

Albanians and Serbs.

An article on "Fresh Dangers in the Balkans," written from Durazzo by Dr. E. J. Dillon to the *Daily Telegraph*, contains the following gloomy view of the outlook in the Balkans. Referring "to the revolting cruelties to which the Albanian Moslems are being subjected by the Serbs," Dr. Dillon says:—

The impression created throughout the country by this inhuman conduct is painful, and the consequences threaten to become serious. This is all the more to be regretted in that the Albanians, far from bearing a grudge against their neighbours, were animated by amicable feelings towards them, and were ready to cultivate relations of good fellowship. This spirit is now being rapidly dispelled by the barbarous treatment which they are now receiving, and which may ultimately prove as disastrous to its authors as to its victims.

The danger is, in the writer's opinion, that the whole of the peninsula will be again involved in war:—

I am now convinced that the danger in the Balkans which the London Conference was believed to have disposed of for ever is as intense to-day as it was five years ago, and that the hopes heretofore cherished of permanent peace there are delusive. Every factor of the situation is being successively driven out of the course appointed by European diplomacy, and the Great Powers look on inactive. At present these unexpected changes in the programme are confined to Albania, but their disastrous consequences will necessarily make themselves felt throughout the entire peninsula. The Bulgarians are complaining as loudly as the Moslems, and powerful under-currents are already running which may sweep away the work so laboriously achieved by the statesmen of the Great Powers.

Articles to Note.

"A Journey Through Central Arabia," by Captain G. Leachman, in the *Geographical Journal* (May).

"Austro-Hungarian Foreign Policy," in the *Statist* (May 2).

"Macedonia Under Greek Rule," in the *Morning Post* (May 8).

"The New Oppressors in Macedonia," in the *Manchester Guardian* (May 7).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	May 14 ..	97 1/16—1/8 p.t.
Athens.....	May 11 ..	25·13 drs.
Bucharest	May 14 ..	25·37—25·45 lei.
Constantinople ..	May 14 ..	109 3/8—1/2 pi.
Sofia.....	May 11 ..	26·97—27·14 leva.
Teheran	May 13 ..	55 krans

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

If reports be true, it would seem that Busreh, which has so long been conspicuous for its backward state, may at last, shortly, be modernised. The new Vali is a man of ideas, and since his arrival there have been many rumours of concessions being granted for telephones, tramways, electric lighting, and so forth; of the provision of a water supply, the making of roads, and the cleansing of the Ashar Creek. Of course, all these excellent projects may end in talk, as has happened before in Turkey—and other countries of the Near East. But if they mature it is to be hoped that British firms will succeed in securing some of the "plums." Happily, there is good reason for such hope. At all events, some British firms have actually been approached with a request to give an estimate for some of the works referred to; and though several of them do not seem to have evinced any great enthusiasm in the matter, one, at least, has given it serious consideration. Unfortunately, however, certain straightforward and reasonable inquiries regarding the position of the Busreh municipality which the firm in question felt it wise to make do not appear to have been deemed worthy of a reply by the Vali, or his underlings, and so far nothing definite has been done.

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This, no doubt, will lead cynics to conclude that the Vali's good resolutions are more likely to provide paving material for a certain other place, which shall be nameless, than for the thoroughfares of Busreh. But it would be unwise to jump to such a conclusion just yet. The Turkish officials probably do mean business at last, but they cannot be expected to throw off the traditions of centuries in a day; and Busreh is such a difficult vilayet to administer that the Vali must be excused if he finds his time too fully occupied to attend to correspondence promptly. One thing is certain, if he really means business he could find no better firm to carry out his improvements than the one referred to, which is in every way able to make a good job of whatever they may undertake.

***

Meantime, it is interesting to note that the Germans, who are clearly out to make their mark (or their marks!) in that part of the world, appear to have acquired the knack of carrying *their* negotiations through expeditiously, and getting to work at once. They have, for instance, just connected their own and Messrs. Lynch's depots at Ma'agil by telephone with their respective offices at Busreh, and it is generally expected that they will obtain a concession to continue the line to Abu l' Khassib and Mohammerah. They have also completed a fine brick quay at Busreh, and have got a dredger on the spot, which having been used in the construction of the said quay is now doubtless ready for any further service it may be required for—such, for example, as the dredging of the Ashar Creek!

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All this shows, of course, commendable foresight and activity on the part of the Germans. But it would be interesting to know how much of this activity is due to private enterprise, and how much to Government assistance. They would doubtless deny that the Fatherland helped in any way save by entirely correct consular intervention; but people on the spot know that the help goes a good deal further than that. Any project that will further German prestige in that part of the world may absolutely rely on most efficient "backing" of every kind that the German Government can give. For the latter is very wide awake to the solid advantages to be gained by judicious "advertising."

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Just the same tale may be told of the Germans in Persia, where, both in the north and in the south, they are spreading their nets wide—and fast. Their efforts to secure a monopoly of the traffic on the Karun are particularly worthy of note, since they affect our own interests closely. It would not be at all surprising to learn that the British steamers on that river are being run at a heavy loss, owing to the German competition, and more especially to the *unfair character of that competition*. For it is an open secret that the Germans' success has been achieved, not as ours has been by steady work, but by the employment of certain methods which are usually regarded as being more Oriental than Western. And though they may believe in adopting the customs of the country, such methods will hardly commend themselves to the British mind.

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The *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna contains a report of the annual general meeting of members of the Chamber, which was held in February. The president, Mr. R. W. Whittall, in his annual address, reviewed the work of the past year, touching on a few of the more important activities of the Chamber. It appears that a satisfactory agreement has been made with regard to the question of goods shipped from Europe to Smyrna for Turkish ports on the neighbouring coast, with the mention of "en transit," on the bill of lading and manifest. The efforts to suppress fraudulent traders and to foster the interests of British trade, it is satisfactory to note, have been continued with marked success. In concluding his address, Mr. Whittall announced his intention of finally resigning the post of president of the Chamber, and made an appeal to the younger generation to lend a willing hand in helping to keep up the prestige of British trade. Mr. Sydney La Fontaine was selected to fill Mr. Whitall's place, and though the services of the latter will certainly be missed, there is no doubt that the new president will prove a worthy successor.

The statistics published on p. 52 showing the position of Great Britain and her rivals in the carrying trade of Egypt and through the Suez Canal are melancholy reading for any man who is interested in the commercial supremacy of the British flag. The more so is this the case as Germany stands as a rule head and shoulders above our other rivals, and her upward progress is alarmingly rapid. These figures refer to 1913. In view of the increasing activity of Germany in the Gulf trade and in Persia, this upward tendency will probably be more marked than ever by next year.

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The trade statistics for Egyptian ports for 1913 show, in the cases of Greece and Bulgaria, the effect of the war upon their commerce. For example, the number of vessels flying the Hellenic flag decreased by over 250, and the tonnage of cargo discharged from Greek bottoms fell by nearly 20,000, while 3,000 fewer tons of cargo were shipped, and the number of passengers transported declined by nearly 20,000. Bulgarian trade with Egypt, which in 1912 was very small, in 1913 was to all intents and purposes non-existent, there being only five ships to enter Egyptian ports under Bulgarian colours, with 2,469 tons of cargo to discharge and four passengers to land. Now, however, that Bulgaria has two Ægean ports, and is busily engaged in entering into the heritage of the quondam Turkish tobacco trade to Alexandria, a considerable difference in her favour may confidently be expected in the figures for the present year.

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H.M. Commissioners of Customs and Excise secured a conviction last week against a merchant who had been engaged in smuggling hashish into Egypt. The drug had been most ingeniously concealed in slots contrived in barrels used for packing crockery. The Egyptian authorities confiscated the whole consignment of 267 lbs. of hashish and fined the importer £1,215. He was prosecuted over here on a charge of making a false declaration for export and was fined £100. It is believed that the defendant, a Greek, was a member of the syndicate which is known to have been introducing this prohibited drug into Egypt for some time past, and the Government is to be congratulated on having dealt the traffic a heavy blow.

***

The question of land tenure in the new Roumanian Dobruja, which has been profoundly affected by recent legislation in Bucharest, is again brought into prominence by the proclamation which has just been published. This document, while assuring the new subjects of King Carol that no confiscation of land is intended, warns them that they will receive one month's notice of the arrival of the Royal Commissioners, who are to hold inquisition into the titles to land and demand the production of land-tax receipts for the past twenty-seven years. It is possible that this may mean that the Cabinet of Bucharest is desirous to act as fairly as may be according to the letter of the new law, but, on the other hand, in many quarters fears are expressed that this is a new move on the part of the Government which will, in effect, reduce the period of twelve months, at present allowed for the production of the necessary documents, to one of a poor thirty days.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egyptian Commerce and the Suez Canal.

The Egyptian Government has published the commercial and tonnage statistics for the various Egyptian ports during 1913, and also the figures for the transit trade through the Suez Canal. We append tables showing the state of trade, and also a series of calculations indicating the various increases and decreases :—

TABLE A.—FIGURES FOR ALL EGYPTIAN PORTS, 1913.

Flag.	No. of Steamers.		Tons of Cargo.		No. of Passengers.	
	Entered.	Cleared.	Discharged.	Shipped.	Landed.	Embarked.
British	1,638	1,619	3,435,147	711,159	68,140	58,798
Austro-Hungarian	354	355	271,471	136,992	21,196	21,737
French	175	169	95,393	53,687	14,473	16,415
German	224	221	387,886	212,305	11,577	10,451
Italian	272	275	111,604	69,797	13,037	10,961
Russian	262	261	209,976	79,968	14,470	14,919
Grand Total, including all other flags	3,334	3,309	5,074,836	1,412,893	161,864	150,095

COMPARISON OF THE FIGURES IN TABLE A WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1912 INCREASE + OR DECREASE —.

Flag.	No. of Steamers.		Tons of Cargo.		No. of Passengers.	
	Entered.	Cleared.	Discharged.	Shipped.	Landed.	Embarked.
British	+ 171	+ 142	+ 330,200	— 193,366	+ 15,997	+ 6,826
Austro-Hungarian	+ 16	+ 15	+ 23,457	— 53,184	— 475	— 1,316
French	— 5	+ 10	+ 15,822	— 748	— 1,081	+ 4,165
German	+ 60	+ 55	+ 200,920	+ 16,562	+ 1,474	+ 997
Italian	+ 86	+ 96	+ 28,317	+ 1,198	+ 6,195	+ 1,511
Russian	+ 22	+ 10	+ 13,875	+ 31,440	+ 930	— 508
Grand total, including all other flags	+ 120	+ 85	+ 475,692	— 212,519	+ 13,398	— 6

The six flags making the most use of the Suez Canal, and the respective tonnage which they cover (calculated on the Canal system) are enumerated below in order of numerical importance :—

TABLE B.

Flag.	Number of Vessels.	Canal Tonnage.	Number of Passengers Carried.
British	2,961	12,172,817	139,512
German	778	3,364,585	31,791
Dutch	342	1,290,736	18,362
French	256	931,128	36,923
Austro-Hungarian.	246	849,168	7,491
Russian	110	341,941	12,098
Grand total including all other flags	5,085	20,214,856	289,631

INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1912.

Flag.	Number of Vessels.	Canal. Tonnage.	Number of Pasengers Carried.
British	— 387	— 963,486	— 6,763
German	+ 82	+ 334,774	+ 507
Dutch	+ 1	+ 52,799	+ 2,781
French	+ 35	+ 129,385	+ 8,177
Austro-Hungarian	— 1	+ 35,530	+ 1,764
Russian	— 16	— 24,746	— 5,954
Grand total including all other flags	— 287	— 320,570	+29,020

These figures are very far from satisactory so far as British trade is concerned. It is true that we can point to slight increases in the number of British ships entering Egyptian ports, or in the number of tons of cargo discharged or passengers landed and embarked. Our increases are, however, but a small percentage of our former figures, but the Germans, who show a substantial increase in cargo shipped against the deplorable fall in the British figures in that column, reckon their rises by 20 and 31 and even over 100 per cent. The rise in Russian tonnage may be accounted for partially by the opening or closing of the Dardanelles during the Balkan War. It is, however, disquieting to find that the Germans are pressing so hard in the Egyptian carrying trade, and almost alarming to consider the danger to the time-honoured British commercial supremacy through the Suez Canal, which is manifested by an incrase of 82 ships, 334,774 canal tons, and 507 passengers under the German flag, in a year which shows a decrease of 387 ships, 963,486 canal tons, and 6,763 passengers under the British flag.

A RUSSIAN TRADE PAPER.

By "Mirza Firooz Khan."

TABRIZ, April 1.

Azerbaijansky Listok is the name of the first Russian weekly paper in Tabriz. It is a commercial journal, and each week 2,000 copies will be printed and sent to the leading Persian, Russian, and Armenian merchants in this province. There is no subscription; the paper will be sent to the mercantile firms free; and the expense of publishing, etc., is borne by the Imperial Russian Consulate. Besides this purely Russian weekly, the Russian Consulate assists also a native Armenian, who edits and publishes an Armenian weekly, *Mitk*, and a Persian weekly, *Khorshid* (Sun). After the fifth copy of its issue the *Khorshid's* publication was forbidden by Shuja-ed-Dowleh on account of a leading article and its bold tone. The price of one copy of *Khorshid* was four shahis, but after its suppression a copy could not be had for five krans (100 shahis). Needless to say, the *Khorshid* will reappear shortly, as it is under the lofty protection of the Russian Consul, and Shuja-ed-Dowleh cannot afford to kick against the pricks.

Azerbaijansky Listok is going to be a middleman between the Caucasian mercantile firms and the commercial houses of this province. Up to now the "dallols," or middlemen, have done the work of introducing Caucasian goods to Persian merchants, after quoting a much higher price for the Russian goods than they were really asked by the Russian firm, the motive being, of course, to get a larger commission. Hereafter, however, the talkative "dallol" will be thrown into the background, and his function will be performed by this Russian weekly, which promises to do it faithfully and loyally. The two chief aims of *Azerbaijansky Listok* will be :—(1) To introduce the names of Russian (especially Caucasian) firms to Persian merchants, quoting the exact wholesale factory prices, and (2) to find customers for those firms among the Persian and Armenian merchants. *Azerbaijansky Listok* says that hereafter the Caucasian goods will cost much less in Persia than formerly, because now neither can the Persian merchants be cheated by the "dallol," nor will the cost of exportation from Caucasia be so high, as the Julfa-Tabriz railroad will soon be ready, and the camel—like the "dallol"—also thrown into the shade.

The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent states that Khalil Pasha, President of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, who is now in Rome, with Prince Mohammed Ali, will open negotiations with the object of strengthening the commercial relations between Italy and Egypt.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 9.

Trade Marks in Turkey—A Glaring Injustice.

I learn of a very important trade mark action, in regard to which the assistance of the British Chamber of Commerce has been asked, and in which I believe both the Embassy and the Foreign Office are moving.

The firm of Robert McClure and Sons, Limited, of Stockport, have for nearly fifty years been shipping to a British firm, Jacob Anzarut, of Beyrout, cotton goods bearing their very characteristic trade mark, which consists of a square design, at the top of which is the head of some creature, with rays round it, the middle of the design being a large mill with smoking chimneys, while on the three sides are inscriptions in English, Turkish, Armenian, Hebrew, Chinese, and Japanese. This trade mark, for some unaccountable reason, they have omitted to register in Turkey. True, after knowing all the facts, one may ask whether the registration of the same—or, for that matter, of any mark in Turkey—would have served any purpose. However, they are technically in the wrong for not having taken the elementary precaution of registering their trade mark, and this omission is likely to cost them a pretty penny. One of their local buyers had the brilliant idea of registering a mark in every way similar to that of McClure's. The head is that of a different species of animal; the mill is there with its chimneys; and there are inscriptions all round in the several languages even to what appears to be Chinese and Japanese.

In view of recent interpretations of the Trade Mark Law by the Cour de Cassation, the very foundation of the law is shattered, in that it has been held that foreign firms, to be entitled to protection, must have branch establishments in the Empire. This decision, taken in conjunction with the above-mentioned Chinese and Japanese inscriptions in the mark which has been registered by the imitator, and which is further stamped on the goods imported after their arrival in Turkey, has an important bearing on the case in point, and gives away the imitator's *bonâ fides* at once. Messrs. McClure rather tardily decided to register their trade mark in Turkey, which was accepted, as would have been the registration of a half a dozen other marks equally alike, as no examination is made as to the previous registration of any mark or design which is submitted.

The acme of impudence is reached, however, when the imitator commences an action in the Correctional Court at Beyrout, claiming heavy damages against Messrs. McClure for having imitated his registered mark, and for stamping the same on goods of inferior quality to those of the righteous (?) and indignant native. He claims that the two marks are so similar as to be difficult for even the "connaisseur" to distinguish between them, let alone the poor deluded peasant who is being deceived.

An interesting coincidence is that the present Minister of Commerce, to whose attention the matter has been brought, is a Syrian himself, and has admitted to interested parties that he has known McClure's trade mark for fifty years or more.

A draft law has been prepared by the Ministry of Commerce, containing certain articles which would prevent abuses like the present glaring instance; but, as in the case of the decision concerning the legal status of the cheque referred to by "Commentator" in your issue of April 24—which has since been put right by the promulgation of a "Loi provisoire"—some immediate steps are necessary to rehabilitate the Trade Mark Law as concerning firms doing business in Turkey. As at present applied the law would seem to have entirely the opposite effect to what should be expected of it, viz., the protection of industrial propriety.

Mesopotamia Oil Fields.

I learn that the Government has been considering a scheme, reported favourably upon by a Commission appointed to study it, by which it was proposed to split up the oil region into small lots of 400 hectares, and to put each lot up separately to public adjudication. The Grand Vizier was, however, averse from this proposal; and it has been decided to grant concessions to the British and German groups for the oilfields already discovered. A map of the oil springs known to exist has been made by the Department of Mines and handed to both the British and German Ambassadors. At the same time, I understand that these known sources are clearly defined, and other sources, which may eventually be discovered, will be treated according to law and put up to adjudication.

Treasury Returns.

In a communication of the Ministry of Finance, the total receipts of the Treasury during the financial year ended February (Old Style) are reported as £T29,927,000, as compared with £T29,199,000 during the previous year, thus showing an apparent increase of £T728,000. As certain receipts figure in the last fiscal year, but do not appear in the previous year, and vice versâ, the Ministry establishes the following comparison. Deduction is made of the subscriptions to the War Fund and the Fleet during the year ended 1914, £T465,800, and in 1913 £T679,000, the war taxes during five months of the year ended 1914, £T698,200, and the Egypt and Cyprus tributes during the same year, £T874,700. From the previous fiscal year ended February, 1913, is deducted the total receipts of the European provinces until the declaration of war, £T1,471,400, also certain collections by the Public Debt not yet appearing in the receipts for the year just ended, £T55,800, and the receipts from certain districts during the previous year, but not yet reported in 1914, £T59,000. After these deductions are made the increase is £T954,500, as compared with the previous year. The receipts from the European provinces having been deducted, as well as the various contributions by tax or voluntary subscription to the Ministries of War and Marine, this evident increase represents the normal progress of the returns from the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

THE FINANCES OF THE LEBANON.

Shoucair Pasha's Report.—II.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The encroachment of the Porte on the rights of the Lebanon does not end at the appropriation of the Custom dues and the refusal to make good the Budgetary deficit, to which reference was made in the preceding article. There are several other glaring abuses that require rectification.

In the first place, when the Organic Law was signed, the limits of the "Mountain" were clearly determined. Its area was about 4,000 square kilometres, consisting for the most part of rocky country, and including a part of land to the north called the "Moaissaret," on which an annual land-tax of £T590 was levied. For seven years the Lebanon Government collected this revenue; then suddenly the Tripoli Government, acting under orders from Constantinople, intervened, and it has collected the tax ever since that date. The amount illegally received by the Tripoli authorities comes to £T25,700—almost sufficient to wipe out the Budgetary deficit. It is perhaps too much to expect the Porte to restitute the sum thus seized by it; but it should certainly be prevailed upon to return the area in question to the Lebanon Government, and to cease collecting the taxes imposed thereon.

Further, the Sublime Porte, or, more correctly speaking, the Ottoman Public Debt Commission, illegally derives considerable profit from the salt, tobacco, tombac, and liquors monopolies. In all the concessions it has been clearly stipulated that they do not extend to privileged provinces such as the Lebanon and Samos. Yet no attention has been paid to this, and until the Lebanese authorities took up a very strong stand on the point a few years ago, not one farthing of the profit reached them. An allowance of 10 per cent. up to £T20,000, and of 14 per cent. beyond that sum on the sale of tobacco in the Lebanon, and a bonus of P.T.2 per kilogramme of tombac up to 40,000 kilogrammes, and of P.T.5 beyond that figure were obtained with much difficulty—liquids still pay a high tax to the Ottoman Public Debt, and no participation in the profits of the salt monopoly has been acquired yet—and as a result the Lebanon to-day derives some small benefit from these monopolies. If only it could obtain its proper share in the tobacco and tombac concessions it could increase its revenues by almost £T20,000, whilst if, as is suggested, it could import salt directly a further £T15,000 to £T20,000 per annum would accrue to it.

With regard to the question of salt, the present retail price is too high; direct importation would effect a substantial reduction, and yet give the Lebanon Treasury a very good revenue. To-day the Lebanese pay sixty paras per oke for salt that costs the Public Debt Commission about ten paras per oke. Shoucair Pasha is against the Lebanon Government making a monopoly of the importation of salt, and suggests that its importation should be free, subject to the payment of a duty of twenty paras per oke. The Government, on an estimated consumption in the province of four million okes, would thus obtain a revenue of £T20,000, and the consumers would receive their salt through healthy competition at a cheaper retail price, since it could be sold at forty paras per oke and still leave a profit of about ten paras per oke to the importers.

Moreover, not only does the Lebanon not participate in the Customs receipts and in the monopoly profits, but it actually has to maintain at its own expense between Beyrout and Saida a coastguard service to prevent smuggling. The utter injustice of this arrangement, which strikes one at once, becomes even more glaring when it is explained that the smuggling would benefit the Lebanese, whereas its prevention only puts more money into the coffers of the Porte and of the Ottoman Public Debt Commission. As Shoucair Pasha very rightly says, if the Porte declines to allow the Lebanon to exploit its own fixed rights, it is only logical that the Imperial Treasury should pay the cost of upkeep of the service, the sole object of which is the protection of its interests.

ADALIA RAILWAY.

With reference to the Adalia Railway, an interesting local view is expressed in the *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna. That journal says, with regard to this question:—"The matter, however, is so important to British interests that every effort should be made by our statesmen to insist on the rights of the Aidin Railway Company being fully recognised, for, once the Italians gain a footing in the Adalia district and are allowed to build a railway to any point approaching the Aidin line, there is absolutely no doubt that the result will be inimical to the interests of the British Company. It may be that the district through which the proposed Italian line will pass will not produce enough to make the line pay for many years, but the Italians are not demanding a foothold in the Adalia district for philanthropic reasons, and the one concession will ultimately lead to another. It is evident that any and every concession granted to Italian companies in this district will be only to the detriment of the British Company, and it is for this reason that we trust the British Government will show a determined front and support the one important British Railway Company in Turkey."

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Braila. May 9.

Favourable reports regarding autumn and spring sowings arrive from all parts of the country, with the exception of the following districts, where rain is very urgently needed: Braila, Rimic-Sarat (southern part), Buzen, and Yalomika (eastern part). In the Braila and Buzen districts, unless it rains within the next four or five days, the crops will be very seriously damaged.

Cyprus. May. 1

The weather keeps remarkably cool for the time of year, and the very general rains of last week have done much good. The crop prospects are quite satisfactory.

Sofia. May 9.

According to the reports of the Customs, yesterday's average prices of grain throughout the Kingdom per 100 kilograms were:—Wheat, 18.20-18.70 frs.; maize, 11.60 frs.; barley, 13.30 frs.; beans, 20 frs.

Busreh. April 18.

The prospects for the date crop are good. It is impossible as yet to form any sort of comparative estimate, but all conditions have been, and still are, entirely favourable, and on all sides one hears optimistic predictions. Growers concur in saying that Hallawees will be more plentiful than last year, while Siars will be scarcer.

There is a very large grain crop this year.

The following are extracts from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Beyrout. May 2.

After the Easter holidays the situation of the market has left much to be desired. Stagnation has set in, and the mercantile community complain of the prevailing inactivity here.

The amount of business done, up till lately satisfactory, has begun to be seriously restricted. Wholesale merchants dare not risk large orders, preferring to draw upon the stocks still remaining at their various depôts.

The plentiful rains during the last week have been beneficial to the crops, which had already begun to suffer from the drought of the previous period. The grain trade has remained practically stationary during the past week.

Busreh. April 16.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March:—

The market has continued stagnant, although the prospect is not unfavourable. This calm is the result of the prolonged stringency of money, which has restricted the circulation of imported products. But in view of the approach of the harvests, which begin in May, the advances which merchants will have to make to the cultivators will by degrees put money into circulation, and will improve trade. At any rate, a general recovery is expected in the month of July, when important cargoes of cereals for Europe will be paid for.

About 2,000 tons of cereals have recently been bought here and will be despatched to Jeddah at the end of this month. In consequence, the available stocks on the market are reduced to some 3,000 or 4,000 tons.

Shipments of butter have already been sent to ports on the Persian Gulf. Attempts are now being made to send consignments to Constantinople and other Ottoman ports by the Russian steamer, which will leave our town on May 10.

Angora. April 29.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March:—

The prospect for the new crops continues favourable, and, except in the event of unfortunate circumstances arising, our crop this year ought to be much superior to that of last year. All depends on the weather next month.

The mortality among sheep being almost nil, this year's production of mohair ought also to be superior to last year's. It is unfortunate that the complete calm which continues to reign on the markets at Constantinople and Bradford prevents our realising on our earlier deliveries.

There is very little doing in the export of cereals. In spite of the insignificance of last year's harvest, the export of cereals during March would have been greater had it not been for the fear of the villagers lest their animals should be seized by the Military authorities, who were requisitioning all the means of transport.

Very little business has been done in mohair. Stocks are small and transactions at Bradford and Stamboul insignificant.

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KHARTOUM SUDAN

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EGYPTIAN ONION CROP.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 8.

As a result of the set-back to the onion crop in Spain, prices of Egyptian onions have reached an extraordinary figure. It is stated that an acre of land under onions has yielded £E150. In fact, many agriculturists have actually made a fortune out of their onions this year. Exporters, too, have done remarkably well, for prices have done nothing but rise since the beginning of the season. Egypt will soon have exhausted its supply of onions, and in a month or so will have to import from Asia Minor and Syria to supply its own requirements.

SUDAN GUM.

Mr. Albert Singer, of Khartoum, reports from Khartoum, under date of April 30:—

Gum Arabic, Kordofan Hashab.—The arrivals during the month have been a good average till within a few days, when they decreased owing to unfavourable weather conditions in the Kordofan collecting districts. There has been throughout a strong and active demand, and occasionally the supplies could not meet the inrush of orders. Prices rose in sympathy with the increased export and local speculative demand, and prices are, at the moment, considerably higher than buyers abroad are willing to offer. It is generally expected that supplies will come in largely during May and June next. In anticipation thereof foreign buyers are holding off for lower quotations, but there is no data at hand to make sure of either heavy arrivals or lower prices. In the meantime the impression is gaining ground that the Sudan market will continue firm with, perhaps, even a slight advancing tendency on present rates for both spot and futures.

The quality of the gum is very satisfactory.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending May 1:—We have to report again a fairly active market, with sales amounting to sixty-nine cases at last week's prices. The holders firmly maintain the position, and to-day no eligible 11 per cent. material can be procured unless the buyer is prepared to pay 15s. per lb. Mixed qualities with a guarantee of 11 per cent. some shippers may be willing to accept business at 14s. 9d. and even 14s. 6d., but we strongly advise buyers to pay the full price of 15s., so as to ensure getting uniform selected quality and with the best chance of finding the shipment ¼ or ½ per cent. stronger in morphia. The arrivals are 4,569 cases, against 2,374 at same date last year.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar. London, May 14.

The market has been steady in the beginning of this week, but gradually became quiet and easier. In beet sugar only moderate business was done, chiefly in new crop, at 9s. 3½d. for May, 9s. 7d. for August, and 9s. 6¾d. October-December, f.o.b. Hamburg. The Austria-Hungary production (which is of more interest to the Near Eastern markets) for April was 14,800 tons, against 15,300 tons last year; export, 59,500 tons, against 88,400 tons; and stock, 659,200 tons, against 672,900 tons last year. Refined sugar (English) has been steady but quiet, with quotations for Tate's cubes No. 1 at 18s. prompt and 18s. 1½d. for June-July. Granulated, fine 16s. 6d., and standard 16s. Foreign also has been quiet; first marks granulated were sold from 11s. 3¾d. to 11s. 7½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Say's cubes, prompt, 15s. 1½d., and loaves 14s. 3d., f.o.b. Paris. German and Austrian cubes, prompt, were sold at 13s. 3¾d. to 13s. 6d., f.o.b. Hamburg.

Coffee.

There was only a moderate activity in the market during the week, and a rather slow demand at auctions. Prices, however, have been steady. Costa Rica, low, mid to mid, sold at 69s. to 78s., and bold, 77s. to 86s.; East India, low, mid to good mid, 69s. to 76s., and bold, 66s. to 88s. The speculative market has been dull and easier, September being sold at 43s., July 42s., and May 41s. 3d.

Seeds.

Business is rather quiet, with values in some instances easier. Linseed has been firmer during the week, but is now closing with a quieter tone, London-Calcutta spot being quoted 48s.; April-May sold at 48s. 3d., May-June 48s. 9d., June-July 49s. 3d., July-August 50s. Rapeseed is steady but inactive. Brown Cawnpore May-June quoted 50s. 6d., and Yellow Guzerat 54s. 6d. Cottonseed is very quiet, London-Egyptian quoted: May £7 17s. 6d., June £7 18s. 9d., and November-January £8 8s. 9d. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil has had a better demand, spot pipes landed selling 24s. 9d. and barrels 25s. Rapeseed oil is quiet; ordinary brown naked quoted 30s. 9d. and refined casks 33s. Cotton oil is much firmer; crude spot quoted 29s. 6d., refined sweet 32s. 9d. to 34s. 6d. as to make, and ordinary pale 29s. 9d. Petroleum is easier; Roumanian and Russian quoted 7¾d. per gallon, American 7¾d., and water white 8¾d. per gallon.

Oilcakes, etc.

Only very moderate business is passing, more or less of a retail nature in linseed cake, with fine, seedy Calcutta firm at £7 10s. to £7 15s. for May-June shipment, whilst best London-made cakes are offered at £7 10s. to £7 15s., and best quality Russian at £7 7s. 6d. to £7 10s. A somewhat better inquiry is noticeable for cotton cakes, and as there are no fresh supplies of Egyptian due until about three weeks' time, the market is rather firmer in both positions. Egyptian on the quay are firm at £4 11s. 3d. to £4 12s. 6d., with May-June at £4 7s. 6d. to £4 8s. 9d. ex ship, and English makes at £4 17s. 6d. Bombay are offered £3 15s. Decorticated cotton cakes and meal are meeting with a good demand, and owing to the stock being small an advance is anticipated. Business was done this week at £7 12s. 6d. to £7 15s. per ton ex quay. Maize Germ meal: With no fresh arrivals of white African, only English makes are obtainable on rather easier terms of £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d.

Locust beans continue scarce and dearer, whole being offered at £6 5s. 9d. and kibbled £6 15s.

Corn, etc.

Wheat: The cargo market ruled firm during the week, but with a quieter demand; South Russian on sample April (old style), at 34s. 9d. to 35s. 6d.; and white Kurrachee, choice May, at 38s. 3d. Barley is firmly held at unchanged prices, but quieter. South Russian due out May 15 or May-June offered at 21s. 6d. Maize is also firmly held at late rates, but the demand is quieter. Oats are firm and unaltered.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 8.

Prices are firmer, and the opinion generally held is that they will remain steady for some time. The picking is progressing favourably, and the increased area of cultivation will act as a powerful check upon any fresh set-back.

Speculative transactions are not numerous, and transactions generally are short-term.

Exporters are buying hardly any of the new crop, and with such a large stock at Alexandria spinners have no need to make purchases far ahead.

The slight margin between American and Egyptian cotton is due to the fact that the present stock at Alexandria consists almost entirely of lower grade cotton. Good quality cotton is always sought after and fetches superior prices.

The future of the market will depend upon the American market. The increased acreage, the existence of a large stock, and the falling off in the industrial demand tend for the moment to lower prices. Cotton-seed continues to decline, owing to the absence of demand and the depreciation of oil. The attendance at the market is slight.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. May, 17⅜, November, 18½. Exchange, three months' date, 96⅛.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	10,000 ..	9,000 ..	12,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,541,585 ..	7,425,581 ..	7,203,123
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	2,750 ..	1,500 ..	1,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	130,195 ..	187,468 ..	183,838
Shipments to Manchester	Nil. ..	Nil. ..	4,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	199,534 ..	191,647 ..	210,879
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	9,750 ..	6,750 ..	3,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	376,700 ..	351,512 ..	324,990
Shipments to U.S. America	2,250 ..	1,000 ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	71,343 ..	115,821 ..	93,518
Shipments to all ports	14,750 ..	9,250 ..	10,750
Ditto since Sept. 1	837,772 ..	846,448 ..	819,245
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,662,000 ..	1,330,000 ..	1,263,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to May 6, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	187,445	186,059	182,831
,, Manchester	199,534	191,647	206,833
Total Shipments to Great Britain	386,979	377,706	389,664
Shipments to France and Spain	105,419	102,710	92,156
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	176,711	168,674	161,871
Shipments to Russia	63,409	54,975	52,130
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	1,739	763	823
Total Shipments to Continent	347,278	327,122	306,980
Shipments to U.S. America	69,093	114,821	96,911
Ditto to India and Japan	19,672	17,655	14,769
Total Shipments to all parts	823,022	837,302	808,324
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

To May 1.—"Venetian." May 2.—"Corsican Prince," Manchester. May 4.—"Caria." May 12.—"Esneh."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—At the commencement of the week there was a good demand, and quite a fair business was put through in Egyptian spot, but latterly the inquiry fell away, and sales during the last three days have been small. There has been no outstanding feature in the demand, except that perhaps Abassi and Voltos—the selection of which is practically exhausted—have been further sought after. Good staple Nubari and Assili have also been in request, but Sakellerides, Joannovich, and Upper Egyptian qualities have been rather neglected. Quotations for Brown and Upper are raised 15 points, Nubari good below raised 15 points, fine and extra 10 points. Joannovich is raised 10 points, with the exception of extra fine, which is reduced 5 points. Sakellerides is advanced 10 points, except extra fine, which is unchanged. Estimated sales, 2,100 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, May 13.

A stronger tone has prevailed in the market during the past week, there being an upward tendency in raw cotton rates. Business in yarn and cloth has been difficult to arrange, as most buyers have not been willing to follow the higher prices. The general demand in the market continues quieter, and operators do not seem inclined to purchase with any freedom until more is known as to raw material supplies during the coming season. Advices today relating to the American crop are not very favourable, the weather conditions being rather adverse. It is realised throughout the trade that a bountiful yield is required if prices are to be kept on a reasonable level. Much uncertainty exists as to the position of the growth in Egypt, and there is every appearance of the crop being later than last year. The production in yarn and cloth continues on a large scale, and if producers are not to lose ground, it is necessary for fair buying to take place from week to week. In piece goods for Egypt the inquiry has been of a limited nature, and there are complaints as to the poor offers which are coming through from the other side. The markets of the Levant have not given much support, but occasional lots have been put through for Turkey. India is providing fewer orders than a few weeks ago, but operations have not been quite at a standstill, most of the transactions being for Calcutta. Advices from China do not improve, and the outlook is altogether too uncertain for an active trade to be done. There has been very little practicable demand for the South American outlets. Rather worse reports are now coming through from the home trade, and the climatic conditions are not at all favourable to a large turnover in light fancy materials. The position of manufacturers remains irregular, there being considerable variation in order lists. American yarns for home use are dearer to buy than a week ago, but consumers have refused to follow at the higher rates, and business to a large extent has been blocked. Some ground has been lost by producers of the lower numbers in both twist and weft. There has not been much activity in shipping counts, although there is business to be done on certain terms for India. Extra hard descriptions for the near Eastern outlets are quieter. Bolton spinnings have been well held, but a rather restricted trade has been reported.

PLUSH IN PERSIA.

The estimated number of pieces (860) of plush imported into Ispahan (Persia) during the year 1912-13 was about the average of recent years, but the value was considerably higher. It is stated that fully three-quarters of the goods imported were of the higher qualities, which are much more in demand than the lower ones. The proportion of British to Continental (German Austro-Hungarian, French, and Italian), viz., about three-fourths, was considerably higher than in recent years. Prices ranged from 4½ to 11 krans (1s. 7½d. to 4s.) for plush of 21 inches width, and 5 to 13 krans (2s. to 4s. 8½d.) for that of 31 to 32 inches width, according to quality.

OLIVE OIL.

According to the *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna the general impression is that, taking the whole of the producing districts of the Levant, including Crete, the present is a very large crop, but hardly as large as that of two years ago, say, by about 10 per cent. less. A report from Aivali stated that both quality and quantity were exceptionally good.

SUDAN MARKET REPORT.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government :—

According to a Kordofan Province report for February, large quantities of gum had come into the El Obeid market during the month; in fact, a record for February, 23,680 kantars of 120 rottles having been sold in the market as against 19,887 in February last year, and 11,119 in February, 1912. The report for March states that gum had been coming in well during the month. The total sales for the month, 39,932 kantars, were the second biggest on record, being exceeded only by those of the month of May, 1913, when 46,868 kantars came into El Obeid market. The price during the month had remained very steady.

According to a Sennar Province report for February, there was a good demand for gum, and prices rose very high after the natives held their stocks. From Kassala Province it was reported for February that 3,369 kantars Hashab and 688 kantars Talh were exported from Gedaref during the month, and 3,707 kantars Hashab and 617 kantars Talh imported.

According to a Red Sea Province report for February, the amount of cotton coming into the market at Tokar was considerably less than in the corresponding month of last year, but this was chiefly due to the lateness of the crop. The crop on the whole was healthy, though "Asal" had appeared in small quantities.

A Kordofan Province report for February states that there were considerable quantities of grain in the market at El Obeid throughout the month. At the beginning of February, when people were bringing in more than usual in order to purchase whatever they wanted for the Mulid El Nebi, the price had fallen, but since then it had been rising steadily. For March it was reported that there had been plenty of grain in this market during the month, though the merchants stated that very little more would come in afterwards, as nearly all the Nuba crops had then been bought up. The prices during the month varied.

From Khartoum Province it was reported that during February the experiment of importing and using dura from India to meet local scarcity was found to be successful. The quality was good, that of the first consignment particularly so. According to a Sennar Province report for February, a little more grain than in previous months was put on the markets. This grain was chiefly that of merchants who had purchased for Omdurman and other northern markets, but sold on news of grain arrivals from India. In the markets at Sennar, Wad El Haddad, etc., the dura supply was more than sufficient for the demands of the labourers on the Canal and other works. The natives' complaint of a serious scarcity is groundless, their real complaint being high prices, about which they complain bitterly.

During March the rafting of timber had begun on the Government forest reserve at Nabra Island, White Nile Province, where some 50,000 cubic metres of excellent timber were awaiting disposal.

A Sennar Province report for February stated that at the soap factory at Singa, as a consequence of the very high price of simsil oil, experiments in extracting oil from the "Lalob" (Heglig fruit—*Balenites d'egyptiaca*) were being made during the month.

A report for February stated that Berber Province was again free of cattle disease, and reports from other centres were satisfactory.

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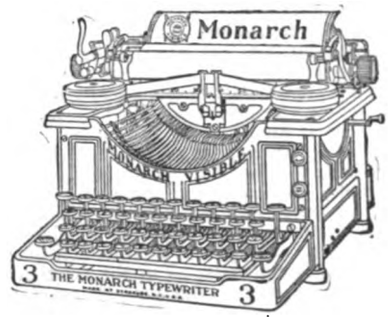

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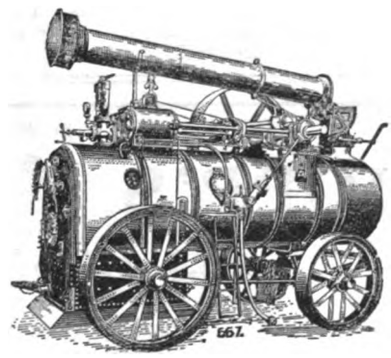

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Engineering Notes.

Athens Water Supply.

The Bill authorising the Government to proceed with the scheme of bringing the waters of Lake Stymphalis into Athens, frequently mentioned in these columns, is one of the first to be laid before the Chamber of Deputies in Athens. All information and the necessary plans to be used during the discussion are ready, and the Minister of the Interior telegraphed last week to the Government engineer at Corinth to proceed to the lake and measure the quantity of water available at this time of the year. As we mentioned before, an Anglo-Greek group of financiers and engineers is interested in this scheme, for which it submitted proposals to the Government two years ago, with most elaborate survey and plans carried out and drawn up by the late engineer, Mr. Bailey-Denton, which are amongst others considered the best.

Prospecting in Northern Persia.

According to a note received from Elizabetpol, says the *Financier*, a Russo-Persian Mining Company is sending delegates into Northern Persia in order to investigate the land there and report on its value in respect to copper and argentiferous lead mines at Karadag, and also on the best spot on which to erect a properly equipped factory in the valley of the Arax, and further, to investigate the deposits of copper ores in the neighbouring district of Zangerursky. The Russian mining people doubtless hope to be able to turn to account their proximity to Northern Persia and easy approach thereto either by the Caspian Sea through the port of Enzeli, or by the railways that they have constructed on their side of the frontier, which they hope soon to extend far into Persia, or again by the paved roads which they have already constructed in that country for the more efficient transaction of the commerce that is carried on between them.

Steam Boiler Explosions.

Accidents in factories or on board steamboats from boiler explosions are not unusual in the Near East; and this may be attributed, more or less, to an existing risky habit of buying second-hand boilers, discarded, perhaps, from another factory or boat, and of employing unskilled firemen to attend them. Owing to the scarcity of skilled mechanics, these men, who are, as a rule, ignorant, and fit only for stokers, pose as "engineers," and are often entrusted by owners with their property for the sake of economy! Unfortunately, in most places in the Near East there is no official inspection of steam boilers and machinery, and the competency of a man who takes charge as an "engineer" or fireman of a steamboat, a tug, or a factory is very seldom questioned. Hence the frequency of accidents, often attended by loss of life. A case of this kind happened quite recently through the explosion of a boiler in a mill, the engineer and his assistant being killed and the machinery wrecked. It was proved by an examination afterwards that the cause of explosion was over-heating through grease. In the Near East the cost of fuel is an item of great consideration to steam users, for coal, especially in remote districts, is dear, and hence all kinds of feed-water-heaters and other devices for such purpose are used. But very few know that unless these devices are properly and carefully used they are neither economical nor safe.

Some Useful Hints.

As a rule, the exhaust steam is used for heating the feed-water, and when exhaust steam is passed into the feed-water to heat it, or the oily water of condensation from a condensing engine is used as feed-water, grease will be present in the boiler, and as it becomes concentrated on the surface of the flues or tubes, it will not only reduce the efficiency of the boiler, but be a positive source of danger, since it may lead to serious overheating and the subsequent collapse of furnace crowns or tubes. A film of grease one-hundredth of an inch thick offers resistance to the passage of heat equal to a steel plate 10 inches thick. In other words, grease offers a thousand times the resistance of steel to the passage of heat. If, therefore, it were only realised that the apparently harmless film of oil offered as much resistance to the passage of heat as a thick deposit of hard scale, more care would be taken to eliminate it. One of the principal methods now in use for the removal of grease is the filtration of feed-water and the separation of grease from the exhaust steam before the steam enters the condenser or heater. Another method is the chemical treatment of greasy water, and subsequent filtration. The feed-water is automatically treated with correct proportions of suitable re-agents, which collect the minute globules in a form suitable for removal by filters of wood fibre or sand. Another method, and perhaps easier to adopt in existing engines, is to be recommended. If it is desired to heat the feed water by exhaust steam from which the grease has not been removed, the steam should be conveyed in coils of pipes and should not, upon any account, be brought into direct contact with the feed-water.

Egypt Wireless Station.

The construction of the new Egyptian wireless station which is to form one of the links in the Imperial wireless chain will commence forthwith, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, which gives the following particulars of the installation:—The transmitting station will be at Abu Zabal and the receiving station at Abu Soueir. The transmitting station will consist of steam turbines, electric generators, high frequency transformers, and three aerials. The aerials will be supported by thirty-six steel masts, twenty-four of which will be 300 ft., and the remainder 352 ft. in height. The receiving station will consist of ten steel masts of 300 ft. supporting three aerials, a receiving-house, and a small power plant for lighting and other purposes. The transmitting apparatus at Abu Zabal will be controlled from the receiving station at Abou Soueir. For the erection of the masts native labour will be utilised under the superintendence of English engineers. One of the latter, Mr. Charles James, chief assistant engineer, has already arrived in Egypt and others are due shortly. Consignments of mast materials are arriving weekly, some 500 tons being at present stored upon the sites and ready for use.

An Egyptian Irrigation Scheme.

We extract the following from the *Egyptian Mail*:—"We learn that an important new Egyptian company is now in process of formation. The capital of this company will, it is understood, be between £E250,000 and £E300,000, the object to provide water by irrigation to a tract of cultivatable land, some forty kilometres long, in the vicinity of the Nile near Edfu in Upper Egypt. This will be achieved by erecting a powerful set of pumps on the Nile bank which will drive the water along a high level canal to the desired destination. The necessary concession from the Government has already been obtained, and, we believe, preliminary arrangements in connection with the acquisition of land are being undertaken."

A Portable Searchlight Plant.

It is reported that in the list of war materials which military authorities of the Balkan States are about to order there are portable searchlight plants of a light and easily handled construction. Continental firms have not been slow in submitting specifications and prices for these searchlights, and we hope that English firms will also do so. Some time ago we described in these columns a new searchlight apparatus mounted on a military motor-car which the French Army was contemplating adopting, but a still more serviceable and lighter apparatus is one we have seen, of British construction, which the British War Office has acquired. It is a combined self-contained petrol motor and searchlight plant, an interesting combination worked by a 3½-h.p. engine burning ordinary kerosene or petroleum, and a small dynamo. The whole is mounted upon a stationary bed, which, however, can easily be transferred to a trolley for portable purposes if so desired. The engine is equipped with a magneto ignition of the high-tension type. Air cooling is adopted, a fan being fitted for the purpose, while a particularly large exhaust-box is provided to muffle completely the noise of the exhaust. The motor weighs about 65 lbs., while its height is 20 ins. This apparatus was subjected to a six hours' test by the War Office authorities at the time, and the current developed after running for that period was 16 amperes at 75 volts under full charge, the revolutions of the engine ranging from 1,450 to 1,500 per minute.

Roumanian Railways.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that the Roumanian State Railways administration will very shortly invite tenders for forty-two passenger carriages and 300 goods wagons and trucks, of which about 100 will be of the open type, for the carrying of live stock. Particulars and drawings will shortly be published, but the date of adjudication is not yet known. Our correspondent adds that the construction of the line from Dorohoi to Novosuliza, on the Bukovina frontier, is being pushed forward rapidly.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Silk.—Tenders are invited at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for the supply of 550 okes (about 1,510 lbs.) of raw silk for making the Holy Carpet. June 18.

Blankets, Towels, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of (1) 16,450 blankets, 1,200 pairs of cotton sheets, 960 bath towels, 1,800 hand Turkish towels, and khaki and drill clothing; (2) 16,000 yards of flannelette; and (3) 2,500 corn sacks. (1) May 27; (2) June 18; (3) June 23.

BULGARIA.

Corridor Carriages.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian Directorate-General of Railways and Ports for the supply of thirty corridor carriages. June 2.

Electric Power Plant.—Tenders are invited at the District Finance Offices, Sofia, for the installation of electric power plant at the Pernik coal mines. Estimated cost, £6,750. May 29.

ROUMANIAN OIL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 10.

The dispute between the Government and the oil companies has at last been settled, the companies accepting the following prices:—150 lei per ton for benzine for factory and mill use, and 52.50 lei per ton for residue for the State Railways. The prices previously agreed upon were 190 lei and 65 lei respectively. The arrangement holds good for two years, after which a new arrangement is to be made.

A purely Roumanian petroleum company is being formed, with a capital of three million lei. The names of the participants have so far not been made public.

Our Trade Correspondent writes from Athens that the Wagon-Lits Company has started a restaurant car service between Athens and Patras. Luncheon costs 3.75 drs., and is on the same lines as in the other restaurant cars run by the company.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

BRAILA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Braila, May 9.

There is no improvement to report in our freight market, which has been very dull the whole week, the open tonnage in port being in excess of actual requirements. The best demand was for Rotterdam, which berth commanded 7s. 3d. from the Danube, but towards the end of the week the rate fell 3d. owing to competition. The Antwerp market remained dull at 7s. 3d. There was a fair demand for Hamburg the whole week, but as three steamers in port were loading for that port the rate did not rise above 7s. 6d. The Mediterranean market is lifeless; there is just a slight demand for Marseilles at 7.75 fr. to 8 fr.

Little fresh business has been effected at Sulina; the steamers there are loading old engagements. The rate for prompt shipments remains unchanged at 6s. for either Antwerp or Rotterdam.

A bank formed at the second milepost and another one at Sulina Bar, and steamers cannot leave Sulina if drawing more than 21 ft., or load up river to more than 20 ft. 6 ins. The European Commission for the Navigation of the Danube have sent dredgers to the spot, and it is expected that the obstruction will be cleared during the course of the next few days.

THE DANUBE COMMISSION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 7.

The European Commission of the Danube commences its spring session on May 9 at Sulina. The principal point of discussion is the proposal to improve the canal between the Danube proper and the town of Isacsia, the deepening of which would be of great advantage to the town and shipping in general.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Ellerman Lines.

"Alexandria."—At Liverpool April 23. "Andalusian."—At Odessa May 8. "Asiout."—Left Constantinople for Palermo May 8. "Asturian."—At Manchester. "Austrian."—At Alexandria April 29. "Avon."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean May 6. "Bavarian."—Left Constantinople for Pati May 6. "Belgravian."—At Liverpool May 11. "Bosnian." At Liverpool May 6. "Britannia."—At Liverpool May 9. "Castillian."—At Alexandria April 7. "City of Cambridge."—Left Algiers for Malta May 7. "City of Khios."—Left Alexandria for London May 6. "City of Oxford."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria May 5. "Fabian."—Left Patras for Corfu May 6. "Lisbon."—Left Liverpool for Constantinople May 6. "Malatian."—At Constantinople May 6. "Oporto."—Left Newport for Persian Gulf March 31. "Persian."—Left Alexandria for Smyrna April 24.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—London/Bombay. Left Gibraltar May 12. "Arcadia."—Bombay/London. Left Suez May 8. "Banca."—At Bombay April 2. "Caledonia."—Bombay/London. Left Port Said May 12. "Candia."—Left London for Calcutta April 12. "Delta."—At Bombay May 12. "Egypt."—London/Dalmatia. Left Corfu May 8. "Macedonia."—London/Bombay. Left Aden May 10. "Nankin."—London/Calcutta. Left Suez May 8. "Nyanza."—Left London for Calcutta May 9. "Palawan."—At Port Sudan May 6. "Persia."—At Bombay May 1. "Sardinia."—Calcutta/London. Left Colombo May 9. "Simla."—London/Calcutta. At Colombo April 23. "Sumatra."—At Bombay March 27.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—Bombay/Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar May 10. "Chantala."—At London May 8. "Chakrata."—At Bombay April 25. "Chinkoa."—London/Bombay. Passed Gibraltar May 7. "Chupra."—London/Bombay. Left Karachi May 10. "Chyebassa."—London/Calcutta. Left Aden May 7. "Malda."—London/Calcutta. Left Marseilles May 10. "Manora."—Calcutta/London. Left Colombo May 5. "Mashobra."—Calcutta/London. Left Naples May 9. "Nevassa."—At London. "Takada."—London/Calcutta. Left Madras May 6.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—Left New York for Gibraltar May 2. "Castalia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left Perim May 10. "Elysia."—At Bombay May 8. "Italia."—At Naples May 11. "Massilia."—Liverpool/Bombay. Left Gibraltar May 10. "Perugia."—Palermo/New York. Passed Gibraltar May 3. "Scindia."—Bombay/Liverpool. At Marseilles May 10.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—At Liverpool April 28. "Caria."—At Alexandria May 4. "Cypria."—At Liverpool April 28. "Ivernia."—Left New York for Mediterranean May 7. "Laconia."—Naples/New York. Left Lisbon May 9. "Lycia."—At Smyrna May 10. "Pannonia."—New York/Mediterranean. At Gibraltar May 11. "Pavia."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean May 6. "Phrygia."—At Fiume May 9. "Saxonia."—At Trieste May 10. "Thracia."—Left Algiers May 10. "Tyria."—At Liverpool. "Ultonia."—Left Palermo for Gibraltar May 10. "Veria."—At Leghorn May 9.

Johnston Line.

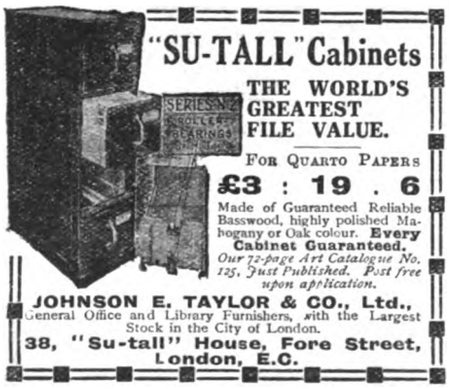
"Arranmore."—Galatz/Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar May 9. "Barnesmore."—At Galatz April 27. "Barrowmore."—At Antwerp. "Cranmore."—At Liverpool May 8. "Foylemore."—Left Swansea for Ancona May 9. "Gorsemore."—At Birkenhead. "Heathmore."—Left Liverpool for Piræus May 5. "Incemore."—At Galatz May 10. "Jessmore."—Left Sulina for Galatz May 10. "Kenmore."—At Piræus May 9. "Larchmore."—At Galatz April 17.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—Constantinople/Liverpool. Left Malta May 11. "Esneh."—At Alexandria April 17. "Hathor."—Swansea/Alexandria. Left Malta May 4. "Karnak."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Malta May 2. "Khephren."—At Garston May 10. "Meroe."—At Liverpool May 8. "Moeris."—At Liverpool May 10. "Siptah."—Liverpool/Constantinople. Left Oran May 9. "Tanis."—At Constantinople April 27.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—On Syrian Coast May 2. "Corsican Prince."—Alexandria/Manchester. Left Algiers May 9. "Egyptian Prince."—Left London for Alexandria May 6. "Merchant Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria May 7. "Norman Prince."—At Alexandria April 19. "Saxon Prince."—At Alexandria May 9. "Sailor Prince."—At Manchester April 18. "Stuart Prince."—At Alexandria May 10. "Tudor Prince."—At Alexandria April 26. "Trojan Prince."—At Syrian Coast May 2.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SMYRNA TOBACCO.

According to the *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna the tobacco crop of 1913 has proved to be the largest on record, exceeding 9,000,000 okes (1 oke=2.82 lbs.). Most of the crop is of a poor quality, owing to the summer rains. About 5,000,000 okes have been bought at fairly good prices, and most of the remainder is being held back for better prices, which planters and speculators hope to obtain when the locusts appear, and on account of the smaller acreage of planting, amounting probably to less than 40 per cent. of last year.

The planting this year in the Eudemish district is on a big scale, as there are over 4,000 refugees from Macedonia quartered there, all more or less interested in the planting.

There is very little buying from Europe so far, and the market is dull, but may become active when Europe becomes aware that the new crop is likely to be badly damaged by locusts.

The total number of steamers of all nationalities that entered the Port of Rhodes during the year 1913 is 748, with an aggregate tonnage of 726,856 tons, out of which 50 steamers and 90,944 tons were under the British flag.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND THE ORIENTAL RAILWAYS.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Budapest, May 5.

The most important question of foreign politics to-day is the attitude of Servia towards the transfer of the Oriental Railways, connecting Hungary (and thus Western Europe) with the Near East, to a financial group of which the bulk is composed of Hungarian and Austrian banks. The significance of such a transfer is evident at first sight to those acquainted with the efforts of Servia to obtain an outlet for her products and with the predominance of Salonika as the objective of Central European diplomacy.

Servia seems determined at all costs to thwart—or at any rate counterbalance—the plan which Hungarian and Austrian financiers have already carried out—on paper; and this in face of the obligations she has undertaken by virtue of her treaty with Turkey, and of the provisions of the London Conference of Ambassadors, by which Austria-Hungary is determined to abide.

The practical control of these Oriental Railways is, of course, of the first importance, both economically and from the strategic point of view; but the disadvantages for Servia should have been anticipated before it was too late. It is scarcely conceivable that Russia (by the aid of French capital) could not have come to the assistance of her Balkan ally when the preliminary negotiations were opened; or was Servia at that time convinced that she was to obtain a port on the Adriatic? As things are at present, however, either international treaties must be abolished as mere useless baubles to be set aside at will, or the parties to them must honestly abide by their provisions.

Austria-Hungary—particularly in view of the projected direct line from Budapest to Athens via Salonika—has too much at stake to allow herself to adopt a yielding attitude; and Servia has everything to gain or lose by adopting a conciliatory or recalcitrant attitude towards her powerful neighbour. Politicians in Austria-Hungary, fully aware of the value of the Balkan States as a market for their industrial output, are equally conscious of the value to Servia (subject to a change, in a non-agrarian direction, of their economic policy, which is bound to ensue as a result of friendly relations) of Hungary and Austria as consumers of her agricultural produce. The unnaturally enormous cost of living in the Dual Monarchy can be reduced only by the suspension of the prohibitive duties levied on imports from the Balkan countries; but, however devoutly wished by the whole population of Hungary and Austria, no such radical change of policy can be introduced except as a recognition of the loyalty of Servia in carrying out the obligations she has undertaken.

To-day's *Pester Lloyd*, in an article which is unquestionably inspired, points out that Austria-Hungary will not brook any infringements of the rights acquired by Hungarian and Austrian citizens; and it is left to Servia to decide whether an ideal that is at present pronouncedly "Utopian" ought to be permitted to stand in the way of the material prosperity of the peoples of three countries.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The total importation of coal into Egypt from January 1 to April 30 amounted to 493,393 tons, as against 435,002 tons during the same period of last year.

We understand that Mr. A. Barwell has been appointed Superintendent of the Malta branch of the Eastern Telegraph Co., in succession to Mr. J. H. Davey, retired on pension.

The *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna states that information has been received that a Jewish firm from Constantinople has been given permission to light the Dardanelles with electric light, and that this company will soon be working for the improvement of the town.

During the first quarter of this year 36,543 tins of American, Russian, and Roumanian petroleum have been imported into Chios. On account of these large arrivals prices have become more favourable.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

UNION FONCIERE D'EGYPTE.

The following is the report of the directors submitted to the annual general meeting held in Alexandria to-day (15th inst.):—The past year has, we are glad to say, been marked by th re-establishment of peace in the Near East; the immediate result has been an improvement in the economic condition of this country, which, it is hoped, will be accentuated as time goes on. The preparation by the Egyptian Government of a law assisting the formation of agricultural syndicates will, we trust, result in improving the credit of the small cultivator. It will be some years, however, before the good effect of such a law will be fully felt, and the restrictive influence of the Five Feddan Law removed. We may, however, look forward with pleasure to a time when the financial stringency due to the cutting off of the sources of credit from the small cultivator will have disappeared and only the advantages of this measure remain. From an agricultural point of view the predominant features of the past year were the very short supply of water during July and August and the damage caused in nearly every district by the pink boll worm. These two factors have been instrumental in reducing the size of a crop which at one time showed signs of being a heavier one, and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of the staple and the seed. The shortage of water during the summer also caused damage to the rice crop. On our estates both the cotton and rice were up to the average, except in the case of the Hessas, Doqmera, and Waziria properties, where they were effected by the adverse conditions mentioned, and this is reflected in our receipts. However, taking the circumstances into consideration, we think we may describe the result of the year's working as satisfactory.

Rural Estates.

Sales.—The bad condition of the cotton crop in certain parts of the country has affected some of our properties. In these localities land sales have been insignificant, and this accounts for our total transactions not having reached the figure we had hoped. 528 feddans 9 kirats have been sold during our financial year. Of this amount feddans 402.01.7 only figure in our balance sheet, the difference of 126 feddans representing sales that were not registered before the closing of our books, and will thus be included in the next year's working. As in our last report, we give in the following table the approximate figures for our yearly land sales since the company commenced operations:—

TABLE I.

Year.	Area Sold. Feddan.	Average Price per Feddan.
1906	151	..... £E79·59
1907	635	..... 111·74
1908	557	..... 77·75
1909	352	..... 73·43
1910	489	..... 87·74
1911	577	..... 72·19
1912	479	..... 74·53
1913	402	..... 71·42
Total	3,653	82·89

You will note that the price obtained last year was approximately equal to the average obtained during the company's working.

TABLE II.

Estates.	Area Sold. 1912-13. Fed.		1913-14. Fed.		Average Price. 1912-13. £E		1913-14. £E	
Hessas Nord....	36	....	—	....	62·97	....	—	
Hessas Sud	46	....	17	....	59·86	....	69·22	
Hessas Alf.....	76	....	54	....	74·46	....	73·15	
TedaOuest&Est	51	....	62	....	70·69	....	73·98	
Doqmera	—	....	—	....	—	....	—	
Dar el Bakar ..	113	....	90	....	89·81	....	83·67	
Waziria.....	25	....	5	....	67·	....	70·	
Kafr el Charki..	53	....	19	....	80·73	....	59·79	
Kom el Hassel..	64	....	151	....	69·82	....	72·65	
Santa	15	....	4	....	56·82	....	55·	

It is interesting to compare the average prices obtained in each property with those for the previous year. An examination of the figures shows that, generally speaking, prices have been maintained, and it is thus possible to estimate the ultimate value of our land in course of reclamation and improvement. The stability of prices is the best index that can be offered of the market value of our properties. From the date our company was founded to March 31 last sales amounting to feddans 3,653, kirats 20, sahms 19. have been registered, representing in value £E302,866.620.

Purchases.—During the year it has been necessary to expropriate a number of our buyers unable to meet their annuities. The restriction of agricultural credit, due to the operation of the Five Feddan Law, has unfavourably affected the position of some of our purchasers. In addition the difficulties encountered by cultivators this season are of themselves quite sufficient to account for some defaulters among the buyers of a total of not less than feddans 3,653. We would point out, however, that with the exception of the expropriation of the owners o: feddans 205, kirats 20, effected in 1911, th total number of cases annually in which we hav taken legal proceedings is relatively small. A we have stated before, the poor results obtaine from the rice and cotton crops in certain dis tricts have unfavourably affected the positio of some of our customers during the past year. We have resumed possession of feddans 53.15.0 at the price of £E4,351.246. Of this area feddans 50.01.16 have been acquired by expropriation and feddans 3.13.12 by purchase The following statement summarises our position as regards land during the past financial year:—

	Fedd.	Kir.	Sah.
Area held by us at March 31, 1913	9,995	16	07
Sales during year ended March 31,1914	402	01	17
Balance	9,593	14	14
Purchases during the year ended March 31, 1914.....	53	15	04
Total area held at March 31, 1914	9,647	05	18

Development.

The plan of campaign described in our last year's report as regards the development of our lands is being pursued, and the increase in our total rents affords the best proof of the success of our efforts. During the present year we hope to push on these works with renewed vigour. The pumping machinery for the irrigation of our Dar el Bakar estate was renewed and extended during the past year. At our Kom el Hassal estate we have also renewed our pumping plant; at Santa we have erected a new engine, and we have also purchased sufficient machinery for the drainage of all our low-lying lands. We have approached the Government and have obtained the necessary authority for working the latter, and we expect that this portion of our projects will be completed at the end of 1914. The digging of canals and levelling works have been proceeded with as actively as the resources at our disposal allow. The development of this work is reflected in the increased total of our rents.

Cultivation.

The receipts from cultivation are slightly lower than for the previous year, due to the partial failure of some of our crops. On the other hand, our working expenses are distinctly reduced. Although we have sold 402 feddans of good land, our rents have increased from £E13,590.185 in 1912 to £E15,483.677 in 1913 The average rental has remained practically the same being £E3.690 the feddan in 1912 against £E3.615 in 1913. The area let by the company has risen from 3,682 feddans in 1912 to 4,283 feddans in 1913, a difference of 601 feddans, which more than counterbalances the quantity sold. The shortage of water from which Egypt is now suffering will prevent us from obtaining during the present year the full increase in rents that at one time we had hoped for. Your attention is called to the steady increase in the figures of our total rents. By the increase of our revenue from cultivation, which depends directly on our rents and by the extension of our sales, we are year by year strengthening the financial position of the company. It is by steady progression in these two directions that we can place the affairs of the company on a healthy basis. Our efforts are tending towards this goal, and we believe our hopes are no longer far from realisation. In our opinion, however, this result can only be obtained by prudent and conservative management. The examination of the principal items of the balance sheet will convince you that we are advancing towards this end.

Balance Sheet.

Rural Lands Account.—This amount represents the net acreage belonging to the company multiplied by the cost price.

Development of Estates Account.—This figure includes the realisable assets on our estates, such as cattle, stores, furniture, etc., etc. Machinery is contained in a separate account, and is subject to the same annual allowances for depreciation as cattle and stores.

Cession of Vendor's Right, Land Bank of Egypt.—This institution has released us from the mortgage held by them on certain of our lands, in return for which we have transferred to the bank the vendor's rights for £E25,559.183. This account last year amounted to £E10,682.894. Our position during the year under review has thus been strengthened to the extent of £E14,876.289.

Land Bank of Egypt—Reduction of Mortgage Account.—The sum of £E3,844.698 resulting from land sales has been utilised in reducing the amount of our mortgage debt, as compared with £E2,335.310 for the previous year. We would point out that the amount of £E25,559.183 mentioned above, together with the sum of £E3,844.698 included in the "Cession of Vendor's Rights Account," or in all £E29,403.881, is set against £E162,803.723, the amount of the loan. The respective figures in our last balance-sheet were £E13,018.204 in our favour against £E163,933.846 in favour of the Land Bank. The improvement in our position is thus clearly shown.

Debtors for Sales of Land.—The amount of our assets under this heading is £E85,953.268. Of this sum £E25,559.183 has been transferred to the Land Bank as mentioned above (Cession of Vendor's Right), the resulting balance shown on the assets side of our balance sheet being £E60,394.085. On the other hand, the amount of our discounts with the Land Bank for which we are jointly liable was £E77,960—this item reduced every year by the payment of annuities, and now stands at £E59,006.170, compared with £E64,274.780 last year.

Annuities in Arrears.—The past financial year commenced with the sum of £E7,028.277 in arrears, of which we have encashed £E5,197.611, leaving outstanding £E1,830.666.

Annuities, 1913.—As we have already stated, the encashment of annuities on land sales has been affected to a certain extent by the difficulties cultivators have experienced during the past year. Of a total due of £E17.914.449 we have received £E11.808.938, leaving a balance outstanding of £E6,105.461, a part of which we hope to collect when the autumn crops are disposed of.

Land Bank Mortgage.—The present year's annuity reduces this charge from £E163,933.846 to £E162,803.723.

Banks and Bankers.—As we have already stated, we have utilised every resource to push on our works of land improvement with the object of increasing our revenue, and we have accordingly taken advantage of a credit offered us by our bankers. Our debit balance at bankers, exclusive of the Land Bank loan, is thus £E50,990.471, against £E42,208.407 last year. The increases in receipts enables us to meet the heavier charges, and as the money thus obtained is being devoted to productive operations, we expect to pay off the debt out of increased revenue. In this connection we would call attention to the fact that although our overdraft with our bankers has increased, our debt to the Land Bank has been reduced by the repayment of this year's instalment and by addition to "Reduction of Mortgage Account."

Provision for Arrears.—We have drawn on this account for £E124.031 in order to write off certain irrecoverable debts. At the same time, we have credited the account with a similar amount by the debit of profit and loss account, maintaining the balance at £E2,000.

You will notice that in addition to the usual provisions made by us for depreciation we have written off £E1,000 for irrecoverable arrears of rent. The examination of our balance sheet for the last financial year, in conjunction with the explanations which we have furnished above, will show you that our company is pursuing the dull but necessary task of restoring elasticity to our financial position, which was so detrimentally affected by the crisis of 1907. Our position continued to improve each year, and we are convinced that in the not very distant future we shall be able to recompense our shareholders for this unremunerative period. The only means to arrive at this point is to continue our present policy of increasing our revenue from cultivation by the improvement of our estates, to realise our lands by sales, and thus ease the burden of our indebtedness. A comparison of the last few balance sheets clearly demonstrates that we are advancing satisfactorily towards this end. The continuation of our works of land development and improvement will perceptibly improve our receipts during the year 1914. We are confident that you will endorse our efforts and ensure the carrying on of the policy which we have outlined to you by adopting the balance sheet for 1913, which shows a credit balance carried forward to the present year's accounts of £E48,338.437.

Election of Directors.—In May, 1913, Mr. S. Bonan, who has been a director of your company since February, 1912, resigned from the Board on account of pressure of other duties, and in spite of our wish to retain this gentleman's assistance, we were obliged to accept his resignation. The number of directors is sufficiently large, and we have not thought it necessary to fill this vacancy up immediately. We consider it preferable to delay making an appointment until a good opportunity offers.

Messrs. Isaac Aghion, E. W. P. Foster, Réné Ismalun, and J. Charles Roux retire from the Board in accordance with the Articles of Association, and, with the exception of Mr. E. W. P. Foster, offer themselves for re-election. Mr. E. W. P. Foster no longer resides in Egypt, and his resignation has therefore been accepted. We would take this opportunity of recording our hearty appreciation of the very valuable assistance he has rendered to the company from the date of its founding, and we are assured that we are expressing your sentiments in thanking him for his services to the company and conveying to him our regrets at his withdrawal from the Board. We would recommend the election of Mr. Guy Foster, Joint Manager of the Behera Co., to the vacancy

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caused by this resignation; his wide experience of land development works and our close relations with his company makes this choice a most desirable one.

Auditor.—We would also propose that Mr. S. Pappo, Sub-Manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, be re-elected as auditor. Mr. Pappo's duties have been considerably heavier during the past year, and we would suggest that his remuneration should be increased from £E50 to £E80, and that this change should take effect from the commencement of the last financial year.

BALANCE SHEET as at March 31, 1914.

LIABILITIES.

		£E.
Capital		487,500.000
100,000 of £5 each.		
Statutory reserve		4,051.697
Profits on land sales realised, but not yet due		13,612.497
Provision for arrears		2,000.000
Provision for rents		1,000.000
Banks and bankers		50,990.471
Land bank mortgage		162,805.723
Deposits on land sales		1,268.328
Sundry creditors		5,409.284
Annuities in advance		91.447
Unclaimed dividends		50.748
PROFIT AND LOSS.		
Balance March 31, 1913	£E.3,615.687	
Net profit, 1913-14	1,214.740	
		4,830.427
		733,611.622
Sundry depositors		12,187.500
		745,799.122

ASSETS.		£E.
Rural estate		595,361.224
Development of estates (actif domaines)		28,088.788
Machinery		4,538.940
Cash		244.525
The National Bank of Egypt (in cover for coupons)		47.395
Cession of vendor's right, land bank		25,559.183
Land bank, reduction of mortgage account		3,844.698
Shares on deposit with us		487.500
Office furniture		345.270
Sundry stores for estates		85.591
Debtors for land sales		60,394.085
Sundry debtors		3,525.247
Annuities in arrears—		
Previous years	£E1,830.666	
Current year	6,105.461	
		7,936.127
Debtors for interest on land sales		1,788.973
Debtors for interest on overdue annuities		656.738
Legal expenses		707.338
		33,611.622
Statutory guarantee		12,187.500
		£745,799.122

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st March, 1914.

Dr.

			£E
To expenses of cultivation			12,290.330
,, interest			10,774.360
,, provision for arrears			124.030
,, profit on annuities realised but not due			319.380
,, written off—			
	£E		
,, live stock, plant and furniture on estates	758.440		
,, machinery	497.520		
,, furniture of Head Office	38.370		
,, arrears of rents	1,000.000		
,, legal expenses	183.300		
,, compounding of French stamp duty	160.990		
			2,638.620
PROFITS.	£E		
,, balance as at 31st March, 1913	3,615.687		
,, net profit 1913-1914	1,214.740		
			4,830.427
			£E30,977.147

Cr.

			£E.
By receipts from cultivation			20,414.470
,, interest on land sales			5,371.590
,, land sales			—
Profit encashed on sales	£E112.980		
Profit on annuities due	1,279·120		
			1,392.100
,, sundries			183.300
,, balance at 31st March, 1913			3,615.687
			£E30,977.147

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on the 11th inst, Major W. I. le Breton (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, you will, I am sure, permit me to take as read the directors' report and the accounts circulated therewith. These will have shown you that our profits are practically the same as in the previous year, and that for the third year in succession the directors are able to recommend that the dividend on the ordinary shares be brought up to 10 per cent. for the year. Of this 4 per cent. was paid in October last and 6 per cent. will, if our recommendation be adopted, be paid on or after to-morrow. Our profits in the year under review are derived, in a greater proportion, from revenues earned under our concession, and as a consequence the Government participation is larger and the amount available for distribution among the deferred shareholders is smaller than in the previous year. The transactions of the year do not seem to me, as such alone, to require explanation beyond that given in the directors' report; but, as bearing upon our future, they merit a wider consideration, and such will, I trust, meet with your acceptance as interesting and, I hope, encouraging. As of first importance to us is the continued existence of cattle plague and the consequent partial closing of our markets. You will have observed that in the past year our earnings responded to the decrease in the number of market days thus partially lost. This year we have commenced badly. Our receipts have fallen because we have lost more market days, and we have further suffered from bad weather and from a shortage in the number of animals brought to our markets; but recently an order has been given effect to exempting buffaloes from cattle plague restrictions. As buffaloes represent at least 50 per cent. of the horned cattle presented for sale at our markets, it follows that the partial loss to us of a market day should in the future only result in one-half of what such loss has been to us in the past. The next point in this connection is, what number of market days we are likely to lose. The closing of our markets during the past two years has been very extensive, as part of the determination of the Government to stamp out the disease as rapidly as possible. The result of the action taken on these lines was so successful that we had every reason to hope that in a very few years the disease would have entirely disappeared, and that this company would have enjoyed a prosperity which it has never yet experienced. But the cost to the Government of these measures was undoubtedly very heavy, and existing financial conditions have interfered with their continuance on this scale. In other words, operations have had to be curtailed, and, I understand, are, or will be, limited to the treatment of cattle brought to the notice of the Government officers voluntarily by the owners, or detected in the ordinary course. The effect of this upon us may well be that, though we may suffer longer, it will not be so acute as during the past two years; indeed, it is not unreasonable to believe that it will be found to be to the assistance of the Government to keep our markets open. Infected animals could not there escape immediate detection, whereas we know that when our markets are closed against them the same kind of business is conducted at unauthorised places, free from any kind of supervision and consequent means of exposure. This view is borne out by the fact that a number of our markets have recently been reopened. As of next importance to us I will refer to a small item figuring in the accounts as "Revenue earned from markets outside our concession." This is its first appearance, and represents a modest beginning of what we hope may prove a valuable addition to our business. It is only the commencing earnings, for broken periods, of two outside markets, but we are satisfied, and we have secured, and are securing, others which, after the most careful investigation we can give to them, we believe will be of two-fold value to us—firstly, in increasing our profits during the period of our concession; and, secondly, in giving to us something to continue upon after its expiration, twenty-four years hence.

During my visit to Egypt in the early part this year I had for a short time the advantage of the presence of my colleague, Mr. Home, and we had the opportunity of discussing matters with Mr. W. O. Joseph, our resident director, and with Mr. C. E. Duffield, our able general manager, both of whom possess very complete knowledge of our circumstances and of the country generally. The conclusion we arrived at, and which is fully shared by the two directors who were unfortunately prevented from giving us their assistance on the spot, was that the best possible direction in which we can look for development is in increasing the number of our markets and that time has now arrived for so doing. We cannot increase this number under our concession. There is certainly room to do so, in the form of extra markets, without encroaching upon the spheres of operations of our already existing markets. I visited the sites of some proposed by our general manager and I was able to give to his proposals my entire approval, which again have been endorsed by the members of the board unanimously. We have made the necessary applications to the Government, and have every reason to hope that during the current year several new markets will be opened. In this matter we are receiving every assistance from the authorities in Egypt, and I do not hesitate to state that we are held to deserve it. I do not believe—and I have good grounds for saying so—that any company in the country transacts its business to the greater satisfaction of the Government than does the Egyptian Markets, Limited—and as regards any kind of comparison between our markets and those conducted by others it is about as impossible as to compare the control exercised over the traffic in the Strand with that in an Eastern bazaar.

I now turn to our miscellaneous business, and as first in importance I take that in nitrates and other chemical manures. The profits derived from the sale of these was, in the year under review, about 30 per cent. less than in the previous year. This was due to causes more or less exceptional—namely, to our having been left at the beginning of the season with some high-priced stocks, to competition and to the delay in the arrival of two consignments of nitrate of soda owing to accidents. I am satisfied that from this latter cause we lost the opportunity of completing our sales of 1,000 or 1,500 tons of nitrate of soda. In regard to the future of this business, it is, I admit somewhat difficult to speak. I see no likelihood of our losing such business as we have got, but to attempt to secure any considerable increase of this appears to me to be beyond our unaided power. It might, I believe, be effected to the advantage of all concerned by a combination of interests, and the possibility of this is under our consideration. The next item for remark is the commission earned by us on the sale of cotton-seed for the Agricultural Department of the Government of Egypt. The Government has decided that these sales are to be effected from their own "halakas" or "cotton markets," wherever such exist. As a consequence this item of revenue is sure to be greatly reduced. It is perhaps a poor satisfaction, but it is some, for us to know that this business was not taken from us owing to any shortcomings on our part. I made particular inquiries, and I found that in every way possible the business had been conducted by us to the complete satisfaction of the Government officers concerned, and I am sure that the change was neither ordered by the Government nor given effect to by its officers without feelings of sincere regret on the part of those who are responsible for the conduct of the business. I will now turn to the revenue derived from our contracts with the United Salt and the Salt and Soda Companies of Egypt. Captain St. J. Cooke explained to you last year, in my absence, that our successful conduct of the salt business with the former company was being nullified by the treatment we received from the Salt and Soda Company of Egypt in connection with the sale of sundry articles. Captain St. J. Cooke also told you that the result of my discussions with the chairman of these two companies in Egypt last year had not been satisfactory. Matters did not improve, and as a consequence we decided to submit certain questions to arbitration, which is the course provided for in our agreement with these companies in case of any dispute. Arrangements for this arbitration are now in progress, and I feel that it would not be right for me to make any comment upon the position; but I must take this opportunity of mentioning that, by the favour of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, this company has been allowed the services of Mr. Cookson, their manager in Cairo, as our arbitrator. There is room for considerable improvement in our business in sundry articles, both under our agreement with the Salt and Soda Company and outside it. This is constantly being considered with suppliers, several of whom I and other directors have interviewed personally; the one difficulty here is that we only accept such goods for sale on commission, and I need not tell you it is a great one. There is one matter in this connection which I will mention, both on account of its importance and because it involves departure from our practice just referred to. We are concerned with the sale of soap, among other articles, for the Salt and Soda Company of Egypt, and the difficulty is to do this business at sufficiently low prices to meet the requirements of our markets. A cereal soap has been introduced to us, and the acquisition of the rights for Egypt and the Sudan is now being considered by us, with the Salt and Soda Company as manufacturers. We have made some experiments and propose to proceed with some trial sales in our markets. If satisfactory arrangements can be made we propose to exercise an option that we hold for the acquisition of the rights in question, and this will involve a cash payment of £500, which, practically, is all our risk, for subsequent payment to the soap company concerned would be in the form of a royalty on sales. I am sorry to say that we have again suffered from defalcations in and adulteration of our stocks of goods. This was mentioned to you a year ago, as well as the fact of our staff being guaranteed, and yet our protection was far from complete. Our difficulty is to bring home the necessary proof of guilt in respect of the individual or individuals concerned, in order to establish our claim against the Guarantee Society, and after very careful consideration we have decided to form a guarantee fund under our own control. Taking an average of past years, we find that the premia paid by ourselves and by our staff should be sufficient to

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meet these liabilities. It only remains for me to make brief reference to our expenses. In spite of every effort to keep these down, I am afraid they must have a tendency to increase, as does the service of our staff; but there is nothing in view pointing to any considerable increase in our cost of working, while the fact remains that we are still capable of undertaking a lot more remunerative work with but slight additions to our staff.

The Chairman then moved:—"That the report of the directors dated April 24, 1914, together with audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1913, be and they are hereby approved and adopted."

Captain A. St. John Cooke seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved:—"That the interim dividend of 4 per cent., less income-tax at 1s. 2d. in the £, declared on the ordinary share capital of the company, and paid on October 13, 1913, be and it is hereby confirmed, and that a further dividend of 6 per cent., less income-tax at 1s. 2d. in the £, on the ordinary share capital of the company, making 10 per cent. for the year, be and it is hereby declared to be paid to the holders of ordinary shares recorded on the registers of the company on April 27, 1914, and to holders of ordinary share warrants to bearer."

Mr. W. Home seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman also proposed:—"That the sum of £1,861 19s. 9d. (equal to £6 4s. 1d. per share) plus or minus one-third of such additional amount (if any) as may be found due from or to the Egyptian Government, as the case may be, beyond the £2,700 (the amount estimated as due to Government), less income-tax at 1s. 2d. in the £, be declared as dividend on the deferred share capital of the company, payable to holders of the deferred shares on the company's registers on April 27, 1914. That of such figure £5 per share, less income-tax at 1s. 2d. in the £, be paid on May 12, 1914, and balance (if any) immediately after ascertainment thereof."

Mr. A. F. Joseph seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman moved:—"That Captain A. St. John Cooke, the director retiring by rotation, be re-elected."

Colonel P. A. Kenna seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, May 8.

The Share Market.

The tone of the market has been decidedly better; leading securities have shown a slight upward tendency; and there has been a slightly increased activity in regard to transactions generally.

A small amount of bullion has been exported this week for India, but these shipments have very nearly reached their limit, for the supply of gold is practically reduced to its minimum. The Caisse de la Dette Publique has just put a sum of £E700,000 at the disposal of the Egyptian Government, as a loan for the summer months, during which public receipts fall off. This advance is to bear interest at the rate of 3 per cent. at the outside, and will become repayable on October 31 next, when the coupon of the Unified Debt becomes payable.

The Government's receipts for the months of January and February last amounted to £E2,396,464, as compared with £E2,466,164 in 1913. Owing to the low Nile the total receipts this year show a slight falling off on those of last year.

Bank of Athens.

A group of financiers, composed of MM. Bonzon, Bonnier, and Massiot, the Banque de l'Union Parisienne, have arrived in Alexandria, where they are investigating the position of the Bank of Athens. It is believed that the idea of converting the Bank of Athens into a French concern will be given up. The directors are determined to rehabilitate the Bank, and to put it on a thoroughly sound basis, and in order to achieve that end they will, if needful, abandon any idea of dividends for some time.

Rodocanachi-Reynolds' Failure.

The creditors of this company have appointed as liquidators Sig. Interdonato, of the Banco di Roma, M. Calamaro, of the Comptoir, financier, and M. P. Simond, a lawyer.

Wadi Kom-Ombo Co.

Last year was a very prosperous one for this company, which has seen its profits increase, and the dividend distributed amongst the shareholders has been at the rate of P.T. 12 per share, as compared with P.T. 10 for the previous financial year. The company has given a fresh impetus to the cultivation of the sugar cane, and has enhanced the value of its extensive properties.

Cie Frigorifique.

The past season was an unfavourable one, and the dividend has only been at the rate of P.T. 12. The directors' report sets forth the serious state of affairs. The Balkan War deprived the ice industry of a very considerable clientele; several shops, bars, cafés, brasseries, etc., have been closed in Alexandria and Cairo; others have been forced to go into liquidation; while the general public has cut down its expenses. These unfavourable conditions necessitate great prudence in the distribution of profits.

Drogueries d'Egypte.

A company has been formed in Egypt, under the title of the Société Anonyme des Drogueries d'Egypte, with a capital of £E100,000 in 25,000 shares, which have been subscribed for by the following in the proportions stated: Enrico del Mar, 9,000; Isaac Benarojo, 9,000; Adolfo del Mar, 2,875; Amedeo Benarojo, 1,250; Umberto del Mar, 750; Max Fischer, 625; Leon Jehiel, 625; Bernard Grünberg, 500; Giuseppe Scava, 250; and Emmanuele del Mar, 125. The object of the company is stated to be the buying and selling of chemical and pharmaceutical products, and all operations directly connected therewith.

Recent Failures.

Basile J. Valsamides.—Liabilities, £E7,588; assets, £E2,967.

Dimitri Pallis.—Liabilities, £E6,688; assets, nil.

Moses Montefiore.—Liabilities, £E13,887; assets, £E8,400.

Basile Bahons and Co.—Liabilities, £E4,000; assets, £E648.

Bassiami Hamadi.—Liabilities, £E2,200; assets, £E700.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Paid up, £400,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £600,000.

Branches:

BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £000,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	**£600,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - -	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND - - - -	**65,000**

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - -	**Frs. 45,500,000**
RESERVE FUNDS - - -	**,, 14,500,000**

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection, Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
B. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 330,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING, HON. ALGERNON MILLS, SIR CARL MEYER, Bart., HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)
SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Tuesday, June 2.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is May 25.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., May 26.	Wed., May 27.	Thurs., May 28.
Tues., June 9.	Wed., June 10.	Thurs., June 11.

LONDON, May 14.

The past week has been one of patching up. Everybody has been nervous, and one big promoting agency has had its account taken over and put into strong hands. But this kind of help only means depressed markets, for the stocks will have to be sold. Whether there will be any further trouble is doubtful. It is well-known that some large firms have been hard hit, and that their credit has been curtailed. We must expect dull markets for many weeks to come. The De Trey Company was well received. It was a reasonable Industrial risk.

More Gold Shipments.

There has not been quite so much pressure in the Gold market. The Stock Exchange got all its funds for the settlement without any difficulty. But Lombard Street is nervous, and does not quite like the perpetual purchase of gold by the Continent. New York is now supplying Paris, and if Wall Street continues to export gold the situation in London will be relieved.

Bulgarian Loan Rumour.

In the Foreign market there is a rumour that the new Bulgarian loan will be offered in London. But no one seems to think it at all probable. However, Bulgarians have hardened to 85. There has been some considerable buying of Unified, and Egyptian 3½ per cent. preferred stock have also been purchased, the former at 99, and the latter at 87½. Clearly, the Egyptian finance houses think both stocks undervalued. Hungarian rentes are steady at 82½. There has been a revival in Russians, but Turkish Unified remain at 82.

In the Home Railway market the liquidation in the deferred stocks still continues. The big speculative syndicates that were formed some months ago have been attempting to unload, and it is believed that there is still a good deal of stock to come on the market. Underground Electrics are weak, and look like going lower, but the heavy lines can be bought with safety.

American Market Waiting.

The American market is really waiting to see whether Missouri Pacific will be able to meet the short-dated notes. If the road escapes a receivership, we may get a small rise all round. But the chance is remote. Missouri Kansas would appear to be in a difficult position, and the general feeling in Wall Street is that there will be no improvement until the Mexican question has been settled. Canadas hardened up when it was found that the Canadian group had been helped over. But they have since relapsed, and are likely to go lower. Big operations have been undertaken in Trunks, and here, also, the market is extremely weak.

Rubber is now quoted under 2s. 6d. The reports as they appear give very little encouragement. Merlimau pays a dividend of 6½, but Malayalam reduces its distribution to 5 per cent. Ledbury figures are not good. Lanadron was also bad, but the prospects here may improve during the current year.

Egyptian Oil.

In the Oil market the North Caucasian report was very satisfactory, and the Burmah figures are definitely good. The Egyptian market has been depressed, the output having again fallen. Presumably, the company is curtailing the production from No. 13 well with the object of finding out the source of the water. But no information is available, and the dealers in the market grumble. Anglo-Egyptian "B" are quoted 20s. Red Sea are 21s. 9d., and Egyptian Oil Trust are no better than 3¾.

Mines Neglected.

Mines generally remain neglected. A little sensation was caused by the introduction of the Burmah Corporation shares, but Russians have been very uneasy; the speculation here looks like dying down. De Beers have been bought, but Cam and Motors are now only 18s. 6d. Broken Hills are most of them harder on the week. There is no business in Copper shares, and Mount Elliotts are under 2½.

Egyptians Improving.

The Egyptian market shows signs of a revival. There has been a great deal more business doing during the past week, and there is a feeling of confidence all round. It is quite clear that Egypt has now got through all her troubles, and that the financial position is much sounder. The fellaheen have made money, and are ready buyers of good land. National Bank of Egypt have been dealt in at 14¾. Agricultural Banks have weakened a little, and are now 4 25-32. It is not easy to understand the reason for the fall, as the position of this bank is immensely improved, and the shares are certainly much under-valued. Land Banks are nominally 6½. Delta Light prefs. have been dealt in at 8½. There has been some considerable business in Delta Lands at 8s. 9d. One of the features of the week has been a continued demand for Behera, which have been purchased in small lots at 9¼. It is now understood that the Behera will work the whole of the Sidi Salem land, and that after it has repaid itself the money already owing, the balance of the profits will go to the Sidi Salem. The price of 6s. is, therefore, merely option money on the certainty that sooner or later Sidi Salem will come to its own again. Union Fonciere are 1¼. There has been some steady buying of Alexandria Water at 12¾. Aboukir Land are weak at 22s. 6d. Some thousands of shares have changed hands in United Land at about 1s. 8d. Trusts have been bought at 5s. 6d., and there has been a good deal of business in Salts, buyers having paid 14s. 7½d. We hear very good news of New Egyptian. Mr. Suarez's policy of only offering for sale lands that the fellaheen can cultivate immediately, and on which they have to spend no money, is producing good results. New Egyptians are therefore under-valued at 10s. 6d. Markets are quoted 24s., ex dividend. Khedivial Mail prefs. look dirt cheap at 3½, and the ordinary are being picked up by the insiders at 10s. There is still some business in Daira Sanieh, a few hundred shares having been purchased at 3s.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market Royal Mails were bid up as the result of the meeting, but the general tone in the Shipping market is not good, and lower freights are expected with consequent lower profits. Iron and Steel shares have also been offered, but the whole tone of the Miscellaneous market is dull.

TURKISH DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received from the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt at Constantinople a statement, of which the following is a summary, of the complete receipts in respect of the month of December, 1913, as compared with those of December, 1912:—

COMPLETE RECEIPTS.

	December, 1913.	December, 1912.
*Five revenues	*£T185,569.94	£T153,469.71
Regie	187,500.00	287,500.00
Cyprus	19,096.47	19,386.99
3% Customs surtax ..	88,776.55	83,649.25
Sundries.....	18,460.15	13,225 64
	£T499,403.11	£T427,231.59

* Including provisional surtaxes imposed on salt and spirits for three years from August 1, 1912.

COMPANY NOTES.

Constantinople Telephone.

The report of the Constantinople Telephone Company for the year ended December 31, 1913, states that during the year installation work has proceeded steadily despite delay occasioned by the non-delivery of material and stores in consequence of the war. Owing to this cause, it became necessary to obtain an extension of the period of construction fixed by the convention, and on October 16, 1913, official sanction was obtained to postpone the opening of the service at the three large exchanges at Stamboul, Pera, and Kadikeuy until February 28, 1914, and of the smaller exchanges until one year from that date. By the date arranged, February 28, 1914, the three principal exchanges were successfully opened for public service, and reports from the general manager bear most gratifying evidence of the growing popularity of the service, which the directors are satisfied will rapidly develop. They regard the success of the undertaking as absolutely assured, and already it has become necessary to make arrangements to increase the plant in the Pera exchange. It is anticipated that all present subscribers will be connected up and the sub-exchanges opened by the end of October, 1914. The submarine cables across the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus in order to give junction service were successfully placed in position before the opening of the exchanges, and the submarine cable work which was necessary to connect up the islands in the Marmora has also been finished. Three large exchange offices have been built on sites purchased by the company. Of these Stamboul has switchboard equipment for 3,560 subscribers' circuits, and can be extended to take over 8,000. Pera exchange has switchboard equipment for 4,100 circuits, and Kadikeuy 1,600 circuits, and in both of these there is room for extension. Each of these buildings is of ferro-concrete, specially designed and constructed for telephone service, thoroughly modern and fire-resisting. Land has also been purchased at each of the places where sub-exchanges are to be opened and buildings particularly adapted for telephone service erected thereon. Relations with the authorities continue to be most friendly. As foreshadowed in the last annual report, in order to raise additional capital, the directors, in accordance with the authority given them at the last general meeting, confirmed by a resolution of February 17 last, offered for subscription £200,000 6 per cent. obligation bonds in February last, and by this means obtained the working capital required for the purposes of the company.

Banque Marmorosch, Blank et Cie.

The directors' report for 1913 refers to the effect of the late wars upon financial and commercial affairs in the Balkans and their reaction upon the business of the bank. The general turnover, however, amounted to 3,533,900,000 lei, as compared with 3,502,700,000 lei in 1912. The profits, amounting to 3,249,626 lei, are brought up to 3,589,424 lei by the amount brought forward from the previous year. 161,981 lei are carried to the statutory reserve; 1,650,000 lei are distributed in dividends, at the rate of 11 per cent. on capital shares, and 252,764 lei on thirds; 921,615 lei are carried to ordinary reserve; and 353,064 lei are carried forward.

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For PRIVATE ENQUIRIES & SECRET WATCHINGS.

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EDGAR WRIGHT Manager

23 Moorgate Street

DEUTSCHE ORIENTBANK A.G.,

BERLIN.

CAPITAL - MK. 32,000,000.

Hamburg, Alexandria, Cairo, Mansourah, Minieh, Tantah, Beni-Souef, Damanhour Constantinople, Brussa, Mersine, Dedeagatsch, Adana, Aleppo, Adrianople.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

BRASSERIES D'EGYPTE.—The annual meeting has been postponed from May 6 to May 27.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—The coupons attached to the ordinary share warrants to bearer having become exhausted, new sheets of coupons are now ready for issue. For this purpose holders of ordinary share warrants to bearer must list (upon forms to be obtained from the bank) and deposit such share warrants at the offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., on and after May 12. Coupon serial No. 20 on share warrants to bearer for dividend declared of 6 per cent. (less income-tax), being a dividend for six months ended December 31, 1913, will be payable on and after May 12 at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, London, Cairo, and Alexandria.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended May 9 amounted to £7,956, an increase of £3,288 on the corresponding period of last year.

PIRÆUS-ATHENS-PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—The directors have declared a dividend of 5 frs. on the ordinary shares and 1.10 frs. on the participating certificates (actions de jouissance) for the half-year ended December 31 last.

PORTS, QUAYS, AND WAREHOUSES OF BEYROUT.—At the annual general meeting, to be held on June 12, a dividend of 17.50 frs. per share will be proposed, being an increase of 2.50 frs. upon the last dividend.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Cable from Ploesti, dated May 8 :—Moreni.—Well No. 30 started to flow again at nine this morning, with such force that boards at top of derrick 110 ft. high were broken by the column of oil. Well still flowing hard at 4 p.m. Pumps working well.

ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT.—Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. are now prepared to deliver definitive bonds in exchange for their fully-paid scrip of the Royal Roumanian Government 4½ per cent. Gold loan of 1913.

SOCIETE ORIENTALE DE PUBLICITE.—The ordinary general meeting held in Cairo on April 30 unanimously approved the accounts and the payment of the following dividends :—P.T. 36 on old shares; P.T. 18 on new shares Nos. 1-1,250; P.T. 12 on ditto Nos. 1,251-2,500; and P.T. 17 on founders' shares.

TRAMWAYS AND LIGHTING, OF DAMASCUS.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at the offices of the Société Générale de Chemins de fer Economiques (54, Rue de Namur), Brussels, on June 8.

TURKISH FINANCE.

The Constantinople Correspondent of *The Times*, in a message dated May 12, says :—"Economic negotiations between Turkey and Germany have been conducted in the first instance at Constantinople between Djavid Bey and Messrs. Günther and Huguenin, on behalf of the Anatolian Railway Company, with a representative of the Deutsche Bank. Djavid Bey will visit Berlin after the close of the Parliamentary session, which will last for two months, to resume official negotiations with the German Government, interrupted by the loan negotiations in Paris."

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. May 12.	Latest prices. May 13.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	101½	102
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	—	84
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	—	97
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99⅛	99
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	86
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881	56½	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	56½	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	43½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	79	79
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	73½	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	87	90
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	94½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Se., £60p.	—	91½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	96	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	86½	86
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	82	82
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70½	71
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	72
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4¾	4¾
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅞
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	80
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	1¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	15
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3¼
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	14⅜	14¾
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8½
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	19	19
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	90
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	87
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	22/6	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	2⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	—
Do. Do. Def.	—	9
Béhéra Co.	9	9
Do. Pref.	—	4½
Building Lands of Egypt	—	—
Daira Sanieh	—	2/10½
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	8/9	8/9
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/3
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜
" " Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9¼
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	96
New Egyptian Co.	10/3	10/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	—	7/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	—	98
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	—
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/9	1 3/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/3	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	—	£197½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	—
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/-	23/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	6/6	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	3⅜
European Oilfields	6/3	6/6
Oilfields Finance Corporation	3/32	1/8
Red Sea Oilfields	—	3½
Roumanian Consolidated	26/6	26/9
Shell Transport	5⅛	5⅛
Suez Oil	8/3	8/3

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. May 7.	Latest prices. May 14.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	633	634
Canal de Suez Shares	4970	4990
Do. do. Jouissance	4225	2240
Do. do. Founders	2240	3555
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	728	725
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	151	151
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	445½	445½
Do. do. do. Act.	200	208
Land Bank of Egypt	166	164
Mines Balia-Karaidin	489	489
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	153	331
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	510	512
Do. do. Ord.	42	43
Do. do. Pref.	46½	46½
Tabacs Ottomans	462	465
Turkish Unified Con.	81.85	82.45
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	371	375

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	April 30.	May 7.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	408.75	384
Do. do. Priv.	870	370
Do. do. Cap.	187.50	187.50
Do. do. Div.	120	132.50
Anglo-Belgian Co.	10	9.50
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	120	114.75
Do. do. Div.	131.25	180.50
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	473.50	455
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	67.75	65
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	406.25	406.25
Do. Priv.	524.25	519.50
Do. Div.	122.50	120.50
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	366	356
Do. do. Cap.	45.75	47.50
Do. do. Fond.	80	85
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	58	62.50
Do. do. Div.	38	40
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1356
Do. do. Ord.	495	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	815
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	395	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	104.75	105
Do. do. Div.	95	95
Tramways du Caire Priv.	519	112.50
Do. do. Jouiss.	513	517.50
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	250	200
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	8.75	9.75

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	May 1.	May 8.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.454	Fcs.454
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.453	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.461	Fcs.461
Do. do. Shares	£15 4 6	£15 2 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.45	£T.6.37½
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.410	Fcs.412
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.170	Fcs.170
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.100	Fcs.98
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.99	Fcs.95
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34.25	Fcs.35
Mersina-Adana Railway 4%	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.30.85	£T.30.85

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	April 29.	May 6.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3 1/16	3 1/16
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12⅜	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 44½	44
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 343¾	340½
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 274½	268½
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs. 268	270½
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance	Fcs. 185	185
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/6	12/6
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2⅜	2⅜
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ¼	¼
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2 7/16	2 7/16
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 19 1/16	19 1/16
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8 7/16	8⅜
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4 7/16	4 7/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs. 100⅜	100⅜
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 80	80
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E. —	—

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THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

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RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

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Branches **- STAMBOUL and PERA** } **CONSTANTINOPLE.**

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London: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C. Paris: 7, RUE MEYERBEER.

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M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CARTALI, } Sub-Directors.

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VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.
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London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

EUROPE.
Adrianople
Cavalla
Dedeagatch
Drama
Gumuldjina
Janina
Monastir
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
Uskub
Xanthie

ASIA.
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[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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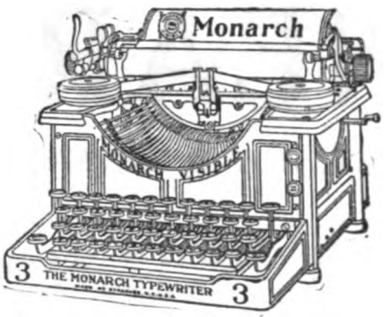

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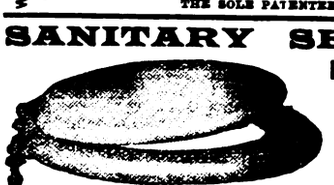

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No. 159.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Important events have taken place in Albania during the past week. In the south an agreement has been reached between the Provisional Government of Epirus and the International Commission of Control regarding the future of the districts of Koritza and Argyrokastro; in the north Essad Pasha has been arrested by order of Prince William and deported. From the outset Essad Pasha, who held the two portfolios of War and the Interior in the Albanian Cabinet, has been a thorn in the flesh of Prince William. The latter appears to have acted on the principle of giving this ambitious chieftain as much rope as he was prepared to take, and the policy has proved successful. For some time past agitators have been stirring up the population in the Mat, Dibra, and Tirana districts, and the movement came to a head with the advance of a body of insurgents on Durazzo. Essad Pasha left Durazzo last week for his home at Tirana upon the pretext of coming to terms with the peasants. But Prince William's suspicions appear to have been aroused, and Essad Pasha was placed under observation.

Different versions are current regarding the course of events immediately preceding his arrest. It is not yet clear whether, as the result of an interview with Prince William, Essad Pasha resigned his portfolios and at once increased the number of his bodyguard, or whether the strengthening of his bodyguard decided the Prince to remove him from his post. He was, however, summoned by a Dutch Gendarmerie officer to disband his guard and hand over their arms. He refused, and his men opened fire on the Gendarmerie. A battery of artillery which had been placed in position replied, and Essad Pasha then hoisted the white flag. As soon as the first shot was fired Austro-Hungarian and Italian sailors were landed by arrangement with Prince William, and took steps to guard the Palace. A combined detachment marched to Essad Pasha's house, arrested him, and conveyed him on board an Austro-Hungarian cruiser. He was subsequently transferred to an Italian steamer bound for Brindisi, having previously signed a declaration that he would not return to Albania without Prince William's permission. Unless the indications are at fault, the country no less than its ruler will feel a sense of relief at being rid of Essad Pasha. His attitude both before and since the Prince's arrival has been incompatible with constitutional government, and his conduct amounted to an open affront to his Sovereign. It is pointed out that Prince William would have impressed his subjects still more favourably if he had been able to carry out his *coup de main* without recourse to foreign bluejackets, and it is feared in some quarters that the intervention of Austria-Hungary and Italy at such a critical juncture may serve to strengthen the wish of the two Powers to play an equally important part in subsequent developments in Albania. However that may be, it is to the interest of the new State that its ruler should have acted with determination in putting an end to an impossible state of affairs. With the removal of Essad Pasha and the prospect of peace in the south Albania enters upon a more hopeful stage than it has yet experienced in its chequered career of the last few years.

The intervention of the Powers in the Epirus question has met with success. As a result of the negotiations between the International Commission of Control and the Provisional Government a provisional agreement has been reached and will be submitted for ratification to the Powers, to the Albanian Government, and to the Epirotes. Last week we were able to present the situation on the southern frontier of Albania in its proper perspective. The main features remained unchanged: strong mistrust of the Albanians on the part of the Epirotes and a strong determination not to accept incorporation in the new State without adequate safeguards. On this foundation there had been hurriedly raised a somewhat formidable insurrectionary movement purporting to have as its object the withdrawal of Epirus from Albania with a view to its union with Greece. The agitation, however, overreached itself. Artificially fomented with outside help, it had gone altogether beyond the intentions of the Epirotes themselves, who became less and less enamoured of the methods of their imported champions as the latter developed their plans. M. Zographos, head of the Provisional Government, had never shown himself an irreconcilable; but the insurrectionary operations were beginning to pass beyond his control, when the opportune offer of intervention was made by the International Commission of Control. Hostilities were suspended, and within ten days an agreement for the settlement of the Epirus question had been reached.

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For the present the arrangement agreed upon at Corfu by the mediators and the Provisional Government of Epirus is happily termed "Dispositions concerning the districts of Southern Albania." The title is significant. The Albanian Government proclaims the administration considered suitable for the southern districts of Albania, the Epirotes express satisfaction with the proposals and bygones can be bygones. According to the provisional scheme the country is to be divided into the two administrative districts of Koritza and Argyrokastro, under Prefects nominated by the Albanian Government, with local councils in which the number of elected members is always to be in excess of the ex-officio members. All existing Greek religious institutions and privileges are to remain unaltered, and the Greek language is to be recognised equally with the Albanian language as a medium of instruction for the three lower classes of the popular schools. Similarly the Greek language will be recognised in matters of local administration and in the Law Courts. The Epirotes will not be disarmed; the Gendarmerie for the two districts will be recruited locally and commanded by Dutch officers. It will not be available for service elsewhere, except in the case of *vis major*, which will have to be recognised as such by the International Commission. The latter is to be responsible for the organisation and maintenance of the new régime, and finally a full amnesty is to be granted to the Epirotes. It is to be hoped that this eminently sound arrangement will be carried into effect without delay. Albania has need of the Epirotes, and the Epirotes, or at least the Orthodox inhabitants of Koritza, have lost no time in indicating how their real sympathies lie by using the Albanian liturgy in their Church services as soon as the Greek army was withdrawn. If Prince William hastens to show himself to the Epirotes in his true light as a Sovereign conscientiously devoted to their interests, he will not only win their loyalty and affection, but he will probably sow the seed of the solution of certain troubles which have manifested themselves in the administration of Northern Albania.

The satisfaction which the Albanian Government is likely to feel with the course that events in Epirus have taken can hardly fail to be shared by the Greek Government. For many months M. Venizelos has been placed in a trying position. From the outset he was probably aware how much of the Epirote agitation was genuine and how much artificial. If he had tried to impart his knowledge to his fellow-countrymen, he would not have been believed. But he sought to obtain for the Epirotes the concessions which have now been granted to them, and he urged the Powers to take action before the movement assumed a more menacing aspect. His advice was not acted upon, and he has been obliged to face a bitter agitation in Greece against his own person. The crowning injustice of driving him from office has not yet been accomplished, and we may hope that the settlement of the Epirus question will put an end to the intrigues of his political opponents. As we stated last week, the Greeks cannot cavil with terms which have been accepted by the Epirotes. In the attitude of the Orthodox inhabitants of Koritza they will find food for reflexion and may bring themselves to realise that M. Venizelos has adopted the wiser policy in urging the claims of Greece on ground where they can be substantiated and in not antagonising the Powers by pretensions in districts where the inhabitants are likely to be the first to repudiate them.

The publication of the report of the Special Committee appointed by the Carnegie Peace Fund to investigate the circumstances attending the two Balkan wars is promised for June 1. An advance notice states that three chapters of the voluminous document deal with the atrocity question. As might have been expected, the Committee finds that there were both truth and exaggeration in the reports circulated. A large number of reported atrocities "were invented or exaggerated by certain belligerents in order to cover their own excesses." But the conduct of the wars, and particularly the second, recalls the darkest days of the Middle Ages or, rather, "the time of the Assyrian conquest." No one with intimate knowledge of the Balkans imagined that war could be waged on any other terms, and it requires a large amount of optimism to imagine that if hostilities were to be renewed tomorrow the conduct of the combatants would be different. But when memories of days of oppression have had time to fade, a new conscience may be awakened in the Near East.

Relations between Roumania and Austria-Hungary have recently been passing through a phase of considerable delicacy, and it is unfortunate that the situation should be complicated by a purely personal matter. The presence of Dr. Mangra, a Rumane, who is a priest and episcopal vicar of a Greek Catholic diocese and a member of the Hungarian Parliament, was resented at a session of the Academy in Bucharest by some students, who insulted him and jostled him as he was leaving the meeting. Such an incident could hardly be ignored in Hungary, and it is natural that the Press should endeavour to make the most of it. The action of the students was reprehensible, but in justice to them it has to be pointed out that Dr. Mangra had courted trouble in presenting himself at the Academy. He had been elected a member in 1909 at a time when he was the champion of the Rumane cause in Hungary, but until last week had not set foot in the building. Since his election he has been held to have deserted the Rumanes and to have gone over, bag and baggage, to the enemy's camp. His appearance, therefore, at the Academy was in the nature of a challenge, and the students were not slow in accepting it. The incident may serve to embitter feeling on both sides of the Carpathian Mountains, but it is not likely to affect the relations between the two Governments. Both recognise the awkwardness of the problem presented by the presence of a large compact body of Rumanes in Hungary, but the Roumanian Government has not allowed itself to take any steps or make any representations which are not consonant with its avowed desire to live on terms of strict friendliness with its powerful neighbour.

Inquiries in the House of Commons have elicited the fact that the Government is still coquetting with the Trans-Persian Railway scheme. Sir Edward Grey's replies, however, seemed to indicate some confusion regarding the geography of Persia. The Trans-Persian Railway scheme, as generally understood, is a proposal to link up the Russian and Indian railway systems by a line across Persia. Sir Edward Grey's remarks would lead the uninitiated to suppose that it was a proposal to develop the chief trade routes in Persia. But these, where not in the Russian or northern zone, are to be found in the neutral zone rather than in the south-eastern or British zone. British interests are centred in the neutral zone, and, if support be given to railway schemes, the lines to be built should follow the movement of trade and not traverse the deserts of Persia and Baluchistan.

The news of Lord Cromer's serious illness will cause more than ordinary concern to the many people who were brought into personal contact with him during the earlier years of his administration of Egypt. In the long roll of illustrious servants of the Empire there is none whose individuality has impressed itself more than Lord Cromer's on those with whom he was associated. It was an uphill fight in the days that succeeded the British Occupation of Egypt, and the small band of Englishmen that was working under Lord Cromer had to encounter every sort of opposition, not only from the Egyptians themselves, but also from their various European colleagues who then formed part of the Administration. Not one of those, we imagine, who took part in the activities that led to the triumph of Efficiency and all it has since brought to the prosperity of Egypt but will gratefully acknowledge that it was Lord Cromer's guiding hand and encouragement that rendered success possible under what then seemed almost hopeless circumstances.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 15.

The Speech from the Throne.

The Speech from the Throne which was read at the opening of Parliament yesterday contains some interesting passages. It deals severely with the Cabinets which preceded that headed by Mahmud Shevket Pasha, on the ground that they were too ready to concede all to Turkey's enemies, and refers in moving terms to the disasters sustained by Turkey in the Balkan War and to the loss of Mahmud Shevket Pasha, the victim of a treacherous plot. After referring with natural satisfaction to the re-occupation of Adrianople, which dispelled the pessimism that had brooded over the nation in consequence of its defeats and gave hope of a renewal of national vigour—though one gathers that the German officers of the Military Mission would hardly endorse what is said of the Army's present readiness for war—the Speech deals with the question of the Islands. After noting that the Cabinet which fell before the *coup d'état* of January 23, 1913, had left the question of the Ægean Islands which lie off the coast of Anatolia in the hands of Europe, the Speech continues:

> By the London Protocol the future status of the islands of the Archipelago was left to the decision of the Powers in accordance with their wishes, with the reservation that the assured and pacific possession of Anatolia by Turkey should be taken into consideration. But the contents of a Note afterwards presented by the Powers to the Sublime Porte made us understand with sorrow that the islands, the possession of which is necessary for us if we are to be guaranteed that calm and tranquillity which we require for the progress and development of Anatolia, were abandoned to Greece. In its reply, our Government explained why it was unable to accept this decision, and made it understood that our Empire, while realising the importance and value of the maintenance of peace, would continue its efforts to obtain its rights. I trust that it will be possible to settle this question pacifically in a manner in conformity both with this point of view and with our essential interests.
>
> There can be no reason to doubt that Italy will shortly restore the islands which she is obliged to evacuate and surrender by the Treaty of Lausanne.

Other passages deal with the economic condition of the Empire, which has respected its engagements in the most difficult moments; the economic and commercial agreements concluded and pending with foreign Powers, the engagement of foreign specialists, the necessity of a strong fleet, the construction of ports, and the extension of the railway system. Concessions have been actually granted for the construction of the Samsun Sivas, the Sivas-Harput-Argana-Bitlis-Van, and the Erzinjan-Bikritch, Rayak-Ramleh and Smyrna-Dardanelles railways.

The general impression caused by the Speech is satisfactory. There is a hint of coming trouble with Greece if the Island question is not settled in accordance with Turkey's wishes, but one must make allowances for the natural desire of the Government to create an impression in Athens that some sort of a compromise is necessary.

The Policy of Pinpricks.

Meanwhile both Greeks and Turks seem to be indulging in a somewhat petty and mean policy of pinpricks at one another's expense. Both are contributing to the forced emigration of minorities. Moslems leave Macedonia in shoals, and the Greeks have not yet ceased to quit Thrace. Moslem peasants in Macedonia are the target for all sorts of petty annoyances. Moslem notables at Salonika and other towns are from time to time arrested, taken to the lock-up on charges of conspiracy, and released after days. Greek children at Constantinople who wear sailor hats with "Hydra" or "Averoff" on the ribbon, unlucky recipients of "patriotic" picture postcards from too enthusiastic friends in Hellas, mothers of bold bad schoolboys who sport Greek rosettes or blue and white ties, all go to the "Karakol," and are sometimes fined for their sins; sometimes, in the case of adults, tried by court-martial and imprisoned. The authorities, moreover, have begun to discover a prodigious number of dilapidations in Greek houses in the villages near Constantinople, and are pulling them down. Turkish houses, strangely enough, do not seem to suffer from dilapidation! The policy now in vogue is unworthy of an Empire with a great past or of a monarchy which aspires to a great future. It would be so much easier and simpler for the Turks to order shops to abstain from the sale of Hellenic ribbons and "Averoff" hat-bands, and for the Greeks to forbid their post offices to transmit postcards bearing legends or illustrations offensive to Ottoman sentiment to addresses in Turkey. But the most sensible course is not that which is usually followed by most Near Eastern peoples.

Turco-Russian Relations.

The Minister of the Interior has returned from Livadia, where he has had a most friendly reception from the Tsar and his Ministers. The growth of a friendlier feeling between Russia and Turkey has become very marked of late. It is to be hoped that this change for the better will be durable. Much depends on the inspectors-general of the two Armenian sectors, and on the manner in which their efforts are seconded by their staff and by the Ministry of Finance; for if the gendarmes and police, not to mention other functionaries, are not regularly paid it is hopeless to expect much improvement. It will also be necessary to strike down some of the Kurdish Beys, men like Hajji Musa of Bitlis, of whose crimes murder and rape are the least, and who are more dangerous to the Government than ridiculous dervishes, such as Selim, Seyyid Ali, and Shehab-ed-Din of Hizan. The Government must strike hard if any of these chiefs give any trouble. Its operations against Musa in 1912 were conducted in a manner that gave foreign onlookers the disagreeable impression that it was indulging in an expensive *comedietta* and meant no harm whatever to that villainous but influential robber chief.

SERVIA AND THE PHANAR.

Apparently the negotiations which have been for some time past in progress between the Phanar and M. Stephanovitch on the subject of the Orthodox dioceses in New Servia have resulted in an agreement in principle. As has already been pointed out in The Near East, the transfer of sovereignty in Servian Macedonia has made it necessary for the local Orthodox bishoprics to leave the jurisdiction of the Œcumenical Patriarchate and become subject to that of the National Orthodox Church of Servia. It appears that the Phanar claims some compensation for the loss of its patronage in so considerable an area and suggested as a suitable sum £32,000. The Servians, however, preferred to pay an annual £1,200 in lieu of a capital compensation. It is not known whether the Patriarchate intends to maintain its bishops in those sees which have passed to Bulgaria—as being a schismatic country—but if not, the Phanar will still retain jurisdiction in Europe over eleven bishoprics—Adrianople, Dimotika (Didymoteichon), Enos, Gallipoli, Eregli (Heraklea), Ganosachora, Chataldja (Metrai), Chorlu (Tyroloi), Derkos, Viza, Kirk Kilisse, and over part of that of Aghtebolu (Sozagathoupoli), the episcopal city of which is now in Bulgaria.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 14.

Progress of the Provinces.

The central topic of conversation and discussion continues to be the Khedive's recent tour. The vernacular Press is still full of articles laying stress on the significance of this journey. His Highness has addressed a letter to the Prime Minister expressing his appreciation of the warm welcome that was extended to him everywhere and his satisfaction at the very great progress which, it was evident, had been made in the provinces. Of the accuracy of the Khedive's observation there can be little doubt. Thanks to the initiative of the mudirs and of the provincial and municipal councils, the last few years have witnessed an enormous advance in the civilisation and improvement in the conditions of the provinces, even in the most distant parts, and the growing prosperity of the fellaheen is unmistakable. Moreover, the cutting of agricultural roads and the laying of new main and light railway lines have had for effect an opening up of the country which would certainly account for the great progress noted by the Khedive. One erroneous statement has crept into the native accounts of the tour. It is freely stated—and undue significance is attached to the fact by the quidnuncs—that on this journey his Highness received no British officials. This is absolutely untrue. Not only was he accompanied during the best part of the tour by high British officials, but at each mudiria town the British inspectors were especially included in the invitations to the receptions, and presented to the Khedive, who went out of his way to show them every attention and demonstrate an interest in their work.

Egyptian Subscriptions for Turkey.

The Turkish airmen, Salem Bey and Kemal Bey, have arrived safely, and are now being fêted by the committee at whose head is Prince Aziz Pasha Hassan. Efforts are being made in the vernacular Press to raise further subscriptions for the purpose of presenting Turkey with aeroplanes, and so far since the flights from Constantinople first started about £E1,400 has been collected. It will be interesting to observe whether the Egyptians display any alacrity and generosity in their response to the appeal that is now being made to their loyalty to the Caliph. It is sincerely to be hoped that they will not allow themselves to be persuaded to unloose their pursestrings in order to go to the assistance of their suzerain. The Egyptians have suffered only too much in the past owing to their readiness to become the "milch-kuh" of the Turks. During the recent three wars they sent hundreds of thousands of pounds to Tripoli and Constantinople, and thereby proved their loyalty to the Caliph. To-day, leaving out of the question the fact that there is no excuse of a war, conditions have changed. Owing to the turn of the wheel of destiny, Egypt and her sons are being called upon to face what might be called a critical period, when every penny that is available will be required. The present is not the time to pour money out of the country. If the rich pashas and beys have any money to spare, it is their duty to use it to assist their poorer brethren to tide over whatever tight period is in store for them. That is the direction in which their charitable feelings should turn. But, setting aside the question of charity and sentiment, the raising of these subscriptions for comparatively foreign objects is a serious matter for the Government. As it is, it is finding it difficult enough to provide the money necessary for the many works of public utility that must be executed, and that will confer such countless benefits on the country; and it will probably have to find new sources of revenue. Under these circumstances, it cannot remain indifferent to the raising of these so-called patriotic funds, which can have but one result—that of reducing the resources of the fellaheen and of diminishing their taxability.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly has had several meetings this week, and has succeeded in disposing of some of the measures that have been awaiting its approval. The Court of Criminal Appeal Bill, which has aroused no little discussion, has at last been passed, the Government refusing to accept the amendment that all death sentences should be susceptible of appeal, if passed by a majority of votes of the judges of the Assize Court. On the other hand, the Bill dealing with the punishment of Customs House officials caught smuggling was rejected by the House, as it held it to be unsound. The Weights and Measures Bill setting up official standards and inflicting punishments on traders and others using bad weights and measures has also been passed by the Assembly with one or two modifications. As this law has already been approved by the Mixed Courts, it should come into force very shortly, as the modifications now made do not involve questions of principle.

The Agricultural Co-operative Syndicates Bill is still being discussed in Committee. The Wakfs Budget has given rise to the lodging of many objections by the Committee entrusted with the work of examining it, and it is expected that a lively discussion will ensue when the report is presented to the House. Various questions touching on controversial and delicate matters had been addressed to the Government by some of the delegates. It is satisfactory to note that they have now been withdrawn; for no useful purpose could have been served by pressing for answers which would only have led to acrimonious debates.

The Memory of Fathy Pasha Zaghlul.

On Friday last a great meeting—one of the greatest of its kind that has been witnessed in Egypt—was held at the Khedivial Opera House in memory of the late Fathy Pasha Zaghlul. The building was packed, and representatives of every community were present to do honour to this distinguished son of Egypt. Eloquent speeches were given by Rushdi Pasha, Sarwat Pasha, and many others, and various odes were read, after which Saad Pasha Zaghlul rose to return thanks. It was with difficulty that he could say anything, for he still feels the loss of his brother, to whom he was very devoted.

AUSTRALIANS IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Suez, May 11.

The Orient steamer from Australia on Saturday afternoon disembarked over two hundred and sixty passengers, who proceeded by special train to Cairo. They will rejoin the vessel at Port Said after seeing the Pyramids and Sphinx by moonlight, and such other sights as there will be time for during the few hours of their stay. This break in the long sea journey has lately become a regularly organised affair, on the Orient Line in particular, and appears to be very much appreciated. Not long ago the excursionists had the experience, doubtless temporarily very disagreeable, but at least possessing the charm of novelty for most, of being held up for an hour or two on the train in the desert some miles away from Suez by a sandstorm. The season of hot winds, known as the khamaseen, is nearly over now; but the Suez to Ismailia journey by train is always a dusty experience, the line passing over sheer desert from start to finish, and there being little protection afforded against the sand-laden indrift of air.

The Egyptian State Railways run very fine trains on these special services, and the ordinary trains suffer much by the proverbially odious but inevitable comparison. Presumably only the best is good enough for the casual visitor.

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TURKISH AIRMEN.

The Flight to Egypt.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, May 9.

Salem Bey, with his passenger Kemal Bey, flew to Port Said from El Arish on Tuesday, the 5th instant, arriving at five o'clock in the morning. Despite the early hour of arrival a most enthusiastic reception awaited them, the native population in particular showing keen appreciation of the exploit, carried out in the face of many difficulties and dangers. It will be remembered that two previous attempts had been made by Turkish aviators to fly from Constantinople to Cairo, both of which unfortunately ended in disaster and loss of life.

The aviators stayed in Port Said two days, during which time they were fêted and entertained by the leading natives of the town. Dinners and dances followed in rapid succession, and the festivities ended on Thursday evening with a banquet at the Eastern Exchange Hotel, given by two of our principal native merchants, at which 150 guests were present, including the Governor of the Suez Canal, Heddaya Bey, several of the foreign Consuls, and many leading residents. On Wednesday afternoon Salem Bey gave exhibition flights in his Blériot monoplane, in the handling of which he displayed considerable skill and audacity. He is an experienced pilot, having gained his brevet in France two years ago.

The airmen left for Cairo at 5 a.m. on Friday, but were forced to descend at Tel-el-Kebir owing to engine trouble.

THE HEALTH OF KHARTOUM.

The Sudan Herald (May 2) has an article on "The Healthiest City in the World," which is the title claimed for Khartoum. This claim "is abundantly borne out by medical statistics, the death rate from disease being below that of any other city, and out of all comparison with that of any other large tropical or sub-tropical town or city." The article continues:—

If this fact of the wonderful health which is always prevalent in Khartoum year in year out were generally recognised, we wonder would the rush and keen anticipation of getting away on leave be so great. The almost perfect health of the city is, of course, in the first place directly attributable to the workings of Dame Nature, who here so lavishly sheds sunshine, the most health giving property there is.

In the second place it is attributable to the work of the Department of Health. The result of its work is given in the following passage:—

A score of years ago if anyone had predicted that Khartoum would eventually be a mosquito free city the statement might have been accepted, but on the understanding that gardens and all cultivation were an unknown quantity; yet at the present day we possess in Khartoum a city of wonderful verdure (the number of grass lawn tennis courts far exceeds that of any other tropical town), and yet are free from the mosquito pest.

EGYPTIAN STUDENTS' FIGHT.

The Daily Mail (May 18) has the following account of a students' quarrel at Edinburgh University:—"During a lecture in the Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh, where a number of the students were studying for the degree of dental surgeon, paper pellets were thrown across the room. One struck an Egyptian student on the face. Flushed with anger, he turned round and asked a South African sitting behind him if he threw the pellet. The South African denied having done so, but the Egyptian, it is said, kicked him on the legs. Blows were exchanged, and instantly the class was in an uproar. Order was restored on the arrival of two tutors. Later the two men decided to "fight to a finish" on the Blackford Hill, which adjoins the city. Each chose two seconds, and a crowd of students followed. It was arranged that the combatants should stand back to back, march three paces forward, turn round, and then begin a bout of fisticuffs. The fight was fierce from the first. Ultimately the South African, the heavier of the two, got home several telling blows and knocked his rival down. Angered by the cheers of the South Africans the Egyptian seconds set upon the rival party. One Egyptian, it is said, drew a revolver and "covered" an opposing second. The South Africans, now superior in numbers, immediately disarmed the Egyptian, and by the time the police reached the summit of the hill the fight was over.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 17.

Bulgaria's Hopes.

The statement made by Sir Edward Grey in the British House of Commons that the Powers were negotiating among themselves about the propriety of recognising the new state of affairs which has arisen in consequence of the Treaties of Bucharest and Constantinople, has revived the widely cherished hopes which are entertained here for revision. The present divisions of the Balkan peninsula are frankly impossible. They are justified by nothing except the vast forces of bayonets with which New Servia and New Greece are occupied; for they have no foundation in ethnography, and are in defiance of the economic and political needs of the territories in question.

The Chamber.

The Chamber was occupied during the whole of last week with the debate on the proposal to inquire how far the Gueshoff and Daneff Cabinets were responsible for the country's recent misfortunes. The leaders of most of the groups represented sketched the views of their parties on the subject; and the most promising fact that emerged from the discussion was that, for the moment, all parties abandon their partisanship and unite in declaring that Bulgaria must be strong. This is distinctly a step in the right direction, for hitherto this necessity has hardly been recognised; but now all parties show themselves favourable to the idea of increasing Bulgaria's military strength.

The most interesting contribution to the debate was made by Mr. Constantine Hajji Caltchoff, a big banker of Philippopolis and deputy for Gumuljina. He told how in November, 1913, he was sent by the headquarters of the Bulgarian Army to Constantinople to negotiate with Kiamil Pasha, and how Kiamil consented to the Enos-Midea frontier. In order to make his points clear he read from cipher telegrams. The first, from Dr. Daneff, asked Mr. Gueshoff to obtain the Cabinet's consent to his (the speaker's) being sent to negotiate with Kiamil Pasha; the second, Mr. Gueshoff's reply, stated that the Cabinet failed to see the need of despatching a special delegate to Constantinople. On November 26 King Ferdinand wired to Mr. Gueshoff: "I approve fully the proposal of the President of the Narodno Sobranje regarding the mission of Constantine Caltchoff, and advise prompt action." The fourth telegram read was from Mr. Gueshoff, and stated that the Cabinet, "fully conscious of its grave responsibility at that fateful time," asked his Majesty to receive the Minister of Finance to report on the proposed mission. Mr. Caltchoff, the telegram added, could not then go as a private individual because Bulgarians were not allowed to enter Constantinople, and it would therefore be necessary to appoint him as a special delegate.

Mr. Caltchoff's remarks regarding his mission made a strong impression in the House; for he proved incontestably that had Mr. Gueshoff's Government desired to conclude peace after the battle of Lule Burgas it could have done so at once, since Kiamil Pasha was ready to make all possible concessions.

The debate on the inquiry will not be over until next Wednesday. Then will follow the debate on the reply to the Speech from the Throne, and afterwards the debate on the regular Budget, which ought to be concluded by June 13 and the Budget adopted; for on that date the credit of the provisional Budget voted by the present Sobranje expires.

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THE SITUATION IN SERVIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 17.

Reappearance of the Regicides.

In consequence of the arbitrary conduct of the late King of Servia disaffection spread through all ranks of the community, and led to actual mutiny in the army, but the methods adopted by a comparatively small clique of daring officers to annihilate the Obrenovitch dynasty not only met with universal disapproval throughout the whole civilized world, but were also condemned by many officers of the Servian Army, as was shown by subsequent events. This body of military adventurers, however, has always retained a considerable influence, and many of them were permitted to take part in the late war, and therein earned promotion. Amongst these was Colonel (now General) Damian Popovitch, the leader of the conspirators of 1903, and one of the chief causes of the present friction between the military and civil authorities.

An Official Inquiry.

One may fairly say that the country is in the throes of a great crisis, and that since the change of dynasty in 1903 the public has seldom been in such a nervous state. Since the reopening of the Skupshtina, after the Easter holidays, pressing Parliamentary work has been neglected, and the Chamber has been occupied with questions concerning the position of the Army in relation to the civil power, which is nothing more or less than a conflict between the two. The first outcome of this friction was the resignation of the previous Minister for War and the subsequent pensioning of two generals, one of them being General Damian Popovitch, which was followed by the Government appointing a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the affairs of the Officers' Co-operative Society.

This action of the Government has aroused the displeasure of the corps of officers, and the Government having suspended the director and administrators of this society, the officers showed their resentment of the Government's action by calling a meeting of delegates representing the officers of all regiments in the country, who promptly reinstated the suspended officials of the society, and, to crown all, elected General Damian Popovitch chairman of the administrators.

The Inquiry Justified.

The Government's justification in ordering an investigation into the state of the Officers' Co-operative Society is evident when it is borne in mind that three and a-half years ago the society obtained a loan of £160,000 from Russia under the Servian Government's guarantee. As it is, the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Minister for War and the Minister of the Interior declares that there is a deficit in the society's business of about £40,000, and that irregularities have been discovered in connection with payments made by its officials for debts owing by officers and in connection with the failure to remit accrued interest to Russia. The officers now demand the nomination of a new Commission of Inquiry on the plea that the events of the war necessitated the seeming irregularities, and that the existing Commission of Inquiry has not acted impartially.

A Question of Precedence.

The conflict with the Government is not, however, limited to this episode. The officers, led by the more daring spirits, refuse to be subordinate to the civil functionaries on ceremonial occasions—they demand priority, and especially in the newly acquired Servian territories, and even go so far as to declare that these provinces should remain for five years under military rule. In virtue of a law of 1905 which subordinates the military to the civil power on ceremonial occasions, the Government by a recent administrative order made the military subservient to the civil authorities on such occasions, inasmuch as the latter represent the State. A soon as General Damian Popovitch became aware of the administrative order he criticised it in a very unrestrained manner, and informed the Minister that he refused to obey it, upon which summary measures were taken and he was retired on pension.

Parliament and Press.

Unfortunately the united Opposition in Parliament, anxious to overthrow the Ministry, has taken advantage of this conflict with the officers.

In order to bring this crisis to a close, two Ministerial deputies made an interpellation calling on the Government to give an explanation of the facts concerning the conflict between a body of officers and the civil authorities. After explanation given by the Prime Minister, a vote of confidence was taken which resulted in seventy-seven votes for the Ministry and fifty votes against.

The Opposition, however, determined not to be so easily vanquished, is raising the question of confidence in another form; but beyond all doubt the result will be the same as before. The Press is taking a very active part in the discussion, and greatly increases the excitement of the public. The newspaper *Piemont*, which is said to represent a clique of officers, is particularly violent and subversive in its language.

The Royal Amnesty.

By Royal decree of May 15 a general amnesty has been granted to political offenders. In this amnesty are pardoned all persons who have been tried and condemned previous to October 25, 1913, as spies or for insulting the Crown, civil officials, or parliamentary deputies, or for conspring to revolt or offering resistance to the authorities. The amnesty includes foreigners as well, all of whom have been already liberated.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 18.

Foreign Relations.

Much discussion has taken place in Hungarian journals of late on the subject of the fortification of the frontier towards Roumania. The Government papers declare that the question should be brought before the Delegations. This attitude is doubtless the consequence of the revival in some Roumanian journals of the idea that after the acquisition of the Bulgarian territory the next task of the Roumanian nation lies towards the west. So long as Roumanians inhabit Transylvania the idea will continue to exist, but only as an idea. It is Roumanian interest in Transylvania, as well as the leaning towards Russia of late, that has produced the feeling of coolness between Austria-Hungary and this country.

Servians and Kutzo-Vlachs.

The journal *Dreptatea* hears from Monastir in New Servia that the Kutzo-Vlachs are being terribly ill-treated by the Servian authorities. "Throughout the Balkan wars," its correspondent writes, "the misery of the Macedonian Roumanians was never so great as at present. They are forced, in order to help in maintaining and building Servian schools, to subscribe immense sums. The Servian authorities have commenced a campaign of extermination."

A local journal states that M. Porumbaru, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, received a letter yesterday from Mr. Vanghele Ciamba, a Kutzo-Vlach leader in Servian Macedonia, containing information to the above effect. It also reports that thirteen women from among the leading Kutzo-Vlach inhabitants were barbarously arrested on various flimsy excuses, and that the Servian authorities carry their oppression so far as not even to allow marriage invitations to be printed in the Roumanian language. And yet the Servians had declared that all religious and educational liberty should be accorded to the peaceful Roumanian population.

An Albanian Protest.

The Albanian colony held a large meeting on Tuesday in order to denounce the acts of the Greeks in Epirus, and passed a resolution calling on the Powers to put an end to the terrible state of things in Southern

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Albania. A circular was also addressed to the heads of the various foreign Missions, begging them to request their Governments to take measures accordingly. The Greek Legation here, however, denies in a most emphatic manner the news from Durazzo that the Epirotes have crucified 200 Albanians and all reports of a like character published of late in the papers.

Child Torturers.

It is generally believed that what is termed in Russia "angel making" exists no longer in civilized Europe, but a case just brought to light at Bucharest proves the belief to be unfounded. A few days ago a little child died in the hospital here, whose leg had been broken by its foster-mother, a gipsy named Banga. It appears that she took the child from peasant parents on payment of a small sum, and that her object was to collect money by exhibiting its deformities. Another victim of this demon in human form is a child eight years old, whose fingers have all been cut off. The arrest of this woman led to the discovery of quite a band of gipsies employed in this damnable trade, who have all been arrested. Yet another victim is a pretty little girl of twelve years of age, with golden hair and blue eyes. Her right foot is practically wanting, and her left leg was covered with sores produced to excite compassion. Her "owner" declared that he hired her from another gipsy for two years at 30 francs per month. This child was driven through the villages and to fairs. In the villages and at the fairs, eggs, maize meal, and the like were given her by sympathisers. From 3 to 4 francs was made daily. The child cannot remember her parents, her earliest recollection being of an old gipsy woman who bound her leg and foot till they became useless.

No less than twenty-three children, about one-half of whom have been maimed, have been found in the hands of the gang. All these show signs of vaccination, whilst none of the gipsies' own children do, proving that all of them have been acquired or stolen within the last six months, as just six months ago all children were vaccinated in accordance with a decree passed at that time. The papers demand that special measures should be taken by the police to root out this terrible trade, as it is believed that the band captured is only one of many such existing.

INDIAN MOSLEMS AND THE BALKANS

In behalf of the Committee of the London All-India Moslem League, a letter has been addressed to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs inviting his attention to several articles in *The Jeune-Turc* giving details of the cruel treatment to which the Moslem inhabitants of the provinces ceded to Greece have been and are still subjected by the Greeks. The charges made in that paper appear to the Committee to be corroborated by the fact that since the beginning of 1913 over 200,000 men, women, and children have abandoned their homes. "It is impossible," continues the letter, "to conceive that, had these people been treated with ordinary justice and humanity they would have left the land which their forefathers had occupied for centuries, and abandoned in the hands of their persecutors their farms, their flocks, and their chattels, to seek shelter and bread in a strange land." Reference is made to a representation submitted to Sir Edward Grey on the first of November last by the Committee, praying that his Majesty's Government should obtain from the Balkan States the recognition that the international obligations of the Treaty of Berlin guaranteeing full religious and civil liberty and equality to all sections of the population and to their institutions, within the new territories as well as in the old, are binding upon each State, and an assurance that these obligations will be faithfully fulfilled. The Committee "had hoped that working under the eyes of civilised Europe and of the great signatories to the Treaty of Berlin, the Balkan States would treat their Moslem subjects with ordinary humanity. But it appears that in order to populate their newly acquired territories with people of their own race and religion the Greeks have subjected the Moslems to a system of deliberate and appalling cruelty." In conclusion, the Committee express their earnest desire that the Indian Mussulmans should resume their normal feeling of amity towards the Western world, but point out that while the present condition of affairs continues in Macedonia it seems well-nigh impossible to allay the excitement and bitterness that prevail in India. They, therefore, earnestly pray that the Secretary of State should institute inquiries and take steps to give effect to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, in order to afford to the Moslem people in the ceded territories the free enjoyment of their civil and religious rights, and to obtain compensation for the unfortunate exiles.

NOTES FROM BEYROUT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, May 11.

Jew and Arab in Palestine.

Last month was prolific in distinguished arrivals in Syria. Baron de Rothschild came first in his magnificent yacht, then Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador to Turkey; and it is legitimate to suppose that the visit to the Holy Land of these leading figures in the financial and diplomatic world is not unconnected with the important interests of Jewish colonization in Palestine. Indeed, Mr. Morgenthau is said to have declared openly that he will lend all his personal and official influence towards the development of these interests, while the generous donations of the Baron in favour of Moslem institutions are not without significance.

One of the ardent Arab organs was lately immediately suppressed for quoting the words of the Ambassador and indulging in some severe criticism of them. The Arab press continues, however, to be deeply perturbed by the rapid growth of Jewish influence and colonial expansion. It is now reported that the agent of Baron de Rothschild has recently acquired the concession for a drainage scheme in connection with the marsh lands of Az Zarkaa and Kebara, whose area is said to be over 2,000 acres, and which lie on the sea shore bounded to the East by the flourishing colony of Zummarin, and to the South by Tantourah. The local press now alleges that this concession had been obtained by two native notables, one of whom has actually started the work of drying up the marshes, but that the Government has thought fit to invalidate the concession on illegal grounds. It further alleges, rather illogically considering its previous contention, that such a concession is calculated to lead to the stopping of eighteen mills that have hitherto been turned by the waters of Az Zarkaa. The more reasonable section of the Arab press, finding that direct opposition and a hostile campaign are fruitless, is now seeking to preach a conciliatory policy.

The list of distinguished visitors includes Oskan Effendi, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, who has come on an unusual tour of inspection to Syria, as a result of which some improvements and reforms in the service are already manifesting themselves, although there is still room for many more.

Lord Bryce on the S.P.C.

Other distinguished visitors were Lord and Lady Bryce. The President of the Syrian Protestant College obtained for the public and the students of the College the privilege of attending an interesting and inspiring lecture by Lord Bryce. After paying a tribute to the East, and gracefully acknowledging the debt which the West owes to the former, he referred to the unfortunate concourse of historical events which led to the multiplication of races and religions in this land, and to the consequent dissensions and jealousies that led to its pitiful degradation. The Syrian Protestant College, he said, has the unique advantage of recruiting its host of students from many and distant parts of the Near East. Moslem and Jew, Christian and Druse, Bulgar and Armenian, Syrian and Egyptian, even men from distant India and Persia, all work side by side in the field of knowledge, imbibe the same principles of a higher humanity, and therefore constitute the leaders of a future army of peace and good fellowship, in whose hands lie the work of regeneration of this beautiful, inspiring, but neglected land. With generous enthusiasm he declared that his pride and joy would not have been any deeper if this great and noble institution had been founded and directed by his own countrymen.

WILLIAM BERRY, Ld., 6 GOLD MEDALS AWARDED.
Works: Diamond Boot Polish Works, HOMERTON,
And Manchester. LONDON, N.

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NOTES FROM SALONIKA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, May 14.

The Prime Minister's Tour.

The most interesting event of the last fortnight has been the tour of Mr. Venizelos, who, accompanied by the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, arrived here by sea on the morning of the 1st inst. Before eight o'clock a large crowd collected at the landing place and along the road to the hotel; while a little later the Governor-General, the Prefect, the civil, military, and religious chiefs, and the notables of the town put in an appearance. As soon as the torpedo-boat destroyer bringing the visitors anchored, a salute was fired from a battery; whereupon the higher officials went off in boats to greet them. The landing took place almost immediately; and after the customary presentations had been made, all walked to the hotel amid the enthusiastic cheers of the people assembled.

On the afternoon of the 2nd, Messrs. Venizelos, Repoulis, and Ractivan, accompanied by the Governor-General, with a number of superior officers, left for Eastern Macedonia, making short halts at Serres and other towns on their way to Drama—at which place, by the way, we were told perfect order reigned, although the eighty Turks and thirteen Bulgarians who had recently been arrested confessed that they had been preparing a revolutionary movement, arms having been discovered in the neighbouring villages.

The party arrived at Kavalla on the afternoon of the 4th, where they had another great reception from the authorities, the Bishop, the Grand Rabbi, the Mufti, the Consular Corps, and different schools going out to meet them. Leaving Kavalla by motor car for Drama in the afternoon of the 5th, Salonika was reached by special train at eleven p.m. after a most satisfactory, if hurried, inspection of the eastern part of the new territories. Wednesday, the 6th, was again a busy day, Mr. Venizelos visiting several schools, and receiving deputations of members of the Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies. Mr. Ractivan, however, had to leave for Athens, his presence there being needed in the matter of the publication of the nominations of judges. On the 7th the Prime Minister and Mr. Repoulis left by special train for the western provinces, to visit Vodena, Florina, and Niaousta, returning here the following evening. Further visits and audiences, with a run out to Kilkitch, filled up Saturday the 9th, and the following morning Mr. Venizelos and Mr. Repoulis left Salonika on their return to Athens. On embarking, the Prime Minister remarked that he had gathered the best impressions from his journey in the interior of Macedonia, in which provinces an ideal condition of order and security prevailed. So came to a close this visit from which so much was hoped; but whether the hopes indulged in will be realised seems doubtful. Take, for instance, the raising of the moratorium, which Mr. Ractivan promised for to-day. That is again deferred, and will continue to weigh us down for at least another three or four months; the position being that merchants of the late Turkish provinces now under Greek, Servian, or Bulgarian rule, still owe to Salonika from a million to a million and a quarter pounds, and that every day's delay in the raising of the moratorium makes the situation worse, and the payment of these outstandings more doubtful. And if they are not eventually paid, merchants of this town will find themselves in an exceedingly difficult position as regards their foreign creditors.

The Free Zone Question.

As to a free zone, we are to have that, although many contend it will be of no great benefit to us. Servia, Austria, etc., will find it to their advantage, but not Salonika. Very few, however, seem to understand what a free zone really means, or how it is to be worked. Mr. Venizelos invites suggestions, which nobody seems capable of satisfactorily elaborating. Among other things for which the Chamber of Commerce asked was this raising of the moratorium; and for Salonika to be made a free town and port, a free zone being considered by them an insufficient palliative for the loss of its old economic hinterland. To this latter request, Mr. Venizelos replied that "the question of making Salonika a free town is quite inadmissible as, under no pretext in a State such as the Greek, would it be possible to allow the creation of a free town to be governed in a manner different from that of the rest of the kingdom. Consequently, not even a simple discussion could be allowed on this subject. The free zone has been studied and decided upon, and I beg of you to elaborate your views as to that zone." Further, the Prime Minister said, the project leaving Salonika out of the direct European line is definitive; and although he maintains his optimism as regards the future of this town, that feeling is certainly not now shared by the public here. It is no use blinking the fact that, although its statesmen may have the very best possible intentions as regards this town and the new provinces, Greece is a small and impecunious country, altogether unable to nurse and foster its new possessions. It cannot afford to be generous towards them; it needs money itself, particularly now that it is haunted by the nightmare of Turkish dreadnoughts and other terrors. Not even the enlightened statesmanship of Mr. Venizelos can work miracles; and so "Ichabod" may be writ large over the portals of Salonika.

Band Activities.

Among the minor events of the fortnight, we learn of a fight near Demir Hissar between Greek soldiers and a Bulgarian band, in which three of the latter were killed; and of another between Servian troops and *Komitajis*, in which thirty of the latter lost their lives. It is also said—and it has never been either confirmed or denied—that a Bulgarian band attacked a train near Okjilar and carried off eight passengers; while, according to the *Makedonia*, some seventy *Komitajis* tried to cross the frontier near Drama, but were dispersed by the Greek gendarmerie, who took fifty-eight prisoners. To-day's *Phos* tells us that the Greek military authorities are now supplying guns and cartridges to the inhabitants near the Bulgarian frontier, so that they may be in a position to defend themselves. And while all this is going on outside, houses are being continually searched in this town; but what the police find, or expect to find, is not divulged.

A "Terrible English Sister."

It is much to be deplored that the Greek papers are allowed such license in the way of attacking everybody all round at their own sweet will, and so recklessly creating unnecessary ill-feeling. The *Nea Alethea* has just been abusing the Roman Catholics, accusing them of being not only the friends of Bulgarian *komitajis*, but *Komitajis* at heart themselves; that "terrible English Sister Augustine" (one of whose crimes is that she reads and writes Bulgarian fluently) being the chief delinquent. It is true that she has worked hard in the matter of Bulgarian relief, in the prisons and in the town; but it is well-known to all whose judgment is not warped that the Roman Catholic sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, among them Sister Augustine, have been, and are, ever among the first to help and succour all who are in need and distress, whether Bulgarian, Servian, Greek, or Turk.

King Constantine's Visit.

We believe the King is to arrive in Salonika to-morrow, the 15th, and great preparations are being made to give him a right royal welcome. The object of this visit is a tour of military inspection through Macedonia, to last about a fortnight. Our municipality, we understand, has now bought the Villa Modiano, with its grounds, as a royal residence, of which it will make a present to the King on his arrival. It is presumed our high military and civil officials, together with the members of the municipality, are making this present out of their own pockets; it being very well known that the town itself most certainly cannot afford the £16,000 required for the purchase, much as the people would wish to contribute towards such an object in more prosperous times.

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LETTER FROM SMYRNA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Smyrna, May 11.

Arrival of German Army Organisers.

Smyrna and the Aidin Vilayet having become the headquarters of an army corps, special attention is being paid to the organisation and disposition of the troops stationed in different centres. The barracks at Kazamir have been completed for some time, and new barracks are being erected at Denizli, instead of at Aidin as originally intended. General Liman von Sanders has now come here to inspect the troops, accompanied by a number of German officers. Smyrna officialdom turned out in full force to greet him on his arrival.

Return of Expelled Greeks.

The protests made by the Greek Government against the expulsion of a number of the leading members of the Smyrna Greek Colony have proved effective, as an order was issued permitting the return of those affected. These constant expulsions do no good to the Turkish Government, and only help to inflame the already too heated feeling between the Greeks and Turks. Notwithstanding the Grand Vizirial order for its general cessation, the boycott movement has not abated much, and trade is almost at a standstill in many parts of the province. Efforts have been made by Turks to conduct various businesses, such as flour mills, grocery shops, etc., but little success has attended these efforts. It has taken the Greeks generations to master the intricacies of trading in Turkey, and it clearly is not possible to supplant them successfully at once.

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN PERSIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, May 17.

The 81st Apscheron Infantry Regiment and two batteries of the 21st Artillery Brigade, coming from Tabriz, returned to the Caucasus a few days ago. The Russian Press has given some prominence to the announcement of this withdrawal of troops from Azerbaijan, one leading organ hinting that it should allay the anxiety professed to have been felt in England by Russia's continued military occupation of northern Persia. It may be noted, however, that the announcement of this withdrawal does not mention the fact that the troops withdrawn last week were all time-served men. There have been previous withdrawals in comparatively small complements, but in every case they were replaced by fresh drafts from the Caucasus. The Press duly announced those withdrawals, but said nothing of the replacements. According to a semi-official Tiflis journal the strength of the Russian garrisons "now remaining" in northern Persia is 12,400.

The Ex-Shah.

The idle reports current a few weeks ago concerning Mohammed Ali's intention to make a last desperate essay for the recovery of his lost throne before the date fixed for the coronation of his son in July have subsided. There was never, so far as I can learn, any foundation whatever for those reports, first put into circulation by one or two Berlin journals. The ex-Shah remains, since his return three weeks ago, secluded in his suburban villa here.

The semi-official Bulgarian Telegraph Agency has received a message from Adrianople stating that several agents of a well-known Paris firm of cinematograph film manufacturers have arrived there with the authority of the Ottoman Government to take photographs, with a view to a cinematograph reproduction of the siege of Adrianople. Several detachments of soldiers have been placed at the disposal of the firm's representatives, and have been carrying out manœuvres at Serai, on the Taschtabia road, to furnish film records. The cinematograph artists, however, are not satisfied with these displays, and have suggested that several villages should be burned in the neighbourhood of Adrianople, undertaking to pay liberally for all damage done. The Ottoman authorities, the semi-official statement continues, have not yet replied to this proposal.

NOTES FROM MESHED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, April 24.

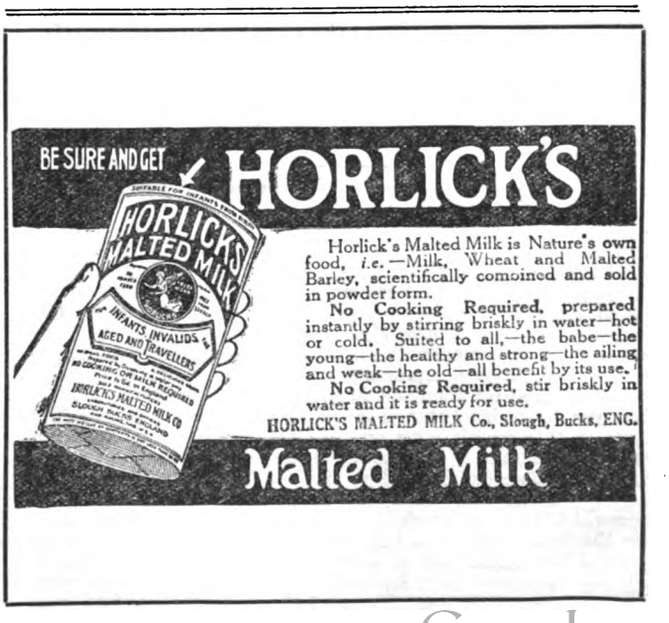
Until recently the provinces of Khorassan and Seistan have been under one Governor-General, whose residence has been in Meshed. But a few months ago the territory was divided. Northern Khorassan remains under the Governor-Generalship of Prince Nayar-ed-Dowleh, who was so closely connected with the person of Nasir-ed-Din Shah during the reign of that monarch. The Kainat, which is the southern portion of Khorassan, and the province of Seistan, have been placed under the Governor-Generalship of Mohammed Ibrahim Khan, whose title is Shokat-el-Mulk, a man about thirty-two years of age, and the eighth in descent from the Arab family of Khuzaima.

After a business trip to Teheran and a visit to Europe, Shokat-el-Mulk recently passed through Meshed on his way to his residence in the city of Birjand, which has a population of from 15,000 to 20,000, and is a thriving business centre. Thus the eastern part of Persia becomes more than ever before divided between British and Russian spheres of influence. In the northern Governor-Generalship Russian influence is predominantly evident, while in the southern Governor-Generalship British influence is by far the stronger.

The following incident has been matter of common talk since Shokat-el-Mulk passed through Meshed, and I give it as I get it from common report.

When Shokat-el-Mulk passed through this city he brought with him an oil painting on light canvas, about seven by thirty feet, representing the battle of Kerbela, which had been purchased by an English lover of Persia to be put into its resting-place in the shrine. With due ceremony it was presented to the authorities of the shrine and hung in the place which the populace said was its former place of honour within the sacred precincts. It was viewed by thousands of people, and I was told that Persians recognised it as a picture which they had been accustomed to see formerly in that place. A few days later, however, an article appeared in both of the daily newspapers of the city, over the name of Murtaza Guli Tabatabai, who is the chief keeper of the shrine, in substance as follows:—

"A picture which an honourable Englishman who loves Persia sent through the Honourable Excellence Agha Ameer Shokat-el-Mulk, Governor-General of Kainat and Seistan, has been received and accepted at the Holy Shrine. Because the idea is current in the brains of the common people that this picture went out from the Holy Shrine and was returned, therefore investigation made in the records shows that in times past no such picture was in the Holy Shrine, and whoever thinks so is in error. Therefore, these few words are written to clear away the misunderstanding from the brains of the common people."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

ORIENTAL STUDIES IN LONDON.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—We believe that the case for the establishment of a School of Oriental Studies in London comparable to the schools in Berlin, Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburg is by now so familiar to the public that it does not need re-statement in detail. It has been cogently urged by Lord Reay's Committee, which reported in 1908; it has been endorsed by his Majesty's Government and the Government of India; it was supported by a large and representative meeting of members of Parliament, City men, administrators, and scholars, held under the presidency of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House on May 6 last. In this letter we desire briefly to summarise the exact position of affairs and to appeal to the public for the sum necessary to enable the school to be opened on an efficient working basis in 1915, when its buildings will be ready.

The site and buildings of the London Institution (valued at not less than £100,000) have been secured for the school by Act of Parliament, and the Government have promised the sum of from £20,000 to £25,000 necessary for alterations and repairs and a new block of classrooms. The plans have been approved, and the contracts will be settled as soon as the building strike is concluded. His Majesty the King has graciously consented to be patron of the school, which will be attached to the University of London under the terms of a Royal Charter now under consideration by the Privy Council. The annual income necessary to teach the principal languages of the East and Africa, spoken by over 800,000,000 people, including over 350,000,000 of his Majesty's subjects, will be £14,000 a year, as compared with £10,000 a year spent at Berlin and £8,000 spent at Paris. Towards this sum his Majesty's Government have promised £4,000 a year, and the Government of India £1,250 a year. The Education Committee of the London County Council have recommended the Council to vote £2,000 a year to the school under certain conditions, and we trust that they will agree to do so. There is thus a balance of at least £6,700 a year to be found. We hope that this sum may be secured, partly in the form of income from capital, and partly in the form of annual grants or subscriptions. We think it desirable that an Endowment Fund of not less than £100,000 should be raised.

Donations and subscriptions may be paid to Sir Montagu Turner (chairman of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China), 38, Bishopsgate, who is acting as chairman of the City Executive Appeal Committee, which has been formed in connection with our appeal; they may also be paid to the head offices, or to any branch of the London County and Westminster Bank. We shall be grateful for such support as you may be able to give to this appeal for a purpose of national and Imperial importance, and trust that it may meet with a ready and generous response from the public.—Yours, etc.,

Cromer,
Curzon of Kedleston,
T. Vansittart Bowater (Lord Mayor),
On behalf of the Oriental Studies Committee of the India Office.

Southwark,
F. Faithfull Begg,
On behalf of the London Chamber of Commerce.

Montagu C. Turner,
On behalf of the City Executive Appeal Committee.

May 16.

CHURCH AND STATE IN SOUTHERN ALBANIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Dear Sir,—One of the best points in your excellent paper is that your correspondents represent different points of view, and that in one and the same number you may be publishing contradictory letters from Athens, Belgrade, and Sofia. I have, therefore, nothing to complain of in the fact that your "Own Correspondent" at Koritza represents the Albanian view, which is at the present moment dominant in that town. It is another matter when you make his letter of April 26 the basis of your leading article in this week's issue on "Church and State in Southern Albania," and take at its face value the petition of the new pro-Albanian "Diocesan Council of Koritza." It is quite possible that when it was occupied by the Greek army Koritza seemed to the world to be more Greek than it really was. It is certain that after the fierce civil war of last month and the temporary triumph of the Albanian element it seems infinitely less Greek than it really is. You yourselves had an interesting article on this very subject in your "Current Comments" of April 17, when you quoted German statistics of a date prior to the war to the effect that about two-thirds of the Orthodox Christians of Koritza "were then disposed to consider themselves as Greeks." Whether the proportion has permanently changed since then, one way or the other, may be an arguable point. My impression is that up to the time of the evacuation of Koritza by the Greek army the Hellenists were in a huge majority, although it is true that some of the Albanian Nationalists had preferred for the time to retire to more congenial quarters further north, and possible that a certain number who remained in the town dissembled their views. It is possible, too, that some of those who up to the moment of the Greek evacuation were genuinely in favour of union with Greece were persuaded by the counsels of the Greek Government that this was impracticable, and that it was better to make friendly terms with Albania. Further, it is common knowledge that directly the Greek army left the town the Albanian element which had retired to Avlona returned, accompanied by large numbers of sympathisers from other parts of Albania. It is, therefore, probable that by the time the fighting took place last month there was a considerable Christian minority in Koritza, who were either Albanian in sympathy or at least not prepared to fight against incorporation. This minority is now able to voice its collective opinion because the *coup d'état* of the other side has failed, its leaders have been imprisoned or have fled the town, and its rank and file are disarmed. To make out, however, as your correspondent does, that this means that the real sentiments of the inhabitants of Koritza are now for the first time brought to light is a particularly absurd instance of the never-failing tendency of the Balkan nationalities (and, one may add, of many of their foreign supporters) to try to prove too much. I confess, Sir, that I am surprised that you have not discounted the exuberance of your correspondent's enthusiasm. His picture of the Metropolitan and the old Diocesan Council imposing Hellenism on a reluctant flock is comically untrue to all the conditions of Greek religious life of to-day. His statement that "there were very few Albanians concerned in the rising" except the Bishop, and that "300 regular troops" of the Greek army attempted to seize the town, is so remote from the facts that it throws doubt on the reliability of all his information. The attempted *coup d'état* was, from the Greek point of view, a miserable failure, and the Greek papers have for the last month been full of mutual recriminations on the part of many of those concerned. From sifting these various accounts it is possible to gauge what really happened. It is, in the first place, certain that the Greek Government not only had nothing to do with the attack, but were from first to last entirely opposed to it. This point, I imagine, you yourself, Sir, would grant, as *The Times* and other English papers have already done. Your correspondent, however, with all the information that he should have been able to secure on the spot, does not grant it. He takes the same line as the "Protestant Albanian Missionary," whose telegram from Koritza was published in *The Times* of April 14, and who affirmed that "after very careful investigation" he had found that "the rising was planned and supported by the Greek Government." The worthy missionary's judgment and knowledge can be estimated by the fact that his only evidence was that a band of eight surprised by "our men" consisted of two Cretans and six men who "came from Constantinople"! If we put out of court these suggestions as to the complicity of the Greek Government there next emerges the curious fact that even the Autonomous Government of Epirus, in whose interests the rising was planned, did not directly inspire it or superintend its execution. What seems to have happened is that the Greek party in Koritza, alarmed at threats of disarmament, sent urgent messages to some of their own fellow-citizens who had left the town that if Koritza was to be won back a blow must be struck at once. This message did not go to the Provisional Government at Argyrokastron, but to the bands of irregulars who were concentrating in the Greek interest on the north-east of the disputed zone. A certain ex-Deputy of the Ottoman Parliament named Bousios, who seems to have had more enthusiasm than military capacity, was put in command of these bands, and led a Jameson's Raid of the most amateur kind against the town. The Greek party inside Koritza began the fighting too soon, and the Albanian gendarmerie, led by their efficient Dutch officers, were able to isolate the Greek inhabitants in their own quarter of the town and hold them, while they repulsed Bousios and his men in the surrounding villages and suburbs. The *fiasco* of the whole affair has no doubt made it politic for many of the Greek party in the town who were not actually the leaders of the movement to plead compulsion. A side-light is thrown on this by a remark of the Protestant missionary that "the Greek officers" captured themselves "confessed" that "the few Albanians who took part were threatened with death if they refused to follow." It was no doubt good sportsmanship and good policy, in view of future possibilities, that such an excuse should be made and accepted, but the missionary and your correspondent (unless by any chance they are one and the same person) were indeed credulous to take it as literal truth!

It is important, Sir, to put the Koritza raid in its true light, not only because any attempt to free Balkan history from partisan prejudices is for the good, but also because your correspondent's account, if blindly accepted, might hinder what we all wish for—the settlement of the Epirus difficulty on peaceful lines. It would be a fatal mistake to imagine either that the Koritza *fiasco* throws any light on the strength of the armed and organised forces of the Autonomous Government, which were never engaged in it at all, or that the present dominance of the Albanian element at Koritza, which naturally followed that *fiasco*, bears any true relation to the strength of Greek feeling either in Koritza itself or in other parts of Epirus.—Yours,

Ronald M. Burrows.

King's College, London, May 15.

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ANTIQUITIES IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—On every side we are told that Turkey requires business-like methods, and attempts are made, with a great flourish, to show that the Government is alive to the necessity. Yet here is an instance of downright stupidity and unfairness which is affecting the trade in antiquities.

We know that in all countries modern Governments are founding museums, and are anxious to keep all antiquities found in the country for display in these museums.

The Turks are prohibiting the export of such antiquities, but surely they should either buy them from those who find them at great trouble and expense or allow them to be sold, so as to bring money into the country, which needs it so much. At present they do neither, and as they do no digging on their own account, they are simply on the look-out for any stray parcels that merchants may try to smuggle out of the country. These they seize, take to Constantinople, and put the antiquities in their already over-stocked vaults, and forget them until its guardians manage to sell them for their own benefit, and smuggle them out for some rich European who happens to be on the look-out for antiquities.

Allow me to suggest to them, through your influential columns, a wiser course to pursue.

There are similar regulations in Egypt. But there the Government only requires exporters of antiquities to give it the first chance of refusal, when it either buys the articles submitted at a fair price or allows them to be exported. The Turks should do the same without delay, and should, moreover, either pay for the antiquities they have confiscated so far or return them to their owners.

Robbery is not supposed to be a virtue even amongst plain Turks, but when the Government practises it, it has the double effect of impoverishing the subject and of making the rules despicable.—Yours,

A JURIST AND BANKER.

Constantinople, May 15.

THE THRACIAN "PERSECUTIONS."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—A member of the Ottoman Association. writing in a recent issue of your valuable journal, hints that the Association, actuated by motives of moderation or delicacy, kept silence on the subject of the Balkan atrocities in the late war. Another correspondent, in a later issue, asks the awkward question whether the members of that association were or were not responsible for publishing a translation of M. Pierre Loti's denunciation of the atrocities, entitled "Turkey in Agony." This work was published for the Ottoman Committee. At the end of 1913 the Committee divided into two organisations, the Anglo-Ottoman Society and the Ottoman Association. The Association, therefore, did not exist at the time when it is stated to have preserved silence about the massacres and other outrages referred to. But, in the sense that some of its members were then members of the Ottoman Committee, it is certain that they did, *and very properly* bring forth the outrages to public condemnation.

As founder of the Ottoman Committee and secretary of the Anglo-Ottoman Society, I declare that it would be suicidal for any organisation, professing to espouse the cause of justice to the Ottoman Empire and peoples, to have preserved silence in the face of the testimony, not only of M. Pierre Loti, but of M. Maschkoff, correspondent of the *Novoé Vrémya*, and M. Verdier, of Adrianople (as to atrocities in Thrace), and of thirty European journalists (as to atrocities in Macedonia). Far from preserving silence, Professor Leon, and Mr. Adolphe Smith, F.C.S., members of both the late Ottoman Committee and the Anglo-Ottoman Society, have lectured continuously directly or indirectly on the Christian atrocities in the Balkans.

Your correspondent remarks on the diminution of public reference to and interest in these atrocities. That does not disprove the accuracy of the attested evidence; it is in the nature of things that even the most horrible events should become ancient history in their turn. Turkey's task is not to recount her sorrows, but to renew her strength. It is not to weep her lost children in Thrace and Macedonia, but to remove the menace of Greek mastery of the Ægean. If your correspondent thinks, however, that burning alive, rape, drownings, and desecrations are forgotten, or can be wiped out by an incredulous letter, he is gravely in error. Rather will they

> The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
> Making the green—one red.

Your correspondent jokes over the Turks accepting the testimony of Greeks against the Bulgarians, and afterwards accusing the Greeks of similar crimes. The Greeks in Thrace sent petitions to the Turks to return and save them from the barbarities of the Bulgarian invaders. On the return of the Turks they hooked out the bodies of drowned Greeks from wells and from the Maritza. It is to the credit of the Turks that, even knowing the evil done by Greek *komitadjis* in Macedonia, they regarded the Thracian Greeks as fellow martyrs and fellow victims with their own co-religionists, the Thracian Moslems.

Miss Edith Durham has, however, proved from her own personal experiences that there was little to choose among any of the titular Christian races of the Balkans (that interesting and original holiday corner of Europe) in bestial barbarity and criminal ignorance.—Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR FIELD.
Secretary of the late Ottoman Committee.
Secretary of the Anglo-Ottoman Society.

The Anglo-Ottoman Society, 158, Fleet St., London, E.C.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Epirus Negotiations. May 20.

Replying to Lord Lamington, Viscount Morley said he was glad to inform their Lordships that the discussions that had been going on with regard to the Epirote transaction had come to a satisfactory conclusion. Mr. Lamb, the British Agent on the International Commission, went to Corfu on the 8th inst. with the International Commission, and their mediation had been accepted as between the Albanian Government and the Provisional Government of Epirus. Repeated conferences were held with the Epirote leader, and on the 18th inst. Mr. Lamb telegraphed home that the discussions were at an end and that the difficulties had been settled. He was returning to Durazzo and would forward the terms of the settlement by mail, so that they would be received in the course of a few days. That, therefore, was entirely satisfactory. The news about the arrest of Essad was quite true. Mr. Lamb telegraphed that he had been arrested and taken on board an Austrian man-of-war. This action seemed to have been prompted by a suspicion that Essad was instigating an armed movement in the interior. At the request of the Prince of Albania a mixed Austrian and Italian force of about 200 men had been landed at Durazzo. They were guarding the Palace and the foreign Legations in case of disturbance arising. The news was a great surprise at the Foreign Office here.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Alleged Outrages in Albania. May 14.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked if the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had yet received the telegrams which the Christians of Southern Albania had sent to the Chancelleries of the Great Powers regarding ill-usage; and if the Government were unable to obtain accurate information on the subject if he would communicate with Mr. Tsilka, Protestant missionary at Koritza.

Sir E. Grey: I have received such a telegram purporting to be in the name of the Christian inhabitants of the Koritza district. I am in communication with the British delegate on the Commission of Control in regard to it, and he will doubtless make inquiries of Mr. Tsilka should occasion require.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert also asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had received any information regarding the burning by the Greeks of the villages in the district of Kolonia, Vrebsoka, Oseska, Radan, Radimislit, Poda, Barmash, Leshna, Gjone, Aripas, Tach, Kodras, Kamnik, Rajan, Starje, Psar, Qinan, Selenica, and whether the corpses of twenty-eight Greek soldiers and some evzones were found.

Sir E. Grey: The villages referred to are not mentioned in any reports received by me respecting recent events in Epirus, and I have no information with regard to them.

Greeks and Christians.

Mr. Herbert further asked if the Foreign Secretary had received any information as to whether the Greeks, in retiring, compelled Christians to accompany them, so as to give the impression that the Christians would not live in Albania.

Sir E. Grey: Such an allegation is made in a telegram, but I am at present unable to verify it.

Distress in Albania. May 18.

Mr. A. Herbert asked if the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs could give any information regarding the many thousands of refugees from the Kolonia district who were now arriving at Koritza, and whether any steps could be taken to relieve their sufferings.

Mr. Acland: I have received reports to the effect that large numbers of refugees have left the Kolonia district, but I have no details on the subject. The British Delegate on the International Commission of Control is now in Northern Epirus. I am not aware what funds remain to him out of the grant by his Majesty's Government for the relief of distress in Albania, but he will doubtless do what is possible to alleviate suffering.

Distress in Kolonia.

Sir J. D. Rees asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had received a memorial from the All-Indian Moslem Association with regard to the distress in the Kolonia district of Albania.

Mr. Acland (Under-Sec.)—Not to my knowledge. I will inquire and let the hon. member know.

Cotton Exports to Turkey and Egypt.

In answer to a long question by Mr. Croft with regard to the exports of cotton piece goods from this country, Mr. John Burns (President of the Board of Trade) gave the following figures showing the quantity exported to Turkey, Egypt and Africa. In 1893, 665,900,000 yards. being 14.3 per cent. of the total amount exported; in 1903, 851,500,000 yards, being 16.5 per cent. of the total amount exported; in 1913, 1,081,900,000, being 15.3 per cent. of the total export. Last year 18,800,000 lbs. of cotton yarn were exported to Turkey, Egypt and Africa.

Persian Financial Straits. May 19.

Sir G. Scott Robertson asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware of the severe financial straits to which the Government was reduced; had he any information to the effect that the Government of Persia feared to ask for help from Russia and Great Britain from fear that Russia would exact harsh terms in the way of increasing the Persian Cossack force; and what did he propose to do in the circumstances.

Sir Edward Grey: I am aware of the chronic financial embarrassment of the Persian Government, but the important ques-

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tion appears to be not whether the Persian Government is reluctant to ask for pecuniary assistance, but whether his Majesty's Government, if applied to, could give or facilitate that assistance on a substantial scale. The decision of his Majesty's Government would not in any case be dependent upon an increase of the Cossack Brigade.

Persian Railways.

Mr. Morrell asked whether any work was now proceeding in conjunction with the proposed Trans-Persian railway; whether the reserves and conditions expressed in the memorandum of October, 1912, as between his Majesty's Government and the Russian Government, still held good; and whether his Majesty's Government had agreed, or were about to agree, to any extension of the proposed railway beyond the Russian sphere.

Sir E. Grey: No work is proceeding at the moment, though I believe surveys have been made in the northern part of Persia. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative. No surveys have been made beyond the sphere of Russian interest, but we are prepared to agree to the extension beyond this sphere on certain conditions, the general nature of which has already been stated to the House, for I may point out that were the scheme for a Trans-Persian railway to fall through, the result would be that railways would be made in the North of Persia and not in the South, a state of things which would be very prejudicial to British trade. Answering a supplementary question by Mr. Morrell, Sir E. Grey said he could not promise the House an opportunity for discussion before the work begun, but papers would be laid before there was any question of making a through connection to India by the trans-Persian line. With regard to the making of railways actually in Russian territory, it was really urgent that the Government should be in a position to proceed with the making of railways in Southern Persia, seeing that at any moment schemes may be proceeded with for making railways in Northern Persia.

Sir J. Rees: Is the Government of India a party to the extension of the railways beyond the Russian sphere?

Sir E. Grey: The Government of India has been consulted in all the negotiations regarding the conditions on which we should consent to an extension of the railway beyond the Russian sphere.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PRESTER JOHN AND PARADISE.*

The authors of this entertaining work conduct their readers to that place on the map of Asia where Paradise may have been once but certainly is not now. The area between the Tigris and Tabriz is inhabited at present by as pleasing a diversity of unpleasing human types as one may find anywhere. Picturesque ruffians, fit to strut the stage amid the best creations of Sir Walter Scott, hereditary bishops, holy men, despotic sheikhs, adherents of heresies so old and faded that only Orthodoxy survives, and poor bewildered Ottoman officials—hedge kaimakams and tame mudirs, all live and rule and fight and pray amid the mountains over which once ruled the famous Prester John, who really seems to have existed in the flesh—a man that one might touch or see. Some of the customs of those parts are of an Edenic simplicity. Young men and maidens habitually take hot baths in public, and a bashful missionary was much perturbed when a damsel, anxious to kiss his hand, as custom demanded, leaped from her tub and pursued him in the altogether.

Before actually reaching the country of the Nestorians the authors visited the Yezidis, known as Devil Worshippers, who adore Sheitan in the shape of a brazen peacock, which they call Melek Taüs. Apparently diabolism in Mesopotamia is a scissors-and-paste sort of creed, as "planks" in its religious "platform" are borrowed from the Parsees, Ophiolaters, and Jews, in addition to which Mohammed is regarded with veneration and Our Lord accepted as Divine. On their way they passed amid perils of boils and poison winds, and lodged in the black tents of the desert Arabs. And, like the Canterbury Pilgrims, they wile away the reader's time during that journey with remarkable incidents from Persian history and little-known adventures of militant prelates in the past.

The brothers have written a delightful book, full of rich humour and diverting anecdote, tales of Turks, and valuable criticisms of political conditions. One is glad to find that there is still a corner of the earth where the unusual is normal and where Great Britain still enjoys a reputation for majesty and might, where the power of the Great Elchi is still remembered by those who benefited by its display. Not only is the book interesting as a story of travel, but it is a valuable contribution to the literature dealing with areas which within a lustre will be traversed by one of the highways of international commerce. It is worthy of note that the authors of this authoritative and most informative book consider that the Russians have occupied Azerbaijan, to which they extended their journey, "for keeps," and that the Shah's writ, or that of the Vali Ahd, will never run there more, excepting so far as it may be endorsed by the Russian Resident—who still seems to be called Consul. If the past is passing in Persia, so also it seems that the picturesque but devastating lawlessness of Eastern Kurdistan may be on the highway into history. Already, the brothers assure us, is the Committee hammering at the gate of time-honoured feudal privilege and immemorial exemptions, and they suggest that much of what they saw will have suffered reform ere long. At present, however, the true representatives of sovereignty in the realms of Prester John seem to be sheikhs, not Shahs or Sultans.

* "The Cradle of Mankind: Life in Eastern Kurdistan." By the Rev. W. A. and Edgar T. A. Wigram.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Methuen will shortly publish an account of harem life in Turkey from the pen of Miss Grace Ellison, who for some time resided in a Turkish house. The title of the book is announced as "An Englishwoman in a Turkish Harem."

Mr. John Lane has in preparation the autobiography of a Greek girl, Demetra Vaka, who in the pages of "A Child of the Orient" describes life in a Turkish home and displays the difference between Greek and Ottoman character.

Dr. Rebreyend has published *Les Français aux armées de Bulgarie* (16 mo. 304 pp.) with the Librairie A. Mame et Fils.

M. Georges Legrain, of the Egyptian Antiquities Department, has issued his book on legends and folk-songs of Upper Egypt, under the title *Longsor sans les Pharaons*. (Small octavo, 224 pp.)

MM. Jean Ebersolt and Adolphe Thiers have published a book on Byzantine ecclesiastical architecture, *Les Eglises de Constantnople* (quarto vii. and 296 pp.), under the auspices of the French Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts to the benevolent activities of which department students and historians already owe such a deep debt of gratitude.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Cradle of Mankind. By W. A. and E. T. A. Wigram. (A. and C. Black. 12s. 6d. net.)

We have received a selection of the volumes in the Wayfarers' Library which have recently been issued. In every respect the publishers may be congratulated on the high level which this welcome series continues to maintain.

The Wonderful Visit. By H. G. Wells. *Prophets, Priests, and Kings.* By A. G. Gardiner. *Rudder Grange.* By Frank R. Stockton. *Eighteenth Century Studies.* By Austin Dobson. (Wayfarers' Library. J. M. Dent and Sons, Limited. 1s. net each.)

The Development of Modern Turkey as Measured by Its Press. By Ahmed Emin, Ph.D. (Columbia University.)

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The American Press, Beyrout; The Nile Mission Press, Cairo.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Albania is delightfully true to type. That great feudal magnate of Shqipenia, Essad Pasha Toptan, who liked to pose as a king-maker, has been endeavouring to impress upon Prince and people alike that his little finger was thicker than his Sovereign's loins. It is quite likely that this was the case, but the budding Warwick forgot that his Sovereign was a European who had wisely pitched upon a palace under the guns of the Powers. Had the Mpret been in an inland capital he might well have been the ex-Prince, or even the late Prince of Albania by now, for during the last six weeks it has been a case of pull devil, pull baker between the Mpret and his over-powerful Minister. A few days ago I was told by a particularly well-informed authority on Albanian affairs that things were coming to a head, largely because the Mpret was too Western in his notions of government to give "coffee" to his Secretary of State for War, and that the latter was relying upon the fact that the Mpret was too civilized for the task he had taken up. Poor Essad, he forgot that if civilization frowns upon the use of poisoned coffee as a sedative in political crises, it at least has a high regard for ships' guns, and delights in the achievements of naval landing parties.

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It may be too soon to crow, but if the Mpret is rid within a single week alike of the feudal tyranny of the House of Toptan and of the southern menace of the Epirote revolt, he may well be on the way to being master in his own house. It is possible, however, that the pride and power of the House of Toptan will not be broken by the removal of its redoubtable head, and it is quite on the cards that Mr. Zographos, having once cried havoc and let loose the dogs of war, will not be able immediately to whip them back into their kennels, no matter how loudly he may vociferate "Peace, peace!" Discipline among irregular bands is notoriously lax, and even in the palmiest days of the Provisional Government in Argyrokastro Mr. Zographos had no very great control over the more extreme partisans of Epirote autonomy. Consequently he may find some difficulty in persuading the professional patriots now in the field that their services are no longer required. Now that the question is theoretically settled, I hope both sides will loyally abide by the agreement. Neither Greece nor Albania is in a position to snap at the other for the sake of snapping. If the Greeks complain that Ghegs and Tosks are barbarians, let them set to and civilize them by means of the peaceful penetration of commerce—for if the Greeks do not take steps in this direction soon they will find themselves forestalled by Italians. Greece knows well that she has nothing to gain from having a sphere of Italian commercial influence pressing upon her north-western frontier, and her astute merchants will probably realise that national interests will better be served by advertizing Hellenic commerce than by pushing the propaganda of political Hellenism.

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I learn, on the authority of the well-informed *Patris*, of Athens, that the Coronation of King Constantine will probably take place this summer. This event will be a novelty to modern Hellenes; for neither King Otto nor King George went through a coronation ceremony. Hitherto the Monarchy has maintained itself without the customary supports of royalty. But King Constantine, born and bred in Greece, and professing the creed of the National Church, ascended the throne with the prestige of a successful leader of the Hellenic army in the recent wars. To the patriotic Hellenes the new King is a national hero, and a revival of royalism may be expected. According to the *Patris*, preliminary arrangements have already been made for the Coronation, but owing to the anomalous political situation it cannot be decided when it will take place. If, however, the various unsettled foreign questions are arranged by next August, it is intended to hold the celebration, to which all the crowned monarchs of Europe will be invited, during that month. Therefore, I conclude, the Coronation will take place if the outlook in the Balkans brightens. The ceremony will, no doubt, be of more than ordinary interest. There is the interesting question whether the King's title shall be Constantine I. or XII. I have heard that the Imperial robe which belonged to one of the Constantines, and which is preserved in a monastery on Mount Athos, will be worn by the namesake of Constantine XI., the last of the Emperors in the East. From this it would appear that, in a left-handed way, the modern Hellene claims to be the heir not only to the glory that was Greece, but also to the grandeur that was Rome.

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It is possible that the invitation to all crowned monarchs in Europe to attend in Athens will be so worded as to permit representatives to be sent, as kings and emperors are kittle cattle and very difficult to handle in the bulk. At the time of the Congress of Vienna and on other occasions when the *parterre de rois* has come into being the Court officials responsible for arranging for the comfort of innumerable Majesties became prematurely white. Besides, it has hitherto been etiquette for a king to be alone in his glory at the time of his coronation, and the only exceptions to this rule were the magnificent coronations of the Holy Roman Emperors at Frankfort, when the whole place was agog with German sovereigns, all of whom, however, were theoretically subject to the successor of the Cæsars. King Constantine, although his style *βάσιλευς τῶν Ἑλλήνων* contains the title used by the Byzantine emperors, does not claim imperial rank, and in the current edition the "Almanach de Gotha" accords his Majesty the regnal numeral I. The question whether there have already been thirteen or only eleven Imperial Constantines is due to the Byzantine habit of having co-emperors, of whom historians have not decided in all cases whether the princes in question were actual or only courtesy sovereigns.

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I see that the Maronite Archbishop of Cyprus has arrived in that island on one of his archiepiscopal visitations. His Grace, who was born in 1855, has held his present position since 1910, before which he was titular Bishop of Nazareth. The Maronites in Cyprus are, unfortunately, not a large community—they have four monasteries, and number some thousand souls in all—consequently their Archbishop sees no harm in being a non-resident prelate, preferring to live in the Lebanon. When we first began to administer Cyprus for the Sultan thirty-five years ago there were only 177 Maronites in the island, but a considerable immigration took place during the first years of the present regime, though of late the numbers of this interesting community have remained almost stationary.

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The Legislative Council in Cyprus is still debating on the estimates, owing to the violent opposition which is being offered by the non-Moslem elected members. It is typical of the temper of the Greek politicians in the island that they should passionately denounce the tardy act of justice by which Government proposes to raise its salaries in order to enable officials to meet the fall in the value of money which has naturally followed the increased prosperity of the island under British rule. The Greeks cry out, as against a monstrous wrong, that while the smaller salaries—up to £200 a year—which are mostly enjoyed by natives, are to be increased by 15 per cent., those above that figure, which are largely paid to Englishmen, are to have a rise of 10 per cent. The monstrous wrong apparently lies in the payment of a salary to British officials at all—when there are so many good Greeks in need of a job—to say nothing of their "sisters and their cousins and their aunts," together with the male appurtenances of the same. Like many folk, I am getting a little tired of what the Cypriotes are pleased to consider their innumerable wrongs—which, to me, seem strangely like those of the people who waxed fat and kicked. These gentlemen are anxious to bring Mother Hellas to Cyprus. May I politely suggest that as the difficulties in the way of this scheme are considerable they should copy Mohammed and go to the mountain as it cannot come to them. I am sure that the amount subscribed by other inhabitants of Cyprus to any properly conducted fund for Facilitating the Permanent Emigration of Cypriotes to Greece would surprise people.

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The progress of events in Morocco has reached a definite milestone with the occupation of Taza by the French. This advance on the part of the protecting Power of the major portion of the Shereefian Empire enables direct overland communication to be made between the Armies of Occupation advancing, on the one hand, from Algeria through Ujda and, on the other, from Casablanca eastwards. It is curious that the fall of Taza, which may well be esteemed as the knell of that destructive and desolating disorder which passed for independence among the Moors, should have been coincident with the death of Bu Hamara, the picturesque pretender who did so much to further the disruption of his country. The position of Sultan of Morocco, if in future it will gain the sweets of security and sheltered pomp, will undoubtedly have lost the salt of an independent existence which might lead at any moment to an usurper's cage or an Imperial tomb.

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According to the Roumanian Press, the arrangements for the construction of a Roumanian church in Jerusalem are progressing favourably. The special commission under the Archimandrite Dionysius has secured the consent of the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem and his Synod, and nearly £1,000 have been collected towards expenses. Now that the possible danger of religious complications locally has been removed it is probable that subscriptions will be more readily forthcoming than when the proposals for building the church were still in the air.

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914.	1914.		1332. Jum'da	5674
May	May		II.	Iyar.
22	9	Friday	26	26
23	10	Saturday	27	27.
24	11	Sunday	28	28
25	12	Monday	29 Rejab	29 Sivan
26	13	Tuesday	1	1
27	14	Wednesday	2	2
28	15	Thursday	3	3

Tuesday is the birthday of her Majesty the Queen.

To-morrow, being 27 Jumada II., is the anniversary of the accession of his Imperial Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah, who will attain his majority on 27 Shaban, which falls this year on July 21.

Sunday is the birthday of H.I.H. Prince Louis of Battenberg, brother of the late Prince of Bulgaria, father of Princess Andrew of Greece, and uncle of the Queen of Spain.

Sunday is also the birthday of Princess Elisabeth, the second daughter of Prince Nicholas of Greece, who was the Commandant de Place at Salonika during the wars.

Sunday, being 28 Jumada II., is the birthday of Princess Fehime Sultana, second surviving daughter of the late Sultan Murad Khan. Her Imperial Highness married Damad Mahmoud Bey in 1901.

Monday is the birthday of Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the King's aunt.

Monday, being 29 Jumada II., is the birthday of H.I.H. Vahid-ed-Din Effendi, who, although he is next brother to the reigning Sultan, is only second according to the order of succession in the House of Osman, his nephew, the heir apparent, Prince Yussuf Izz-ed-Din Effendi, being some years older than he.

Tuesday, being 1 Rejab, is the birthday of Prince Zia-ed-Din Effendi, the eldest son of the Sultan Mohammed Reshad Khan. His Imperial Highness is sixth in the order of succession to the throne.

Wednesday, 2 Rejab, is the birthday of Princess Fathieh Hanum, the third daughter of the Khedive.

Thursday is the birthday of Prince Emanuel, the third son of Prince Mirko of Montenegro.

According to a Reuter's message from Cairo, dated May 16, Viscount Kitchener will depart for England on his usual leave about June 18.

According to a Reuter's message from Khartoum, of the same date, the Sirdar, Sir Reginald Wingate, returned there on Friday from the hill station of Erkowit. Special messengers from Ali Dinar, the Sultan of Darfur, had arrived at Khartoum for an interview with the Sirdar. They travelled via El Obeid.

The King and Queen of the Hellenes, Prince Alexander, and Princess Helena left Athens on Thursday of last week for Salonika on board the Greek cruiser "Psara."

H.H. the Khedive sails from Alexandria this week to Dolmar, where he will remain on his estates till June 5. His Highness will spend the summer months in Europe, probably going to Constantinople on the 1st of Ramadan. He will probably stay in that capital during the sacred month or part of it, before returning to Egypt.

Writing on May 16, our Braila Correspondent says:—The King and Queen with the Crown Prince and Princess and their family arrived at Braila on Thursday afternoon on board the Royal yacht "Stefan cel Mare." Their Majesties landed at the quay and held a reception, which was attended by the local authorities, the Consular Corps, and representatives of society, commerce, and industry. All the quay front was thronged with people, and their Majesties were accorded a very hearty welcome. They subsequently embarked to continue their pleasure cruise on the Danube.

On Thursday last week Mr. Charles Des Graz was received in audience by the King, and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that H.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth of Roumania will first visit her aunt, the Grand Duchess Cyril, in Paris, and after a week's stay will leave for Madrid. The princess will spend a month with her aunt, the Infanta Beatrice d'Orleans, at Madrid, and afterwards will go to Coburg, where she will meet her parents, and thence to Tegernsee. The King and Queen of the Hellenes, together with the Crown Prince, will also come to Tegernsee, and probably the young couple will then be formally betrothed. The Queen Dowager Olga of Greece, the brother of the King of Greece, and Prince Eitel Friedrich will also be present, the last to represent his father, who is to be one of the sponsors.

Baron Trotha, Chamberlain to Mpret William, left Durazzo for Scutari last week to make arrangements for the visit of the Mpret and Mpreteresha to that city.

Essad Pasha Toptan, formerly Minister of War and of the Interior in Turkhan Pasha's Cabinet, has left Brindisi for Naples on being exiled from Albania.

Prince Antoine Bibesco has been appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London.

Viscount Bryce will be the guest of the evening at the annual dinner of the Central Asian Society, to be held on next Wednesday evening.

Sir John Rogers returned to Cairo during the earlier part of this month.

In commemoration of the Roumanian national festival, M. Nicolas Mishu, the Roumanian Minister, and Mme. Mishu will receive the members of the colony at the Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 noon to-morrow.

Mrs. Charles Whitham has returned from Egypt to 3, Knightsbridge, and is giving an evening concert on Tuesday, June 23.

The Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius and Lord and Lady Inchcape were present at the ball given by Mrs. Saxton Noble at Kent House, Knightsbridge, for Miss Marjorie Noble, last Friday night.

The King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland, to whom the name was submitted by the Lord Justice General, to approve of the rank and dignity of King's Counsel to his Majesty in Scotland being conferred on Mr. Robert Dundonald Melville, advocate, presently Professor of Civil Law in the Khedivial College, Cairo.

As a mark of special favour, H.I.M. the Tsar has presented Kaimakam A. Pope Bey, of the Egyptian Prisons Department, with a massive silver punch-bowl and ladle of antique Russian workmanship, ornamented with gold and studded with various kinds of Siberian stones.

An engagement is announced between Dr. R. W. J. Pearson, Abbassia, Cairo, second son of the late Mr. Richard Pearson, J.P., of Church Place, Ennis, Clare, and Beatrice Rosalind, only daughter of Mr. W. Morrison Sever, of Nant-y-Coed, Conway.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Percy, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Battye, of 29, Sloane Court, and Elsie Rodocanachi, second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michel Rodocanachi, of 58, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park.

H.M. the King of Roumania sent a wreath to be placed upon the coffin of the late Mr. Charles Pherekyde, formerly First President of the High Court of Bucharest, whose funeral took place last week.

Mr. H. Charles Woods entertained the Servian Minister and M. Rizo-Rhangabé (First Secretary of the Greek Legation) at dinner at the Royal Societies Club last Friday night. The other guests were the Hon. G. W. E. Russell, M. de Wesselitsky, Mr. Lyon Thomson, Colonel Picot, Captain Heaton Ellis, Dr. Scott Keltie, Mr. W. J. Evans, Mr. Emile Mond, Major Smith, Mr. Wilfrid Rhodes, and Colonel Woods.

Mrs. Mavrogordato and Miss Frances Mavrogordato, of Therapia House, Nicosia, Cyprus, are staying at the Casino Palace Hotel at Port Said, en route for Italy and Switzerland.

The Admiral and officers of the First French Squadron have subscribed for an episcopal ring, which was presented on their behalf to His Beatitude Mgr. Hwayek, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, by M. Couget, the French Consul-General at Beyrout.

Under the patronage of the Hellenic Minister, Miss Olga Papadachi and Mr. J. T. Grein will organise a special matinée for the Relief and Repatriation Fund of Greek Refugees (Princess Alice Fund) on July 2, at the Queen's Theatre, kindly promised by Mr. George Grossmith. On this occasion Mr. Raymond Duncan will bring over from Paris his famous company of Greek players, who will produce Sophocles' "Electra."

The following appointments are gazetted:—Mr. Arthur David Alban to be his Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Cairo, to reside at Cairo; Mr. Frederick George Free-

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man to be his Majesty's Consul to reside at Port Said; and Mr. Alfred Dickson to be his Majesty's Consul at Bengasi.

Si Haj Mohammed El Mokri, formerly Grand Vizier of Morocco, has left Tangier for Casablanca.

Sir Thomas Sutherland has returned to 7, Buckingham Gate from Paris.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant unto Mr. Anthony John Joseph Francis Borg, superintendent of stores, Alexandria, authority to wear the insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of the Mejidieh, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the Khedive, authorised by the Sultan.

The appointment is gazetted of Lieutenant Trenchard Craven William Fowle to be his Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kerman.

The Khedive has conferred the Third Class of the Order of the Mejidieh upon Mr. W. Lawrence Balls on the occasion of his retirement from the service of the Egyptian Government. This is, we believe, the first decoration given for agricultural work since the foundation of the Department of Agriculture in 1910.

Captain Flower left Egypt for the Sudan last week to collect animals for the Giza Zoological Gardens.

General Brulard, commander of the French troops in the Marakesh district of Morocco, has left Casablanca on leave for France.

The Italian Ambassador, H.E. the Marchese Garroni, has returned to Constantinople.

H.I.M. the Tsar has conferred the grand cross of the Order of St. Alexander Newsky on Talaat Bey, Ottoman Minister of the Interior, and the similar class of the Order of the White Eagle of Poland on Izzet Pasha.

Senator Izzet Pasha, the former Ottoman Minister for War, has been appointed Inspector-General of Reforms in Syria.

H.E. the Swedish Minister in Constantinople, Herr P. G. A. C. von Anckarsvärd, has been accredited also to the Court of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

General Krobatin, Austro-Hungarian Minister for War, and General Conrad von Hötzendorf, the Austro-Hungarian Chief of Staff, have been decorated with the grand cordon of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Osmanieh.

The Russian Ambassador, M. de Giers, has returned to Constantinople from Livadia.

M. Nicolas Ionescu, a former Roumanian Deputy, has been appointed Prefect of Braila *vice* M. Matthew Sasso, resigned.

His Beatitude Mgr. Paul Awâd, the Maronite Archbishop of Cyprus, has recently arrived in that island from Syria, where, since the seventeenth century, he and his predecessors have been accustomed to live at Kornet-Shewân, in the Lebanon.

Talaat Bey, the Ottoman Minister of the Interior, is expected to arrive in Bucharest from Livadia on Sunday.

M. Stoyanoff, second secretary in the Foreign Office in Sofia, has been placed in charge of the Bulgarian Consulate-General at Buda-Pest, vacant by the retirement of M. S. Constantinovitch.

Sezai Bey, director of Police in Angora, has succeeded Nihad Bey as chief of the Pera Police on the election of the latter to the Ottoman Parliament.

Mr. Papadiamantopoulos, the retiring Hellenic Minister in Bucharest, has been appointed to The Hague.

Mr. D. Svilocositch, the First Secretary of the Servian Legation in Bucharest, has been appointed to the newly created Servian Consulate-General in that city.

Herr August Kral, formerly Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Salonika, has been appointed to represent the Dual Monarchy on the International Commission of Control in Albania.

Hadjim Bey, formerly Kaimakam of Vourla, has been appointed Chief of the Smyrna Police.

Mr. Constantine Varatassis, formerly Prefect of Corfu, and lately *en mission speciale* in Durazzo, has been appointed Hellenic Minister to the Albanian Court.

Tewfik Hadi Bey, hitherto director of the legal section of the Police Administration in Constantinople, has been promoted Chief of Police of Angora, *vice* Sezai Bey, promoted to Constantinople.

A Royal Commission has been appointed by H.M. the King of the Hellenes to report upon the reform of ecclesiastical legislation. The following are members:—Chairman, the Primate, Mgr. Theoklitos, of Athens; Mgr. Gennadios, Metropolitan of Salonika; Mgr. Agathangelos, Metropolitan of Drama; Mgr. Germanos, Archbishop of Lacedemon and Monemvasia; Mgr. Meletios, Archbishop of Messenia, and Mgr. Titos, Bishop of Petras, in Crete. Mr. Dervos, Rector of the Universities, and four other laymen are also members, while Mr. Eutaxias, the Governor of the National Bank, is an honorary member.

Mr. K. P. Birley, President of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, received a handsome present from the Government of the French Republic, in recognition of his courtesy to Admiral Boué de Lapeyrère and the officers and men of the French Fleet which visited Alexandria last October, and the leading part he took in organising the entertainment given to them by the British community. The souvenir, a beautiful Sèvres statuette, was accompanied by a cordial letter from M. Defrance, the French Minister Plenipotentiary.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Mr. H. Clarke, of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, and Beatrice, only daughter of the late Mrs. Moore, of Chesswoods, Worthing, and Leckhampton.

Our Odessa correspondent regrets to announce the death, on the 15th instant, of Mr. Percy Grey Barnett, who had been engaged in British shipping business in that city and port for the last thirty-five years. The deceased gentleman was a member of the family of Messrs. Barnett Brothers, of Great St. Helen's, E.C.

We regret to learn that the death took place, in London, on the 5th inst., of Miralai Maurice Patrick Macnaghten Bey, director of the Sudan Slavery Repression Department. He had undergone an operation at El Obeid, and had returned home in a state of convalescence. The death of this popular and hard-working official will be deeply lamented. After seeing active service in India and South Africa he was appointed to the Egyptian Army, and afterwards to the Slavery Repression Service in the Sudan.

The death has occurred at St. Leonard's of Major-General Thomas Scovell Bigge, of The Lye House, Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire. He served with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers throughout the siege of Sebastopol, and was twice wounded during the Crimea campaign. He possessed the medal and clasp for Sebastopol, the Turkish medal, and the Order of the Mejidieh.

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FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1914.

LEARNING FROM THE EAST.

When it is remembered that our intimate connection with India is now in its second century, that almost a hundred years have passed since the first settlement was established in the Malay Peninsula and the route to the Far East opened, it will come as a surprise to many that little or no provision exists in England for teaching the languages of the Oriental countries whose fortunes are so closely linked with our own. It is true that for administrative and consular purposes a knowledge of native languages is required of civil servants, and arrangements are made to enable them to learn these languages in each country. But that the unofficial Briton whose lot is cast in the East should wish to equip himself with a knowledge of the language of the people among whom he is to live and trade has never entered the conception of the nation as a whole. Whether by temperament or by education, the average Briton is supposed to be fitted for the practical work of life in whatever circumstances he may be placed. Certainly for the most part his imagination, his judgment, and his powers of intelligent sympathy have been sufficiently developed to enable him to face with some degree of success any social or political problems with which he may be confronted. The need for special training, therefore, has been so slow in asserting itself that room was left for the idea that such training was almost derogatory to the genius of the British people. Times, however, have changed. Competition in trade is keener, and with the spread of education in Eastern countries intercourse with the people presents more difficult problems than it did in the days when foreign ideas and foreign methods were comparatively strange to them. In the commercial world it is no longer feasible to sit still and wait for orders to come in; business has to be sought out, and it will fall to those who can speak to the native consumer in his own language. Both for the merchant and for the administrator it is of advantage that he should know more than merely the language of the people with whom he has to deal. Knowledge of their history, their customs, and, it may be, of their religion becomes essential if the best results of the intercourse are to be obtained.

Other European nations starting later or in less favourable circumstances than Great Britain have already recognised the necessity of providing their workers in the Oriental field with special training, and schools for Oriental studies already exist in Berlin, Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburg. The United Kingdom alone of the Great Powers primarily concerned has failed in its obligations in this respect. The reproach, however, is now about to be removed. Reference has already been made in THE NEAR EAST to the proposed School of Oriental Studies, and this week we publish a special appeal in connection with it. A few facts may be recapitulated. As the result of a memorial to the then Prime Minister in 1906 a Departmental Committee was appointed in the following year to report on the subject of provision being made for instruction in Oriental languages. This committee placed on record its conviction that there was urgent need for the provision of suitable teaching in London for persons about to take up administrative or commercial posts in the East and in Africa, and it recommended that a school of Oriental studies should be built up from the nucleus of Oriental teaching in existence at University and King's Colleges and should be incorporated in the University of London. A new committee was formed in 1910 to give practical effect to these recommendations by finding a site and buildings for the proposed school, by drafting a detailed scheme for its management and by finding the necessary income. A suitable habitat for the school has been secured in the London Institution, and it is hoped to open it next year with provision for the teaching of seventeen languages. The total expenses of the school are estimated at £14,000 a year. Towards this sum the committee has been promised grants from the British Government, the Indian Government, and the London County Council amounting to £7,250, apart from the amounts to be spent by the British Government in the necessary alterations and additions to the premises of the London Institution. A sum of £7,000 a year has, therefore, still to be found, and the committee is anxious that the school should be opened with an endowment fund amounting to not less than £100,000. To this end it issues the appeal which we publish on another page.

No one with a practical acquaintance of the East can fail to approve of the scheme for the establishment of a school of Oriental studies in London. Of the advisability of equipping those who are going out to pursue commercial or administrative or professional careers with a preliminary knowledge of the languages, the religions, and the customs of the East there can be no doubt. The aim of the school will be to give all those who apply to it practical assistance in acquiring a working knowledge of their subjects. With this end in view the staff will include native assistants, while the most modern methods of instruction will be adopted. The benefits to be derived from such a school will not be confined to the students who pass through its doors. Knowledge of one or more native languages will materially help those who have to do business in Eastern countries. At the same time a marked increase in the number of Britons speaking these languages will react for good on British trade as a whole. The appeal for funds to enable the School of Oriental Studies to start in a manner worthy of its mission may, therefore, be commended to all those who have commercial relations with the East, regardless of the fact whether they may wish to avail themselves directly, as far as their businesses are concerned, with the opportunities it offers. But the school has not merely a commercial aspect. Its support becomes an Imperial obligation, because it stands for the furtherance of the interests of the British Empire, the enhancement of British prestige among the nations of the East. Let us see to it, therefore, that this country does not fall behind where other countries are already in the field. The greater the response to the appeal for funds the more complete the equipment of the school and the wider the sphere of its usefulness. And the more widely it attracts students the greater the benefit to British trade and to the Empire at large.

THE NEAR EAST.

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Readers in France who desire to secure THE NEAR EAST regularly are informed that any Newsagent in that country can obtain the paper for them through Messrs. Hachette, in Paris. In the same way any Newsagent in Belgium can readily obtain the paper from the Agence Dechenne, Bruxelles.

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LIFE IN MEDIÆVAL RHODES.

Some cities, like individuals, commence their existence in a dull way, live in a dull way, and reach an interminable old age in the same graceless dulness; others, again, like human beings, spring up with a halo of romance around them which lends poetic colour and glamour to their entire history. The Isle of Rhodes was, and is to-day, through the souvenirs clustered in it, a fragment of the best aspirations of mediæval Europe, the record of which still stands writ in stone and ornament that he who runs may read: the glorious Rhodes of the knights is a legacy left to Christianity by the Order of the Hospitallers, and it is a matter of rare congratulation that time and the Moslem domination have spared some little of the City of the Knights.

The knights who aided the sick and wounded during the Crusades by tending them in their hostels and by rescuing Christian prisoners from the Saracens soon became an object of universal admiration in Christendom, and received gifts from grateful pilgrims of such value that their head, Gérard de Martignes, applied to the Pope, who in 1113 issued a Bull approving the statutes and foundation of the Order of the Knights-Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. The knights took the triple vow of chastity, poverty, and obedience, and as the "Servants of the Poor" the knights as a body, clad in their black mantel (worn over a scarlet justaucorps) with the White Cross on their breast, never disgraced during their seven centuries of existence the high objects of their foundation.

After the Crusaders were driven from Palestine the knights, who by this time had properties—hospices, priories, estates, fiefs—scattered throughout Europe, settled in Cyprus, but the inglorious ease and peace of their life in that island fitted ill with the martial tenets of their Order.

Rhodes at this time was the haunt of corsairs and pirates; nominally it still belonged to the waning Byzantine Empire, but it was in reality a no-man's land, to which, however, the advancing Turks were paying increasing attention. The Pope looked with favour on the proposal of Foulques de Villaret, the Grand Master of the Order, to seize Rhodes and hold it as a bulwark of Latin Christendom in the Levant. The flower of the young nobility of France, Italy, and Germany flocked to Villaret's banner at Brindisi, and as his fleet was too small to carry all he made a choice among the bravest and sailed for Cyprus. There at Limassol he collected the remaining knights and the heirloom treasures of the Order, and on August 15, 1309, the knights became masters of the City of Rhodes after a somewhat eventful siege. Tradition has it that, despairing of taking the town by assault, some of the knights conceived a curious stratagem. They covered themselves with sheepskins, and on a dark, wet evening mixed in among the flocks the shepherds were driving back from the pastures to within the walls. At the gates they suddenly rose up, massacred the guards, and thus held the entrance till their friends came and captured the city.

The conditions of life at Rhodes were peculiar. It may be said that during the two centuries the knights held it the island was in a permanent condition of martial law; the Knights' government existed primarily for the advancement and protection of Christendom, only secondarily for the greater glory of the knights themselves, and the administration of the island was subordinated to this purpose.

The knights belonged to seven "Langues," or nations —France, Italy, Germany, England, Auvergne, Aragon, and Provence, to which later was added Castile with Portugal. These had each their own chief elected to represent them on the Council, and the knights as a body elected the Grand Master by an exceedingly curious and complicated method. There was in this way friendly rivalry between the different Langues, and as the Pope was their acknowledged head in case of disputes arising there was remarkably little bad national feeling between the knights. Each Langue was given its own part of the walls to defend and repair in time of danger, and within the *enceinte* of the town on the north side between the east front of the harbour and the west wall was a strongly fortified enclosure called the Castle, where, apart from the Grand Master's Palace, the Church of the Order of St. John's, and the Hospital, there were the different inns, priories, or "Piliers de Langue" belonging specially to each Order—rather as Oxford or Cambridge have their particular colleges all subordinate members of a central University.

French knights were by far the most numerous, and if 500 be taken as an unusually high average of the knights to be found at any one time in this central Convent of Rhodes, as they called the city, of these more than half were French, and, naturally enough, a good number of the Grand Masters were elected from among the members of the three French Langues.

There were two kinds of knights—the Chevaliers de Justice or Chevaliers Profès (those who had taken vows), and the Chevaliers Donats, who were admitted to fight provisionally in time of war, but who were free to withdraw later. These, again, had their squires, and there was also a militia numbering some 1,500. Those aspiring to be knights had to show on their coat of arms proof of noble descent traced through several families, and the knight's life was a complex outcome of pride of birth with humility of purpose. Thus, while none unless of noble European birth could be knights, the knights themselves were the "Servants of the Poor." When the Templar's Order was crushed in 1312 and its goods confiscated largely for the benefit of the Hospitallers, luxury entered into the habits of the knights. This was repressed by the sumptuary enactments of the Grand Master Villeneuve, by which the knights were "to partake of but one dish and one quality of common wine; to use the cheapest cloth for their dress; and to put away concubines on forty days' notice."

The knights lived on excellent terms with the natives and merchants, who dwelt in that part of the city within the walls that was outside the Castle enclosure. These were in the main Greeks, Jews, and Genoese, Narbonne, Montpellier, and Venetian merchants, and though not allowed within the Castle precincts, they had considerable rights of citizenship. There was a commercial court called the Castellan's Court, and the Narbonnese and others each had their own Consular Courts, cases between Rhodians and foreigners being tried in the defendants' Court, with appeal to the Castellan's Court.

Though individual knights could not carry on commerce, the Order might indulge in it, and a thriving business was carried on by it in sugar and other products, but its most lucrative source of income was the seizure of pirate vessels, of Moslem cargoes, and at times, it must be admitted, even of Venetian and other Christian merchandise. Indeed, on one occasion it was practically proved that a knight was the captain of one of the corsairs' vessels; such excursions into the realm of piracy, however, were not countenanced by the Order as a body.

It was the Knights who in 1505 set up pawnbroking. With a capital of several thousand ducats they advanced on the security of pledges, which they sold if unredeemed when payment was due, and considerable sums were made in this way; their enterprise even extended so far as introducing a form of incubators from Egypt, by which eggs could be artificially hatched out!

Such were some of the peaceful occupations of the Knights of Rhodes—their military exploits are too well known to be detailed here. It was forty-two years before Villiers de l'Isle Adam led the defeated, but not dishonoured, knights out of their fallen stronghold, that Pierre d'Aubusson had so magnificently withstood the assaults of Mohammed II. It was in 1522 that de l'Isle Adam set forth from France to take command of that handful of knights whose resistance caused 100,000 Moslems to bite the dust before Suleiman the Great could enter the city that the Knights of Rhodes abandoned with all the honours of war before seeking their new and glorious home at Malta. Was it not an omen, that flash of lightning which split de l'Isle Adam's sword in pieces, but left the scabbard unscathed, the day he sailed from France for Rhodes? For the Knights' power to rain blows was broken, but their honour—their scabbard—remained unscathed.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Situation in the Balkans.

In *The Graphic* for May 16 Mr. Lucien Wolf discusses "Our Attitude to Austria-Hungary." He expresses the interesting opinion that there are "two main questions on which the interests of Britain and Austria coincide": first, "the *status quo* in the Mediterranean"; and, secondly, "the tranquillisation of the Balkans." With regard to the second question, Mr. Wolf writes:—

The Treaty of Bucharest has created a lamentable state of things in that region. The partition of Macedonia, the severance of Salonica from its economic hinterland and its subjection to an alien yoke, the ethnographic compromises in the delimitation of Albania, and the dismemberment of Bulgaria to the profit of Roumania, have created a series of new bondages far more galling and dangerous than any that existed under the Unspeakable Turk. It is, of course, hopeless to think of revising the new frontiers now, but they may be rendered tolerable, and eventually acceptable, if the natural rights of the racial and religious minorities affected by them can be protected. Sir Edward Grey has already recognised the need of international action in this direction, and it is noteworthy that the only public response the Continent has made to his efforts came the other day from Count Berchtold in his speech to the Delegations.

Neighbours of the Sudan.

In the "London Letter" of *The Bristol Times and Mirror* (May 18) there is an interesting comment on the rumour that Lord Kitchener will, on his return to London, consult with the Foreign Office and the Government on important administrative changes in Egypt and the Sudan:—

That some such development would become necessary before very long was generally recognised by all who have given attention to the rapid pacification which has been carried out by the scanty but extremely able band of French officers under Colonel Largeau in the debateable land lying to the west of Lake Tchad, with ill-defined limits on the north and west. Step by step the fierce tribes which for centuries have by frequent raiding terrorised the populations of Equatorial Africa have been driven back until now they are ringed in on every side by forces under European control. To the east the desert which is still open to them is bounded by the country owning some kind of allegiance to the Sultan of Darfur, who is more or less under the tutelage of Slatin Pasha, the able and experienced Inspector-General of the Soudan. England and France thus link hands in the region far south, to the west of Khartoum, and the problems to be solved by both Governments in this part of the world have much in common. It is, therefore, not very surprising to learn that our Foreign Office and the Quai d'Orsay may be in communication with each other on the subject.

The Party of Union and Progress.

The Daily Telegraph of May 14 has a well-informed article, by its Constantinople Correspondent, on "The Reopening of the Turkish Parliament." Reviewing the work of the Party of Union and Progress, the article states:—

It is no doubt true that the Party of Union and Progress committed many mistakes in the early days, of which not the least was the entrusting of power to Hakki Pasha, whom a quarter of a century of servility and officialdom in the Hamidian epoch had rendered almost devoid of consciousness. But even if these errors be granted, the party have since striven to raise the country from the depths to which the Hamidian *régime* had depressed it. Since the Union and Progress party took office the present Government have drawn up more than 400 highly important draft Bills, which Parliament will now have to consider. Parliament, by co-operating in the gigantic task undertaken by the Government, will have an arduous and laborious work before it, but if it should show itself recalcitrant the Government, with the support of the enlightened portion of the Deputies and of the army, will act energetically, in spite of the Parliament, to bring about the reforms from which a regenerated and civilised Turkey will arise.

Arabian Travel.

In *The Geographical Journal* for May there is a notable article by Captain G. Leachman on "A Journey Through Central Arabia." In the course of his journey the writer had many interesting experiences. We quote his description of the "Saleib" or "Slaib," who are "the gypsies of the desert," and who have an individuality of their own:—

There is no certain knowledge of the origin of these people, though various theories have been put forward, one of which is that they are descendants of the Crusaders, "salib" meaning a cross. The Saleib themselves are quite ignorant of their origin, but the Bedu are fond of saying they are related to the "Anglez." They are found all over the northern Arabian desert, on the slopes between the Persian gulf and Nejd, and also to the west of Nejd. They do not appear to visit the southern deserts. Their camps consist usually of about twenty tents of smaller size than those of Bedouin tribes, and they are generally pitched at a distance from some watering-place only known to the Saleib. They own few camels and move their belongings and themselves on donkeys, which apparently endure thirst in much the same way as a camel. They possess goats and sheep, and, though having an appearance of poverty, probably assumed in order not to excite the cupidity of the Bedouin, they generally have plenty to eat. The Bedouin do not usually make raids on them, but will extract large hospitality from them. The Saleib show a wonderful similarity of feature, while they speak with a high-pitched voice, and usually all at once; their women are spoken of among Bedouin for their beauty, and have a not too good reputation. The men usually wear a smock-like garment made of gazelle-skins with a hood to cover the head. In this they are said to be able to approach within a few yards of a herd of gazelle, and they seldom fail in a stalk; as their weapons are very ancient muzzle-loaders, often 6 feet long, the hunter would have little chance at any distance.

Articles to Note.

"The Memoirs of Shah Tahmasp, King of Persia from 1524 to 1576," in *The Asiatic Review* (May 15).

"The Balkan War, 1912-13. The Second War," by Captain H. T. Russell, in *The United Service Magazine* (May).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

ALEXANDRIA.....	May 21 ..	97⅛—⅜ p.t.
ATHENS.....	May 18 ..	25·16 drs.
BUCHAREST.....	May 21 ..	25·37—25·46 lei.
CONSTANTINOPLE ..	May 21 ..	109¾—110 pi.
SOFIA.....	May 18 ..	26·97—27·14 leva.
TEHERAN.....	May 20 ..	55 krans

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The note upon the subject of "Communications in Servia," sent us from Belgrade by our Special Correspondent, which will be found on page 87, ought certainly to be of much interest to engineering firms, motor manufacturers, and contractors in this country. The establishing of a service of motor-'buses for the carriage of mails, passengers, and goods between Veles and Monastir is, of course, primarily a matter of interest to Servians; and though the prospect of being able to make the journey from one point to the other for an outlay of only 17 frs., instead of 70, is one to gladden the heart of the local resident and traveller, it will not cause a thrill to the man who never expects to see either Veles or Monastir. But the fact that the cars for the service have not yet been bought is another matter. True, it may not interest the great majority of the inhabitants of these islands; but, unless we are much mistaken, it will interest the enterprising British builders of such vehicles, and it gives us much pleasure to direct their attention to the opening for business.

***

In the same way we would draw the attention of British contractors to the very clear hint given by our Special Correspondent as to the Servian Government's intention to put its existing roads in order and to construct new ones, and its willingness to consider any proposals that may be made to it in this connection by responsible British firms. It will be observed that our Correspondent reports that "a rather favourable offer has already been received from a German firm." But the offer has not yet been accepted, and for such undertakings it is rather more than probable that the Servians—who know the value of good work—would be inclined to give the preference to a British firm. Only they cannot be expected to have to look for the firm. It is up to us to make them an offer and to show why it will pay them to give the order to us rather than to our rivals. And it will, in all probability, be a case of "the early bird."

***

Attention is once more being drawn to the vast schemes which Lord Kitchener is hatching for the benefit of Egypt. The Sudan Loan Bill, as *The Daily Telegraph* reminds its readers, is shortly to be reintroduced, and upon it depends the money to pay for at least two dams. One of these, across the Blue Nile, may be only the first step to the construction of waterworks of the first magnitude; but, naturally, the volume of water to be stored must be taken into consideration. Unfortunately, the sources of the Blue Nile are beyond Anglo-Egyptian control in Abyssinia, and it is very greatly to be hoped that the Government will soon settle this question definitely, so as to avoid the possibility of adverse foreign pressure being exercised in the country of the Negus Negushti when the dam has already been built. If Napoleon annexed the Netherlands because they were composed of the silt from French rivers, surely the converse can be accepted as grounds for arriving at an amicable agreement with Ethiopia for the safeguarding of the river of Egypt.

***

The other dam is to be rock built in two senses. It is to be founded on rock in fact, and its political position is secure, inasmuch as the whole of the White Nile is under Anglo-Egyptian control. The former dam is expected to irrigate at least 500,000 acres, upon which cotton can be grown, but no figures have been published as to the extent of land which will come under cultivation in consequence of the building of the White Nile dam, which will not be begun for another two or three years. In the north drainage is expected to add no less than 1,000,000 acres to the agricultural area of Lower Egypt. This work—financed out of revenue—continues with much success, and its conclusion may be looked for in about two years' time from now. It is a somewhat ironic comment that in face of these immense preparations to enlarge the cotton-growing area—presumably for the benefit of Lancashire—an United States shipping line should have announced the opening of a direct service between Egyptian and New England ports.

***

The rumours which are current to the effect that His Majesty's Government is likely to guarantee a considerable sum for the development of Persian oilfields in return for a first call on the oil produced are, I believe, not entirely unfounded. It has been known for some time past that Mr. Churchill has been interested in all possible sources of supply of the oil-fuel so much needed for naval consumption, so that there is nothing surprising in an arrangement which would enable the Admiralty to make use of oil from the Persian fields in the south. These are, as THE NEAR EAST pointed out a few weeks ago, only the fringe of an immense oil-bearing area which extends throughout Mesopotamia and reaches from Baluchistan to Baku. I think I am right in stating that an important and far-reaching announcement on the subject will be made in the course of the next few days.

***

In view of the interest taken in the future of Cyprus as an oil-producing centre—a centre, moreover, which is under the British flag and within easy reach of the Mediterranean Fleet—it is worth noticing that the consumption of oil in the island has increased again after the sharp fall in 1912. According to *The Financier and Bullionist*, the figures for 1913 are 525,494 gals., for 1912 395,084 gals., and for 1911 596,540 gals. It is to be expected that the improvement and extension of the motor service in the island and the increase in the use of private cars will affect the demand for oil and oil products, and I may as well say that petrol-driven dynamos produce very satisfactory results for electric lighting, a form of civilisation which can be widely and beneficially extended in Cyprus.

***

The question of advertising British goods in the Levant has always been complicated by the linguistic difficulties which always face the advertiser. So numerous are these that many firms are content to use English only, and if purchasers do not flock to buy—well, that is their concern. There is, however, another system, and an example of an advertisement prepared to suit all tastes has been issued by an American firm. This document appeals to purchasers in five languages—not one of them being English! This energetic firm pushes its interests with the help of French, Greek, Armenian, Hebrew, and Arabic. This sort of thing can be done under the pressure of commercial competition. It is very greatly to be hoped that trade circulars for British goods are also to be obtained making an equally polyglot appeal to customers.

***

There seems to be a considerable difference of opinion as to the division of Turkish stock among the bondholders of various nationalities. Figures have been put forward in support of the German contention that a second German delegate should have a seat on the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, and that Germany should enjoy rights to the Chairmanship of the Council together with France and England. According to these, Germany holds £T49,980,000, or 42.87 per cent. of the total indebtedness of the Porte previous to the recent French Loan. France held £T43,730,000, or 37.51 per cent., and Great Britain only £T5,260,000, or 4.51 per cent. The Chairman of the Council, M. de la Boulinière, however, maintains that his nationals hold £T55,420,000, or 53.83, against Germany's £T35,010,000, or 34.01 per cent.; but, as *The Financial Times* points out, he seems to have omitted to reckon the recent series of the Baghdad Railway Loan, amounting to £T7,130,000, which would bring up the German holding to £T42,140,000. But, even so, there is still a discrepancy of some £T7,000,000 between the rival versions. The one point upon which both agree is that the British holding is less than 5 per cent. of the total Debt administered by the Council. Certainly, in the circumstances, Germany appears to be justified in her demand, at least as far as the reversion to the Chairmanship is concerned; but it is hard to see why Germany should have more members than France

***

The prosperity of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway is such as to go far to justify Italian ambitions to share in the development of that vilayet. According to the company's figures, the receipts for the week ending May 16 were £1.989 in excess of those for the corresponding week of last year, and the aggregate receipts since January 1 amount to no less than £145.211, an increase of £34.156 over the figures for the same period in last year. The mileage now being worked by the company is 379, and the week's receipts amount to over £20 a mile, which, when everything is taken into consideration, is a highly satisfactory figure.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 16.

Great Britain's Trade with Turkey.

According to the Board of Trade returns for the month of April, 1914, the total exchange of enumerated articles between the two countries amounted to £751,486 during April, 1914, as compared with £475,489 during the corresponding month in 1913 and £699,716 in 1912. This is an equally good showing as the previous month, although the increase is entirely in the exports to Turkey.

The total enumerated imports from Turkey into the United Kingdom during the month of April, 1914, amounted to £88,516, and while almost identical with those during the same month in 1913, £88,757, are less than during 1912, £136,963. The shipments of barley amounted to £33,102, as compared with £44,097 during April, 1913, and £46,637 during the corresponding month in 1912; those of other cereals—wheat, oats, and beans—were practically nil. On the other hand, the shipments of mohair amounted to £44,698 in April, 1914, as compared with £24,398 during the corresponding month in 1913 and £52,921 in 1912; those of wool amounted to only £3,202, as compared with £10,504 during 1913 and £14,429 in 1912. The shipments of raisins amounted to £6,814, as compared with £9,758 in April, 1913, and £839 in 1912.

As regards the enumerated exports to Turkey during the month of April, 1914, these were above the average, and were in excess of the preceding month. They amounted to £662,970, as compared with £386,732 during April, 1913, and £562,753 in 1912. Most of the enumerated articles show marked increases. The shipments of cotton piece goods amounted to £527,704, as compared with £311,804 during April, 1913, and £451,632 during the corresponding month in 1912; those of cotton yarns were £43,736, as compared with £31,098 in 1913 and £58,206 in 1912, when the Italian war kept Italian supplies off the market. The shipments of coal amounted to £35,897 during April, 1914, as compared with £11,375 during the same month of 1913, and practically nil in 1912; those of woollen tissues amounted to £22,749 during April, 1914, as compared with £13,766 during the corresponding month in 1913, and were almost identical with 1912—£22,921. The shipments of worsted tissues amounted to £17,456, as compared with £9,990 during April, 1913, and £15,844 during the same month in 1912. The shipments of wrought copper amounted to £6,066, as compared with £3,535 during April, 1913, and £6,725 in 1912; those of tin amounted to £6,213, as compared with £3,711 in 1913 and £3,903 in 1912. The shipments of bags and sacks amounted to £3,149, as compared with £1,453 in 1913 and £3,173 in 1912.

A survey of the total enumerated exchanges during the first four months of the present year gives the following satisfactory results:—1914, £2,774,761, as compared with £2,191,970 during the corresponding period of 1913 and £2,625,264 in 1912. During this period all of the enumerated exports to Turkey show increases as compared with 1913, and in most cases more than hold their own as compared with 1912, the totals being £2,216,304 for 1914, as compared with £1,579,279 during the corresponding period in 1913 and £1,856,886 in 1912. The total exports of cotton piece goods during the first four months of 1914, ended April, amounted to £1,655,976, as compared with £1,295,713 during the corresponding period in 1913 and £1,348,217 in 1912. The shipments of cotton yarns are slightly in excess of the previous year but less than during 1912, when this market was closed to Italy, the totals being £158,521 in 1914, £137,231 in 1913, and £195,857 in 1912. The shipments of coal amounted to £163,690, as compared with £39,657 in 1913 and £66,595 in 1912, when coal was contraband of war. The shipments of woollen and worsted tissues to date in 1914 amounted to £164,563, as compared with £74,924 in 1913 and £174,573 in 1912. The shipments of wrought copper to the same date amounted to £34,067, as compared with £9,774 in 1913 and £46,573 in 1912; those of tin to £23,161, as compared with £12,604 in 1913 and £13,303 in 1912. The shipments of bags and sacks amounted to £16,327, as compared with £9,377 in 1913 and £11,768 in 1912.

The total enumerated imports into Great Britain from Turkey during the first four months of 1914 were £558,457, as compared with £612,691 in 1913 and £768,378 in 1912. The shipments of barley amount to £181,183 to date, as compared with £254,026 in 1913 and £467,415 in 1912; the shipments of other cereals are insignificant, those of oats alone amounting to £16,214, as compared with £15,110 in 1912. The total shipments of raisins to date amount to £105,369, as compared with £61,233 in 1913 and £31,921 in 1912. The shipments of wool amount to £53,575, as compared with £78,060 in 1913 and £67,681 in 1912; and those of mohair to £198,388, as compared with £218,286 in 1913 and £133,880 in 1912.

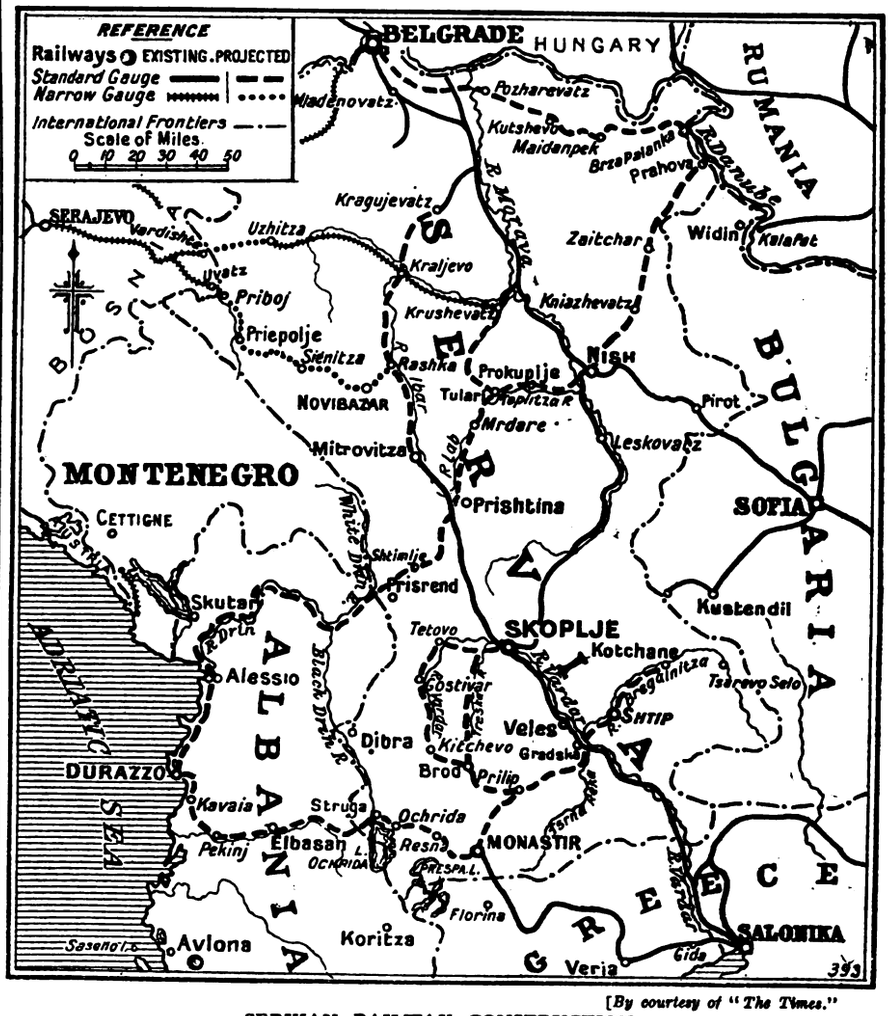
The Boycott.

This is a question so closely related to politics that I have so far purposely avoided it, but when an important home Chamber of Commerce issues a circular in which, quoting from a correspondent, appears such statements as "the anti-Christian boycott which the Turks are carrying on against all Christians, and which boycott is encouraged by the Government," and "the Government is encouraging and fanaticising the Turkish population," it is time to say something on the subject. In the first place, I venture to make the statement that the Government is not encouraging a boycott—in fact, it would only be fair to state that the Government took firm action when, some months ago, pamphlets were issued and posted on the walls inviting Turks not to deal with a certain element of the population. The pamphlets were suppressed, and arrests were made in connection with the incident. There is not an anti-Christian boycott in the capital. In the interior abuses have been committed, but the fact must not be overlooked that the ill-feeling towards certain elements forming the population of this country as a result of the late war has not yet passed away. This ill-feeling is directed against one particular element of the mixed races of this country, and one cannot help thinking that to a very great extent they are now only reaping what they have sown.

The effects on the imports from the trade returns quoted above is not evident; in fact, to date there has been a steady increase in the imports. Trade is at present more directly affected by the rumours of a fresh war between Turkey and her neighbour rather than by any boycott, and if these relations improve, as it is to be hoped they will, British manufacturers will have little reason for complaint.

CONSTANTINOPLE CONCESSIONS.

Under date of May 15 the Brussels correspondent of *The Financial News* reports that Belgian financiers will form very shortly a company that "will undertake the exploitation in Constantinople of the tramways, electricity, gas, and, later on, of an underground railway. At first the company will have a stock capital of 18,000,000 frs. and a debenture capital of the same amount, as the first object is to exploit the tramways; but it is already foreseen that the execution of the whole programme will involve over 100,000,000 frs. The existing 25 kilometres of tramway lines have already been electrified, and the exploitation co-efficient, which formerly amounted to 90 per cent., has already dropped to 49 per cent. In 1916 the Belgian company will absorb the light and power undertaking, which is actually worked by a Hungarian company, controlled by the Budapest Aktien Gesellschaft für Elektrische und Verkehrs-Unternehmungen. The Hungarian company already sells over 2,000 kilowatts, and anticipates a yearly production of 250,000 kilowatts. The Belgian group has obtained the concession of an underground railway between Stambul, Galata, and Pera."



[By courtesy of "The Times."

SERVIAN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

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Servian Railway Construction.

Official Proposals.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, May 10.

In the course of conversation yesterday with the Minister of Public Works a copy of the draft law which is shortly to be voted by the Servian Skupshtina was placed at my disposal. I shall roughly summarise the law, which is to authorise the Government to spend 223,800,000 francs on new and existing railways, and shall amplify it with further particulars obtained during the course of the interview.

British Participation.

In the first place, however, special mention must be made of the survey of a line granted by the Government to a British firm. Mr. Pashitch told me that when the programme was being drafted the Cabinet Council decided that one line at least should be reserved for British enterprise. In view of the fact that neither are we financially interested in Servia, nor did we participate in the Servian loan recently floated in Paris, this act on the part of the Government is an earnest of the country's admiration for Great Britain, and the desire that we should in future participate more fully in Servian development—a circumstance to which I shall have occasion to refer again.

The line, small, but not unimportant, which is to be surveyed by a British firm (The Railway and Works Company, of Old Jewry, London), is that connecting Shtip with Monastir, Skoplje (Uskub) and Salonika. It will leave the Monastir-Skoplje line at Prilip, and, after cutting across a small watershed, will run down a valley in a north-easterly direction to Kavadar, whence it will follow the course of the Tsrna Reka River to its junction with the Vardar near Gradska, a station on the Skoplje-Salonika line. A bridge will here be necessary across the Vardar River. The line will then continue in a north-easterly direction up the Bregalnitza Valley to Shtip and Kotchané, the latter being approximately 120 km. from the base at Prilip, and 50 km. from the Bulgarian frontier. The draft law provides only for the section to Shtip and the cost (survey, construction, and rolling stock) is estimated at 19,800,000 frs. I understand, however, that the agreement with the Railway and Works Company for the preliminary survey which was signed on Saturday includes the Shtip-Kotchané section; there is no intention of continuing the line at present to Tsarevo Selo, near the Bulgarian frontier.

It may here be mentioned, incidentally, with regard to all Servian lines, that the granting of the concession for the survey of a line does not formally imply its construction by the same firm. As a rule, however, it generally happens that one and the same firm eventually does both.

The Draft Law.

This law, constituting roughly the Government's railway programme for the next two years, consists of three parts: (I.) The broad gauge lines to be built immediately; (II.) repairs, provision of rolling stock, etc., of great urgency on the existing lines: and (III.) necessary lines, the construction of which can be delayed—nominally, their construction is to begin when parts I. and II. have been completed, but in the case of the Novi Bazar and Shtip lines I understand that no such fine distinction is likely to be made.

In the following estimates for the new lines are included: Survey, construction, and the necessary material. Regarding the latter, it has to be supplied by the firm constructing the line according to the general type adopted by the Servian Railways. The average inclusive cost per kilometre is estimated by the Ministry of Public Works at 175,000 frs.; the total length of the railways to be built, according to the draft law, is approximately 1,000 km.; railways already under construction in Old Servia total about 650 km.

PART I.

This part consists of four lines:—

	Frs.
(a) Mrdaré-Prishtina	6,000,000
(b) Rashka-Mitrovitza	15,000,000
(c) Skoplje - Tetovo - Gostivar - Kitchevo-Brod-Prilep-Monastir, or instead of this line the two following:— Skoplje-Treska Valley-Brod-Prilep-Monastir and	
Skoplje - Tetovo-Gostivar	60,000,000
	22,000,000
(d) Prishtina-Shtimlie-Prisrend	103,000,000

Lines (a) and (d) are sections of the Adriatic Railway, the biggest undertaking at present in Servia. The sections, and the state of the work interrupted during the war, are as follows: The line from Prahova (on the Danube) to Zaitchar is being built by a French firm, and is to be finished by the end of May; the Zaitchar-Kniazhevatz-Nish line is being built by the Servian State, and is to be completed in two years; the Nish-Mrdare section is being constructed by the Société Franco-Serbe; the Mrdaré-Prishtina line has been surveyed by the same company, and the whole section from Nish to Prishtina is to be completed at the same time as the Prahova-Nish section, and preliminary surveys for the Prishtina-Shtimlie-Prisrend-Albanian frontier line have been made by a Marseilles firm forming part of the Société Franco-Serbe. Regarding the trans-Albanian section, nothing is to be gleaned from the Law, the whole question having been shelved pending a satisfactory solution of the Albanian problem. But in the Ministry of Public Works the northern route from Prisrend—that is, along the Drin Valley to Alessio and then along the sea coast to Durazzo—rather than the southern route via Dibra, Struga, and Elbasan, is favoured, both for strategic and economic reasons. It is also worthy of comment that the proposed lines linking up Dibra with Struga, Prisrend, and Gostivar have been dropped for the present; at the most Dibra may eventually be connected by rail with Gostivar.

Regarding (c), or the Skoplje (Uskub)-Monastir line, with its two variants, the first variant is not favoured so much at present as the second, the reasons being the enormous cost of building the section between Gostivar and Kitchevo, including a twelve-kilometre tunnel, etc. It has been found that the cost of the first variant is equal to the cost of the second, plus the Skoplje-Gostivar railway, which can always be continued at a later date to Dibra. Moreover, the second variant, following the course of the Treska River to Brod, is the shorter of the two. Julius Berger, of Berlin, has surveyed the first variant, and is now completing that of the second. It is remarkable that, in linking up Skoplje with Monastir, the Government did not decide to build a line from Veles on the Skoplje-Salonika line, via Prilip, to Monastir. It would have been the shortest route. The only reason given me was that it was not intended to make Veles an important centre, and that the great commercial and distributing nucleus for New Servia was to be Skoplje.

PART II.

This part concerns repairs, rolling stock, etc., for the existing lines as follows:—

	Frs.
Reconstruction of the Belgrade station and onstruction of sheds	7,000,000
Rolling Stock for existing lines	10,000,000
Enlarging and improving existing stations	900,000
Ditto. Railway works at Nish	1,500,000
Workshops for narrow gauge railways	800,000
Iron bridge alterations	3,500,000
Relaying and Improvement of lines	8,000,000
Completions of railway construction already begun	10,000,000
Danube Bridge (Roumanian-Servian)	5,000,000
	46,700,000

The following are some of the lines which have been begun, and to which the above credit refers: — (1) Kragujevatz-Kraljevo-Rashka, normal gauge line, begun by the Société Franco-Serbe, but not yet completed. The section Rashka-Mitrovitza, referred to under (b), Part I., is also being constructed by the Franco-Serbe, and will link up the Skoplje-Mitrovitza line with Belgrade, forming a second alternative route to Salonika. (2) Belgrade-Pozharevatz, being built by the Servian State, was interrupted by the war, but work has now begun again, and it is anticipated that it will be completed by the end of next year. This stretch is a section of the Belgrade-Prahova line, which, when completed and linked up with the Roumanian system, will shorten the route between Bucharest and Trieste (or Fiume) by about 150 kilometres. The section between Prahova and Pozharevatz, via Kutshevo, is being surveyed by Lefebre, of Paris. The present law does not make any provision, however, for this section. (3) The sections of the Adriatic Railway alluded to in Part I., and (4) some narrow-gauge lines of minor importance.

The credit for the Danube bridge represents Servia's share in the cost, Roumania putting up an equal amount. The bridge is to be built as soon as possible, a commission of four engineers, of whom the principal one is a Roumanian, being already engaged in studying plans. The exact situation of the bridge has not been decided, but it will be somewhere between Prahova and Brza Palanka. Prahova is bound to be an important Servian town on the Danube, the Government planning the construction of a port there. No credit has, however, been opened up to the present.

As practically all the items included in this part are under the control of the railway direction—that is to say, they do not depend on concessions granted to foreign firms—there is every chance for British firms to participate successfully. No time must, however, be lost. An agent or representative here is necessary, but business, and *good business*, can be done at prices comparing favourably with those of competing firms.

PART III.

The necessary lines, the construction of which can be delayed, are three in number:—

	Frs.
(a) Rashka-Novi Bazar-Sienitza-Priepolje-Uvatz	45,000,000
(b) Prilip-Gradska-Shtip	19,800,000
(c) Narrow gauge from Uzhitza to Vardishte, or else from Uzhitza to Uvatz	8,500,000
	73,300,000

The first of the above lines will link up the Bosnian system, via Novi Bazar and Rashka, with Mitrovitza and Skoplje. I may mention here that, contrary to the opinion generally held, the Skoplje-Mitrovitza line is not narrow, but standard gauge. The Société Franco-Serbe has surveyed the line as far as Uvatz. It will thus be seen that this company is interested in two of the most important railway systems in Servia—namely, the Adriatic from Nish to Albania, and the linking-up of Rashka with Belgrade, Bosnia, and Skoplje. The second line has been fully dealt with.

The survey of the two variants of the Uzhitza line has been entrusted to the Darmstadter Bank, and most likely the second variant will be chosen in order to facilitate communication between Uzhitza and Uvatz without having to enter Bosnian territory. This would leave the Bosnian Vardishte line without direct communication with any Servian line, but ultimately it is hoped to link it up directly with the Kraljevo-Uzhitza line.

The following lines have not been included in the draft law, and it can therefore be assumed that they will not be begun within the next two years:—

Monastir-Resra-Ochrida-Struga.—This line, which, when completed, will be one of the most picturesque in Servia, is being surveyed by the firm of Lenz, of Berlin.

Krushevatz-Tulari.—This line in Old Servia will link up with the Adriatic line near Prokuplje. It is being surveyed by the Société Franco-Serbe.

Valjevo-Osichena-Loshnitza. — A narrow gauge railway in Old Servia, being the continuation to the Bosnian frontier of the Belgrade-Valjevo line.

The importation of cotton goods into Samsoun (Asiatic Turkey) in 1912 reached 1,305,708 kilog, representing a value of 4,000,000 frs. Coloured cottons, flannels, Indian and cotton shawls are mostly bought.

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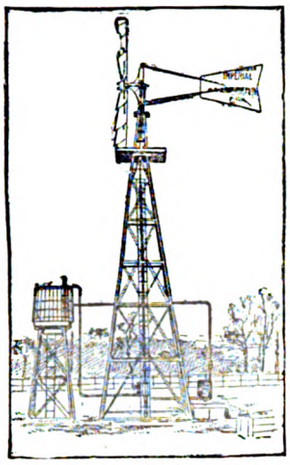

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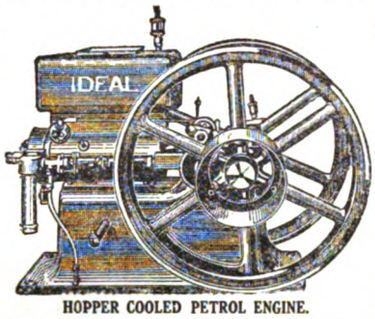

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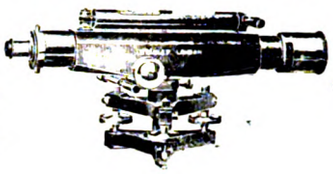

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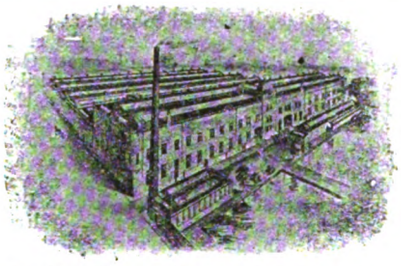

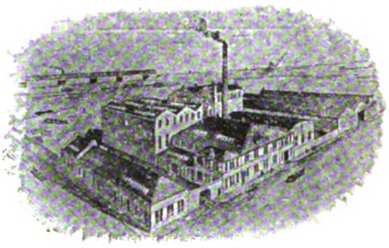

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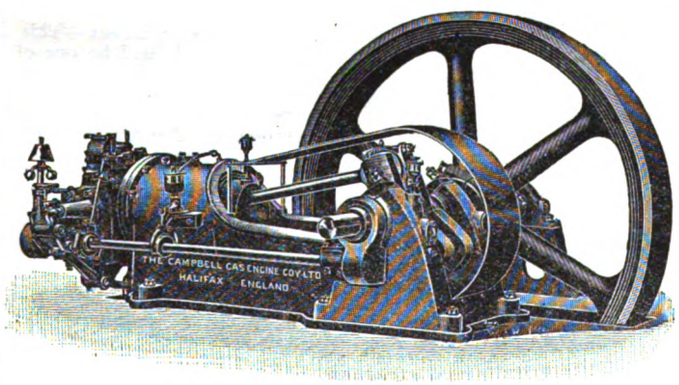

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Engineering Notes.

Craiova Tramways.

We are informed by our Bucharest correspondent that the representatives of a French group have arrived in Craiova in order to secure a concession for electric tramways in that city, and that the Mayor has had several long discussions with them. This opening for foreign enterprise was mentioned in THE NEAR EAST many months ago.

A White Portland Cement.

Portland cement has always been acknowledged as one of the most useful and indispensable materials for a great variety of building purposes. Its convenience, durability, strength, and moderate cost are special characteristics to which is owed its steadily increasing use. In some instances, however, its unattractive colour has proved to be an insurmountable obstacle to its employment in the higher class of ornamental work, and though various forms of plaster and slag cement have been used for a covering, none of them give satisfaction because of their inferior strength and inability to stand exposure to the weather. Architects, builders, and contractors will, therefore, be glad to hear that after a long series of experiments the production of a true Portland cement, perfectly white in colour, has been achieved. It is claimed to be equal in strength and other qualities to the best gray Portland cement. Some ornamental concrete terraces, large fountains, and other ornamental works made with this pure white cement, have been much admired and found, it is said, to be excellent in every respect.

The New Greek Dockyard.

It is reported from Athens that, subsequent to an arrangement with the Greek Government, Mr. Colson, at the head of four other English engineers, arrived in Athens from England last week. Mr. Colson with his assistants will join the other English mission now in Athens, under Col. Raban, R.E., to work out and prepare the plans, etc., for the construction of the new Greek dockyard at Scaramanga and Eleusis.

Egyptian Oil Fields.

The current number of *The Petroleum World* contains an article entitled "The Coming of Egypt," the writer of which says that although only a small percentage of Egypt's oilfields has yet been developed, they are entitled to rank amongst the most prolific and remarkable in the world; and he is of opinion that the country has a great future before it as an oil producing country.

"Egypt," he points out, "is practically the centre of the great East and West highway, whose main thoroughfare lies through the Suez Canal. The oil does not require to be marketed—the market is brought to one's doors. The refinery at Suez which the Royal Dutch and Shell group are erecting to treat Egyptian oil can find parties at its own gates ready to buy its various products for use in the Far East of Asia or the West of Europe. As a matter of fact, the owning corporation does not need to seek for such parties. It is itself, besides being, next to the Standard Oil group, the largest and most complex oil organisation in the world, its own producer, refiner, shipper, and marketer; and all it has to do is to find production, the rest following as a matter of course."

A little later he remarks, with great truth, that the importance of this development in Egypt "is immense to the prestige and the practical usefulness of the British Navy. Hitherto, with the exception of Trinidad, we have no large young field within our dominions which is worth mentioning. We wish expressly to say that we refer to producing oil fields, as prospective fields are many. Egypt has come as a surprise to many people who did not know its possibilities; but it must have come as a great relief both to the business world of the British Empire and to the authorities who have been so anxiously looking round for an immediate oil supply within the Empire. We have again and again expressed the opinion that there is abundance of oil within our dominions if it is sought for in the right places, and Egypt is one of the cases in point which have already come to verify that opinion."

Railway Motors for Cyprus.

A fine specimen of the well-known Drewry railway motor-cars has just been completed for the Cyprus Railway to the order of the Crown Agents for the Colonies. It is fitted with a 25 h.p. engine, running on paraffin (starting on petrol), 3-speed gear, and full reverse, giving all three speeds in both directions. The body has a seating capacity of nine, and the two back seats are removable in order to accommodate one ton of goods or luggage. It is also equipped with dynamo electric lighting and a self-starter. Altogether it is one of the finest rail cars ever built. The makers are the Drewry Car Co., Limited, River Plate House, 13, South Place, London, E.C.

COMMUNICATIONS IN SERVIA

An Opening for Enterprise.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, May 14.

From the beginning of June a motor-bus service for post, passengers, and freight will run between Veles and Monastir. The concession has been granted to a Servian, and to the best of my knowledge the cars have not yet been bought. The concession is for five years, and the cost of the journey from Veles to Monastir will be fixed at 17 frs., at the rate of 80 centimes per 5 km. The cost of the journey by rail, viâ Salonika, is about 70 frs., so that the motor service ought to pay well.

At present the state of the roads in Servia is not too good, but it is the Government's intention to devote the next ten years to a thorough overhauling of existing roads, and the construction of new ones. If a British firm were to approach the Government with a scheme for roadmaking, which would imply the supply of cars, lorries, etc., I can assure it that it would be well received. A rather favourable offer has already been received from a German firm but no decision has yet been taken.

TENDERS INVITED.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked* (L) *are to be obtained*]

EGYPT.

Army Clothing, etc.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of kip and sole butt ends, tarbosh lining, puggaree khaki, jerseys and socks, cotton handkerchiefs, feather hackles, woollen cummerbands, web braces, brushes, and flannel cholera belts. June 8. (L).

Bags and Cases.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of fifty Gladstone bags and 116 tin uniform cases. June 22. (L).

Bolts, Hooks, etc.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of 16,000 slide bolts, hooks, etc. June 24. (L).

Steel Frame Buildings.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of five steel frame buildings. June 9. (L).

Screw Piles.—The Survey Department, Gêza (Mudiria), invites tenders for an initial supply of screw piles, etc., required for the levelling work during 1914-1915. June 30.

Papers, Envelopes, etc.—The Economat Central of the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of papers, envelopes, cards, guides, and file covers for Government administrations for 1915, 1916, and 1917. June 4.

Sundries.—The Ministry of War, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of the following articles:—Shoes, red; sponges, pipeclay; tarboushes, maghraby; tassels, G.S.; tassels, maghraby; tins, empty, for polishing powder; irons, laundry, with stands, and stands, spare; tarboushes, cadets, special, with tassels. June 2.

Sole Leather.—The Ministry of War, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,400 okes of sole leather. June 9.

Rope.—The Ministry of War, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 800 okes of half-inch fine Damascine rope. June 9.

CYPRUS GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

Evrychou Extension.

(FROM A CYPRUS CORRESPONDENT.)

The Cyprus Government had for a long time had under consideration what steps could be taken to render the Cyprus Government Railway a paying concern. For years there had been correspondence on the subject, and considerable pressure had been brought to bear on the Government, by interests at Larnaca, to construct a Larnaca-Nicosia Railway. This would, of course, have been bad policy for the island, in view of the capital already sunk in the Famagusta-Nicosia-Morphou Railway and Famagusta harbour, since a Larnaca-Nicosia railway would naturally prove detrimental to the existing line.

In 1912 the Colonial Office sent out an expert, in the person of Mr. F. Bedford Glasier, C.M.G., late general manager of the Southern Nigeria Railway, to examine into the whole question, and to advise whether the existing line should be continued or other lines constructed. He recommended an extension of the present line from its west terminus, Morphou, to Evrychou, fifteen miles in a south-easterly direction, in the hills on the north slope of the Troödos Mountains, the extension serving to carry along the railway to Famagusta the rich produce of the Solea, Marathasa, and other valleys of this region.

In June, 1913, sanction was given for the construction, at a cost of £23,000, to be spread over two years, of the extension recommended by Mr. Glasier. Material for this work was at once put on order from England, and a start was made with the survey. In the autumn of 1913 a reconnaisance of the Solea valley was made, and the laying of the rails began in November. At the end of March, 1914, about seven miles of earthwork and three miles of ballasting were completed. The precise route of the last few miles of the extension has not yet been finally settled owing to the great difficulty in purchasing the necessary land from the villagers, for the land along the river beds in these valleys is particularly valuable owing to water rights. It is hoped, however, that a portion of the new line will be open for traffic by the end of this year.

At a meeting of the Swansea Harbour Trust held on May 11 Mr. Beck remarked that it was very satisfactory to see in the return of the tinplate industry that Roumania was returning to herself. This was very encouraging.

On the Greek Chamber resuming its deliberations on Monday, the Minister of the Interior submitted a Bill for supplying Athens and the Piræus with water from Lake Stymphalos, a project which has been dealt with at some length in our Engineering Notes.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Smyrna. May 11.

The authorities, rather late in the day, have taken up the task of the extermination of locusts thoroughly; and such primitive and worse than useless methods as ordering the entire male population to cease work on a given day and march *en masse* to kill locusts have been abandoned in favour of organised bands from different quarters proceeding to infested districts in charge of qualified officials. Private efforts have also been fairly successful, and it is estimated that on the whole the future of the crops has been assured. In certain districts great harm has already been done, but this fortunately is expected to be the exception. This is particularly the case in the Tourbali District, where serious damage has been caused to the crops.

Braila. May 16.

Rain fell all over Roumania this week, but not in sufficient quantity, except in Moldavia, where crop prospects are reported to be excellent. In Eastern Wallachia rain is still urgently needed, especially in the districts of Braila, Yalomitsa, Buzeu, and Rimnie-Sarat.

Odessa. May 17.

The crop outlook is not so encouraging as it was a fortnight ago. For the last ten days the weather has been abnormally cold for the season. A few days ago 3 degrees of frost (Réaumur) were registered in parts of Poltava and Bessarabia, doing enormous damage to the maize seedlings. The sturdy winter wheat and rye have not been seriously affected. Warm weather and fructifying rains are now absolutely necessary, but for the moment the dual dispensation is withheld.

Meshed. April 24.

The general conditions of trade in Meshed and the surrounding district at present are prosperous. The cotton industry this year is not so good as usual, owing to the fall in the price of cotton in Russia. But wool and dried fruits are both a good product this year, and much opium is sent to London by parcels post. The carpet industry perhaps never was better. There must be more than 2,000 looms in Eastern Persia, and they are able to sell all they can produce. There are some twelve or fifteen carpet buyers in Meshed who do a large business, besides a host of smaller dealers.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East :—

Busreh. April 24.

Merchants have so far abstained from making advances on the cereal crop. This abstention, which is due to the poor demand abroad, perpetuates the monetary stringency, and prevents the market from recovering its animation.

The sugar market still suffers from the glut which was produced by the arrival of consignments intended for Baghdad, but stopped on the way in the hope that they would be more easily disposed of here than in Baghdad, which had stocks of sugar for a long time ahead.

The presence here of two ships bound for Jeddah has produced an agreement among shipowners on the question of freight, which has been lowered to 10 sh. for cereals. This favourable opportunity, it is thought, will lead to the exportation to Jeddah of all available stocks of grain here, estimated at some 4,500 tons.

Stamboul. May 2.

The industrial market remains calm. This torpor is due largely to the political situation, both in the provinces and in the capital.

On the other hand, the emigration of the Greek element in the different localities does considerable harm to the merchants of this town. Among the emigrants, some honest individuals not being able to remit cash, have returned the merchandise to the former owner.

The boycott has not yet ceased, but it is not so severe as formerly.

The conclusion of the great war, we hope, will tend to improve the situation of our market.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.

London, May 21.

The beet market has been very quiet and slightly easier, although Continental and American advices were not justifying such a condition. There is no doubt that the only thing wanted is a better demand from the trade, which, now that the Budget is declared, will be forthcoming, for it is well known that, pending this declaration, the demand was seriously interrupted and held up. The refined sugar market has been firm throughout the week, with good business passing on English at generally 1½d. to 2d. advance, and on foreign first marks at ¾d. to 1½d. per cwt. higher rates.

The general supplies of sugar in stock and afloat in the Continent of Europe and in America up to May 12 are 3,822,790 tons, against 3,648,100 tons last year.

Coffee.

The export trade has been buying freely during the last two weeks, and more confidence is shown as it becomes evident that the end of the different crops is near. At auctions Costa Rica, low mid. to good mid., went at 69s. to 83s., and East India small 65s. to 72s. 6d. The quality of the East India, however, has materially fallen off, and what is coming now is considered quite useless for the home trade. There has been a strong market for Mocha, with prices mostly dearer owing to a reported small crop both of long and short berries.

Currants.

The market is steady, good business passing at unchanged rates. Medium qualities and smalls have been in the heaviest demand, while fine smalls are in a very limited compass. In Liverpool the principal inquiry is for small confectionery of all grades and for fine grocery fruit. Supplies of these descriptions are limited, and consequently full prices are asked.

Sultanas.

In spite of an apparently restricted inquiry for sultanas, the position with regard to this fruit remains unaltered. There is no quotable change in price, whilst holders show no inclination to force sales. The s.s. "Rosetti" is due this week, but with only a very small supply for this market, the knowledge of which has created a distinctly firmer tone. Greek fruit continues in good demand, and stocks are being steadily reduced.

Figs and Dates.

Figs: Bag naturals are cleared from first hands, and no further supplies are available at present. Dates are unchanged; the tendency, however, appears to be upwards, as holders of cheap parcels have disposed of practically all their stocks. Figs: Bags naturals are quoted 28s. to 38s.; and dates, new, Sair, 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.; Khadrawi, 8s. to 10s. 6d.; and Hallowi, 13s. to 15s.

Seeds.

Linseed is rather steadier for near positions. Rapeseed is unchanged. Cottonseed is inactive: London-Egyptian, May, offered at £7 17s. 6d., and June £8. Canaryseed is quiet.

Oilcakes, etc.

Cotton cakes: Only a limited quantity is available in store, and, with curtailed shipments of Egyptian, there is a distinctly better feeling in the trade. Best brands find a ready sale at £4 7s. 6d. ex ship, whilst landed parcels are quoted £4 11s. 3d. to £4 12s. 6d., with English £4 12s. 6d. and Bombay £3 15s.

Linseed cakes: Owing to the abundance of natural foodstuffs there is practically no consumptive demand, but at the same time a premium is asked for autumn and winter delivery beyond buyers' views. Quotations are unchanged.

Various.

Onions: There is no change in the position of onions, which is one of the most remarkable in the experience of the trade. They continue scarce and very dear. Egyptian finest are quoted 1/s. 6d. per bag.

Jaffa oranges: Owing to a sharp rise in oranges, Jaffas command better prices, 144 fine selling 11s. 6d., 144 finest selected 12s. 6d., 250 fine 13s., 250 choice 15s.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending May 8:—The sales this week on our market amount to 131 cases druggists' manufacturing qualities at 13s. to 15s. 6d., but although the interior reports favourably about the crop, our holders are not disposed to make concessions, and thus the price for mixed parcels of 11 per cent. is still maintained at 14s. to 14s. 3d. The present estimate of the whole Turkey crop is reckoned to be 7,000 to 7,500 cases, but the weather conditions during this month will either reduce or augment the yield. We expect the first arrivals of new opium will come down on our market about the first week in June. The arrivals are 4,595 cases against 2,384 at same date last year.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 15.

Prices are stationary, and speculators are holding off for a fall. Meanwhile, operations are confined to small and short-term transactions.

Reports of the forthcoming crop are very satisfactory, and it is certain that the acreage will constitute a record. Although water is actually plentiful everywhere, there is some uneasiness regarding the future. The level at the Assuan Reservoir is lower than last year, and it is feared that the cotton may suffer from water shortage in case of a late flood.

Some sales of the new crop have taken place for export, which indicates a big demand for our cotton. The export sales during the week have been considerable, and the United States are buying Egyptian cotton on a larger scale. It is practically certain that the stock on hand at the end of the season will be little, if any, larger than that of last year.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. July, 18 3/32, November, 18 1/32. Exchange, three months' date, 96¼.

	This week.	Same time. 1912-13.	Same time. 1911-12.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	20,000 ..	5,000 ..	15,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,561,623 ..	7,430,789 ..	7,218,624
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	800 ..	1,500 ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	191,098 ..	189,108 ..	186,394
Shipments to Manchester	5,000 ..	Nil. ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	204,534 ..	191,647 ..	210,879
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	4,000 ..	3,750 ..	6,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	380,733 ..	355,321 ..	331,132
Shipments to U.S. America	1,500 ..	600 ..	1,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	72,893 ..	116,416 ..	100,738
Shipments to all parts	11,300 ..	5,850 ..	9,750
Ditto since Sept. 1	849,258 ..	852,492 ..	829,143
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,595,000 ..	1,289,000 ..	1,263,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to May 13, 1914.

	1913-14	1912-13.	1911-12.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	190,298	187,468	183,838
„ Manchester	199,534	191,647	210,879
Total Shipments to Great Britain	389,832	379,115	394,717
Shipments to France and Spain	108,579	103,738	92,573
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	182,870	171,948	163,525
Shipments to Russia	63,549	56,817	52,130
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	1,923	763	823
Total Shipments to Continent	356,921	333,268	309,051
Shipments to U.S. America	71,393	115,821	99,538
Ditto to India and Japan	19,812	18,246	15,939
Total Shipments to all parts	837,958	846,448	819,24
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

May 12.—"Esneh." May 16.—"Norman Prince,' Manchester. May 18.—"Castilian."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—There has been a quite fair inquiry for Egyptian spot cotton, sales since last report totalling 2,700 bales, as against 2,100 previous week. Medium grades of Afifi, Sakellarides, and Nubari have been in good demand and at hardening rates. Desirable lots of best qualities are becoming very scarce. Higher grades of all have been in little demand, but sellers were inclined to trade on slightly easier basis. Quotations for all descriptions are unchanged, with the exception of good and below Sakellarides, which are advanced 10 points.

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Agency for firms desirous of introducing their brands of goods into the Sudan.

Established 1900.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

Manchester, May 20.

The strong tone in the market has been well maintained during the past week, prices in the raw material being on a higher level than any time this year. Spinners and manufacturers have experienced much difficulty in securing advances from buyers, and the general effect of the stiffening in quotations has been to restrict operations. Undoubtedly, sellers are passing through a most awkward time, and it looks as though no real relief from a producer's point of view will be experienced until the new cotton season begins in September. Engagements in both yarn and cloth are most irregular, and prices taken depend upon the position of individual sellers. Some of the weather reports from the American cotton belt have not been very favourable, and there is much uncertainty as to the outlook for the Egyptian crop. In piece goods the Near Eastern outlets have not been at all active, and in addition to fresh business being slow, cases are again mentioned of deliveries being stopped and remittances from the other side being poor. Perhaps during the last day or two a shade more inquiry has come through for Egypt, but most of the offers have been quite unworkable. The chief support continues to be given by India, but progress all along the line has been most difficult, as the limits of shippers remain on a low basis. China seems to be in a hopeless position, and some manufacturers who usually make for that market are now seeking orders for other outlets. A dragging demand continues to be met with in printing cloths, and in spite of organised short time the position in Burnley does not improve. Ordinary qualities in T-cloths and Mexicans can be delivered fairly quickly. Distribution in home trade fabrics seems to be a little better. American yarns for home use have tended to harden in quotation, but buyers have refused to follow the upward movement, and where sales have been arranged the margin of profit has suffered, especially in the lower numbers of the commoner qualities. A slower demand is now being experienced in shipping counts. Bolton spinnings have been stiff in quotation, but operations have been of a limited nature.

COTTON MILLS IN GREECE.

A return recently published by the Government of Greece gives the number of cloth and cotton mills in the Piræus as nine operating 55,000 spindles and 955 looms. The annual production of cotton yarns is estimated at about 900,000 packages, valued at £440,000; 11,250,000 yards of drill and chequered cloth, valued at £260,000, and 130,000 rolls of white cloth, valued at £60,000. Some 3,000 hands are employed, earning about £240,000 annually. Only a small quantity of the produce of these mills is exported, the remaining quantities being consumed locally.

COTTON IN ROUMANIA.

The demand for cotton goods of all kinds is at present very brisk in Roumania, and above all in the new Roumanian territories. The principal houses at Constanza and Galatz which supply the New-Dobruja (says the *Oesterreichisch-ungarische Konsular-Korrespondenz*) have exhausted their stocks. On the other hand, the native manufactories of knitted vests and hosiery are busily occupied, and will be obliged to import large quantities of cotton thread. Worsteds of inferior quality are indeed manufactured in Roumania.

BULGARIAN REQUIREMENTS.

According to the *Oesterreichisch-ungarische Konsular-Korrespondenz* of Vienna, the following products find a good outlet in Bulgaria :—Bicarbonate of soda (supplied mainly by Belgium in sacks of 100 kilos at the rate of 9.20 frs. per 100 kilos for 98 and 100 degrees); sulphate of copper (above all of British origin) delivered c.i.f. at the rate of £23 15s. per ton; yeasts for cheeses (supplied principally by Italy and sold in bottles of 1 litre at the rate of 1.75 frs. per litre, free Varna); candles, delivered in cases of average quality at the rate of 82.25 frs. per 100 kilos.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

According to a return lately issued by the Home Office, amongst the aliens to whom certificates of naturalisation were granted in 1913 there were 40 Roumanians, 26 Turks, 13 Greeks, 3 Persians, 2 Montenegrins, and 2 Servians.

M. Ch. El. Vamvacas, whose name will be familiar to many of our readers, has recommenced at Salonika the publication of *La Tribune*, which for the present will appear twice a week. M. Vamvacas, it will be remembered, was formerly a deputy in the Ottoman Parliament.

A Vienna contemporary states that cooking utensils in aluminium find a certain sale in the Balkans. In Servia, the principal countries supplying these articles are Germany, which alone covers three-fourths of the imports, Italy and Austria. France does a fair business in this line, but she has great competition with the three countries mentioned.

All kinds of paper find an interesting outlet in the region of Smyrna (Asiatic Turkey). The importation of printing paper rose in 1912 to 665,420 kilog. The average value of imports of writing paper is about £10,000. Cigarette paper and paper used for posters have a fairly important consumption.

During the month of March the receipts of the Ottoman Post Office were £T29,000 in the postal department and £T40,000 in the telegraphic, being increases of £T7,000 and £T12,000 respectively over the corresponding figures for last year.

The cultivation of rice was recently prohibited in different parts of the Egyptian Delta owing to the necessity of economising water. The Ministry of Public Works has, however, now given permission to cultivators in the neighbourhood of Damietta and Rosetta to grow rice on condition that they use pumps.

The *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna estimates that the sowings of beans this season are about 10 per cent. in excess of last year's.

With regard to the Smyrna valonea market the *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna reports that no serious change in values is anticipated for another three or four months, after which period the trend of prices will depend in a great measure on the prospects of the new crop.

During the first quarter of this year, 19,000 okes of tobacco from local stock were exported to Cavalla and Egypt from Chios.

A recent report of the British Vice-Consul at Skoplyé, quoted by the *Board of Trade Journal*, states that owing to the cold weather last winter the opium crop of the Tikvesh district will be a total failure, and there will be no opium for export except stocks on hand. Owing to the emigration of the Mahomedans and the possibility of hampering effects caused by Servian Government regulations, the future of opium cultivation is very uncertain.

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EDGAR WRIGHT Manager

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Shipping Intelligence.

RUSSIAN TRADE WITH THE PERSIAN GULF.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, May 17.

The Minister of Trade and Industry has requested the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company to put steamers of a better class and greater speed on the Odessa-Gulf line. They have hitherto made four and five trips during the year; in future they must make at least six, and the company must be prepared, if necessary, to increase that number. A local merchant interested in the Gulf trade tells me, however, that he sees no present possibility of augmenting the limited overseas trade between Odessa and the Gulf ports. British-Indian competition is too strong to permit, he believes, of any appreciable expansion of Russia's export business with the ports of southern Persia and Busreh, even though Russian merchandise is carried from this port at privileged low-freight rates.

BLACK SEA SHIPPING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, May 17.

Influenced by the temporary scarcity of prompt tonnage, our freight rates have during the last few days been a trifle firmer, but the inquiry remains very restricted. From 6d. to 9d. has been the all-round advance on the previous week's quotations, but as a considerable amount of new tonnage is expected, the rates will probably again collapse to the dead level of last week. These slight fluctuations will continue desultorily for the next two months, but there is no prospect whatever of any really appreciable improvement before the eve of the new harvest, and what that may be it is too early to hazard a forecast. Practically speaking, the Odessa granaries are empty

To-day the quotations for very prompt are 6s. 3d. Rotterdam and 6s. 6d. for Hamburg, Weser, and Antwerp. At Nicolaieff the position is, if anything, worse. A steamer left that port a few days ago empty, after waiting in vain fourteen days for cargo! That boat was, perhaps, peculiarly unfortunate, but her case explains the difficulty in general of obtaining cargo even at ruinously low rates. For such little business as is doing in the Bug port 6s. nominally is the rate for all destinations. The position at Kherson is not a whit better, but there is more inquiry for later loading in the Dnieper port. At Novorossisk there is a small but steady inquiry for first half June loading at 6s. 3d., Rotterdam 6s. 6d. Hamburg, Weser, and Antwerp, and 6s. 9d. Liverpool. But the general lack of interest manifested by shippers is altogether unusual, although by no means inexplicable, and the banks which support the shippers must be growing weary of the utterly sluggish situation.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL LINE.

Writing from Port Tewfik, under date of May 8, our own correspondent informs us that Messrs. Graham and Co.'s small steamer "Battle Isle," which, for the last four years has been running from Suez to the Red Sea oilfields and Sufaga, has been sold to Constantinople owners. It is understood that the buyer is Mr. Silley, the Constantinople agent for the Khedivial Mail Co.

The Bulgarian Navigation Co. has arranged a regular service touching at Porte Lagos on the Ægean.

BRAILA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Braila, May 16.

The s.s. "Baharistan" has been bought by the Roumanian Steamship Company for £41,000. The steamer was built in 1912, and carries 6,600 tons on 22 ft. 7 ins.

Our freight market was dull and lifeless during the whole week, rates of freight being practically unchanged at 7s. Rotterdam, 7s. 3d. Antwerp, 7s. 6d. Hamburg, and 8 frs. 50 c. Mediterranean from the Danube, whilst from Sulina 6s. Rotterdam and 6s. 3d. Antwerp is the utmost obtainable.

There has been some inquiry for U.K. ports, and some parcels have been booked from Sulina at 7s. to 7s. 3d.

The bank on Sulina bar has now been cleared and vessels can pass drawing 23 ft., and can load at up-river ports down to 22 ft.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—On Syrian Coast May 2. "Corsican Prince."—At Manchester. "Creole Prince."—Left Antwerp for Mediterranean May 15. "Egyptian Prince."—London/Alexandria. At Malta May 17. "Highland Prince."—At Novorossisk May 8. "Italian Prince."—At Manchester May 10. "Merchant Prince."—Eastham/Alexandria. At La Goulette May 17. "Norman Prince."—At Alexandria May 19. "Saxon Prince."—At Alexandria May 9. "Sailor Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria May 17. "Stuart Prince."—At Alexandria May 10. "Tudor Prince."—At Alexandria April 26. "Trojan Prince."—On Syrian Coast May 2.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—Constantinople/Liverpool. Left Malta May 11. "Esneh."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Left Malta May 16. "Hathor."—Swansea/Alexandria. Left Malta May 4. "Karnak."—Alexandria/Kherson. Left Constantinople May 18. "Meroe."—Liverpool/Alexandria. At Gibraltar May 17. "Sebek."—Naples/Odessa. Passed Constantinople May 13. "Siptah."—Liverpool/Constantinople. Left Smyrna May 17.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Antwerp May 16. "Barnesmore."—Left Sulina for Antwerp May 17. "Gorsemore."—Left Liverpool for Braila May 18. "Heathmore."—Liverpool/Piræus. Passed Gibraltar May 13. "Incemore."—At Galatz May 10. "Jessmore."—At Galatz May 11. "Kenmore."—At Salonica May 16. "Larchmore."—At Galatz April 17.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—New York / Naples. Left Gibraltar May 14. "Castalia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left Port Said May 13. "Elysia."—At Bombay May 8. "Italia."—Palermo/New York. Left Port Said May 16. "Olympia."—Left Liverpool for Bombay May 16. "Scindia."—Bombay / Liverpool. Passed Gibraltar May 17.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chantala."—Left London for Bombay May 15. "Chakrata."—Left Bombay for Antwerp May 17. "Chinkoa."—London/Bombay. Left Suez May 16. "Chupra."—At Bombay May 11. "Chyebassa."—London/Calcutta. At Colombo May 15. "Malda."—London/Calcutta. Left Suez May 17. "Manora."—Calcutta/London. Left Port Said May 18. "Mashobra."—Left Calcutta for London May 15. "Nevasa."—Left London for Calcutta May 16. "Takada."—At Calcutta May 9.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—London/Bombay. At Port Said May 19. "Arcadia."—Bombay/London. Left Plymouth May 19. "Assaye."—Shanghai/Bombay. Left Singapore May 15. "Caledonia."—Bombay/London. Left Gibraltar May 18. "Candia."—At Calcutta May 17. "Delta."—At Bombay May 12. "India."—Left Shanghai for Bombay May 19. "Macedonia."—At Bombay May 15. "Nankin."—London/Calcutta. Left Aden May 13. "Nyanza."—London/Calcutta. Left Malta May 17. "Persia"—Left Bombay for London May 16. "Salsette."—Left Aden for Bombay May 17. "Sardinia."—Calcutta/London. Left Colombo May 9. "Simla."—Calcutta/London. Passed Sandheads May 17. "Sumatra."—At Bombay March 27.

Cunard Line.

"Cypria."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean May 15. "Ivernia."—Left Gibraltar for Genoa May 18. "Pannonia."—At Trieste May 19. "Pavia."—At Patras May 19. "Phrygia."—At Constantinople May 17. "Saxonia."—At Fiume May 17. "Thracia."—Left Lisbon May 14. "Tyria."—A Manchester May 19. "Ultonia."—Gibraltar/New York. Left Lisbon May 15. "Veria."—At Catania May 16.

Ellerman Lines.

"Alexandria."—At Liverpool April 23. "Asturian."—Left Eastham for Levant May 14. "Austrian."—Left Alexandria for Odessa May 14 "Avon."—Swansea/Mediterranean. Left Gibraltar May 12. "Bavarian."—At Poti May 10. "Castilian."—At Alexandria April 7. "City of Cambridge."—At Alexandria May 14. "City of Oxford."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Gibraltar May 12. "Lisbon."—Liverpool/Malta. Left Algiers May 16. "Malatian."—At Constantinople May 6. "Maronian."—Left Patras for Palermo May 15. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Perim."—At Lisbon May 16. "Persian."—Left Alexandria for Smyrna April 24.

ROUMANIAN OIL NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest May 7.

Oil Prices.

The agreement arrived at between the Government and the petroleum companies as regards the price of oil for burning purposes, which I reported last week, is not received with satisfaction by the factory and mill owners, who intend to present a petition to the Ministry of Finance praying for the following facilities in order to combat the high prices reigning for petroleum burning material :—1. Permission to import coal free of duty and communal taxes. 2. Equal rates of transport on the railway for coal and petroleum. 3. Methylated petroleum to be permitted to be put to the same uses as benzine.

State Petroleum Territories.

The Ministry of Commerce denies that there is any truth in the report with regard to a probable exploitation of the State petroleum territories by the formation of a National Petroleum Society. A local paper, in referring to the *communiqué*, states that it is nevertheless a fact that subscription lists lie at the Bank of Roumania, Limited, and that the present Liberal party is taking this course in order to raise substantial sums for the purpose of making a profit from the exploitation of the State petroleum lands, and that the promoters of the new society have specially chosen a non-national bank in order that it shall not appear that the Liberal party is pulling the wires behind the scenes. The journal in question, stating that its information is undeniable, declares that large sums for the new undertaking have already been subscribed.

Petroleum Refinery.

It is announced here that a new company has been formed in London during the last few days, with a capital of over a million pounds, for the construction and working of a petroleum refinery either at Ploesti or Czernavoda.

NEW ROUMANIAN TUNNEL.

The Engineer states that a tunnel under the Danube is under consideration by the Roumanian Government to form a connection with its newly acquired territory. A bridge was first considered, but as no protected site was to be found military precautions forced the abandonment of the project. The proposed tunnel will have heavily fortified terminals.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Tuesday, June 2.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is May 25.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., May 26.	Wed., May 27.	Thurs., May 28
Tues., June 9.	Wed., June 10.	Thurs., June 11

LONDON, May 21.

At the beginning of the week the tone improved considerably, but as the public refused to come in, prices soon sagged away, and business was reduced to a minimum. Even in the American market the bears have now obtained the upper hand, and as the Continent is depressed it seems hopeless to look for any rise in quotations. Money is hard, but it is believed that the Bank of England will now obtain its fair share of the gold offering, and this should relieve the situation. No rise in the Bank rate is expected, but we are unlikely to get a reduction.

Egyptian Unified in Request.

In the Foreign market the main feature has been the heavy fall in Peru prefs. Russians have been a shade harder, and Japanese have also been bought, probably on account of the Japanese Government. Bulgarians remain at 85. The business in Egyptian Unified still remains brisk, and there have been some good dealings round 99, whilst both the 3 per cent. and the inscribed stock have also been purchased. Greek Fours are harder at 52. Hungarian Rentes are 82½. Turkish Unified remain at 82. The position in Paris is not good, and further troubles may be expected from this quarter.

Home and Foreign Rails.

The Home Railway market has been very depressed on labour troubles. The bull account in the deferred stocks has made these securities weak, and the chance of a strike on the London General Omnibus Co. has also affected Underground Electrics. The American market opened the week in fine fashion. We were promised a 4 per cent. rise in railway rates, magnificent crop estimates were cabled over, and the bears became scared. Steels were very good, and Unions and Canadas were also marked up. It was said that the Mexican position was as good as settled. The little boom did not last long. The bad news about the crops may be disregarded. Although no rise is likely, a fall seems equally improbable.

Rubber and Oil.

In the Rubber market, the Merliman report was excellent. But sheet and crepe have fallen, and holders of shares are therefore getting out. The tone has been depressed. Oil shares keep firm, the only exception being Egyptians. Anglo-Egyptian B are now quoted under 1, Oil Trust A are only 3½, Red Seas 1 1-16, and all the other Egyptian Oil ventures have had a dull week. It is a pity that the Shell people do not let us have some further information with regard to well No. 13. Shells are hard at 5½, but nearly all Russians are weak, mainly on selling from St. Petersburg.

Mines Depressed.

Mining shares generally have followed the example given by the rest of the Stock Exchange, and have been continuously depressed. There has been a little buying of Broken Hill, and the group that are running the Kirkland Lake propositions have screwed up prices.

London Buying Egyptians.

The Egyptian market has been in a curious position all the week. On the one hand, we have had steady liquidation from Paris with some small selling from Alexandria, and, on the other hand, London has been picking up stock in small lots. Considering the general liquidation, the market has held its own quite well. Everything is in favour of Egypt, and if Paris could only get over her difficulties we might see quite a small boom arise. National Banks have been dealt in as high as 14¾, and as low as under 14½. Agricultural Banks have been weak. Evidently some account has been liquidated. They are now round 4¾. Land Banks, in which the principal market is Paris, have been sold at 6½, and the deferred are quoted 40, at which price they look very cheap. Delta Light Railway pref. are 8½, and Delta Lands are 38s. 6d. There has been a fair amount of business in Beheras, some hundreds of shares having changed hands at 9⅛. Union Foncière remain at 1¼. Alexandria Water are steady at 12⅝. Aboukir Land are weak at 21s. 6d., but there has been some buying of United, and business has been done at 1s. 9d. Sidi Salem are nominally 5s. Trusts remain at 5s. 3d. There is a demand for Salts, which look cheap at 14s. 9d. New Egyptians are kept hard at 10s. 3d. There are always buying orders in the market at this price. Markets are nominally 23s. 6d. Khedivial Mail prefs. are still 3⅜, and the ordinary 10s. There has been a little business in Daira Sanieh at 3s. It would not take much to put prices better in the Egyptian division of the Stock Exchange. On the whole, in a week of depression there has been considerable improvement in business done, if not in the quotations.

Miscellaneous.

The Miscellaneous market remains idle, but Van den Berghs have been bid for, as a good report is expected. It seems quite safe to sell Iron and Steel and Shipping shares to-day.

NATIONAL BANK OF SERVIA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, May 10.

A Commission having been appointed by the Government to draft a new law regulating the status of the National Bank of Servia, I am able to give you the following exclusive information concerning the Bill which is shortly to be laid before the Skuptshina, and which is practically certain to become law.

The essential features of the new law, which, it is hoped, will be effective by July, concern the issue of bank notes, for which the National Bank has the monopoly. According to the law of 1909 the bank was empowered to issue notes up to five times its capital of ten million francs, plus fifteen million francs, representing the value of discounted Treasury bills, or a total of 65 million francs. These notes were of two kinds, some payable in gold, and others in silver. It is now proposed to alter these conditions by enabling the bank to issue notes up to 2½ times its cash in hand and at banks, and to issue even beyond this limit by paying the Government ½ per cent. tax over and above the limit.

According to the bank's statement on April 21 (O.S.) there was cash in hand and at banks: 73,501,581 frs. in gold, 6,898,581 frs. in silver, 4,257,952 frs. in gold abroad; 84,657,972 frs., so that when the Bill becomes law the bank will now be able to issue, without Government surtax, up to about 200,000,000 frs. Further, there will in future be only one kind of bank note, payable in either gold or silver, according to the bank's discretion.

A stipulation in connection with the above privileges is that the bank has to open branch offices in all important towns throughout Old and New Servia. This is vital to the economic interests of the country and should have been done years ago. Branches have already been opened in Uskub and Monastir, and are to be followed in a month's time by others in Old Servia, and later in the new territories.

The reforms thus proposed will give the National Bank of Servia a new significance as a bonâ-fide State bank, not only able, but practically obliged to help to regenerate the country and open up new fields of activity.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, May 15.

The Share Market.

The market has been quite calm and prices have remained stationary. We may, however, note a revival in the Société du Behera and New Egyptian shares, and the bonds of the Credit Foncier Egyptien. The New Egyptian is one of the most prosperous land companies in the country, and it is announced that the board will declare a dividend of ninepence. As to the Behera Company, a group of financiers is interested in its securities, which may rise yet higher, the intrinsic value of the shares being at least £12. The rise in the bonds of the Credit Foncier Egyptien is due to the constant demand on the part of the Egyptian small capitalist, who is attracted by the chances of the drawings.

Comptoir Financier et Commercial v. Banque de Salonique.

The Mixed Court of Appeal of Alexandria has condemned the Banque de Salonique to pay to the Comptoir the balance of the price of issue of the shares of the Comptoir underwritten by it on behalf of its clients. The amount, of which the recovery is thus assured to the Comptoir, is approximately £E10,000, for other banks here will come to an amicable arrangement with the Comptoir for the sums underwritten by them for their clients in regard to the Comptoir's shares.

Eastern Telegraph Company.

This company has just bought the house belonging to Mr. Smith at Moharem Bey, at the price of £9,000, for the purposes of accommodating its staff. The house and grounds occupy 10,000 square pics.

Egyptian State Railways.

A sum of £E232,000 has been set aside for the construction of the Zifta-Zagazig and Menufia lines; and a sum of £E175,000 for the reconstruction of bridges.

Banque d'Orient.

Owing to various items having been written off and the increase of stamp duties, the net profits for 1913 fell to 1,244,467 francs, as compared with 1,422,199 francs in 1912. The dividend remains unchanged, at 5 francs per share. The Balkan wars interfered with the Bank's operations, but this fact notwithstanding the various heads of the balance-sheet show progress. Thus deposits have risen from 47,556,782 francs in 1912 to 58,016,758 francs in 1913. Discounts rose from 4,915,045 francs to 8,761,997 francs; advances on securities from 18,284,278 francs to 19,802,542; and advances on goods from 9,402,977 francs to 15,823,752 francs. Amortisations amount to 1,012,295 francs, which sum includes the exceptional loss sustained at Serres, where the Bank's agency was burned. Now, with peace re-established, the Bank expects to develop its business in the Orient.

THE MANSOUR ADES FAILURE.

The Egyptian Mail, of the 14th inst., states that Mr. Bonham Carter and M. Anis Doss, the syndics in this failure, have sent to the *juge-commis*, Judge Halton, for approval by the creditors the proposal for the sale to Mr. Frances of the building where the new premises of the company are being located. The case was postponed for a fortnight for the approval of the creditors to be received.

FINANCIAL ITEMS.

By Royal decree the moratorium has been prolonged until the end of August in the new territories of Greece, and till the end of the year in Old Greece.

Mr. F. N. Walton has been appointed manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Cairo, in succession to Mr. S. R. Cookson, who has retired. Mr. W. B. Delany, the chief accountant, becomes sub-manager.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that the rumour as to a new Roumanian loan to be placed with French capitalists is officially denied.

A new British company is being formed to secure gas from various oilfields in Roumania and pipe it to Ploeshti for power and heating purposes. In the latter respect the domestic consumer will be provided for.

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NEW COMPANIES

Kazan Carpet Co., Ltd.

A "private" company with the above title was registered on May 14, by Herbert Smith, Goss, King and Gregory, 62, London Wall, E.C., with a capital of £125,000 in £1 shares. The objects are said to be to carry on the business of buyers, exporters, and importers of and dealers in Turkish, Persian, and other carpets, rugs, mats, linoleum, oilcloths, matting and floor coverings of every description, bleachers and dyers of goods and materials, etc. The first directors (to number not less than three nor more than seven) are to be appointed by the signatories, and the remuneration to be fixed by the company. The registered office is at 155, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.

The Cotton Export Co.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* contains a Khedivial decree ratifying the formation of a company, with the above title, which has been formed in Egypt by Messrs. Wilhelm Anninger, Otto Anninger, Gustav Arens, and Max Perlmann (all of the firm of Messrs. Wm. Abeles, of Vienna, and represented in Egypt by Maitre Alfred Guidotti), Messrs. Ernest Seeger, Fritz Seeger, and Richard Seeger, the last-named representing Messrs. Ernest and Fritz Seeger. The company is established for a period of eighteen years dating from the Khedivial decree, and has a capital of £E25,000, divided into 250 ordinary shares of £E100 each. These have been subscribed as follows:—Messrs. Wilhelm Anninger, Otto Anninger, Gustav Arens, Ernest Seeger, and Fritz Seeger, 40 shares each; Mr. Max Perlmann, 30 shares; and Mr. Richard Seeger, 20 shares. A quarter of the capital has already been subscribed, £E6,250 having been paid into the Alexandria branch of the Deutsche Orientbank. The object of the company is to conduct a general business in Egyptian cotton at Alexandria and other places in and out of Egypt, and especially to continue the business of Messrs. Seeger Brothers and Co., without, however, assuming either their assets or liabilities.

Johnston Line, Ltd.

A "private" company with the above title was registered on May 5, with a capital of £800,000 in £10 shares (40,000 preference and 40,000 ordinary). The object of the company is to enter into an agreement between the Johnston Steamship Co., Limited, of the first part, Wm. Johnston and Co., Limited, of the second part, and the company of the third part, and to carry on the business of builders, owners, repairers, loaders, letters to hire and charterers of ships, barges, tugs, and vessels, or holders of shares or interests therein, shipbrokers, managers of shipping and other property, freight contractors, etc. The signatories are:—Wm. Johnston, 18, Water Street, Liverpool; Sir Stephen W. Furness, Furness House, Billiter Street, E.C. (one share each). Wm. Johnston and Co., Limited, are the first managers. The first directors are Wm. Johnston, Edmund Johnston, Hy. G. Johnston, and Wm. S. Johnston, all of 18, Water Street, Liverpool, and Sir Stephen W. Furness, Frederick W. Lewis, Robert E. Burnett, and Walter H. Furness, all of Furness House, Billiter Street, E.C. Secretary, John Milroy. The registered office is at 18, Water Street, Liverpool.

Excelsior Romana Oil Co., Ltd.

A company with the above title was registered on May 13 by G. C. Bingham, 54, New Broad Street, E.C., with a capital of £15,000 in 2s. shares. The objects are: To acquire mines, mining rights, concessions, lands, forests, and other property and rights in Roumania and elsewhere, and to carry on the business of distillers and refiners of and dealers in oils and products thereof. Minimum cash subscription, 10,000 shares. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than six) are to be appointed by the subscribers. The registered office is at 6, Broad Street Place, E.C.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Paid up, £400,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £600,000.

Branches:

BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	**£600,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND	**65,000**

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up)	**Frs. 45,500,000**
RESERVE FUNDS	**„ 14,500,000**

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

COTTON BAGS.
W. H. Feltham & Sons, Imperial Works, London and Manchester.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.
Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

ENGINE and PUMP PACKING and PISTONS (S.E.A. RINGS).
Ronald Trist & Co. Ltd., 4, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C.

FEED WATER REGULATORS, PRESSURE GOVERNORS and CONTROL DEVICES.
Ronald Trist & Co., Ltd., 4, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C.

SHIPS, YACHTS, MOTOR BOATS.
James A. Smith, M.I.N.A., Naval Architect and Surveyor, 47, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

SPINNING MACHINERY.
Geo. Thomas & Co., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes. Tachometers, Balances, etc.

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Company Notes and Reports.

Danube Steamship.

The report of the Danube Steamship Company for 1913 states that the Danube traffic was still suffering during last year from the effect of the crisis resulting from the Balkan War. The prohibition of exports, the long cessation of railway traffic in Servia, Bulgaria and Roumania, and particularly the long stoppage of Danube traffic owing to the passing of the Roumanian army across the river, together with the measures which it was necessary to adopt in connection with the outbreak of cholera, led to a serious shrinkage of the company's revenue. The opening of shipping traffic on the river was relatively late owing to the long winter, but the conditions were favourable. Shipments of general cargo were very small until the autumn owing to the Balkan disturbances, but afterwards the exports from Germany and Austria-Hungary to the Balkan countries showed a considerable development. Passenger traffic both on the Upper and Central Danube was numerous, but in Hungary and in the Balkan countries it was badly affected by military events as well as by the sanitary measures which were adopted in connection with the outbreak of cholera. The decline in the total revenue from the shipping services amounted to 6.24 per cent., and the increase in the total expenditure was 1.63 per cent. The results of the Mohacs-Funfkirchen Railway, which belong to the Danube Company, were, it is stated, less favourable than those of last year. The net profit of the Funfkirchen Coal Mines was 1,267,892 kronen, as compared with 1,340,075 kronen in the previous year, the production of 1913 being 7,013,502 metric cwts., as compared with 7,114,253 metric cwts. The accounts show that, including 1,372,895 kronen brought forward, the net profit amounted to 4,154,907 kronen, a decline of 846,319 kronen. A dividend of 50 kronen per share is declared. At the forthcoming annual meeting the shareholders will be asked to increase the capital by 12,600.000 kronen, thus bringing it up to 63,000,000 kronen.

Bibi Eibat Oil.

The report states that the gross income for the period under review amounted to £40,916, of which £26,315 represents profits remitted by the Russian Company, and £14,600, the return upon investments, temporary loans, etc. Office and administration charges amounted to £4,139, and the gross profit to £36,776. After providing £3,625 for debenture interest and redemption and £386 for other charges, there remains to be dealt with a net profit of £32,764. The directors propose to write off £11,218, being the whole of the preliminary expenses of the company (including £10,000 underwriting commission), and recommend the payment of a dividend of 9d. per share, or 7½ per cent. (equal to £17,813), leaving a balance of £3,733 to be carried forward. Meeting 26th inst.

Premier Oil and Pipe Line.

At a meeting of the board held recently in Berlin, matters relating to a possible readjustment of the capital of the company were discussed and adjourned for further consideration.

Land Bank of Egypt.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders took place on the 17th inst. under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Abdy, and 54,704 shares were represented. In his speech the chairman touched upon Egyptian affairs and the general business situation, and referred to the new French law on foreign values, which will increase the taxes payable by the company by £2,700. The meeting voted the payment of 8s. per share. An interim dividend of 4s. having already been paid, 4s. remain to be paid. An extraordinary meeting was called to modify the statutes, but failing a quorum the meeting could not take place, and was postponed.

Sidi Salem Co. of Egypt.

An extraordinary general meeting was held at the offices of the Sidi Salem Company of Egypt on the 11th inst., Mr. Abdy in the chair. Thirty-two thousand shares were represented. No quorum having been obtainable, a second meeting will take place on the 30th inst.

Anglo-General Exploration.

In his speech at the first general meeting, held May 18, at 6, Queen Street Place, the chairman, Mr. V. Herbert Smith, referred to the Attallah mine, in Upper Egypt, in which the company holds 2,000 shares. All the information they had regarding that mine is favourable, and they were informed that it is hoped milling operations will commence during the coming month. Another company in which they had taken an interest is the Anatolia-Serdjiller Syndicate, Limited. They were particularly interested in this business, the syndicate having been formed to explore a very ancient goldfield in Asia Minor, from which, according to history, large quantities of gold were taken in the past. The property has been examined by one of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons' engineers, and the auriferous formation, which can be traced for a distance of over 4,000 ft. within the concession, may quite conceivably prove to be of immense value.

Land and Mortgage of Egypt.

The report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, to be presented at the meeting on the 29th instant, covers the year ended March 31, 1914, and states that the directors have every hope of being able to recommend, for the tenth year in succession, a dividend of 10 per cent., otherwise they would not have paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. last November. Had credit been taken for the total amount of the year's earnings this hope could have been fulfilled. But as, unfortunately, owing to threatened scarcity of water, rice growing has been prohibited this season throughout Egypt, the directors deem it more in consonance with prudence and sound finance to make additional provision from the profits of the year for certain sums amounting to £1,874—representing interest due by farmer clients whose rice crops failed last season and who will not be able this year to recoup their loss by rice growing. Under the circumstances, therefore, the directors consider that they are acting in the best interests of the shareholders in not recommending a dividend of more than 9 per cent. for the year. The gross earnings for the year, after deduction of the above-mentioned sum of £1,874, which is held in abeyance, amount to £38,519. Deducting total expenditure, including interest on debenture bonds and debenture stock, £26,107, the net earnings for the year are £12,412. To this must be added balance brought forward, £1,382, and back interest accrued to March 31, 1913, £792, making together £14.587. The directors recommend that a dividend of 4 per cent. for the past six months be declared, making 9 per cent. for the year, leaving a sum of £1,087 to be carried forward.

Windsor Hotels (Egypt).

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders is to be held on the 27th inst. for the purpose of passing an extraordinary resolution accepting the resignation of Mr. S. C. Wyatt and appointing Mr. F. H. Russell and Mr. J. H. Swainson, joint liquidators, in place of Messrs. Russell, Harris, Wyatt and Gardiner. This meeting is to be followed immediately by the ordinary general meeting, to receive the liquidators' reports and statement of accounts for the year ended September 8, 1913.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

There is little room to doubt (says *The Financial Times*) that the British Government has given a guarantee running into a very large sum to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in return for a first call on the part of the Admiralty over this company's production. It is rumoured that the sum involved runs up to £2,000,000, and this figure is probably correct, although it lacks official confirmation. The point is, however, that Mr. Winston Churchill, having matured his scheme for creating reserve supplies of oil in this country sufficient to meet all probable contingencies, is now devoting his attention to foreign centres where the British Fleet is in the habit of congregating. The intention is, apparently, to obtain supplies of crude oil up to an almost unlimited extent and to proceed with the necessary refining arrangements, after which the spirit will be stored at such points as will be most serviceable in times of emergency. So far as concerns the shareholders of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, they may congratulate themselves that their undertaking has been singled out first of all by the British Admiralty for attention in this connection. The company has from the outset enjoyed very friendly relations with the Imperial authorities, and these will no doubt be rendered still more intimate. The last accounts of this undertaking were made up to March 31, 1913, and it was stated in the report for that period that "owing to the refinery being incomplete no profit and loss account is submitted." Great progress has since been made towards the rectification of this state of affairs.

BULGARIAN FINANCE.

According to *The Times*, the following statement has been issued in Sofia:—

The financial situation of the Treasury continues very satisfactory, and, although the General Liquidation Loan intended to consolidate the floating debt arising from the Balkan War has not yet been realised, public payments are being effected punctually, both at home and abroad. A good portion of the Treasury bonds in circulation was paid off on the dates when they became due, and for the account of the next half-year the administration of the public debt has already remitted in advance out of the ordinary revenue of the current Budget the funds assigned to meet the following half-year payments due on consolidated State loans and loans guaranteed by the State:—

2,902,398 francs, the whole of the amount due in September, 1914, on the loan of 1902; 720,671 francs, due in November, 1914, on the 1904 loan; 2,463,500 francs, due in August next on the 1907 loan; 2,516,900 francs, the whole of the amount due next month on the 1909 loan; 1,170,662 francs, for the half-yearly payments due on May 14, 1914, on the five per cent. loans of the Cities of Sofia and Varna of the years 1906 and 1907, being a total of 9,774,131 francs.

Provision for all these payments is made entirely out of the ordinary revenues of the Treasury, which show a marked increase as a result of redoubled trade activity. The proceeds of the taxes at the end of the third month of the current financial year amount to 46,641,915 francs, as compared with 34,868,718 francs and 28,094,430 francs collected during the corresponding quarters of the normal years 1912 and 1911.

GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.

Messieurs les Actionnaires sont convoqués en Assemblée Générale Ordinaire pour le Samedi 30 Mai 1914, à 11 heures du matin, au Siège Social, au Caire, Rue Gameh Charkass, No. 7.

Ordre du Jour.

1. Rapport du Conseil d'Administration sur l'Exercice écoulé.
2. Approbation du Bilan au 28 Février 1914.
3. Renouvellement partiel du Conseil d'administration.
4. Nomination des Commissaires pour l'Exercice 1914 19 5.
5. Communication relative à une vente de 2165 feddans avec échange.

Les dépôts d'actions donnant droit à assister ou à se faire représenter à cette Assemblée devront être effectués jusqu'au 15 Mai 1914 au plus tard, soit au Siège Social, au Caire, soit dans une des Banques ci-après désignées:

Banque de Reppert, de Fondes Publics et de dépôts, à Anvers.—Caisse des Propriétaires, à Bruxelles.—Josse Allard, à Bruxelles.—Banque de Gand, à Gand.—Banque Centrale Gantoise, à Gand.—Crédit Lyonnais, à Lille.—Banque-Hollando-Américaine, 11, Rue Pillet Will, Paris.—Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., au Caire.—Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, au Caire.—Banco di Roma, au Caire.

Et dans les principales Banques du Caire et l'Alexandrie.

Le Conseil d'Administration.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN TREASURY BILLS, dated 16th November, 1912, due 16th April, 1913.
IMPERIAL OTTOMAN TREASURY BILLS, dated 16th November, 1913, due 16th May, 1914.
BONS DU TRESOR OTTOMAN.

Les porteurs de Bons du Trésor Ottoman du 16 Avril et du 16 Novembre 1913 sont informés que ces Bons seront remboursés intégralement par la Banque Impériale Ottomane pour le compte du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman à la date du 18 Mai 1914, et que les intérêts cesseront de courir à partir de cette date.

En conséquence les porteurs des Bons du Trésor ci-dessus auront à les présenter à partir du 18 Mai 1914, à l'Agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane à Paris, 7 Rue Meyerbeer, pour les Bons payables à Paris et à l'Agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane à Londres, 26 Throgmorton Street, pour les Bons payable à Londres, pour recevoir l'intégralité du montant de ces Bons en capital et en intérêts.

(Signé) KIAZIM.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT TREASURY BILLS.
(ISSUE 1/14 MARCH, 1912.)

The outstanding capital of these Bills and accrued Interest will be PAID at the National Bank of Turkey, 50, Cornhill, E.C., on the 18th instant, from which date interest will cease.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,500,000.**
Paid up Capital - -	**500,000.**
Reserve - - - - -	**660,000.**

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING, HON. ALGERNON MILLS, SIR CARL MEYER, Bart., HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Co., Limited, was held at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, E.C., on the 19th inst., Mr. Herbert Allen (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. M. O'B. Horsford, F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen:—This is supposed to be a time-saving age, and the telephone of all things—except perhaps in this country under Post Office auspices—is one of the greatest time-savers of all. Therefore, it is only appropriate that a telephone company's meeting should be selected for an innovation such as I have prepared you for, with the object of saving your time to-day, and that is, that the Chairman's opening address—of which you have all received in advance a copy—should be taken as read. I am not aware of any precedent for this course, but I see no objection to it, and if it is agreeable to you we will take the speech as read. (Hear, hear.) The address was as follows:—The report now before you contains one or two features of such exceptional interest that I will make only brief allusion to the operations of the past year. We once more break all previous records in the gross income, which amounted to £67,893, an increase of £4,974 on the previous year. Expenses are proportionately rather heavier, mainly in consequence of our having to take on a large number of new employees in preparation for the opening of our new Lisbon Exchange, and to a lesser degree owing to an all-round increase of salaries and wages. I am happy to say we have of late been practically free from labour troubles, and a better spirit seems now to prevail among the workng classes in Lisbon and Oporto than for some years past. Let us hope for their sakes it will last. I might here mention that the general situation in Portugal at the present moment is more satisfactory than during any time last year, when we were constantly having political unrest, movements for the restoration of the Monarchy, and agitations of one sort and another. Our profits, at £26,535, show an increase for the year of £1,010. The number of subscribers increased during the year by 790, after allowing for withdrawals, and is now 7,810. The total number of calls was 22,056,074, against 17,993,503 in the previous year, and the average public cost per message about ¾d., being less even than in the previous year. The Portuguese public could have no better evidence than this of the splendid service they get from this company and the splendid value they get for their money.

For the benefit of such of you as are of a statistical turn of mine I may mention that it is now twenty-seven years since this company started business, with a gross income of £4,934 and a profit of £1,695, derived from 1,423 subscribers. Besides this I have prepared a little table which will show you how our operations of the past year compare with those of ten and twenty years ago:—

	Gross income. £	Net profit. £	No. of subscribers.	No. of calls.	Average cost per message.
1893....	15,048	4,572	2,271	1,360,771	.90d.
1903....	24,232	7,075	2,556	2,471,978	.85d.
1913....	67,894	27,369	7,810	22,056,074	.73d.

Our business, as you know, extends throughout Lisbon and Oporto—covering a radius of thirty kilometres in the former case and twenty kilometres in the latter—and we serve a population of about 750,000 people. In both cities we experience from year to year an almost continually uninterrupted expansion of business. Our concession runs until 1937, and contains satisfactory provisions for compensating us in the event of the undertaking ever being taken over by the Portuguese nation. Our relations with the national and local authorities are quite satisfactory, and on the occasions of Mr. Kerr's frequent visits to Portugal—they average, I think, about three per annum—he finds the Ministers most courteous and obliging, and ever ready to give the company every possible assistance. From the profit and loss account you will see that after paying royalties to the Government amounting to £1,977, £3,834 for debenture interest and redemption, and £940 for income-tax, and bringing forward £5,609 from the previous year, we have at our disposal a sum of £27,369. It follows, therefore, that with an encroachment of only £631 on our reserve fund or other resources we could pay the dividend and bonus of 28 per cent. which we recommend in our reoprt. This, however, is not the course we propose to adopt. During the past year an independent valuation has been made by Messrs. Gill and Cook, our consulting engineers, of all the company's property, with the result that the reserves which we have built up are found to be considerably in excess of the depreciation which it was designed to meet. The board, therefore, feel that there is no need on this occasion to make the usual contribution to the reserve, but, on the contrary, that they are justified in returning a little of it to the shareholders. They, therefore, with your approval, propose to take a sum of £7,500 from the reserve, add it to the disposable profit balance of £27,369, pay a dividend and bonus of 28 per cent., amounting to £23,000—of which you have already received 4 per cent., or £4,000, by way of interim dividend—and carry forward a sum of £6,869.

It might be as well perhaps if I were to say a little more on the subject of the reserve. This fund has, as you know, been built up out of undivided profits during the last seven years or so. It is not, in the strictest sense of the word, a reserve fund at all, inasmuch as it is not invested outside the company's business or existent in any tangible shape. It largely represents revenue moneys spent on capital account, and to that extent is a set-off against any depreciation which may have been taking place on the capital work of earlier years. The reserve fund is primarily a reserve against depreciation. I do not say we should not be justified in dipping into it—pretty freely, if need be—for general purposes, but primarily it is a depreciation fund. The practice with many telephone companies is to utilise the surplus, after payment of dividends, in writing down capital expenditure by a sum which they consider equal to the depreciation of the year, and placing a small balance to reserve for general purposes. In our case we generally leave the capital expenditure untouched and build up a nominal reserve fund which at any moment may be applied, either wholly or in part, in writing down capital expenditure to its depreciated value. It is not unlikely that in future we may adopt the more general practice, and, instead of building up a so-called reserve which is merely a book entry and liable to mislead the unthinking, create a small reserve for contingencies and write off depreciation year by year. It is probably all the same in the long run, but at times the appearance of a large nominal reserve gives the balance-sheet a somewhat misleading appearance. On one occasion a few years ago we did write down the capital expenditure by a transfer of £20,000 from the reserve, and possibly we may do something of the kind again next year. At the present moment the fund is £62,500; we are now, as our report tells you, appropriating £7,500 toward the 20 per cent. bonus, and a year hence we shall have the balance of £55,000 to deal with, besides the surplus profits of the year. In the meantime I may tell you that the valuation made during the past year by Messrs. Gill and Cook satisfies the board that the reserve fund is well in excess of the actual depreciation in the physical assets as a whole.

We now come to another interesting subject mentioned in the report, and that is the proposed issue of 50,000 new shares. If you will glance at the balance-sheet for a moment you will see that the capital expenditure in 1913 amounted to £25,493, and was higher than in any previous year. That, of course, is accounted for by the heavy expenditure in connection with our new exchange in the north of Lisbon, which it is reasonable to expect will enable us to cope with our constantly expanding business for some years to come. Not that we are at all averse to continual capital expenditure so long as it brings us a reasonable return. In the last eight years we have spent on capital account altogether about £105,000, although in the same period we have incurred no fresh capital liability, either on share or debenture account; on the contrary, we have simultaneously reduced our debenture debt by over £10,000. You may ask where we have obtained the money. Well, the greater part, of course, is represented by surplus profits which have been put back into the business; next, there is our increased indebtedness to manufacturers and others; and the balance has been met by temporary loans. I need scarcely say that we none of us care for temporary loans, which have a bad habit of falling due at inconvenient moments, and we cannot go on indefinitely building up liabilities to manufacturers and others; the directors, therefore, feel that the time has come for making a further issue of shares, and this we propose to do forthwith, as stated in the report. The issue will consist of 50,000 shares, which will be made at par and offered in the first instance to the existing members of the company. We have not thought it necessary to incur the expense of underwriting the issue, as it is tolerably certain that the majority of the shareholders will take up their quota, but such shares as may be left over will be taken up or placed by the directors under the discretionary powers with which they are invested. When this issue has been made our subscribed capital will be £150,000, and whether measured by the magnitude of our business or by comparison with that of other similar companies, I do not fear that it can be regarded as excessive. Our plant is all well up-to-date and in good condition, and most of our wires are now underground.

I have been asked whether we are likely to be able to maintain the present rate of dividend on the enlarged capital, and I see no reason for misgiving on this score, or why the new capital should be less remunerative than the old. It is true our new exchange in Lisbon—with its capacity for 6,000 subscribers—is not yet finished, and in that respect the business of the current year may not get much help, but in other directions our business is continually expanding. Possibly our next interim dividend may be only 3 or 3½ per cent., but it need not necessarily follow from that that for the present year as a whole we shall pay less than 7½ or 8 per cent., and once our new exchange is in full swing the 8 per cent. dividend which we have almost come to regard as a settled thing should be tolerably safe.

At the close of his introductory remarks the Chairman moved: "That the directors' report and accounts to December 31, 1913, be received and adopted."

Mr. Charles Woolley seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

On the proposition of the chairman, seconded by Mr. J. E. Kingsbury, it was resolved: "That a final dividend of 4 per cent. and an extra dividend or bonus of 20 per cent. making a total distribution of 28 per cent. on the subscribed capital of the company for the year ended December 31, 1913, be paid to the members of the company on the register on May 10, 1914, and that a sum of £7,500 be appropriated from the reserve fund and applied towards the payment of the aforesaid dividend."

After some formal business had been transacted, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the other directors, and to the staff.

(*For Company Results, see page 96.*)

BANKING IN TURKEY.

Referring to the movement for the constitution of native banks in Turkey, *The Financier* states:—All the new native banks have a scarcity of capital. The rich Turks have no confidence in these Turkish banks, but prefer to invest their money in European institutions, and they also purchase few Turkish securities as these do not appear to them to be safe. For these reasons an internal loan in Turkey is impossible, except when the papers are pressed upon the Turks with force, as in the case of the Navy Committee with Treasury Bills. No native savings banks also are possible as the Turks would not entrust their money to them. Apart from the small Mohammedan banks, a Belgian mortgage bank—the Banque Hypothécaire Ottomane—is in course of formation, with a provisional capital of 2,000,000 frs., of which one-fifth is to be paid. The bank proposes to advance money on land and buildings up to the amount of one-half of the actual value, and to carry on other banking operations. At present a large amount of building work is being undertaken in Constantinople, and site values differ but little from those prevailing in large European cities.

ATTEMPTED BULLION ROBBERY.

According to a telegram from Brindisi, published in *The Tribuna*, a daring bullion robbery was attempted there on the arrival of the "Helouan." The steamer had landed 100 packages containing a sum of £1,500,000, consigned from Alexandria to London, and these had been removed to the Customs House. The robbers actually succeeded in entering the building, but their presence was discovered, with the result that one of them was arrested. The others escaped.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OIL.—Weekly output is reported as 1,843 tons.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM. — Weekly output is reported as 345 tons.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.—Telegraphic advice from Persia states that the specific gravity of the crude obtained from the large well, which has recently been shut in to 1,500 tons daily, is .838, which indicates a high quality of oil.

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.—The ordinary general meeting will be held on May 30 at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.

BANQUE ROUMAINE POUR LE COMMERCE ET L'INDUSTRIE.—The profits for 1913 amount to 166,135 frs., and a dividend of 6 per cent. is to be distributed.

BIBI EIBAT OIL.—The directors recommend a dividend of 7½ per cent., or 9d. per share, for the financial period ended March 31 last.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN.—Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. publish the numbers of bonds of the Royal Bulgarian Government 4½ per cent. Gold Loan of 1909 which have been drawn for payment, as well as the coupons due, on and after 2nd prox. in London at their counting house.

DEUTSCHE ORIENTBANK.—Net profits amount to 1,372,766 m., as compared with 1,303,742 m. in 1912. A dividend of 5 per cent. is to be paid; 267,470 m. are placed to statutory reserve, which is thus brought up to 10 per cent. of the paid-up capital; and 73,235 m. are carried forward.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended April 30 amounted to £E7,656, an increase of £E483 over the corresponding period of last year.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.—The directors of the Imperial Ottoman Bank recommend a dividend of 14s. per share, being equal to 7 per cent. per annum.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.—The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia announce an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 20 last of 4s. per share, free of income-tax.

LAND AND MORTGAGE OF EGYPT.—The directors recommend a further dividend of 4 per cent., making 9 per cent. for the year to March 31.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.—The dividend proposed is at the rate of 12.50 francs per preference share; and on ordinary shares, on which no dividend has been paid since 1907, a dividend of 6 francs will be paid.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended May 16 amounted to £7,637, an increase of £1,989 over the corresponding period of last year. Aggregate receipts from January 1 amount to £145,211, an increase of £34,156.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—A cablegram from Ploesti, dated 18th inst., states:—"Moreni, Well No. 30, have completed precautionary measures required by mining authorities; expect to restart well to-morrow. Well No. 15 has struck oil at depth of 1,328 ft.; now testing." Weekly output, 1,005 tons.

SMYRNA BANK.—At a meeting of shareholders it was resolved that the company be wound up. Mr. W. Mackenzie, 28, Djoya Han, Smyrna, the representative there of Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co., was appointed liquidator. A meeting of creditors will be held at the firm's offices in Smyrna on May 25, at 3.30 p.m.

TRAMWAYS DE SOFIA.—The receipts for April amounted to 103,246 levas, as compared with 57,000 levas for the corresponding month of 1913. Total receipts since beginning of the year amount to 331,830 levas, as compared with 165,735 for the corresponding period of 1913.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. May 12.	Latest prices. May 20.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	101½	102
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	—	84
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	—	97
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99½	99
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	86
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881	56½	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	56½	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	51	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	43½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	57
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	79	79
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	73½	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	87	87½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	92½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	91½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	96	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	86½	86
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	82	82
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70½	71
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	72
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅞
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	80
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	15
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6½
National Bank of Egypt	14⅜	14½
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8½
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	19	19
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	90
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	88
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	22/6	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2 7/16
Do. Do. Def.	—	¼
Béhéra Co.	9	9⅜
Do. Pref.	—	4⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	—	⅜
Daira Sanieh	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	8/9	8/9
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/1⅛
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜
" " Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	96
New Egyptian Co.	10/3	10/3
Sidi Salem Co.	—	⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	1 7/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7⅛
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	—	⅜
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1⅜
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/9	1 7/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/3	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98⅜
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	—	£197½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2⅜xd
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	23/-	23/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	6/6	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	3⅜
European Oilfields	6/3	6/3
Oilfields Finance Corporation	3/2	⅜
Red Sea Oilfields	—	1 1/16
Roumanian Consolidated	26/6	27/-
Shell Transport	5⅛	5⅛
Suez Oil	8/3	8/-

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. May 14.	Latest prices. May 21.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	634	630
Canal de Suez Shares	4990	4970
Do. do. Jouissance	2240	4270
Do. do. Founders	3555	2240
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	725	728
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	151	152
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	445⅜	446½
Do. do. do. Act.	208	204
Land Bank of Egypt	164	160
Mines Balia-Karaidin	489	487
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	331	150
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	512	514
Do. do. Ord.	43	40½
Do. do. Pref.	46½	44½
Tabacs Ottomans	465	465
Turkish Unified Con.	82.45	82.70
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	375	419

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	May 7.	May 14.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	384	385
Do. do. Priv.	370	370
Do. do. Cap.	187.50	175
Do. do. Div.	132.50	112.50
Anglo-Belgian Co.	9.50	9.75
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	114.75	114
Do. do. Div.	180.50	130
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	455	464.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	65	65.75
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	406.25	412.50
Do. Priv.	519.50	508.75
Do. Div.	120.50	125
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	356	356
Do. do. Cap.	47.50	46
Do. do. Fond.	85	83
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	62.50	62.50
Do. do. Div.	40	38.75
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1356
Do. do. Ord.	495	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	395	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv.	105	105
Do. do. Div.	95	95
Tramways du Caire Priv.	112.50	503.25
Do. do. Jouiss.	517.50	510
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	200	150
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	9.75	8.50

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.	May 8.	May 15.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.454	Fcs.454
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.453	Fcs.463
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.461	Fcs.461
Do. do. Shares	£15 2 0	£15 3 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.37½	£T.6.22½
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.412	Fcs.414
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.170	Fcs.165
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.98	Fcs.98
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.95	Fcs.95
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.35	Fcs.34.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4%	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.30.85	£T.30.45

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.	May 6.	May 13.
Agricole & Industrie. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3½	—
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12⅜	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 44	44
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 340½	342½
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 268½	270
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs. 270½	270½
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance	Fcs. 185	185
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/6	12/-
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2⅜	2⅜
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E. —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ¼	¼
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2⅞	2⅞
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 19/4½	19/4½
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8⅜	8⅜
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4⅞	4⅞
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 100½	100½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 80	80
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E. —	—

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بانق عثمانی

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

Head Office: **GALATA**
Branches **- - STAMBOUL and PERA** } **CONSTANTINOPLE.**

ALEXANDRIA. PORT SAID. CAIRO.

London: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C. Paris: 7, RUE MEYERBEER.

Manchester: 25, PALL MALL.

COUNCIL IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr. ARTHUR NIAS, Director-General. Mr. LOUIS STEEG, Director-General-Adjoint. Mr. W. A. MALTASS, Director.
M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CABTALI, } Sub-Directors.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.

Messrs. THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.
LORD HILLINGDON.
HON. HERBERT A. LAWRENCE.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, BART.

PARIS.

Messrs. CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
.HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

EUROPE.
Adrianople
Cavalla
Dedeagatch
Drama
Gumuldjina
Janina
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adalia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

SYRIA.
Aleppo
Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah

EGYPT.
Alexandria
Beni Mazar
Cairo
Mellawi
Mansourah
Minieh
Port Said

CYPRUS.
Larnaca
Famagusta
Limassol
Nicosia

SEVERAL NEW BRANCHES WILL BE OPENED SHORTLY.

The Bank undertakes every description of BANKING BUSINESS, and is always at the disposal of firms wishing to open up business with the Near East. Tariffs of Charges, etc., can be obtained on application.

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JUL 24 1914

THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 160.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Prince William of Albania has not had to wait long for the "interesting experience" which Bismarck anticipated for foreign rulers of Balkan States. To have made peace with the Epirotes on Sunday, to have deported Essad Pasha on Tuesday, and to be himself a refugee on an Italian man-of-war on Saturday must have provided a week sufficiently full of incident for the most ambitious sovereign. But it is doubtful whether Prince William is as ambitious as the records of the Albanian Court *Gazette*—if there has been time to issue one—will have represented him. From the deck of the "Misurata" he will have been able to contemplate the roofs of his capital, and may possibly have fallen to wondering whether he employed to the best advantage those early weeks of his reign when he remained shut up in his palace trying to master the mysteries of Albania by the interpretation of others, instead of seeking for knowledge at first hand. In the multitude of counsellors there is safety, when they all urge flight to a neighbouring man-of-war; but there is less opportunity, it would seem, of playing a kingly *rôle*. We hope that the Mpret has not let slip for good the time for allowing scope for his own personality in the affairs of Albania. Up to the present, it is to be feared, Prince William has done little on his own initiative. It was the International Commission of Control that struck the bargain with the Epirotes; it was a Dutch gendarmerie officer or somebody else who brought Essad Pasha to book, and it seems to have been a whole corps of agitated diplomatists who bundled the Prince and his family out of the Palace into a boat. By such methods the Albanians will never be successfully governed, and it would be well to substitute direct rule for the vicarious administration that has done duty in the past.

Although the outstanding features of Albania's busy week are known, it is difficult to find satisfactory explanations of the several incidents. The inwardness of the insurgent advance that created such a panic in Durazzo is still obscure. Essad Pasha was held to be implicated, but the insurgents destroyed some of his property, and, when they finally reached the capital, appear to have been at first quite indifferent to the late Minister of the Interior's fate. That they were Mussulmans is admitted, and to some extent they represented Moslem dissatisfaction in Albania with the alleged favouritism shown to Albanian Christians. What their advance did make abundantly clear was that neither in the gendarmerie nor in his Malissor bodyguard has the Mpret any force which he can rely upon to ensure his personal safety or the stability of his kingdom. This is a very serious matter, as it raises at once the question whether Prince William can carry on the government of Albania without armed international support. If he proposes to remain shut up in his palace at Durazzo it is certain that his waning prestige will need very efficient bolstering up by foreign troops. If, on the other hand, he will display more interest in matters outside Durazzo, and will show himself as a soldier and leader of men to the Albanians, there is little reason why he should not quickly pick up the reins of government to some purpose.

As far as the sequence of events is known, it is to be inferred that the strength of the insurgent force was considerably underestimated in the capital. The despatch of a gendarmerie force had no more effect on the advance than the arrival of a single messenger had on Jehu's furious driving. The whole company was ignominiously taken prisoners, and the Dutch officers were used to convey the terms of the insurgents to the Albanian Government, or, rather, to the Mpret in person. Prince William was by this time a refugee on an Italian man-of-war in the harbour. When it was found that the rebels were merely bent on talking with their Mpret and not on sacking Durazzo, the panic-stricken inhabitants of the town plucked up courage. The Mpret returned on shore, acceded to the demands of the insurgents, and spent the night in the Palace. The next day he is said to have ridden out to the insurgents' outposts in order to confer with their leaders. This sound step, it is to be hoped, will have satisfactory results. Reports do not flatter the insurgents, who are described as "merely a mob of undisciplined peasants, with no man of any authority among them." If this be so, the inglorious action of the gendarmerie is still more significant of the inherent weakness of the Albanian Government's position.

If Durazzo is able to return to a normal existence, there will no doubt be a flood of explanations and incriminations regarding Prince William's flight and the events leading up to it. Already the Austro-Hungarian Government has announced that its Minister at Durazzo was not responsible for the Prince's hurried

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departure, which was made "on the advice of the Italian Minister." The gendarmerie will come in for a fair share of blame, and possibly the only person to be exonerated will be the exiled Essad Pasha. Very careful handling of the situation is still required if it is to be prevented from leading to an outbreak of a religious feud in Albania. The Moslems appear to have convinced themselves that the Christians were receiving the plums of the new régime, and for a time they may have been under the impression that Essad Pasha was conniving at their exclusion from the Prince's favour. Essad Pasha also represented the feudal system, against which the peasantry had grievances. It is probable, therefore, that the peasants' revolt started without the assistance of the Minister of War and the Interior, although he would be shrewd enough to know how to turn it to his own purposes. But when the insurgents reached Durazzo and found that a Christian force was sent out to give battle to them, and that Essad Pasha, the Moslem, had been deported, they decided that the religious boycott was more serious than they had realised, and they began to feel sympathetic towards Essad Pasha. Such at least is one explanation advanced of the present position in Albania, but the whole situation is so complicated that it may be some time before we are able to unravel the true inwardness of it.

Italian perseverance has been rewarded by an agreement between an Italian syndicate and the British Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company on the subject of the construction of a railway from Adalia to connect with the Smyrna-Aidin system. The British company held a prior claim in regard to railway construction in this region, and it was hoped that it would maintain its rights with a view to reserving the whole district for British capital. But the difficulty of effecting practical co-operation between Government policy and commercial enterprise has in the present instance let in the thin end of the Italian wedge. The details of the agreement have not yet been made public. From the statement made by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, it has to be inferred that Italy is bent upon following up her initial success with a clearly defined policy. The Adalia concessions were only the first step on what would probably be a long and laborious path. Reference was made to Italian enterprises of the same nature in Asia Minor and the Dodekanesos. The delay in the return of the islands to Turkey thus hinges not only on the successful termination of the Adalia negotiations, but also upon Italy receiving other concessions in the islands themselves and elsewhere.

There was a very lengthy debate in the Sobranje before the decision was taken to institute an inquiry into the policy of the Gueshoff and Daneff Cabinets and into the question of the responsibility for Bulgaria's disasters. The various speakers left little ground uncovered. With the advantage of accumulated wisdom after the event, M. Gennadieff was able to deliver a telling indictment of opportunities lost or mishandled. M. Todoroff, formerly Minister of Finance, spoke for more than seven hours in defence of the impeached Cabinets. He said that he would welcome an impartial inquiry, as Bulgaria had lessons to learn from her experiences, and he feared that the present Government was only preparing the ground for fresh misfortunes. Yet a third raking up of the past has been added to the impeachment of ex-Ministers, and the Parliamentary inquiry and prosecution has been instituted against the Nationalist journal *Mir* for stating that the order to begin the war last June was issued by King Ferdinand and not by the Government. General Savoff, it will be remembered, made a very similar insinuation in the course of his defence at the impeachment trial.

The visit of the Turkish Minister of the Interior, Talaat Bey, to Bucharest has followed close upon a visit to Roumania by a number of students of the University of Constantinople. The latter have met with a most cordial welcome from the Roumanians, and it is noticeable that the two visits have stimulated the Turkish Press to emphasise the community of interests between Turkey and Roumania. One writer recalls the charge committed to his heir by the famous Roumanian Prince, Stephen the Great, who warned Bogdan to place no confidence in the promises or the alliance of other nations, but to endeavour to secure the friendship and good will of the Ottoman Empire. Anything that has happened in the five centuries since this advice was given has now to be overlooked, according to the Turkish writer, for he is satisfied that the policy of the Roumanian Government is entirely favourable to close and cordial relations with Turkey. Close co-operation between the two countries is eminently to be desired, inasmuch as the soundness of Roumanian statesmanship is assured, and its influence on the Turkish Government can only be for good.

The event of the week in connection with Persia is the decision of the British Government to purchase two million shares and £200,000 debentures in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Elsewhere we publish an article dealing fully with the company's affairs and the whole subject of oil in Persia, and here we need only touch upon the political aspect of the Government's action. For reasons set forth in our leading article, the time seems ripe for a reconsideration of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907. The direction in which we should like to see this Agreement modified is in respect of the neutral zone. Its terms do scant justice to the predominance of British interests in that zone, and now that railway construction has come within the region of practical politics it is essential that our interests should receive adequate recognition. In other words, we must have as free a hand in the neutral zone as Russia has in the North.

The extension of British interests by the purchase of these shares in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company makes revision of the Convention even more imperative. Persia is intended to be one of the chief sources of supply of oil-fuel for the British Navy. It is essential, therefore, that the output of Persian oil, which will be drawn for the most part from the neutral zone, should not be subjected to constant interruption from chronic lawlessness or occasional unrest. We will hope that the danger of such an eventuality will be removed as the country gradually settles down to ordered government, but it will remain a possible danger to be guarded against. Great Britain, therefore, must place her faith in the non-occurrence of interference with her oil interests upon a surer footing than a pious hope that things in Persia will eventually improve. A preliminary step will be the revision of the Anglo-Russian Convention, with a view to enabling Great Britain to supervise more directly the efforts made by the Persian Government to restore order in its dominions.

The annual Reports of the British Agent and Consul-General "on the finances, administration, and condition of Egypt and the Sudan" provide a striking testimony to the thoroughness with which Great Britain has faced her responsibilities in these countries. In his new Report Lord Kitchener sounds a note of sober optimism, based not so much on the contemplation of past achievements as on the security of the prospect that the vast amount of work still remaining to be done will be overtaken at a steady and satisfactory rate of progress. Not the least striking feature of the Report, which is analysed elsewhere, is the matter-of-fact insistence upon just those aspects of national affairs which, though commonplace to Western ideas, are entirely novel to the Oriental conception. Among these may be enumerated considerations of public health and the various questions associated with the work of local governments, which have been in the past entirely ignored in the East. In administrative affairs the pace will be forced as much as the finances of the country will allow; the only brake to be applied is in the political sphere. Unfortunately it is only in the latter that the native genius lends itself to hustling and being hustled, and for this reason Lord Kitchener utters a word of warning to the more ardent among the Egyptian politicians.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 23.

Thrace: A Fortress.

There is not much change in the Turco-Greek situation. The Œcumenical Patriarch has made fresh complaints concerning the treatment of the Greeks in Thrace, and steps have been taken by the Turks to oust certain villagers of Greek, and in one case of Slav origin, from the neighbourhood of the Chatalja lines. It is now becoming clear that the main object of the Turkish Government in effecting these transfers of population is a military one. Thrace is now regarded as a great frontier fortress, which should be held as far as possible by Moslems, and the policy of the military is to encourage the Turk and to discourage the Greek element in all regions near the main military roads and railways, the principal bridges, such as the important bridge near Kuleli Burgas, by which the Maritza is spanned, and the environs of the fortresses of Adrianople, Kirk Kilisse and Chatalja. The policy has the economic disadvantages to which reference has been made, not once but many times in the columns of The Near East, but it has certain attractive features for the Turkish soldier and for the politicians.

Halil Bey on the Army.

Meanwhile the tone of the Press is still Chauvinistic, and so, unfortunately, is that of Parliament. Halil Bey, till recently President of the Council of State, and seemingly one of the most moderate of the members of the Government, had no sooner been elected Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies than he delivered an inaugural speech which was calculated, if taken seriously, to arouse the utmost distrust, not only in Greece and Servia, but also in Bulgaria. The Turkish Army, he said, had succumbed in the last war to a fatality, one of those regrettable accidents that overtake all armies. An army which in two and a half centuries had developed Ottoman power from the dominance of a little tribe in the Seyudlu valley to an Empire which humbled kings, emperors, princes and beys, which had marched from Vienna to the Indian Ocean, which had successfully defended Widdin and Silistria, which had checked the armies of Napoleon at Acre, and had emerged materially conquered but morally victorious from the Russo-Turkish war, could not be accused of lacking military ideals or the spirit that gives victory. So far one need not cavil at Halil's speech—although the historian might casually remark that one, Sir Sidney Smith, had something to do with the successful defence of Acre, and that British blue-jackets drove back Napoleon's last assault. But when Halil exhorted Turkish poets, teachers and publicists never to forget Salonika, the cradle of the Constitution, green Monastir, Janina, Scutari, Kossovo and Uskub, and to teach the young generation not only to remember, but to work for the recovery of these lost provinces of the fatherland; then one felt that here was dangerous advice from so high a quarter, and was inclined to ask if such things are said by the "moderate" what will be done by the extremist?

Alfred Rustem Bey's Career.

Alfred Rustem Bey de Bilinski, formerly Councillor to the Ottoman Embassy at Washington, a member of the Embassy at London, and more recently Minister at Cettinje, has been appointed Ambassador at Washington and has embraced the Moslem faith. He has taken the name of Ahmed. The Turkish Press expresses its delight at Rustem Bey's conversion, and the neophyte has been received in special audience by the Sultan, who is said to have presented him with a watch ornamented with brilliants, and his own chaplet. Rustem Bey will shortly leave for his new post. His career in the Ottoman diplomatic service has been adventurous and exciting. When a secretary at Athens he fought a duel with a Greek officer who had insulted his chief, and wounded him severely. He afterwards volunteered for service in the Greek war and was wounded at Domokos in 1897. At a later date he organized a sort of strike of secretaries of Embassy, who were weary of going without their pay in the "good old days" of Abdul Hamid, and was compelled to leave the diplomatic service. He has Polish blood on his mother's side, she, *née* a Miss Sandison, having been a member of a well-known British family long settled in Constantinople. He has written several most interesting contributions to *The Nineteenth Century* and other British reviews.

Fire at Tashkishla Barracks.

A fire which broke out at the Tashkishla Barracks yesterday afternoon gave the sailors of the "Goeben," which is now visiting Constantinople, and of the Russian *stationnaire* an opportunity of rendering most valuable assistance to the Turkish fire-brigade. The "Goeben" was coaling at the time, but within a quarter of an hour fifteen officers and at least 250 men were at Tashkishla, some of them black with coal dust, others a trifle summarily clad, but all ready and willing to do their best, and to incur not a little risk from the explosion of 200 boxes full of ball cartridge which were stored in a quarter of the barracks that was threatened by the flames. The Turks of the naval and military fire brigades worked well, as they always do. The "Goeben's" men showed pluck, initiative, and energy; Turkish reinforcements arrived, and after a hard hour and a-half's work the fire was got under. Unfortunately, nine Turkish soldiers, five of the "Goeben's" contingent, and two Russian sailors were injured mostly by an explosion of a box of ball cartridge. The affair might have had serious consequences had the conflagration reached the main store of ammunition, for though the Tashkishla Barracks are isolated, an explosion of so much ammunition might easily have thrown burning fragments on to the roofs of the houses in the Pancaldi quarter. Enver Pasha warmly thanked the German Admiral for the prompt and ready assistance which he gave, and the wounded German sailors were conveyed to the German Hospital in the automobile of Mehmed Ali Pasha, the Commander of the 1st Army Corps. The injured men are all doing well.

Parliamentary Work.

The *Tanin* states that after voting the modifications of the Constitution which give the Sultan the power of dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, under certain conditions, Parliament will have to deal with no less than 540 new laws which have been provisionally decreed and set in operation during the last twenty months. It is naturally unthinkable that the Chamber and Senate will be able to deal with this "avalanche" of legislation in a two months' session, and the Cabinet is therefore preparing a list of Bills which are to be discussed under an urgency motion.

Central Turkey College at Aintab has received from the Turkish Government official recognition as *école superieure*. It is the first of the American colleges in Turkey to secure such authorisation for any part of its regular curriculum.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 21.

The Khedive Leaves for Doloman.

H.H. the Khedive leaves this morning for Doloman on board his yacht "Mahrussa." He is being attended by several officials of the Survey Department, whose services and advice are required in connection with his estates. His Highness will subsequently proceed on his usual summer trip to Europe, and will, it is understood, visit Constantinople on his way north. It is not definitely decided whether he will spend the month of Ramadan in Alexandria or not.

There has been much movement in Alexandria during the past few days owing to the farewell reception, which took place on Monday, and the various luncheon and dinner parties which the Khedive has given in honour of those of whose hospitality he partook during his recent provincial tour. At the Council of Ministers held yesterday afternoon, the decree appointing Hussein Rushdi Pasha as Regent during the Khedive's absence was signed. The health of the Premier has given rise to some anxiety during the past week. He has just been operated upon for an abscess in the leg, but it is hoped that he will soon be able to attend to business again. Should he have to take a prolonged rest, it is understood that Ismail Sirri Pasha, Minister for Public Works, will become Regent.

Lord Kitchener's Movements.

Lord Kitchener, accompanied by Major Fitzgerald and Mr. Ronald Storrs, went down to Alexandria on Monday and had a farewell and private audience with the Khedive on Tuesday, returning the next day to Cairo. The British Agent is proceeding to England on June 18th on his usual leave. This is somewhat earlier than usual, and it appears that this has given rise to various conjectures both here and at home, As a matter of fact there is nothing at the back of it. There are no important schemes which require immediate attention, and the annual report, to which great interest is attached, is due to appear on the 27th inst. There is, therefore, no reason why the British Agent should remain on in Cairo, as he did during the past two years, when the lateness of his departure was due entirely to the importance of the business that was pending.

The Assembly and the Wakfs.

On Saturday the Legislative Assembly held its twenty-eighth sitting, when the Wakfs Budget came up for discussion. Moheb Pasha, the Minister of Wakfs, asked for time to study the report of the Committee of the Assembly, and it was decided to postpone the debate until this afternoon.

The report referred to is a most businesslike document. It deals most thoroughly with the question, and the committee deserves every congratulation on the able manner in which it has carried out its work. (It is interesting and at the same time curious to note that the delegates, when they sit in committee, bring to bear upon their labours businesslike qualities, a keen intelligence, and a reasonable frame of mind, which for some reason or another disappear as soon as they are gathered together in full and public conclave.)

It appears that the Ministry controls 45,716 feddans, with a revenue of £E298,800, which the committee considers is less than it should be. An area of 3,324 feddans is in addition cultivated by the Ministry itself; but it is pointed out that whereas the expenses amount to £E23,862, the revenue from this area is put down at £E23,000 only. Another criticism which the committee very rightly makes is in connection with the post of Legal Adviser, which was recently created at a salary of £E1,200 per annum. Attention is drawn to the fact that the duties of this official cannot very well be heavier than those of the presidents of the native courts, whose maximum pay is £E800, especially seeing that he is allowed to do private practice. Consequently it is recommended that his pay be reduced to £E800, and that the post of Assistant Legal Adviser be suppressed. Many other commendable changes are advocated, and the committee records its opinion that if attention were paid to raising the revenues and keeping down the arrears of rent—which amounted last year to £E207,812—and if expenses were maintained within reasonable limits, the number of educational and charitable institutions could be increased, the mosques could be kept in better repair, the poor and needy could be more liberally assisted, and lastly, the disgracefully low salaries of the ulema and of the preachers and staff attached to the mosques could be placed upon a more satisfactory basis.

The question of the responsibility of the Ministry of Wakfs has again cropped up. Certain members, including Saad Pasha Zaghlul, are of opinion that as the work of this ministry is of a nature quite different to that of the other ministries, the Minister of Wakfs should be directly responsible to the Assembly for his budgets, and for the administration thereof. They point out that the funds of the Wakfs are kept quite separate from the general budget of the State, that the ministry is also treated as distinct from the other ministries, and that the administration of the Wakfs is a purely Moslem and national matter, wherefore the Assembly should be accorded full power in regard to it, and the Minister of Wakfs should be directly responsible to the nation through the Assembly. Whether the point of view taken up by these members be correct or not, there is little doubt that the raising of the question is premature. No doubt the direct responsibility of the Minister of Wakfs to the Assembly would finally and conclusively set a check on the evil influences which a certain element may still be able to exert on the administration; but these are as yet early days, and before its request can be granted the Assembly must first show its capacity and fitness worthily to assume such a responsibility.

The Question of Public Entertainments.

The British community is often heard to complain of the lack of enterprise shown by those who make it their business to cater for the public amusement, and at the absence of any healthy form of entertainment. In the light of recent events one is almost inclined to think that this oft-voiced plaint is merely hypocritical. During the past two months we have been visited by Mme Loie Fuller with her troupe of children, whose reputation as exponents of the art of dancing is world-famed, and by the West End Comedy Co., who performed some of the best known of the latest London successes in a refined and talented manner, such as has not been witnessed in Cairo for many a long day. Yet neither of them attracted the attention which their performances deserved, and which the sighs of the British community for clean entertainments would have led one to expect. This attitude is sincerely to be regretted, and unless British residents show a little more solidarity and are prepared to support the efforts made by their fellow-countrymen and women to provide them with a healthy form of amusement, they must not expect any raising of the standard, nor must they complain if they still have, in future, to put up with the third-rate performances that have been placed before them up to now.

The Antiquities Service.

It is announced that Sir Gaston Maspero will retire from the Director-Generalship of the Antiquities Service in October next on the expiration of his leave. His successor, according to the understanding with France, has to be a Frenchman, and it is understood that the choice has fallen on M. Pierre Lacau, who is the director of the French Institute of Archæology in Cairo, and who for over eleven years worked under the retiring Director-General. Sir Gaston Maspero, who is 68 years of age, succeeded Mariette Pasha as Director of the Museum in 1881, and held that position until 1886, returning to it in 1899, ever since when he has been responsible for the Antiquities Service. He is retiring owing to ill-health, due to over-work. During the very long period he has been connected with this work he has rendered signal services to the cause of Egyptology, with which his name will always be intimately associated.

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EGYPTIAN MILESTONES:

Lord Kitchener's Report.

Lord Kitchener's Report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Sudan in 1913, which has just been published, does not fall short of its predecessors in the matter of the interest that its perusal awakens. Ever since he became British Agent at Cairo progress and activity have been the watchwords of the Egyptian Administration, and the year under review shows a marked continuity in that direction. It is true that the Statute Book has not received many additions. This reduction in legislative output has been due to special causes; but, on the other hand, whatever changes have been made have been more drastic and more far-reaching than any previously introduced. In fact, we may say that 1913 has been an epoch-making year in Egypt's modern history; for it has witnessed, amongst other things, the establishment of two new Ministries—Wakfs and Agriculture—and the revision of the Organic Law, bringing about the creation of a new Legislative Assembly, which has been established on a fresh electoral basis and has received certain extensions of power. Without exception, these reforms were received with the deepest satisfaction by the Egyptians, and their introduction must certainly have strengthened the general confidence in the sense of justice, good intentions, and disinterestedness of the British Government.

The transfer of the Moslem religious endowments from the control of an independent Director-General to that of a Minister responsible to the Cabinet and aided by a Superior Council was, after all, but a return to a system that had been in vogue years before, and it responded to the oft-expressed desire of the Moslem community for the introduction of some drastic reform into the administration of the Wakfs, which had long given real cause for much anxiety, discontent, and reasonable complaint. The formation of a Ministry of Agriculture assumed even more vital importance; for it consummated the action which had been taken in 1910, when a department of the same name had been tentatively created, and gave to agriculture the officially recognised position which it should by rights have held long before in the country. It is surely but one more instance of the atmosphere of paradox that reigns on the banks of the Nile that amid all the reforming work carried out by the Occupation the least importance should have been assigned to the one question that in reality alone counted, and on which everything else depended so utterly; and that the development of modern Egypt should have actually dethroned agriculture from the executive position it originally held. Few people know that a score or so of years back a Ministry of Agriculture existed in Egypt. How it came to disappear none seem able to tell. The agitation which was made some seven years ago in favour of the formation of a Government administration to look after agriculture was, therefore, but a demand for a reversion to the old condition of things. It did not take Lord Kitchener long to recognise that if it was seriously intended to consolidate Egypt's economic position the agricultural requirements of the country would have to be made the first concern of the State, and that consequently the administration dealing with these requirements must be accorded adequate prestige. It is thanks to him that Egypt boasts to-day a Ministry of Agriculture which enjoys as much influence as any of the more senior Ministries, and is thus able to fill the all-important rôle that it is being called upon to take, not only in the preservation and amelioration of the crops, but also in the contemplated introduction and administration of the system of agricultural co-operation that is so urgently required as a corner-stone in the policy of economic reform embarked upon during the past few years.

Despite the efforts made by some to decry it, the change in the Organic Law constitutes an important step along the path of representative government. The system previously in force had been introduced as far back as 1883, but it was found, after thirty years' trial, that it had many organic defects that militated against its success, and so it was very wisely decided "to do what was possible to remove those defects, and thus give the Egyptians a fresh chance of working out their own future representative institutions by proving that they are worthy of the confidence reposed in them." The extension, which conduced to more equable representation, simplified the elections, and conferred further powers on the representative institutions of the country, is frankly admitted to be an experiment, the success of which, as Lord Kitchener says, depends on one factor only—"the spirit in which it is carried out." As we have stated before in this connection, any further extension lies entirely in the hands of the delegates themselves, who owe a solemn duty towards their electors "to assist the Government in working for their good," and who as a body are literally on probation. Until they show their utility and fitness, they can expect no further concessions; for "no Government would be insane enough to consider that because an advisory Council had proved itself unable to carry out its functions in a reasonable and satisfactory manner, it should therefore be given a larger measure of power and control." Lord Kitchener is of opinion that the Electoral Law has worked well, and that the composition of the new Chamber is satisfactory, and he repeatedly expresses his confidence in the common sense of the Egyptians. At the same time, he utters a timely rebuke to the delegates and declares that if the Assembly, instead of giving its loyal co-operation, "by unjustified hostility to the Government, unseemly bickering, unreasonable obstruction, and futile attempts to extend its own personal importance, outweighs the advantages derived from such institutions, retarding the progress of reform and acting against the true interests of the Egyptian people, not only will it inevitably destroy itself, but it will convince all reasonable men that this country for the present is not fitted for these representative institutions, which are now on their trial in Egypt." We can only hope that the element that has tried to force the pace and has shown a mistaken tendency to undue independence will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the words of warning and advice contained in this Report, and that the British Agent's optimism and confidence in the Egyptians will attain full justification.

It is satisfactory to note that the various reforms that had been introduced during the previous year have made good progress. The Five Feddan Law is producing the salutary effects which were anticipated, and its benefits will be further extended by the establishment of a system of agricultural co-operation, a law in connection with which is being closely studied by the Legislative Assembly. The Cantonal Courts, which were created for the purpose of introducing the principle of village justice under local administration, have been a success, which is "the most striking feature of the year's work." The Provincial Councils have continued on the excellent lines already followed by them in connection with elementary education and works of public utility, especially in regard to the introduction of the many hygienic and sanitary reforms with which the public health authorities have been occupied of late, and which should certainly result in a great improvement in the conditions reigning in the provinces. The Report notes, however, that in certain councils a change of Presidents is apt to be followed by a change of policy. Useful

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projects, initiated with considerable expense and trouble, come to be neglected with the advent of a new President, and all interest is centred in some new scheme, no doubt equally beneficial, but totally different in character. The Councils and their Presidents should realise that a consistent policy is likely to yield the best results.

In other respects the past year has also been satisfactory. Despite the abnormally low Nile, the country is far more prosperous than might have been expected. Whilst this is in part due to the irrigation works that have been carried out, the complete tranquillity enjoyed by the country has also contributed thereto, and although Lord Kitchener expresses his complete agreement with the Financial Adviser's remarks on the Budget, and his opinion that if further capital expenditure is to be incurred additional sources of revenue will have to be found, we dare hope that the adverse conditions referred to will, thanks to the careful husbandry of resources that is now being practised, the works of development that are being carried out, and the close attention that is being paid to agricultural conditions, exercise but a temporary influence over the prosperity of the country, and that Egypt will once again justify her reputation for recuperative force.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT.

The Capitulations.

Very brief reference is made to the Mixed Tribunals and the Capitulations. In the concluding paragraphs of the Introduction we read:—

I have little to add to the remarks which I made last year on the subject of the Mixed Tribunals, though, so far as procedure is concerned, I am glad to be able to note that some little progress has been made of late. In my immediately preceding report I was able to record the introduction of certain reforms in the procedure for the recovery of mortgage debts, and for the seizure and sale of land in execution proceedings. Some further improvements in procedure, of a more general character, were effected in the past year. A new law has abolished certain dilatory proceedings, by means of which unscrupulous debtors were enabled to delay their creditors and retard the payment of their debts. The same law has also restricted third-party claims in execution proceedings, reduced delays in the service of writs, amended the regulations as to costs, and introduced some other minor reforms in the existing system.

But the main question of organisation remains unsolved. Nor am I able to foresee the possibility of effecting any radical improvement in a situation the faults of which are inherent in the existing system of the "Capitulations." The fundamental modification of this system has been urged in the annual reports emanating from this Agency for many years past, and it may be hoped that a settlement of the question will not now be much longer delayed.

Public Health Department.

The Public Health Department receives much attention in the Introduction. It is noted that the Lunacy Section has been made into a separate Department, and that the Veterinary Section has been handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture, which will give the P.H.D. a "freer hand and more time to deal with problems appertaining to the health of the people."

The Ophthalmic Division has been strengthened by the addition of two inspecting surgeons, so that, in addition to the director, there is now a staff of four inspecting surgeons and thirty hospital surgeons.

So far as the central organisation is concerned, a Board of Health, composed of five members with the Director-General of the Public Health Department as president, is being formed. It is to be a consultative and advisory body without executive duties. The opinion of this Board will be taken on all important subjects. . . .

These additions and changes will enable the Public Health Department to take up the investigation of the more prevalent diseases, such as ankylostomiasis and bilharziasis, which are so widely disseminated through the Delta, and cripple so large a percentage of the population, thus seriously affecting the economic condition of an agricultural country like Egypt. The ova of bilharziasis have been recently discovered in the tissues of mummies of the Twentieth Dynasty, and it is therefore high time that serious steps should be taken to prevent the continuity of infection that has been going on so long in this country. Pellagra, infectious eye diseases generally such as acute opthalmia and trachoma, typhus fever, and other kindred diseases, and the causes of the abnormally high rate of infantile mortality, will all be subjected to a most careful examination.

Health in the Villages.

The remarks upon the sanitary—or insanitary—condition of the average Egyptian village are full of interest:—

In the villages throughout the country we find conditions favourable to the life history of the parasites giving rise to such diseases as ankylostomiasis and bilharziasis, which depend for their spread on conditions of soil and water and insanitary surroundings such as are usually found in this country. It is only within comparatively recent years that sanitary reforms have been applied to Egypt, and these mainly in the large towns and health resorts. The results of these returns have been sufficiently encouraging to warrant their extension in a modified manner to the villages. . . .

The construction of the villages and their surroundings are generally such that a standard of sanitary excellence in accordance with Western notions can only be very slowly achieved. The houses are overcrowded congeries of mud walls, badly built and badly ventilated. There is generally an entire lack of conservancy arrangements, and man and domestic animals live in close relations. The water supply is mainly from canals which are open to all sorts of contamination, and as the subsoil water is near the surface, pools abound almost everywhere, and a condition of things exists which we find suitable to the development of ankylostomiasis and bilharziasis. Further, to build a village mud bricks have to be made, and the consequent removal of soil causes depressions round each village. These are subsequently filled with stagnant subsoil water polluted with organic matter of all sorts, thus creating a fruitful source of disease. These so-called "birkas" are gradually being filled up, with evident advantage to the health of the inhabitants. The land thus reclaimed is useful for relieving the congestion in the village and to provide open spaces for the inhabitants.

Within the last few years much has been done to improve the sanitary conditions of the country; and it is gratifying to note that the people themselves "have to some extent overcome their dislike of sanitary measures":—

The notification of infectious diseases is now general, and concealment is the exception and not the rule, as formerly. The people no longer object to be isolated for infectious diseases. They come willingly for medical help, and increased facilities are being afforded them to obtain first aid, especially in cases of infantile diseases. It is a very striking fact that a few years ago it was a matter of the greatest difficulty to account for and medically examine pilgrims who return to their homes from the Hedjaz. This now proceeds quite smoothly, and instead of being run to earth with difficulty in their villages, they come of their own accord to be examined.

In this connection a remark elsewhere (p. 11) of the Report is of interest:—

Hospital accommodation in Egypt has been slightly increased, and a satisfactory feature is that a larger number of patients now come voluntarily into the hospitals. The prejudice which has existed for so many years in Egypt against hospitals of all kinds is gradually disappearing. This is chiefly due to the fact that the Egyptian medical officers who staff these hospitals are better educated and more efficient in their work than in years gone by. The standard of nursing has also been raised, and more attention is given to the training of the attendants.

As one of the means for improving the sanitary conditions of the villages the Report suggests:—

The organisation of a system of village sanitary inspection, consisting of about one inspector for ten villages, who would report to the Markaz doctor all that happened in regard to health questions and sanitary matters in the villages under his charge. A soldier who had served his time and become a non-commissioned officer in the Egyptian Army, with a little training in this kind of work, would probably make a very suitable sanitary inspector. The improvement in the villages themselves would then proceed on lines of proper conservancy (which would do much to prevent ankylostoma and bilharzia infections), the filling up of "birkas," the erection of decent, ventilated houses, and the arrangement of a purer water supply.

The measures already taken to combat ankylostomiasis and bilharziasis by means of a travelling ankylostoma hospital have met with marked success. An active campaign is also being carried on against ophthalmia and trachoma; and the establishment of maternity schools and children's dispensaries in the provincial towns are amongst the steps already taken to check the high rate of infantile mortality.

The Five-Feddan Law.

Regarding the Five-Feddan Law, the Report remarks that "the prediction that the diminution of credit caused by the law would force sales of land and lead to evasion of the law has not been borne out by events. Sales of the land of the category affected by the law show, on the contrary, a decrease, while the number of cases of contracting out of the law have been so few as

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to be entirely negligible." A table shows that the number of properties of 5 feddans and less under debt is 619,107; their total area, 619,214 feddans; the total indebtedness of their owners, £E15,990,660—which gives an average of £25.828 per debtor. And the Report observes:—

It will be seen from the above table that the appalling weight of approximately £E16,000,000 of debt has to be borne by the poorest class of cultivators of the soil in this country, and is distributed amongst only 5 per cent. of the population. The fact that an average of over £E25 per feddan of debt exists on a very large number of properties, constitutes, when the high rate of interest is considered, a dangerous financial situation for a considerable number of their owners.

The Financial Situation.

The bulk of the section of the Report dealing with the financial situation of the country consists of extracts from the Financial Adviser's Note on the Budget (which was fully dealt with in THE NEAR EAST of April 3). Lord Kitchener expresses his concurrence with that Note generally, and his opinion that the changes introduced this year "represent a very important improvement in the administration of the finances of the country," and that "great credit attaches to the officials who are responsible for their inception and elaboration." Regarding the Egyptian debt we read:—

On December 31, 1912, the total outstanding capital of the Debt was £94,349,680, and the charge on account of interest and sinking fund £E3,552,000. Debt to the amount of £147,140 was paid off during the year. The total capital therefore amounted to £94,202,540 on December 31, 1913, and the annual charge for interest and sinking fund to £E3,552,000.

It has, however, to be borne in mind that stock to the extent of £5,459,920 is held either by the Government or by the Commissioners of the Debt. The interest on this amount is £E200,000.

The total amount of Debt in the hands of the public was therefore, at the end of last year, £88,742,620, involving an annual charge of £E3,352,000.

Railways.

The railways estimates provide for the completion of the Zifta-Zagazig line and the continuation of the Zayat-Menûf line. The new bridge over the Ibrahîmia Canal at Assiût will be completed, and that over the Nile at Embaba will be continued. Work will be begun on the new station at Alexandria and on the new Pont-Limoun station in Cairo. Provision is also made for relaying of track, improvements to stations and signalling, construction of staff quarters, additional rolling stock, and improvements of the Upper Egypt auxiliary lines.

1913 has not been such a good year for the railways as 1912. There has been a decrease in traffic and a corresponding reduction in receipts, which are £E3,819,000, as compared with £E3,916,000 in 1912. The decrease is mainly in cotton and cotton seed, but also to a small extent in building material, sugar, and onions. The number of passengers travelling has decreased somewhat, mainly owing to the new Cantonal Courts, which have enabled people to get their minor cases settled without travelling to the towns.

The auxiliary railways of Upper Egypt show a slight increase in earnings compared with 1912. Passengers have increased. This is mainly due to the opening of the Beni Suef-Lahun line. The Luxor-Aswân line has done well. There is a slight decrease in receipts, as in the other branches, but the reduction in expenditure more than counterbalances the loss in receipts.

The total length of the light railways of Egypt (viz., the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, the Chemins de Fer de la Basse-Egypte, and the Fayûm Light Railway) now open amounts to 1,280 kilom., an increase of 32 kilom. as compared with 1912. The increase is due to a new line from Salahib to Baltim, which has been constructed by the Delta Light Railway Company.

Agriculture.

A table (page 28) gives the total areas under the chief crops in 1913 as being:—Cotton, 1,723,094 feddans; wheat, 1,305,578 feddans; barley, 369,158 feddans; rice, 242,367 feddans; maize, 1,632,556 feddans; millet, 220,204 feddans; and sugar, 48,468 feddans.

There is a growing demand for Government cotton-seed, 90,096 ardebs having been distributed to cultivators in 1912, as compared with 42,273 ardebs the previous year.

Cotton-seed breeding at Giza and Qorashîa has resulted in the production of four new strains of cotton. These have been submitted to a committee of experts in Alexandria, who recommended one variety for propagation on an increased scale. By subsequent experiments it is hoped to obtain an earlier maturing cotton which can be harvested before the boll-worm has time to hatch.

By means of thirty-eight demonstration farms, during the past year endeavours have been made to show the small farmer how to improve the cultivation of the soil by employing the means and labour at his disposal in a more intelligent and economical manner than formerly

The unduly large discharge outlets from the canals have been replaced by pipes of varying dimensions, according to the size of the area to be served. It is hoped that this change will tend to check the over-watering of the soil, an irresistible temptation to a peasantry who have for centuries had to contend with summer drought, and thus minimise the risk of over-saturation, which is as bad for the cotton crop as insufficient moisture. Experiments in the application of water on the soil have been continued, but with varying results in different localities, due, perhaps, to the low flood.

The measures taken against the cotton-worm, the common boll-worm, and the pink boll-worm are described in detail.

As to cotton markets (halaqas) we read:—

Experience in 1912 has shown that certain of these halaqas were badly situated. These have been suppressed and others opened to replace them in more suitable localities. There has been a remarkable discrepancy in the results obtained by the halaqas in different districts. In certain places they have met with great success and evidently respond to a long-felt need; in others they have failed to meet with much support. On the whole there has been an increase of approximately 50,000 kantars entering the halaqas in 1913, as compared with the previous season.

An arrangement for the sale in the halaqas (by the Provincial Councils on behalf of the Khedivial Agricultural Society) of manure "has been an unqualified success, and is being extended."

(Further extracts from the Report will be given in next week's issue.)

PORT SAID NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PORT SAID, May 20.

Credit Foncier "Gros Lot."

The first prize of Fcs. 50,000 in the drawing of the Crédit Foncier Lottery has been won this month by a workman named Bianchi, employed in Port Said by the Suez Canal Company at their waterworks.

A Mother's Crime.

A horrible deed was committed on Monday night by a native woman, the wife of an employee of the Egyptian State Railways. On returning in the evening from his day's work, the husband seated himself at the table and was about to commence his evening meal, when he discovered a human hand in his soup. Nearly mad with horror and fright, he asked his wife what had become of their little daughter, a baby of nine months, and the poor creature, who had evidently gone out of her mind, answered that she had cut the baby into pieces and boiled her in the soup. The distracted father rushed out of the house, and with the aid of the police conducted his wife to the native hospital, where she has been placed under control pending an investigation by the police.

Fatal Accident in the Port.

While the North-German Lloyd steamer "Roon" was discharging her cargo yesterday a number of timber logs in the hold were displaced, and rolling into the square of the hatch, fell on the native stevedores engaged in sorting cargo, killing one of them outright, and wounding three others. The latter were taken to the Government Hospital, where their injuries were attended to. An inquiry into the accident is being held by the Port police.

The Ottoman Association have arranged with Mr. Francis Griffiths for the publication of a second edition of Pierre Loti's book, "Turkey in Agony." The edition will be ready next week.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 20.

The Epirote Settlement.

The concessions obtained by Mr. Zographos for the Greeks in Southern Albania certainly do not correspond with the ambitions of the Epirotes, but it must be remembered both here and in the districts affected that it is the maximum of concession which could be accorded in the circumstances. What the Epirotes have gained is enough to enable them to preserve their Hellenic racial and linguistic characteristics, and that should satisfy both them and Greece itself. The Powers could have gone no further in the direction of autonomy without impairing the integral unity of Albania which was established by the Treaty of London. In connection with the arrangements made about the liability of the Epirote gendarmerie to serve outside the prescribed areas only when such service is sanctioned by the International Commission of Control, it is pointed out that disturbances in other parts of Albania are likely to be so constant and so serious as to render that "special sanction" almost permanently operative. I understand that the question of guaranteeing the concessions gave rise to a heated scene between Mr. Zographos, who insisted upon the Powers being the guarantors, and the Italian Member, who was of opinion that the guarantee of the Commission of Control would be adequate. The claims of the Chimariots to a special treatment, apart from that accorded to the Epirotes, will probably be reserved for the consideration of the Powers, and Mr. Spiromilio threatens that they will remain under arms until their demands have been granted.

Parliamentary Progress.

Since the Chamber reassembled on May 18 it has been debating the question of the Athens water supply. The Bill empowering the Government to grant a contract to a foreign company, after considering tenders, for bringing water either from Lake Stymphalia, in the Peloponnese, across the isthmus of Corinth, or from the river Melas (Mavropotamos), in Bœotia, has now been read the first time. The Prime Minister is most anxious to see this very necessary work accomplished, as on it depend the improvements in the capital which, by Her Majesty's directions, are being elaborated by the British architect, Mr. Mawson.

The Opposition is preparing a concerted attack on the Government's policy in Epirus, and this will be delivered during the debate on the Bill for the cession of Sasseno to Albania which has been introduced by Dr. Streit, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. This Bill is necessary, as, according to the Constitution, Parliamentary sanction must be obtained for the cession of territory, and Sasseno, before it was attributed to Albania by the Powers, was one of the Ionian Islands.

Should the necessary preparations for the holding of elections in the new territories have been completed by then, it is possible that the general election may take place in November, but it is not unlikely that the general election may take place immediately after the dissolution, which is expected in September.

The Treatment of Greeks in Turkey.

The persecution of Greeks in Turkish Thrace steadily continues in spite of the constant intervention of the Œcumenical Patriarch, who has demanded the appointment of a Mixed Commission to make an impartial inquiry and take the necessary steps to put an end to the outrages, to punish those responsible for them, and to stop the emigration of Greeks. Fresh representations have been made by the Foreign Office to the Powers both in Athens and in the European capitals with a view to securing their support in alleviating the condition of the oppressed Greeks in Thrace.

The Ottoman Speech from the Throne has heightened the impression held in diplomatic circles here that in spite of the efforts of certain Powers, particularly Germany, to persuade the Porte to cut its losses, Turkey is only proposing negotiations about the islands in order to gain time for naval preparations.

ARMISTICE IN ALBANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Koritza, May 10.

[Delayed in Transmission].

Last Days of Strife.

The last few days before the establishment of the armistice between the Albanians and the Greeks in arms against them were filled with sanguinary incidents. The efforts which the Greeks had been making for the past seven weeks to recover possession of Koritza culminated—after a period of repose lasting for twenty days—in a series of attacks from the direction of Liaskovik, which the Greeks had occupied with artillery since the Albanian gendarmes retired a fortnight ago from the Kolonia district. The first of these attacks began just a week ago when the Greeks moved northward, but were repulsed by the Albanians, who reoccupied several villages in the Kolonia district. In one of these, Stari, the partially burned corpses of a number of men and women were found, and those of three others who had been murdered. In all twenty-three villages have been burned by the Greeks, either totally or in part, and I have myself visited several of these monuments to the vaunted superiority of Hellenic civilization and culture! Three days after this defeat a Greek force, estimated at some 3,000 men, attacked the Albanian positions at Nikolitza to the south-east of Koritza, and after ten hours' fighting was repulsed, leaving more than sixty dead on the field. Next day the armistice came into force.

The Orthodox in Albania.

It is very greatly to be hoped that in any agreement come to as to the future status of the Epirotes no loophole will be afforded for the Greek Government to pose as the "protector" of Orthodox Christians in Albania. The attempt to give colour to such a pretension would lead to perpetual friction, and would permanently impair the national unity of this country and be a hardship to those Christian inhabitants who wish to remain Orthodox without becoming Greek.

Military Preparations.

To-day orders have been received from Durazzo to call all the men fit for duty between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five to the colours, and a good many have already presented themselves. The authorities have already sent a supply of the latest pattern Mauser rifles, and consignments of these are arriving daily from the capital. Advices have been received to the effect that two batteries of mountain guns are on their way. This will give the Albanians a chance of dealing with the insurgents on something like an equality in the matter of armament should recourse to fighting again become necessary.

A New Map.

"The Balkan Peninsula." Scale 31½ miles to an inch. Size 28 by 22 inches. Price in sheet, 3s. Mounted to fold in case with complete index, 5s. (Bacon and Co.)

This is a praiseworthy attempt to wrestle with the difficulties of Balkan political geography as altered by the recent treaties and conventions, and with the intricacies of nomenclature, which has become worse confounded than ever since the transfer of territories has rendered Keupruli, Perlepe, Vodena, Eskeje, and Mustafa Pasha obsolete equivalents of Veles, Prilip, Edessa, Sketcha or Xanthi, and Svilengrad. In this connection we note that Messrs. Bacon have in many cases adopted the Croatian spelling of the Austrian staff maps, which gives values to certain consonants wholly different from those accepted in English. In the matter of frontiers the Serbo-Montenegrin is not quite right, and that given to Southern Albania is not in conformity with the most recent readjustments. We can appreciate the accuracy of leaving Mount Athos uncoloured, but why should Chios and the other Asiatic islands held by Greece be left white if Mitylene be coloured as Greek territory? In Europe railways appear to be thoroughly up to date, but the Asiatic Soma-Panderma line opened in December, 1912, has been omitted. From a technical point of view the execution of the map is admirable.

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SERVIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 24.

Political Manœuvres.

Far from terminating the Parliamentary crisis, the vote of confidence accorded to the Government, as recorded in my last letter, seems rather to have accentuated it. At the sitting on the 20th inst., the Samostalnia deputy, Mr. Jasha Prodanovitch, criticised the Government in unmeasured terms, and launched accusations against the Minister of Justice, which the latter declared to be libellous and to affect the whole Radical party. A turbulent scene ensued, in the course of which the deputies almost came to blows; and the President was compelled to suspend the sitting. The next sitting was likewise suspended as the result of a second outbreak. On the next day the Opposition parties, having declared the conduct of the Government to be unconstitutional, quitted the House in a body, and as there were not sufficient supporters of the Government to form a quorum the sitting had to be adjourned. The Government telegraphed to its absent supporters, and yesterday the contest was resumed; but again, after a vigorous assault on the Government, which was accused of acting in an illegal and unconstitutional fashion, and pressed to resign, the Opposition withdrew.

The course of systematic obstruction upon which the Opposition has thus embarked is an unfortunate thing for the country at the present juncture. For there are many pressing questions of foreign policy to be discussed—such as the Orient Railways, the Concordat with the Vatican, the ratification of the Agreement with the Phanar, and the Capitulations in the new territories—to say nothing of questions of internal policy which require prompt settlement. The Opposition, it may be observed, is not really lacking in patriotism; only Oriental ideas have not yet been entirely supplanted by Western European principles in such matters as this.

The Government, having now sufficient members in Belgrade to form a quorum, has decided to continue its labours, even if the Opposition parties persist in absenting themselves from the sittings. The Prime Minister stated at the last sitting that the Skupshtina and the whole country would witness that the Government was acting in accordance with Parliamentary usage. "We are," said he, "inclined for new elections, but the time is not yet ripe for them. First, there are important questions to be settled by the Skupshtina. Let the deputies do their duty, and when there is a new General Election the country will decide who is in the right."

Albanian Developments.

The development of events in Albania is followed with close interest by politicians here. It is generally held that the revolt against the Albanian Government, and especially the steps taken against Essad Pasha, must be attributed to a sinister influence from outside; and it is feared that Austria-Hungary and Italy will soon seize on some pretext for military intervention and, eventually, the establishment of a joint protectorate over the country.

Roumanian Engineers' Visit.

Belgrade is expecting shortly a visit from a number of Roumanian engineers and students of the Bucharest Technical Faculty, who will be the guests of the Servian Society of Engineers and Architects. The visit will be returned later on by the students of the Belgrade Technical Faculty, who will utilise the opportunity of visiting the famous oilfields in Roumania.

Mr. Edward Arnold to-day publishes "The Struggle for Scutari," by Miss Durham, the well-known writer on Albania and Servia, who was in Montenegro during the recent wars. The book is illustrated from drawings and photographs, and is issued at 14s. net.

THE GUESHOFF-DANEFF ENQUIRY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 23.

The Sobranje has been occupied the whole week in debating the proposal for a commission of inquiry concerning the responsibility of the Gueshoff and Daneff Cabinets for the late wars. The sittings attracted a large number of the public, and the diplomatic gallery was always well filled, the Russian and Turkish Ministers being conspicuous visitors. A whole sitting of four hours was taken up by a speech from Dr. Daneff, whose most interesting points were that Mr. Gueshoff's Cabinet twice endeavoured to induce Roumania to join the Balkan Alliance; and that their policy had succeeded in obtaining the best terms possible at the St. Petersburg Conference. He declared that he knew nothing about the fatal order for a general attack on the Allies, which was given by General Savoff, who, however, had told the foreign correspondents that he was acting on the King's instructions.

Mr. Todor Todoroff, the former Minister of Finance, who was the next speaker, claimed credit for his party for its financial provisions for the war with Turkey, and declared that the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty was not directed against Austria-Hungary. The latter was not mentioned in the Treaty, nor was Albania, and nothing was said in it of access to the Adriatic for Servia.

Dr. Gennadieff, the leader of the Stambolovists, spoke for three whole days. In a masterly way he set forth his party's view of the course of events which led up to the catastrophe. The 29th of June, he said, witnessed an irrational act, the result of Mr. Gueshoff's policy, which Dr. Daneff could not change. In his peroration, which aroused tremendous enthusiasm, Dr. Gennadieff appealed to his hearers to rise superior to the country's misfortunes, and, relying on the strength of the nation itself, to fufil the desire and purpose of those who had fallen for the aggrandisement of Bulgaria. The Sobranje listened to this appeal in tense silence for the greater part, but on its conclusion the majority accorded their best orator a great ovation. It was also proposed that his speech should be published. The debate was then closed, and to-day the Sobranje is occupied in electing the committee to conduct the inquiry.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 23.

King Carol's Jubilee.

Next year King Carol will celebrate the jubilee of his accession, and his subjects are determined that the event shall be observed in fitting style. Great festivities will take place, and a group of influential business and professional men has been formed to make suitable arrangements. The erection of a statue in the centre of the city, an exhibition in the Carol Park, the arrangement of a series of national fêtes, and the striking of a commemorative medal are amongst the proposals advanced and likely to be adopted. The chief festivities will take place on May 23, 24, and 25.

Turkish Visitors.

A large party of Turkish professors and students is now visiting this country, and everywhere the visitors have met with a most cordial reception. In conjunction with their confrères here the professors have laid the foundation of a Turco-Roumanian Society, with the object of drawing the two countries more closely together; and arrangements for an exchange of professors are under discussion, if not actually completed.

The King and the New Territories.

King Carol and the Royal party have returned to Bucharest from their river excursion. The King is stated to have been exceedingly pleased by his reception in the newly acquired territories, at Silistria, Turtukaia, etc., where he and the Queen certainly won all hearts by their simple and unassuming manner.

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RUSSIFICATION OF PERSIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, May 24.

Wholesale Russian Immigration.

From a private but well-informed source I am informed that the Russian authorities in Turkestan are, pursuant to instructions from St. Petersburg, giving their earnest attention to the scheme of peasant emigration from that region into Persia. Some half-score officials have been appointed as emigration agents to control the movement and choose the most promising class of emigrants, chiefly agriculturists and wine and fruit growers. The whole of these emigrants are, of course, substantially assisted by the Russian Government. Besides free land grants in the valleys of the Atrek and the Gurgen they will be gratuitously furnished with draught cattle, agricultural implements, and other necessary appurtenances. Under such conditions there is no lack of attraction for settlers both from Turkestan and European Russia. Applications from Russian agriculturists in the Caucasus are not entertained by the emigration authorities, as that province is considered to be still too sparsely populated with Russian settlers. From information in his possession my informant believed that from forty to fifty thousand Russian emigrants would be transplanted to Northern Persia in the course of the current year. Whether this estimate be correct or not, it is an abundantly evident fact that Russia is taking the most effective of all means for the complete Russianizing of the Persian territory overtly understood to be in her temporary military occupation. That is the view of the situation which it is desired should for some time longer obtain in England; but there is nothing of a temporary nature in Russia's consolidation of her foothold in Azerbaijan, and that province by no means delimits her future expansion of what she euphemistically describes as a protectorate imposed upon her by the hopelessly chaotic state of the Shah's nominal dominions. Persia is bankrupt, and she can only regain her solvency with the financial aid of her powerful neighbour and "protector," and, as The Near East last week observed, Russia always demands a sufficient *quid pro quo* for favours, financial or otherwise, she extends to Persia.

All the reports reaching Odessa from Tabriz go to show conclusively that Azerbaijan is already *de facto* a Russian province, and it is an easy transition from the *de facto* to the *de jure* where this country's future supremacy is concerned. M. Orloff, the Russian Consul-General, and Shuja-ed-Dowleh, the nominal Governor-General at Tabriz, are, as a matter of unquestionable fact, Russia's co-viceroys of Azerbaijan, and the civil administration of the province is wholly and solely controlled by M. Orloff and his staff of Russian subordinates.

Russian readers of the London Press, as I happen to know, marvel at the delicacy and reticence of Sir Edward Grey when he is pressed, in the House, for more particular and explicit information concerning the Russian occupation and administration of Northern Persia; and they are no less surprised at the want of pertinacity shown by the Parliamentary questioners, who cannot be ignorant of the actual situation in Azerbaijan. The Russian Press in no way attempts to veil Russia's policy in Northern Persia, but, unfortunately, the Russian Government is not yet prepared to make a full and candid statement, and, apparently, her reason therefor is a certain inexplicable deference to British public opinion. A completely frank declaration of her present and future Persian policy by Russia would clear the air of a cloud of misleading reports and British delusions.

To the representative of a local paper a member of the ex-Shah's suite the other day gave an emphatic contradiction to the report that his Majesty was endeavouring to dispose of property belonging to his wife in Azerbaijan in order to provide himself with funds for a further attempt to regain the Persian throne before the Coronation of the young Shah in July. The ex-Shah, said this informant, had not the remotest idea of any such futile adventure, and he was now reconciled to the inevitable. It was true that Mohammed Ali had sent a mission to Tabriz for the purpose, if possible, of disposing of certain property in Azerbaijan pertaining to his consort, but simply in order to relieve the financial straits in which he now finds himself. The local paper presumes that the pension granted to the ex-Shah by the Teheran Government is very much in arrear, owing to the extreme exigencies of the Persian Exchequer. I give you this under reserve. I doubt whether any member of the ex-Shah's suite is permitted to make a statement of the kind to a local journalist, although there is nothing inherently improbable in the nature of the alleged communication. The one thing patent to his Russian neighbours here is that Mohammed Ali is leading a very economical life in his modest villa. The Persian Consul-General, who has no official or private intercourse with the Royal exile, knows nothing of the intended journey of the ex-Shah's consort to Teheran for her son's Coronation beyond the announcement made from St. Petersburg to that effect some two months ago.

GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.

The annual meeting of the Central Asian Society was held on Tuesday, at 22, Albermarle Street, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband presiding. Sir Mortimer Durand was elected chairman for the year, and Sir West Ridgeway, Sir Frederick Fryer, and Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate were re-elected members of the council.

Sir Mortimer Durand read a paper on "Sir Alfred Lyall and the Anglo-Russian *Entente*." It was, he said, the irony of history that Sir Alfred, who for more than thirty years had advocated an agreement with Russia as to Central Asia, should be Foreign Secretary for India during the time when Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Lytton were engaged in efforts to checkmate the Russian advance in Asia and restore our prestige in Afghanistan. As to the present position, Sir Mortimer said that the Convention with Russia does not materially affect our military interests in India. Looking at the actual terms of the Convention, he would say that we had made a bad bargain. In a speech in the House of Lords, Lord Crewe had made him personally responsible for the decision arrived at by the Government as to Persia, but he must believe that that was an unintentional misrepresentation. He (Sir Mortimer) had drawn a line on the map which included Hamadan, Kermanshah, Ispahan, and Yezd as an area in which we had absolute control of the trade, while beyond that the Russians were competing successfully to some extent with us. Lord Crewe had given all the latter portion to Russia as a sphere of influence, had made the country below that into neutral zone, and had limited our sphere of interest to a small portion from Gazik to Bunder Abbas. Lord Kitchener believed this part was strategically sound. The situation in Persia was very disquieting. We had many ties with Persia, but we must remember that the Indian Empire was our first Asiatic interest. The occupation of Southern Persia might lead to great military developments, for it would require a large force and would probably be permanent. The Government should not enter lightly on a military occupation, for the supply of British bayonets was limited.

THE NEAR EAST.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DEVELOPMENT IN ISLAM.*

The name of the author of this volume is, of course, sufficient warrant of its interest and value, but for readers of THE NEAR EAST it will have a quite special value. The future of Islam is at the same time a matter of the gravest import politically and a subject of reflective speculation which occupies the minds of theological and philosophical students in a continually increasing degree. The notion that Islam is a decaying cult has been current throughout Christendom for several centuries; the imminence of its fall and disappearance has been announced times out of number, but wherever one looks one sees only expansion and growth, whether in Europe, Asia, or Africa. The spread of Islam in Africa is nothing less than phenomenal, and has naturally excited the apprehensions of the Christion Churches. The number of conversions to Islam throughout China, India, and the East Indian Islands is equally remarkable. This growth is real and, as far as can be judged, permanent; for Islam takes a firmer hold of its converts than does Christianity or any other religion. Once a Moslem, a Moslem for ever. "Backsliders" among converts is a thing unknown in Islam. Being therefore real and permanent, this wonderful world-effort on the part of a reputedly dying religion attracts the deepest attention and requires explanation. It is from this point of view that Professor Margoliouth's study of the early development of Mohammedanism merits special study. Taking the Koran as the essential basis of the religion, the author examines its origin and genesis in the light of the most recent researches. In this respect Professor Margoliouth does not add much to the sum of our existing knowledge, but he shows how, on the nucleus constituted by the Koran, the various accretive elements came into being and now, in their logical developments and as a whole, constitute the great religious-secular system of Mohammedanism. During the lifetime of the Prophet the revelations conveyed to men through him as intermediary were the main source of the Divine wisdom, and failing any such revelations, the word of the Prophet, as the Apostle of God, had the force of law throughout the whole of Arabia. After Mohammed's death, the revelations, which until then had been stored only in the memories of certain of those closely in contact with the Prophet's daily existence, were gradually collected and reduced to writing. Even then it, of course, soon became apparent that although the Koran was supposed to contain *all* knowledge and wisdom, it was impossible that it should provide directions for every contingency that might arise in the life of every follower of Islam. As a natural consequence there arose a vast mass of tradition relative to the actions of the Prophet in the most varied and particular circumstances. These traditions were in course of time critically examined by contemporary biographers, and if found to pass certain tests of authenticity they became binding on the community with the force of law—and, moreover, of almost immutable law. Thus the Koran and the Traditions have come to form practically the sole sources of guidance for the faithful. Owing to the particularly sacred character of the Koran in the eyes of the Moslem world, and the fixed, unchangeable nature of the Traditions, it is easily conceivable that almost insurmountable difficulties arise whenever it is proposed, by any of the forward spirits of Islam, to introduce even the smallest particle of the leaven of progress. A great struggle seems thus always to be waging between the enormous inherent vitality of the faith and the clogging weight of its original charters. What will be the outcome? A glimpse of possibilities may be gained by following Professor Margoliouth's study of the influences of philosophy, history, and mysticism on the development of Islam. All these and other factors have by slow and minute degrees brought about changes that would certainly have been prophesied impossible by early adherents of Islam. Their influence has been accumulating force within recent years, and aided by the study of scientific subjects, in which the modern Turk is so readily proficient, it seems certain that progress will not be longer excluded from Islam. What direction this change will take is hardly to be anticipated at present, but once such change is admitted in Islam, the already rapid expansion in these days will be infinitely surpassed.

Friends of Islam in England—and they are a large and growing company—will find in Professor Margoliouth's work a useful and impartial study of some of the factors which have moulded Islam in the past, and may thus be assisted to a very absorbing speculation as to the future of the Faith. *And the future will not seem dark.*

* "The Early Development of Mohammedanism." By D. S. Margoliouth, D.Litt. (Williams and Norgate. 6s. net.)

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett have issued "The Women of Egypt," by Miss Elizabeth Cooper. The authoress has visited the homes of the various classes of Egyptians and Bedouin, and has gained first-hand knowledge of their customs and habits. Particular attention is drawn to the need of teaching the womenkind of these peoples something about sanitary laws, and an attempt has been made to give some inkling of the problems in the lives of the Egyptian women which the rapid changes of to-day have created.

Mr. Edward Arnold issues Mr. H. F. Prevost Battersby's "Richard Corfield of Somaliland," with maps and illustrations, at half a guinea net. The author was war correspondent for *The Morning Post* during the Somali campaign.

The Oxford University Press will shortly publish a monograph upon Babylonian religion and theology entitled, "Tammuz and Ishtar," by S. Langdon, Shillito Reader of Assyriology at Oxford. The book has been written chiefly for philological purposes, and as "a reaction against the trend of Assyriological interpretation of Sumero-Babylonian religion, which has hitherto emphasised the magical side of this religion out of proportion to its purer ceremonies and deeper theology."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Inner History of the Balkan War. By Lieut.-Colonel Reginald Rankin, F.R.G.S. (Constable and Co. 15s. net.)

The Language of the Nawar or Zutt, the Nomad Smiths of Palestine. By R. A. Stewart Macalister. (Bernard Quaritch. For the Gypsy Lore Society. 5s.)

THE BITLIS RISING.

The Orient of May 20 reproduces some portions of a letter from Bitlis, which gives some details of the Kurdish rising. The writer says:—The events of the uprising created a diversion in some ways. We had a decidedly exciting moving picture show all day the second of April. This morning my barber used double time in cutting my hair while he related what happened within the "enemies'" lines where his house is located. He says that he gave ten batmans of bread to the "invaders." This shows that the Kourds were not prepared for anything. A general uprising requiring marching from place to place would be quite impossible. I have supposed that two hundred or three hundred outsiders came in. He says 4,000. He says the mountain side was covered with them lying down, so that not a "finger's space of earth remained uncovered." All these men were *unarmed*, waiting for their armed friends to take the arsenal that they might be armed. Another sign of weakness. The mountain on whose side they were lying divides one valley in the city from the main part of the city. The Kourds were on the back side of this mountain. Mollah Selim had said that he could stop the bullets by holding up his hands. He came among the fighters about noon. Not until his arrival was a Kourd killed. But just after he came two were killed, which rather made the Kourds doubt his miraculous powers.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

ANTIQUITIES IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Jurist and Banker," who writes on "Antiquities in Turkey" in your issue of May 22, writes under a misapprehension. "Merchants" of antiquities are fortunately not allowed to dig for that which is the historical evidence of their country with the object of selling this for their own profit.

The scientific societies who seek historical evidence receive a written licence to do so, in which the conditions are made perfectly clear. The locality is defined and limited; all objects found are the property of the Government unless or until such right be waived, as it may sometimes be in the case of duplicates. The result of this law is the magnificent museum at Constantinople, to which many contributions of value have been made by my society, who have, on their part, acquired and published much valuable historical evidence. It is the surreptitious digger for profit who is the greatest enemy of the knowledge derived from antiquities when found.—Yours,

J. D. CRACE, Hon. Secretary.

Palestine Exploration Fund,
2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, London, W.,
May 25, 1914.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I quite endorse the interesting letter of your correspondent "A Jurist and Banker," regarding antiquities in Turkey, and having travelled in that country allow me to add that the harm and injustice are, strange to say, done to natives only, while foreigners are never interfered with. Here is an instance I witnessed only a few months ago when passing through Syria. A German gentleman at Aleppo was able to ship to his country some thirty cases of antiquities excavated in Turkey, and all shipped in one day; while on the same day a native had two small boxes of the very same nature, which he was shipping as presents to his friends in Europe, confiscated and kept by the Ottoman authorities, simply because he was one of their own subjects. And this is the Government of so-called "Union, Liberty, and Progress."—Yours truly,

"X."

London, E.C.
May 27, 1914.

TURCOPHIL SOCIETIES IN LONDON.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—The association of which I have the honour to be secretary would deplore any dispute between the friends of Turkey in this country, but letters such as the one signed by Mr. Field, in your last issue, being typical of many other pronouncements from the same quarter, prompt me to make a statement from our side as to the reason why there are two Turcophil societies in London. I note with interest Mr. Field's claim that he founded the Ottoman Committee. I am far from wishing to dispute his claim, but I understood Mr. Duse Mohamed also considered himself its founder, and the same claim is made by a lady who is a member of the Ottoman Association. Perhaps the honours are divided, as they generally are in such cases.

However that may be, the Ottoman Committee was founded in the summer of 1913, and subsequently the executive included myself, Mr. E. N. Bennett, Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall, Mr. George Raffalovich, Mr. Arthur Diosy, and Captain Dixon-Johnson, all of whom are now members of the Ottoman Association. Differences of opinion arose as to policy and methods, which were thrashed out at several meetings. I presume due notice was given to all concerned of each meeting, as Mr. Field himself was acting secretary, and therefore he summoned them. Eventually a meeting was held at 158, Fleet Street, to which all members were invited. To the best of my recollection the meeting was large and representative, but perhaps Mr. Field could tell us exactly how many were present. A resolution was passed reconstituting the organization and appointing a new executive, and a further resolution was also carried changing the name to "The Ottoman Association." No one voted against either resolution, although Mr. Field and one or two others abstained from voting in favour. It is, therefore, an indisputable fact that the Ottoman Association is a continuation of the Ottoman Committee, and Mr. Field himself recognized that fact in so many words in letters to me, and also by handing over the Press cuttings and furniture which were the property of the Ottoman Committee. As Mr. Field declined to continue as secretary, Mr. Bennett and myself were appointed joint secretaries at the same meeting. Immediately afterwards Mr. Field, Mr. Duse Mohamed, and one or two others, withdrew from the organization, and started the Anglo-Ottoman Society, but of the thirty-eight members of the Ottoman Committee on the list supplied to us by Mr. Field, twenty-five still remain as members of the original body in its reconstituted form, although some of them—I do not know how many—have joined Mr. Field's society in addition.

The difference between the two societies, as I understand it, is simply that, whereas we aim at forming an organisation of people who have special knowledge of Turkey, or who are connected by trade, or in other ways, with matters Turkish, the Anglo-Ottoman Society endeavours to create a popular movement and welcomes anybody as members. The Ottoman Association is restricted to British subjects of European descent, as we believe that we can, by forming a more select and influential body, command more respect in quarters where British policy regarding Turkey is largely decided. For good or for evil, we fear the man-in-the-street does not decide these matters at the present day.

In conclusion, please permit me to point out that in the letter signed by "A Member of the Ottoman Association," to which he refers, there is no statement to the effect that the association kept silence on the subject of the Balkan atrocities. As a fact, we existed under the name of the Ottoman Committee, and we certainly did not keep silent. Mr. Field also refers to "the awkward question" of whether the members of our association were responsible for publishing the English edition of Pierre Loti's "Turkey in Agony." I see nothing awkward in the question. The book was published by the Ottoman Committee, at the expense of Captain Dixon-Johnson, the translation being undertaken gratuitously by Mr. George Raffalovich. It is now being reissued with the imprint of the Ottoman Association. Captain Dixon-Johnson and Mr. Raffalovich are both members of our executive, and not of Mr. Field's society.—Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM H. SEED,
Secretary Ottoman Association.

44, Dover Street, London, W.,
May 26, 1914.

THE THRACIAN PERSECUTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—In replying to my letter, your correspondent Mr. Arthur Field is good enough to support my remarks that the pro-Turk Party did bring forth the outrages they alleged had been perpetrated by various Christian races. Indeed, in view of the Press evidence that exists, it was ridiculous for your other correspondent, "A Member of the Ottoman Association," to assert that the pro-Turk Party kept silent about the atrocities they alleged.

Mr. Arthur Field states that the pro-Turk Party *very properly* brought forth the outrages. He appears to regret that the public have got heartily sick and tired both of the atrocities and atrocity-mongerers, and he quotes poetry which implies his desire that the rancour and venom created by the pro-Turk Party may cause yet more ill-feeling than it has already produced.

Your correspondent must realise that no possible good can come by expressing such sentiments, and I can hardly believe that English people, except, perhaps, a few fanatics, endorse your correspondent's views. Were it not for the fact that your valuable paper is widely read in the countries concerned, and that your correspondent's letter might create an erroneous impression of Englishmen's views in these countries, I could safely leave the puerile sentiments expressed by your correspondent to be appraised at their proper value by your English readers.

With all diffidence, I suggest to your correspondent that if he will study the past history of the Balkans and gain information in this way (and it is only by studying the past that we may hope to anticipate the future) he will be in a far better position to aid his cause than by quoting superficial observers and trying to influence the public with fictions and sentimentality of a very sordid type.

Your correspondent refers to the Balkans as "that interesting and original holiday corner of Europe." If he takes such a flippant view of the matter this, perhaps, accounts for (though it by no means excuses) the light-hearted manner in which he deals with the political situation and matters pertaining thereto. I hold the view that the Balkan Peninsula and what takes place there is of the utmost importance to our Empire.

I should advise your correspondent to read the excellent series of articles on the political situation in the Balkans which were published in *The Review of Reviews* in the autumn of 1912. These may impress on him the need for England to act in a firm and level-headed manner as regards Balkan affairs.

I do not care to criticise the second-hand statements your correspondent makes as regards what Miss Durham may have proved, and more especially as Miss Durham's philanthropic work in certain parts of the Balkans is well known. But if anybody states—notwithstanding your correspondent—"that there was little to choose among any of the titular Christian races of the Balkans in bestial barbarity and criminal ignorance," all I can say is that whoever uses these words must have a very slight knowledge either of the Balkans or of Balkan history. I should advise your correspondent to spend a little time in living amongst the various peoples of the Balkans—even if it be only during a "holiday"—before he again commits himself to paper on this subject.

With regard to your correspondent's reference to the Bulgarians, I think it best to adopt their own dignified policy of silence and reticence (conspicuous during the last few months) as regards other people's statements concerning them.

Yours, etc.

G. W. C. HOLLIST, M.R.C.S., etc.

Riseley Lodge, Maidenhead,
May 23, 1914.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Events in Albania have been somewhat spectacular of late. There was first the dramatic arrest of the local Warwick and the heroic devotion of his wife. Then he was mysteriously deported, and was shortly followed from the beach of Durazzo by the Mpret and all his family, together with ladies-in-waiting, diplomatists, valets, flunkeys, and electricians. A Royal Family of Naples could not have taken to the boats more expeditiously. Meanwhile Mr. Nogga continued to give advice which was not taken, Dr. Dillon to write telegrams which were not dispatched, and the rebels to insurge without knowing what to do next. Guns were fired by the Royalists, and a Royalist was their first victim—indeed, according to present reports, much damage might have been done in this way had not the gun been captured by the feudal levies. Then everybody went back again, the advice began to be accepted, the telegrams to be dispatched by "indirect route," and the feudalists to insurge to better purpose. It is considered, however, that the Mpret made a "bad break" in leaving his konak, even for warships a bare mile distant; but so far as I can gather there seems to be no reason why his reign should be considered as being at an end. People talk about an international occupation being necessary for the restoration of order in Durazzo, and it is very probable that some such step will have to be taken, although for the moment none of the Powers of the Triple Entente are anxious to undertake the burthen and responsibility of such action.

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It is, from the Hellenic standpoint, tragic that the Jubilee festivities at Corfu for the annexation of the Ionian Islands to Greece in 1864 should have to coincide with the Parliamentary debates in Athens on the Bill for ceding Sasseno, one of those islands, to Albania. I believe there are in normal times no perennial inhabitants of Sasseno, shepherds visiting the island with their sheep only during certain months. A lighthouse built by the Turks, by permission of the Greek Government, was in working order for some time, but was, I believe, after a while abandoned. This tiny islet, which commands Valona Bay, has within quite recent times had innumerable political vicissitudes. Until 1797 it was Venetian; after that, with the other islands, it passed to France, who lost it in 1799 to the Russians and Turks, but recovered it in 1807. In 1814 Great Britain became its Protector, and in 1864 it was given to Greece, and now it is to be ceded to Albania.

***

Numbers of foreign observers report that the Greeks are having trouble in Macedonia. This is hardly to be wondered at. Macedonia needs very careful administration indeed by highly competent and trained officials, and the number of gentlemen having the necessary qualifications at present at the disposal of the Hellenic authorities is not nearly large enough to cope with the work which is waiting to be done. In these circumstances I suggest that it would be a graceful act if the Cyprus Government were to offer Mr. Venizelos the services of some of its Greek officials—men who have had careful training in the islands administration, and are, moreover, many of them, bilingual and capable of dealing with Turkish peasants from old experience.

***

Progress has seen fit to attire itself in trousers, and its advocates insist that in a progressive state all men should seek to dress themselves in the products of unimaginative Western tailors. The members of the Albanian deputation, which offered Prince William of Wied an uneasy crown, had abandoned their magnificent national dress for the daylight absurdities of the *frac*. The Greeks in their zeal for progress dethroned the only king who wore their costume, and everywhere misguided men have sought to show the superiority of their civilization by putting off the distinctive garments of their race or district in favour of imported slops. In view of this levelling tendency, I note with pleasure that Mr. Nicholas Iorga has organized in Bucharest a festival at which all kinds of Roumanian national dresses were worn. This event took place at Valeni de Munte on Sunday, and, as the holiday garb of the Roumanian peasant is wonderfully rich and variegated, the sight should have been most brilliant and effective.

I see that the Italians, while successfully prohibiting cinematographic representations of the Trojan war in Rhodes, have turned their attention to the antiquities of that island and have found numerous and interesting remains dating from the Hellenic period. Excavations have been in progress in various parts of the island, particularly at Filiorimon, Daphni, and Yalissos, where the tomb of Aristomenes has been discovered by a gang of 200 excavators working under military supervision. I am glad that the Italians should be putting their occupation of Rhodes to good uses. Archæologists at least will be prepared to condone their presence in the Dodekanese for months to come if only they will undertake a series of systematic "digs" and publish proper reports of their labours. An invitation to a member of the British School in Athens to be present during the excavations would be esteemed a delicate attention and would go far to reassure the world at large, and Greece in particular, that gun-pits were not being dug under the cloak of archæological research.

***

In spite of all political considerations and immemorial tradition, those few who backed Durbar II. for this year's Derby are fully persuaded that at last something good has come out of Armenia.

***

I have received from two correspondents in the Balkans two different versions of a rather dramatic little scene which took place either at Baltchik or near that town (according as the one or the other of my informants is right). The chief actors were Mr. Savinsky, the Russian Minister at Sofia, and a Roumanian gendarme. Mr. Savinsky, it would appear, had undertaken a motor tour in the Dobruja with the object (avowed or unavowed) of making inquiries into the ill-treatment of Bulgarians in that district by the Roumanian authorities. One account states that two Roumanian sentries fired at his car as it crossed the frontier at full speed. Mr. Savinsky held out his papers, but, if there is any truth in the story, it looks as if he suspected that he might be held up, and therefore decided to make a dash for it. Near Baltchik, however, he was met by a detachment of soldiers and gendarmes. The car was stopped, and an explanation demanded. Mr. Savinsky made himself known, but as he was entering his car in order to proceed an officious (or vigilant) gendarme attempted to detain him. Thereupon Mr. Savinsky lost his temper and struck the gendarme. My other correspondent does not mention the frontier incident, but he adds other details. He states that the Russian Minister was received at Dobritch by the Roumanian Prefect, with whom he spent some little time, and that afterwards he left for Baltchik without informing the Roumanian authorities. Indeed, it is alleged that he gave it out that he did not intend to go to Baltchik at all, but proposed to visit some Bulgarian villages in the neighbourhood of Dobritch. If these were the circumstances of Mr. Savinsky's departure, the agitation of the Roumanian authorities was not unreasonable. According to this version, Mr. Savinsky was stopped in Baltchik by a solitary gendarme, who received from the Minister's own hand two smart boxes on the ear. My correspondent adds that the infuriated Russian telegraphed to his colleague at Bucharest and to his Government at St. Petersburg. Whether anything more will be heard of the incident, I do not know. Mr. Savinsky seems to have acted in a high-handed and perhaps "Consular" fashion, but it also seems that the Roumanian authorities are sensitive to any criticism of their behaviour in New Roumania, and strongly resent inquiries.

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The Westminster Gazette had a curious misprint in its announcement of the publication of the book on Armenia by Mr. Noel Buxton and the Rev. Harold Buxton. The title of the book appears as "Travel and Politics in America." But the confusion is worse confounded by the statement which follows. After mentioning that the introduction is by Lord Bryce, the writer of the note adds: "The subject of this work will naturally make a strong appeal to Lord Bryce, who has himself, in one of his earlier books, dealt with the same district." The slip is all the more amusing because Lord Bryce is the author of a learned and authoritative work on "The American Commonwealth." The hasty reader might assume that a deliberate insult is intended to the American continent. And this is the year of the Anglo-American Peace Centenary!

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914.	1914.		1332.	5674
May	May		Rejab	Sivan
29	16	Friday	4	4
30	17	Saturday	5	5
31	18	Sunday	6	6
June.				
1	19	Monday	7	7
2	20	Tuesday	8	8
3	21	Wednesday	9	9
4	22	Thursday	10	10

Wednesday will be the birthday of His Majesty the King.

To-morrow will be the birthday of Princess Theodora, the second daughter of Prince Andrew of Greece.

Monday, 7 Rejab, is the anniversary of the wedding of the Princess Nemika Sultana, daughter of H.I.H. Mehmed Selim Effendi, the eldest son of the ex-Sultan, to Damad Kenan Bey.

The Archduke Franz Ferdinand is expected to attend the Austro-Hungarian Army manœuvres, which are to be held in Bosnia from June 24 to 27.

Queen Alexandra has given her patronage to a matinée which is to take place on July 2 at the Queen's Theatre in aid of the fund under the immediate patronage of Princess Alice of Greece for assisting the Greek refugees.

According to our Athens correspondent, the King of the Hellenes will visit Corfu in order to attend the jubilee celebrations of the annexation of the Ionian Islands to Greece. The festivities will begin on June 3 (May 21 O.S.), that being His Majesty's name-day.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of *The Times* reported, under date May 24, that the meeting between H.I.M. the Tsar and H.M. King Carol of Roumania would take place within a fortnight from that date.

Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, attended by her governess, Miss Milne, left Bucharest (writes our correspondent) for Paris on Sunday, May 17, by the Orient Express. After a fortnight's stay in Paris, as the guest of her aunt, the Grand Duchess Cyril, the Princess will go to Madrid on a two months' visit to the Infanta Beatrice d'Orleans; and about the middle of August she will join her parents at Coburg.

An Imperial Dynastic Council was held at the Dolma Bagche Palace last Saturday, over which H.I.H. the Heir Apparent, Prince Yussuf Izz-ed-Din Effendi, presided. Their Highnesses the Grand Vizier and the Sheikh-ul-Islam were present, as was also Damad Enver Pasha, Minister of War.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that Count Frederick of Waldeck and Pyrmont will go to Bucharest in order to visit King Carol very shortly.

Our Bucharest correspondent reports that H.E. the Marquis Pallavicini, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the Sublime Porte, was received in audience by His Majesty the King of Roumania when in Bucharest en route for Vienna.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius were present at the dance given by Lady Waldstein at Claridge's Hotel on Tuesday night for her two daughters, the Misses Seligmann.

The following were amongst the members of the Diplomatic Corps in attendance at His Majesty's Levée, held on Monday, at St. James's Palace:—H.H. the Turkish Ambassador and Mehmed Ali Schevky Bey, the Hellenic Minister, and Mr. Rizo-Rhangabé, the Persian Minister, the Bulgarian Minister and Mr. N. G. Yankoloff, the Roumanian Minister and Mr. M. B. Boerescu, the Servian Minister and Mr. W. M. Petrovitch.

The Turkish Ambassador and the Hellenic Minister were present at the Duke of Devonshire's Derby Day ball at Devonshire House on Wednesday night.

H. E. Alfred Rustem Bey Bilinski, Ottoman Ambassador to Washington, became a Moslem before leaving Constantinople for his appointment, and has assumed the name Ahmed in lieu of Alfred.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Mishu were among the guests of Mr. Pretyman Newman, M.P., and Mrs. Pretyman Newman at a dinner given on Sunday night at 79, Eaton Square.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Mishu on Saturday entertained at luncheon at the Legation in Cromwell Place the principal members of the colony in celebration of the Roumanian Festival—a national holiday in Bucharest. A congratulatory message was sent to the King of Roumania from the colony through the Minister.

The daughters of the French and German Ambassadors at Constantinople have each received the second class of the Order of the Shefakat in recognition of their services to the Red Crescent Society.

Dr. von Miguel, the German Diplomatic Agent in Cairo, has left Alexandria for Germany.

Ibrahim Bey, formerly attached to the Ottoman Legation in Bucharest, has been appointed Secretary of Legation in Belgrade.

Suleiman Kemal-ed-Din Bey, formerly archivist in the Ottoman Embassy in Vienna, has been promoted Second Secretary in the Berlin Embassy.

Hakki Bey, of the department of political affairs in Constantinople, has been appointed Second Secretary in the Ottoman Embassy in Teheran.

Our Athens correspondent announces that Mr. D. Kaklamanos, formerly Secretary of Legation in Paris and Chargé d'Affaires in Rome, has been appointed Director of Political Affairs at the Greek Foreign Office, with the rank of Minister in the Diplomatic Service.

Serkis Bey, of the Turkish Embassy, has left London for Paris on leave.

Mr. N. Rossos having resigned his post as Vice-Consul for Austria-Hungary in Cyprus, Mr. Rudolph Troester, late of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, has been provisionally appointed in his place, and has taken over the duties of that office. The selection of Mr. Troester, whose provisional appointment it is hoped will be confirmed, has given much pleasure to his numerous friends in Cyprus.

Senator his Highness Musa Kiazim Effendi, formerly Sheikh-ul-Islam, has been elected chairman of the Unionist Party in the Turkish Senate.

The appointment of Daniel Reshad Bey as First Secretary to the Ottoman Embassy in Washington is announced from Constantinople.

Ahmed Shafik Pasha, director of the private Khedivial Wakfs, has been appointed a member of the governing body of El Azhar University in Cairo.

Ahmed Zekki Pasha has been appointed Secretary to the Egyptian Cabinet, in succession to Ismail Sidky Pasha, now Minister of Agriculture.

A *Berat* has been issued for the election of Mgr. Joachim as Orthodox Metropolitan of Metrai (Chataldja).

The Sultan has conferred on the German Admiral Suchon the Grand Cordon of the Medjidieh, and on the Commander of the "Goeben" the decoration of Grand Officer of the Medjidieh.

Talaat Bey, Turkish Minister of the Interior, left Constantinople on Saturday for Bucharest to return the recent visits of M. Take Jonescu and General Coanda.

Mr. Hallett Johnson, who has been appointed secretary to the United States Embassy in Constantinople, will spend the Whitsuntide holidays with Princess Hatzfeldt at Draycot Manor, Chippenham.

Among the passengers by the Messagerie s.s. "Lotus," which arrived at Marseilles on the 20th inst., were the following:—Count La Combe, retiring French Vice-Consul at Larnaca, Mr. C. Harrison, Major Dove, and Mr. G. Hardy.

Sir William and Lady Ramsay arrived in Constantinople from England ten days ago, and will continue excavations at Yalovatch (Antioch in Pisidia).

Mr. E. J. L. Berkeley, C.B., H.B.M., Consul-General in Tunis, celebrates his birthday on Sunday.

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Admiral Limpus, in charge of the British Naval Mission in Turkey, is now in London. Reouf Bey, formerly in command of the "Hamidieh," has gone to Newcastle to inspect the "Sultan Osman."

Sir Edgar and Lady Helen Vincent have arrived at Esher Place, where they entertained a house party for last week-end.

Lord and Lady Lamington and Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne were among the guests at a dance given by the Marchioness of Bute on Tuesday night at St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, for Miss Cecilia Crichton-Stuart and Miss Peggy Hastings.

The annual meeting of the Persia Society was held last week on Wednesday, Lord Lamington presiding. The reports, showing an increased membership, satisfactory finances, and a record of activity, were presented. A lecture was delivered by Professor E. G. Browne on "The Influence of Persia on Religious Thought."

The Bishop in Jerusalem has for the present combined the Archdeaconry of Syria, recently vacated by Archdeacon Dowling, D.D., with the Archdeaconry of Cyprus, for so long held by Archdeacon Beresford Potter.

Vice-Admiral Sir Douglas A. Gamble, K.C.V.O., has been appointed to succeed Vice-Admiral Sir Charles J. Briggs, K.C.B., as Vice-Admiral Commanding the Fourth Battle Squadron, the appointment to date July 1.

Our Athens correspondent announces that Mr. Zographos, the former President of the Autonomous Government in Epirus, is to be accorded Ministerial support at the forthcoming by-election in Athens, out of which at one time the Opposition had hoped to make political capital.

According to a Reuter's telegram from Khartoum, the Sirdar, Sir Reginald Wingate, left Khartoum for Cairo on Monday.

Sir Gerard and Lady Lowther were among the guests of Viscount and Viscountess Allendale at a dinner given at their residence, 144, Piccadilly, on Monday night.

M. André Mazon, secretary of the School of Living Oriental Languages in Paris, has been appointed by the French Ministry of Public Instruction to undertake a philological mission in Bulgaria.

Sir Mortimer Durand presided at the dinner of the Central Asian Society, held at the Savoy Hotel on Wednesday night. Amongst those present were Viscount Bryce, the Earl of Ronaldshay, Lord Lamington, Sir Francis Younghusband, Sir Valentine Chirol, Sir West Ridgeway, Sir E. Barrow, Sir T. Holdich, and Sir Evan James.

General Tanaka (in command) and a Japanese Military Mission (consisting of Colonel Senjur Hayashi, Lieut.-Colonel Hanza Kanaya, Lieutenant the Marquis Maeda, and Captain Shiraně, of the Imperial Japanese Navy) have arrived in Sofia, where they were welcomed by Colonel Jostoff, Chief of Staff in the Thracian campaign and Military Adviser to the Bulgarian delegates during the negotiations for the Treaty of London.

Colonel Yate, M.P., and Mrs. Yate are spending the Whitsun recess in Norway.

Our Port Said Correspondent reports that Dr. MacCarthy Morrough, Director of the Port Said Sanitary Office for some years past, has been transferred to Cairo, where he has received the appointment of President of the Central Medical Commission. His successor is Dr. Herron, who, on taking up his new duties, vacates the post of Director of the Sanitary Office at Mansourah.

The Director-General of the Ottoman Regie, Izzet Melyh Bey, has left Constantinople for European leave.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* announced, under date May 20, that Sir Gaston Maspero, Director-General of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities since 1899, will retire, owing to ill-health, on his return from leave in October. He will be succeeded by M. Lacau, Director of the French Institute of Archæology in Cairo, who was for many years Sir Gaston's assistant.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in London on June 8, between Herbert St. George Peacock, Judge of Sudan Courts, son of the late Right Hon. Sir Barnes Peacock and Lady Peacock, of 3, Buckingham Gate, and Marguerite Olive, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Palmer, of 40, Hauteville, Guernsey.

The death is announced at Colchester of Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Holroyd. He served in the Crimea, and received the Crimean medal and clasp for Sevastopol and the Turkish medal.

The death occurred at Khartoum on Sunday morning of Captain A. D. Law, of the Hampshire Regiment, who was attached to the Egyptian Army Stores Department. Born in 1877, he served in the ranks for upwards of four years. He saw much of the fighting in the South African War, 1899-1902, when he received the Queen's medal and four clasps. He had been employed with the Egyptian Army since 1906.

Mr. E. R. Ayrton, the Archæological Commissioner for Ceylon, whose death from drowning was recently announced from Ceylon, was a valued officer of the Egypt Exploration Fund before he went to Ceylon. He worked first with Professor Petrie at Abydos, then with M. Naville and Mr. H. R. Hall at Dêr-el-Bahri, and then with Mr. Thomas Davis at the Tombs of the Kings. He afterwards resumed explorations at Abydos and elsewhere for the Egyptian Exploration Fund, by the members of which his work was held in great respect.

Vice-Admiral Frederick St. George Rich, of Woodlands, Chiddingfold, Surrey, who died suddenly at his residence on Friday last at the age of 61, served at Suakin in 1884, when he received the Egyptian medal and bronze star.

Sir Francis Laking, Physician-in-Ordinary to the King, who died last week on Thursday night, received from ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid II. the decoration of the First Class Order of Merit of the Turkish Empire.

It is asserted in the Italian Press that Essad Pasha Toptan, formerly Minister of War in Albania, will shortly leave Naples for Constantinople.

The personal estate of the late Lord Strathcona amounts to £4,651,402, of which £4,232,849 is abroad and £418,553 in the United Kingdom. The duty paid totals £837,838.

It is intended next year to raise the value of the Alexandria Grand Prize to £1,000. It will be remembered that this year the Grand Prize, valued at £500, the chief race in April, was won by Hillal, ridden by Major Tudor, R.H.A.

Colonel R. U. H. Buckland, from chief engineer in Egypt, has been transferred to the similar post in the London district.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS.

BOLLAND.—On the 19th inst., at The Hermitage, Holmes Chapel, the wife of Godfrey Bolland, Maadi, Cairo, of a son.

BARTON.—On May 25, at Broome Lodge, Bungay, the wife of Claud Barton, Egyptian Civil Service—a daughter.

DEATH.

MORGAN.—On Monday, May 11, at Port Sudan, as the result of a gun accident, Harington Morgan, Judge of Civil Courts, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, fifth son of the late Sir Walter Morgan. R.I.P.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.
At foot of the Great Pyramids.

GRAND HOTEL, HELOUAN.
Excellent Family Hotel, adjoining Golf Links.

HOTEL DES BAINS, HELOUAN.
Opposite Sulphur Baths Establishment.

HOTEL CASINO, SAN STEFANO.
Near Alexandria. Favourite Bathing Resort.

CAIRO.

HELIOPOLIS PALACE HOTEL.
The most luxurious and comfortable Hotel in the world.
Connected with the centre of Cairo by the Electric Metropolitan (10 minutes' journey).
Altitude, 40 metres above the Nile valley.
Splendid view over Cairo.
GOLF, POLO, CRICKET. HIPPODROME in vicinity of Hotel.
Under the same management—
HELIOPOLIS HOUSE,
A first-class Family Hotel, with moderate terms.

Alexandria.

WINDSOR HOTEL (*Facing the Sea on the New Quay*).
Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*.
French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 50 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
Proprietor and Manager—AUG. van HILLEGEN.

Alexandria.

CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.
Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.
Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.
Patronised by the Elite.
Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. Full Pension P.T. 50 per day.
G. AQUILINA, *Proprietor.*
(Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

ZWEISIMMEN (SWITZERLAND).

HOTEL KRONE & KURHAUS
A GOOD FAMILY HOTEL.
Newly Renovated and Enlarged.
SUMMER AND WINTER SEASON.
Pension from Frcs. 6.
Summer and Winter Sports. Tennis Courts.
Orchestra. Large Garden.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1914.

A NEW POLICY IN PERSIA.

On the last day of August, 1907, the Governments of Great Britain and Russia signed a Convention "having mutually engaged to respect the integrity and independence of Persia, and sincerely desiring the preservation of order throughout that country and its peaceful development." In order to give effect to these engagements, it was agreed that Great Britain should not seek for herself nor support in favour of British subjects any concessions of a political or commercial nature, in a region comprising about three-eighths of Persia. Russia on her part is under similar obligations in respect of a region occupying about three-sixteenths of the total territory of Persia, in the south-eastern corner. In regard to the middle or neutral region, each Power undertook not to oppose, without previous arrangement with the other, the grant of any concessions to the subjects of the other Power. Seven years have now passed since this Convention was signed, and the moment is opportune to take stock of the situation in Persia, as it has been evolved under the working of the Anglo-Russian Agreement. The order which the two Governments were sincerely desirous of preserving was very quickly disturbed by a protracted struggle between Persian Constitutionalists and Monarchists. To this turmoil ensued anarchy throughout the country. In the northern zone, where by the terms of the Convention the British Government allows Russia a free hand, order has been restored by a Russian military occupation. Russia's interests, actual or potential, are a factor that cannot be ignored in North Persia. She is at all times ready to spend large sums of money in that region, and she has seen to it that those interests shall not be jeopardised by the indefinite continuation of a state of disorder. In the two zones lying to the south of the Russian zone a very different condition of affairs prevails. Owing to inherent weakness and lack of means the Persian Government has been unable of its own accord to restore order. In its own zone the relative unimportance of commercial interests has freed the British Government from over anxiety regarding the state of the country, but in the neutral region where Great Britain's interests, though paramount, are only partially recognized by the Anglo-Russian Convention, these interests have had to bear the full effect of the general lawlessness. The only attempt made to cope with the situation has been the formation of a gendarmerie under Swedish officers, and supported by British monetary advances. In spite of the gallant efforts of the Swedes the attempt has so far failed, and an impartial review of the whole position holds out no hope that under existing conditions the gendarmerie will at any time in the near future be equal to their task.

It is inconceivable that the present state of disorder should be allowed to continue indefinitely. If British interests are to be maintained in the south of Persia, it becomes necessary that Great Britain should herself lend a more effective hand in counteracting the inertia of the Persian Government. Hitherto her punctilious interpretation of the spirit of the Convention has interposed an obstacle. The position of Great Britain in the neutral region received wholly inadequate recognition in the terms of that Agreement. British interests in the south-eastern corner of Persia are for the most part geographical and dormant. The region where those interests correspond with Russia's interests in the north —allowance being made for difference in the respective policies of the two countries—is in the neutral zone. The first object, therefore, of British statesmanship in Persia must be to secure a reconsideration of the Agreement with Russia. Occasion offers in the revival of the scheme for a Trans-Persian railway. As an indispensable preliminary to negotiations on this subject Great Britain should be given as free a hand in the south and east of Persia as Russia has in the north or rest of the country. With the lapse of time the proposal for a trunk line across Persia has been shorn of much of the glaring inappropriateness of a mere linking up of Russian and Indian railway systems. Bunder Abbas is now likely to be considered as the most suitable destination of the line, having regard to the exigencies of Persian trade and the strategic requirements of the railway, if at any future date it should be extended in the direction of India. Opposition to the Trans-Persian railway scheme in its original form did not imply hostility to railway construction in Persia, and we have never wished to see the country starved in respect of communications. Moreover, it is clear that railway development can best be brought about by co-operation between Russia and Great Britain. But this co-operation must rest on the principle that in regard to railway construction there can be no "neutral zone" as far as British interests are concerned. In other words, just as all lines in the northern region will be built and controlled by Russia, so all lines in the remainder of Persia—the present "neutral" region and the British region combined—must be built and controlled under the auspices of Great Britain. In this way only can the legitimate interests of all three countries be safeguarded, for there are three countries to be considered, although the working of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 has tended to obscure this fact.

A very strong case for the revision of the Anglo-Russian Convention is provided by the decision of the British Government to purchase a large interest in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. But quite apart from this and other considerations a revision might be welcomed, if only for the opportunity given to Russia and Great Britain to take Persia into their confidence. Such a course will at least encourage the Persians to do their best, instead of seeming to predicate for them failure before a start has been made, and Great Britain would do well to insist upon it. Russia in the north with her military occupation may be indifferent to Persia's views or Persian susceptibilities. Great Britain in the south has never adopted the Russian attitude. She refrained from a military occupation, and the few troops despatched from India for guard duty have been almost entirely withdrawn. Any further military expedition is viewed with disfavour, and we do not urge it at this stage, although we realize what it might have achieved at one time in the south, if other considerations had not weighed against it. But Great Britain's responsibility for the rehabilitation of Southern Persia is no less pressing on account of her reluctance to use troops for the purpose. Railway construction will, in the natural order of events, make for the pacification and development of the country, but before this influence can be exercised it is essential that peace and order should be restored. To this end the gendarmerie must be used and must be largely strengthened. The anomaly of committing to Swedes the defence of British interests in Persia, for which British money has to be advanced, should be removed, and the place of the Swedish officers should be taken by British officers with Indian experience. In addition to the gendarmerie there could be a small but efficient striking force also recruited in Persia and under British officers. Its task would be by decisive action to restore the order which the activities of the gendarmerie would subsequently maintain. The two forces would have their counterparts in the northern zone, and as their efforts came to be crowned with success they would supply conclusive evidence of the superfluous character of a Russian military occupation, over and above a gendarmerie under Russian officers and a Cossack brigade. The policy which we have outlined is probably open to less objections than any other, while offering at the same time an opportunity of promoting the real interests of Persia, and enabling Great Britain to occupy towards Southern Persia a position corresponding to the great interests which she has at stake.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.

THE NEW OIL CONTRACT.

The decision of the British Government to embark once more upon a commercial venture having for its object the preparation and supply of oil-fuel for the Navy is remarkable in many ways, not the least satisfactory of which is the blow which has been given to the grossly inflated monopoly prices of oil. We understand that oil-fuel which ten days ago would have been charged to the taxpayer at £3 15s. per ton is now being offered to the Admiralty at £2, and if this latter figure represents a fair commercial profit, the saving to the revenue should be still greater when his Majesty's Government becomes a producer as well as a consumer. It is indeed something for which to be thankful that the Treasury is now free to buy oil-fuel in an open market, and is no longer in peril of having to pay monopoly prices to semi-British or wholly alien concerns for that vast supply of oil which will be required for naval purposes in the near future—a supply the magnitude of which can be calculated on the rough-and-ready estimate that a warship will have to burn one pound of oil per hour for for every unit of her horse-power. There are other points upon which the new agreement calls for comment.

The First Lord of the Admiralty has acted obviously in the best interests of the Navy and of economy in the estimates, but it is to the Foreign Office that will fall the task of readjusting the political balance in Persia, which cannot but be profoundly affected by so pronounced an increase of British interests—and official interests at that—in an area outside the sphere delimited at the time of the Anglo-Russian Agreement. That the Persian Government will stand to gain is obvious in view of the terms of the original concession, and doubtless its benevolent attitude in the matter is assured, but it is not from the Ministers of Sultan Ahmed Shah that the Foreign Office will have to expect objections and difficulties. The presence of official British interests from Arabistan to Baluchistan will make it increasingly imperative that order be restored and kept in the south, such order, indeed, as the Russians maintain in Azerbaijan and the north—and it is for that pacification in all its multitudinous aspects, internal, military, and international, that the Foreign Office will have to arrange—no light task to be sprung upon a Government department at a moment's notice.

Typical Section of the Anglo-Persian Company's Pipeline.

The advent of so powerful a financial combination as the reconstituted Anglo-Persian Oil Company will be upon the scenes in Arabistan must materially affect the economic future not only of that area, but of the whole of that part of Asia. Arabistan is already crossed by a pipeline, which may now have to be doubled in order to cope not only with the existing supply, but also with the potential demand; it is shortly to be traversed by the Khorremabad Railway. The long-disputed frontier between the dominions of the Shah and the Padishah has at length been settled and actually delimited. Consequently, there is no political reason, other than the local unrest, why Mohammerah should not become the capital of a properly organised and peaceful province with modern communications, which will themselves vastly increase the facilities for maintaining order. We may even look forward to the possibility of reclamation works being initiated in those considerable areas which lie between the Karun and the newly delimited frontier, a possibility which is not outside the calculations of those who are planning a new service of steamers to tap the future productiveness of the Arabian Irak and its eastern borderlands.

Apart from the commercial and Continental aspects of the new Agreement and its consequences, the action of the Admiralty more than ever emphasises the position of Great Britain in the Persian Gulf. For a century and more we have policed those waters, and have successfully headed off all manner of foreign land-hunting ventures. Our vastly enhanced interests at the head of the Gulf, coupled with our long and honourable record of disinterested public service on and near the Gulf, give us every right to maintain that in the future, as in the past, no foreign Power is to acquire territory or exclusive privileges of any kind, political or commercial, on the Bahr el Fars, its coasts, its affluents, or its neighbouring waters. Up to the present our attitude towards all the countries south of Iran has been inspired by a spirit of negative sovereignty—we have maintained an immemorial *status quo*, and have faced the scarcely veiled territorial aspirations of European and Ottoman alike with the veto: "Ye shall not conquer," while conjugating that verb "We shall not conquer" so far as our own interests were concerned. Nor can we see that any new factors have appeared during the last few days of such a nature as to cause the Foreign Office or the Delhi Government to depart from the policy which has been sanctioned by a century of custom.

Our illustrations are from photographs kindly lent by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, to which we are also indebted for much of the information in the article describing the field.

The map showing the position of the oil wells with regard to the territorial arrangements made by the Anglo-Russian Convention, is reproduced by courtesy of *The Times*.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE OILFIELDS.

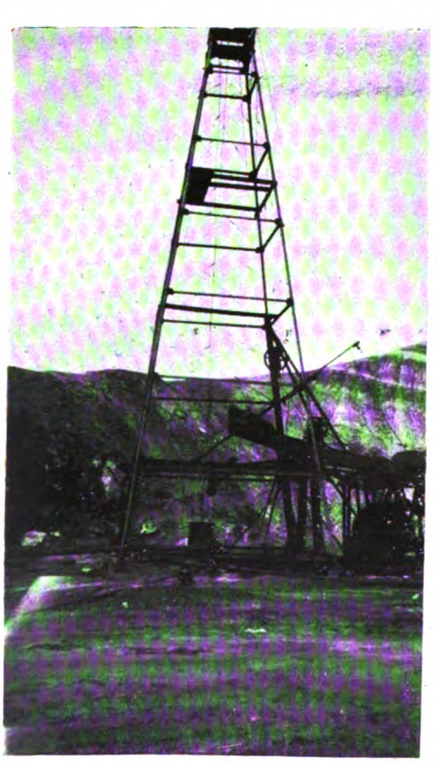
The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., was formed in 1909 to work a concession, obtained from the Persian Government in 1901 by Mr. W. K. D'Arcy, granting an exclusive right to exploit petroliferous areas and to sell petroleum throughout the Persian Empire, with the exception of five provinces in the north. The company is essentially a British organisation, created by British energy and enterprise, controlled and managed by men of British nationality. The first chairman of the company was Lord Strathcona, who retained that position until his death. It may be said truly that his interests ranged from the Pacific Ocean to the Persian Gulf, and from Canadian railways to the oilfields of the Middle East.

Offices of the Company at Mohammerah.

All the directors are British, and the Burmah Oil Company, a British company, holds practically all the ordinary shares. In return for the privileges granted to the company, the Persian Government receives 16 per cent. of the net profits of working. The local tribes also hold shares in the producing companies. It is a tribute to the tact and good sense of those responsible for making the necessary arrangements with these tribes and their chiefs that the relations of the company with them have always been remarkably friendly.

Extent and Nature of Concession.

The company's concession covers some 500,000 square miles of Persian territory. As yet only a very small portion of this vast area has been geologically examined, but there are some thirty to forty known oilfields in it, from some of which oil and bitumen have been obtained from Biblical times. This country was, moreover, the original home of the Zoroastrians, and fire worship (with locally produced naphtha) is even now secretly carried on by some of the tribes—*e.g.*, in remote Kurdistan, near the company's Kasr-i-Shirim field. The line of the oil-bearing zone runs from Kasr-i-Shirim, in the north, parallel to the Persian Gulf, down to the Baluchistan frontier, and it is probably connected on the one hand with the extensive Mesopotamian field and the famous Baku field on the Caspian in the north, and on the other with the Burmah fields in the south.



Well Derrick on the Maidan-i-Naphtun Field.

The Maidan-i-Naphtun Field.

At present the bulk of the production is derived from the Maidan-i-Naphtun area. Maidan-i-Naphtun (the Valley or Plain of Naphtha) is situated about 150 miles north-north-east from the company's refinery at Abadan, and is connected with it by a pipe line. On this field some thirty to forty wells have been drilled, but only a few have been carried down to the petroliferous strata, and the production from them is more than sufficient for the present pipe line. All the wells are "flowing" wells, and some of them have been flowing for upwards of six years. The big well on this field, which recently drilled itself through (see THE NEAR EAST of May 1) has alone a capacity of about 1,500 tons a day, even when throttled down as much as possible, and there are many other wells, not yet drilled through to the oil horizon, which probably could be made to give an equally large output. The proved area in this field and the adjoining one of Maidan-i-Naphtek is about six square miles, on which it will be practicable to drill from 400 to 500 wells. Therefore, from these two fields alone enormous supplies of oil are likely to be obtained. The big well referred to above was opened about two and a-half years ago, but was not fully "drilled in," as the production from the few wells in which the oil sand has accidentally been pierced has always been more than ample. Recently, however, it drilled itself in, and its production exceeded 2,000 tons a day. Only with the greatest difficulty has this output been reduced to 1,500 tons a day.

The oil flows from the wells to large storage tanks on the field, from which it is pumped into the pipe line. The pumping station is situated at Tembi, about four miles from the field. The pipe line is six inches in diameter as far as Wais (fifty miles from the field), and from there on eight inches. The capacity of the line is about 350,000 tons per annum.

Transport of Material.

It will be understood that in a country like Persia, possessing practically no transport facilities beyond the few rivers, the conveyance of heavy machinery and material a long distance from the coast is a very difficult undertaking. The large amount of heavy machinery and material needed for the well-sinking operations had to be transported from the coast to the field, a distance of 150 miles inland—a labour which afforded opportunities for the greatest engineering skill and resource. Naturally, as much use as possible was made of the Karun River and of Messrs. Lynch's steamer service, which, however, had to be supplemented by the company's own service of tugs and barges. At Wais transhipment was necessary from the Lower to the Upper River, and a light railway was constructed for the purpose. The material for the fields was landed at the company's depôt at Dar-i-Khazineh, and from there was carried by mule transport to its destination. This final stage of the journey is over very hilly country, and although the distance as the crow flies is about twenty miles, the road is thirty-two miles, and even then the gradients are very severe. Furthermore, at certain seasons of the year transport on the backs of mules is the only practicable method. But, in spite of all these difficulties, the pipe line was successfully completed before the refinery.

Mr. C. Greenway's Lur Guard at Kasr-i-Shirin.

Refinery at Abadan.

On the island of Abadan the company has built a large and up-to-date refinery, designed to manufacture petrol, benzine, kerosene, and fuel oil of the best quality. Facilities for loading large tank steamers are provided at Abadan. This refinery is able to deal with about 1,000 tons of crude oil daily. Besides the refinery proper, there is at Abadan a complete installation for the manufacture of tins and cans necessary for packing kerosene and benzine. Special drums are also made for the transport of oil by mules for use in the interior. The plant is electrically driven, and a large power station has been erected for this purpose.

Personnel.

At Mohammerah are the chief offices of the company in Persia, with a British staff. There is also a large refinery staff of British nationality—chemists, engineers, etc. Of the other employees, the skilled workmen are British Indians and the unskilled labourers are Persians.

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A "Jim" loaded with pipes. Derrick in distance.

Kasr-i-Shirin Field.

There is also a proved field at Kasr-i-Shirin, where drilling operations were first conducted, the first well being sunk in 1902-3. Some five wells in all have been drilled here, and all have remained producers from the time of drilling to present date without any attention. But when the Maidan-i-Napthun field was proved, it was adopted as the company's source of supply because it was so much nearer the coast. The entire production at Kasr-i-Shirin is disposed of locally. There is also a small refinery attached to this field for local requirements, the bulk of the oil manufactured here being sold in Turkey. The Turco-Persian Frontier Delimitation Commission is understood to have awarded Kasr-i-Shirin to Turkey, but the rights of the company have been specifically safeguarded.

Proposed Extensions.

Wells are now being sunk at Ahwaz and White Oil Springs, near Wais and Maidan-i-Naphtek, and if oil is found there the production could be evidently increased with the present pipe line. The potentialities of the present field, however, are much in excess of the capacity of the existing pipe, and the company therefore have been making arrangements for the construction of a second pipe line which will increase the capacity of production by about 1,000,000 tons a year.

[*By courtesy of "The Times."*

Position of the Oil Concess on in respect to the British and Russian Spheres.

Markets.

Storage tanks for fuel oil are being erected at Busreh and Baghdad, and there will be a good demand for fuel oil from the various steamship companies whose steamers ply on the Gulf and the Tigris. Many of these steamers are being adapted to the use of oil fuel. The Baghdad Railway and the projected Mohammerah-Khorremabad and Trans-Persian Railways should also be large consumers. There is also a growing demand for fuel oil and kerosene in Mesopotamia, where oil engines are being very largely used for irrigation purposes.

A large quantity of the company's products is also exported to India and elsewhere.

The Mohammerah-Khorremabad Railway.

The projected railway from Mohammerah to Khorremabad will have the effect of opening up the country, and will doubtless bring the company a large amount of trade from the interior. At present the local markets are confined to the coast and river ports, and very little is taken inland owing to transport difficulties.

From this brief account of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's activities the reader can judge of the importance of the pioneer work that has been done. But the developments which may be expected owing to the co-operation of the British Government are far-reaching. The oil potentialities of the company's concession are enormous, and the preservation of this source of supply for the needs of the British Fleet will be one of the primary concerns of Imperial policy.

THE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

It was announced last Friday that a contract was being arranged between the British Government and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the supply of a large quantity of fuel oil for delivery over a term of years. An agreement has been concluded whereby the Government is to subscribe for 2,000,000 Ordinary shares and £200,000 Debentures, as soon as the necessary Parliamentary sanction has been obtained. This additional capital is required for the considerable extensions of the company's existing pipe-lines, refineries, tankers, etc., which will be necessary to enable the company to carry out this large contract.

A meeting of the shareholders is called for to-day for the purpose of authorising the increase of capital, and for making certain alterations in the articles of association.

In the House of Commons on the 22nd inst., on the motion of Mr. Churchill (First Lord of the Admiralty), the following motion was agreed to:—

That this House will on Monday resolve itself into Committee to consider the authorising of the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums not exceeding in the whole £2,200,000, as may be required under any Act of the present Session to provide for the acquisition of capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited.

On Monday, however, discussion of the subject was postponed until June 9—probably because the House was in no mood to discuss any important topic at the time. The motion standing in the name of Mr. Churchill was as follows:—

That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole two million two hundred thousand pounds, as are required for the acquisition of share or loan capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

On Monday a Blue-book (Cd. 7,419) was published giving particulars of the agreement between the Government and the company, and the report of the Admiralty Commission, which, under the presidency of Vice-Admiral Sir Edmond J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., investigated the oilfields comprised in the Company's concession.

An explanatory memorandum states:—The agreement

Abadan at an early Stage.

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provides that His Majesty's Government shall subscribe to the capital of the company as follows:—

	£
Ordinary shares	2,000,000
Preference shares	1,000
Total shares to be held by Government	2,001,000
First debentures ranking *pari passu* with existing debentures	199,000
Total Government subscription	2,200,000

The total share capital (the memorandum proceeds) will be as follows:—

	£
Existing ordinary shares	1,000,000
Existing preference shares	999,000
Share capital held other than by Government	1,999,000
Share capital held by Government	2,001,000
Proposed share capital	4,000,000
Existing debentures	600,000
Debentures held by Government	199,000
Aggregate	4,799,000

The preference shares (6 per cent., participating to the extent of 2 per cent. in dividends after payment of 6 per cent. on ordinary shares) have the same voting power as ordinary shares. The Government will thus hold a majority of 2,000 share votes. An option has been secured to take over existing debentures when redeemable, viz., December 31, 1920. The agreement has been signed and sealed. The necessary Financial Resolution and Money Bill will be presented in order that the Government may be able to authorise immediate steps to be taken by the company to proceed with development.

Provision is made for the appointment of two *ex officio* directors by the Treasury, one of whom will be chosen to represent the Admiralty directly. A power of veto over all acts of the company and its subsidiaries is conferred upon the two *ex officio* directors, with right secured to the other directors to appeal to his Majesty's Government as represented by the Treasury and the Admiralty. The Government has given the company an assurance that this veto will be exercised with due regard to the financial and commercial interests of the company, and only in respect of matters of general policy.

The capital furnished by the Government will be issued in instalments as required, and is intended to provide for such development of resources as may be necessary to secure an abundant quantity of oil for naval purposes over a term of upwards of twenty years. Purchases of oil for the Admiralty will continue to be a charge to naval votes.

The report of Admiral Slade's Commission indicates that the company's concession may be expected to produce abundant supplies of oil over a long period of years. The concession is a very large one, with good indications of oil in many places other than those at present being worked, and existing wells have proved productive and of good durability.

In the public interests, the supply contract will be regarded as confidential. It may be stated, however, that provision is made therein for the supply for a term of years on a favourable scale of price of a reasonable proportion of the total estimated annual requirements of the Admiralty on the present basis of policy of oil consumption

Jetty at Abadan with godowns in distance.

and with due allowance for expansion. The contract is for oil only, and the Admiralty will make its own arrangements for transport. The Admiralty has been taking moderate supplies from Persia for some time past, and is satisfied that the oil will prove to be of good quality for naval purposes. Experiments are being carried out to arrive at the most economical method of extracting oil from shale and coal. It is hoped that when the use of oil in the Service shall be so extended that it will form the major part of the fuel used, the production and commercial utilisation of oil and other products of coal and shale will have reached such a position that the oil fuel so obtained will supplement natural petroleum to a greater extent than is at present the case.

The memorandum observes that the policy of the Admiralty with regard to the provision of oil is to spread its contracts as much as possible over widely separated fields. Thus, in time of war, if some areas should be closed others will remain open. But while it is not desirable to

The Refinery at Abadan.

draw all our supplies from one source, it is essential that the fields over which the Government will have control shall be so developed that in times of emergency they will be able to supply at short notice any deficiencies that may arise through failure of deliveries elsewhere. By taking over such control the Admiralty is only extending the policy which has been adopted with regard to other articles of prime necessity to the State in time of war, and it is only by assuming such control that the State can effectively ensure that supplies shall always be forthcoming in times of emergency, and that the prices in such cases shall not be artificially inflated by interested producers and marketing agencies. It must also be borne in mind that foreign navies are on the road to become large consumers of oil, and that in the course of time they will be entering the market for increased quantities, and competing still more keenly with the Government for prompt supplies.

At the present time the production and distribution of petroleum oil is fairly well distributed among a number of companies. There is, however, an evident tendency for the oilfields of the world and the marketing of their products to fall more and more under the control of a comparatively few large concerns. To a great extent this is probably unavoidable. The policy of amalgamation is founded on considerations of expediency similar to those which induce a large oil consumer to distribute orders as widely as possible, viz., greater security of supply, in order that a possible shortage in one direction may be counterbalanced by abundance elsewhere.

A large consumer like the Admiralty, with the national interest of naval defence in its keeping, cannot, however, place itself in a position of dependence for vital supplies upon a few companies whose interests are necessarily cosmopolitan and financial, although the Admiralty may properly place a reasonable portion of its contracts in the hands of such organisations, admittedly efficient, and possessing great resources. It is important and essential in naval interests to secure that at least one large British oil company shall be maintained, having independent control of considerable supplies of natural petroleum, and bound to the Government by financial and contractual obligations. Such an arrangement can hardly fail to have its effect not merely on the supplies directly so obtained, but on the terms and conditions on which the whole of the Admiralty's requirements will be met, owing to the greater independence and bargaining power thus obtained.

The grounds on which the Government arrived at their decision to enter into the agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, it is stated, are purely naval, viz., the imperative need of direct control of a reasonable proportion of the supply of oil fuel required for naval purposes. There is ground for confident anticipation that the step which has been taken will be of great benefit to the navy, and that the exercise of foresight in this matter will ultimately prove to have contributed greatly to the security of important naval supplies, and to a very large economy of expenditure in providing for a fuel which will, without doubt, become an absolute necessity in order to secure the full efficiency of his Majesty's naval service.

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Some "Extracts from Speeches of the First Lord of the Admiralty in Regard to Oil Fuel" follow the memorandum from which the above extracts are taken; then comes the agreement between the Government and the company; finally, we have the report of the Admiralty Commission, already referred to, which was composed as follows:—Rear-Admiral Sir Edmond J. W. Slade (Chairman); Professor John Cadman (Professor of Mining, Birmingham) E. R. Blundstone, Esq. (Geologist); J. C. Clarke, Esq., Admiralty (Secretary); and E. H. Pascoe, Esq., of the Geological Survey of India.

This Commission, which arrived at Mohammerah in October of last year and returned to England in January, reports as to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's properties:—

We are satisfied that the Company's Concession is a most valuable one, and, providing no unforeseen factor intervenes, the existing field is capable, with proper development, of supplying a large proportion of the requirements of the Admiralty for a considerable period, while the whole Concession, judiciously worked, would probably safeguard the fuel supply of his Majesty's Navy.

After an examination of certain districts in Persia adjacent to the Persian Gulf, we consider that the southern parts of the Concession offer reasonable prospects as petroliferous regions, and that the company should be urged to test these localities without delay. Obvious advantages would accrue from the discovery of a productive field in the south, but we are none the less of opinion that even should these regions prove disappointing, ample supplies would be forthcoming from the northern fields, provided proper steps are taken to prevent their undue depletion.

The company cannot adequately develop this very extensive Concession without additional capital, and we understand that the question of his Majesy's Government affording it financial support is under consideration. Should such a course be decided on, we are of opinion that it should be made a condition that Government should have a voice in the direction of the company's general policy. We would, indeed, strongly recommend that such a measure of control should be obtained as to ensure:

1. The efficient supervision of the expenditure of the new capital.
2. The proper conservation of the oilfields in order that the rate of output may be carefully proportioned to the resources of the fields, so that the delivery of oil under contract to the Admiralty can be adequately safeguarded.
3. General supervision of the future development of the Concession.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Trans-Persian Railway. May 25.

Lord Lamington asked whether negotiations in connection with the Trans-Persian Railway scheme were taking place, and whether papers would be laid showing what were the views of the Government of India in regard to the scheme.

Lord Sydenham said the large oil developments which were taking place in Persia, and the action of the Government in assuming a controlling share in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, must create something of a new situation, because it involved us in a direct stake in the neutral zone. If any information could be given without prejudicing any negotiations which might be taking place it would be welcomed by all who were following events in Persia with growing anxiety.

The Marquess of Crewe said the question could not be said to have moved very materially since the last discussion on the subject, in July, 1912. The Société d'Etudes had not been able to proceed very far. The leave given by us was not to construct, but only to survey. So far as the other spheres were concerned, outside our own limit, for instance, in the Russian sphere, our leave to construct was not necessary. The picturesque idea of a railway running direct from Russia to India appealed to the imagination of many men in Russia and some in India. That, however, was a question entirely for the British and Indian Governments, who had made it quite clear that, whatever railways were constructed in Persia, any question of the continuation of them to India was absolutely reserved for the decision of the two Governments. Until they agreed the construction could not and would not be allowed. Certain discussions had taken place, but no definite conclusion had yet been reached. From the point of view of Persian development local lines would be more effective than a great through line. He had no doubt that Russia would construct from Teheran southwards a railway with which British lines would ultimately be able to make a connection. At the same time amicable feeling on both sides did not entitle either to neglect the ordinary precautions of national defence. That fact was, he believed, frankly and generously recognised by the Russian statesmen.

In reply to a further question by Lord Lamington respecting Indian military opinion on the proposed railway from Persia to India, the Marquess of Crewe replied that the only kind of line which the Indian military authorities regarded as admissible would be one running along the coast, so that there would be a possibility of using our naval superiority for its defence. It had been suggested that a railway from Persia to India would make an increase of the Indian forces necessary, but in his opinion it was impossible to think of either the Government of India or the Government at home agreeing to the construction of a line which would involve any large increase of the Indian Army.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A Consul's Speech. May 21.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Mr. Eyres was to return to Constantinople in a month, notwithstanding the speech made by him which had given offence to the Turks; whether the Grand Vizier had complained of Mr. Eyres's speech to the Foreign Office; and, seeing that in these circumstances Mr. Eyres could not be a useful and acceptable Consul-General at Constantinople, whether he would now inform the House what action was to be taken in regard to this matter, which touched the discipline of our Consular Service and the feelings of a friendly nation.

Sir E. Grey: It is obvious that the report of the speech in question is a matter that has not been disregarded as appears from the answer given last month. The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. Ponsonby: Is not Consul-General Eyres an exceedingly able and capable official?

Sir E. Grey: Yes, it is quite true that he has had a long period of good service, but the report of the speech in question is a matter that cannot be disregarded in the special circumstances of the case.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert: Was not the speech a purely private one, and not intended to be reported at all?

Sir E. Grey: I believe it was not intended to be reported, but, having been reported, it became public property.

Sir J. D. Rees: If I had known that the speech was not intended to be reported I should not have asked the question again.

Sir E. Grey: That was the case, but the misfortune arises from the fact that his remarks were reported, although they were not intended to be so. Once reported, the speech became public property, and we received representations from the Turkish Government on the subject.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert: Would not an expression of regret on the part of Mr. Eyres go some way towards soothing Turkish feeling?

Sir E. Grey: The hon. member will see from my statement that the matter is still under consideration. I meant to imply that the matter is of some importance and delicacy. The fact that it is still under consideration of course means that a definite solution has not yet been arrived at.

Affairs at Busreh.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs what protection was afforded to the resident and other Europeans in Busreh, and whether any special precautions were being taken in view of the rebellion at Muskat, the presence of a camp of Arabs near Busreh, and the general condition of unrest in the Tigris district.

Sir E. Grey: I am not aware that there is any need for the special protection of his Majesty's Consul and other Europeans at Busreh. The master of a British steam-lighter was murdered on board his vessel in Busreh Harbour on February 8, and strong representations have been made to the Ottoman Government by his Majesty's Ambassador to spare no efforts to bring the guilty parties to justice. Those efforts have not so far been successful. I have received no information as to a state of general unrest in the Tigris region or as to affairs at Busreh being affected by events at Muskat.

Treatment of Moslems.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Foreign Secretary if he had received a representation from the London All-India Moslem League regarding the treatment of Macedonian Moslems at the hands of the Greeks in the Balkans, and asking that steps should be taken to give effect to the Treaty of Berlin in affording Moslems in ceded territories protection and civil and religious freedom, and compensation for being driven from their homes; and, if so, what action would be taken by the Government in the directions so indicated.

Sir E. Grey: Such a representation has reached me, as have also communications in which precisely similar charges are brought by the Greeks against the Turkish authorities in Thrace. His Majesty's Government have brought under the consideration of the Powers the question of a reaffirmation of the civil and religious rights of minorities provided for under the Treaty of Berlin. Complaints of ill-treatment of Greeks by Turks were brought unofficially to the notice of the Turkish Government, and I have already brought the complaints of the ill-treatment of Mussulmans by Greeks in the same way to the notice of the Greek Government.

The Trans-Persian Railway. May 25.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether in the event of Great Britain agreeing to the extension of the proposed Trans-Persian Railway beyond the sphere of Russian interests, the stipulation would be made that all extensions south of the sphere of Russian interests should be constructed on the Indian gauge and not on the Russian gauge, so that British and Indian goods would have the same facilities for entering Persia in the south, without a break of gauge, as Russian goods would have in the north.

Mr. Acland: The question of gauge has been considered by His Majesty's Government, who are fully alive to the desiderata of British commerce. I am unable, however, at this juncture to make a definite statement on the point.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Sudanese Story.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling is contributing to *Nash's Magazine* a series of letters on "Egypt of the Egyptians." The first of the series, which appears in the current number, has several delightfully characteristic stories. One is about a Sudanese Sheikh who shot his son for bringing a "devil in a box" (a gramophone to wit) into the village and letting the devil sing against orders to the contrary. So the Sheikh was brought before an English judge, and it was hard work for the latter to make the prisoner understand what all the pother was about. And, therefore:—

They explained to him at last that, under British rule, fathers must hand over devil-dealing children to be shot by the white men (the first step, you see, on the downward path of State-aid), and that he must go to prison for several months for interfering with a Government shoot.

The Character of Essad Pasha.

The Nation for May 23 contains a vigorous article on "The Making of Albania," from which we quote the following onslaught on the exiled Essad Pasha:—

The sinister figure that Essad Toptani is, is not, indeed, a purely Albanian growth. He is the Albanian noble with a nasty Hamidian veneer. Conceive a totally uneducated feudal magnate, bred up in the atmosphere of the blood-feud, armed with the prestige and patriarchial power that belong to the hereditary chief of a big clan, and having for morality the traditions of armed blackmail and predatory warfare. Take him away from all that mitigates these brutalities among simple Albanians—the ideal of honour, the notion of loyalty, and the chivalrous respect for women—and subject him to the semi-Oriental, semi-Levantine influences of Abdul Hamid's court, and you will form some notion of the brutality, the perfidy, and the corruption of this disastrous personage. By turns a Hamidian courtier, a Young Turkish tool, and an Albanian patriot, the capable defender and the treacherous seller of Scutari, a man who had wallowed in murders and debaucheries, and mixed the dream of being Prince of Albania with the sale of Albania's chief town to its ancient enemy, Essad is, with all his primitive vigour and aristocratic birth, an essentially low type.

We hold no brief for Essad, but whatever else he may have on his conscience, he is not a debauchee.

Ruins in Syria.

An article on the "Ruins of Syria and Asia Minor," by Richard Curle, in *The New Age* (May 21), contains the following suggestive sketch of the ruins of Ephesus:—

The forty-five miles through the tilled valleys and fair plains of Anatolia is a three hours' journey by train. When we arrived there we took a carriage and drove to the heap of fallen stones that mark the site of the Temple of Diana of the Ephesians. They lie in a depression of the ground and not one stone remains upon another. In their glistening and fragmentary whiteness they represent the utmost degradation of a ruin. About a mile farther on across the plain are the vast and unbared remnants of the circus, the stadium, the libraries, the courts, the gymnasium of Ephesus. Here, too, are the signs of complete decay. Sacked over and over again these buildings were at last left to the corroding desolation of the wilderness. Thence, once more, came man to wrest a victory from the earth. There is something fascinating about Ephesus. The broken colonnades, the paved walks, the huge inscribed stones, the carvings, the steps and arches, lying there all solitary in the secluded plain impress the imagination. Again, as at Ba'albek, one could imagine that the venerable past had taken a step nearer. Yes, but a silent step. For where are all the voices which "for about the space of two hours cried out,' Great is Diana of the Ephesians'"?

A "Perilous Project."

The Nation (May 23) has the following note on the proposed Trans-Persian Railway:—

The perilous project of a Trans-Persian railway to the Indian frontier is still very much alive, and it seems to have acquired, by lapse of time and public inattention, the support which our Government was at first chary of giving. Sir Edward Grey's answers to Mr. Morrell's questions on Tuesday were far from explicit, but he stated that the Government is prepared to agree to the extension of the projected Northern railway to the South of Persia, and to its construction there by a syndicate which will be, not British, but international. He justified this decision on the ground that our trade would suffer if Russia built railways from the North, while we built none from the South. The real bearing of this argument is, however, to justify the construction of one or more railways from the Gulf ports into the interior. These would certainly benefit our trade, and strategically they would not be dangerous. A Trans-Persian line across the desert to India is a wholly different project, for which Sir Edward Grey's argument gives no justification.

An Aspect of Teheran.

A correspondent of *The Times*, in its issue of May 14, gives a delightful impression of the Persian capital in an article under the heading "A Pilgrimage Through Teheran." We quote the following passage:—

To the casual visitor Teheran is a city of mud walls, untidy streets, and the mouldering remains of a once pretentious magnificence. The beautiful gardens behind those mud walls are never revealed to him, and the picturesque spots are few and far between, only discovered by degrees and after much seeking. But in a side street, in a corner of the bazaars, or in some blind alley hitherto unexplored will suddenly unfold itself a scene straight from the pages of "Hajji Baba," strikingly picturesque, unconsciously humorous, simply and eminently human. All ages are represented in the life of Teheran and all types of civilisation, from the patriarchal and early Biblical to the era of the wheezy motor and of the train which carries the pilgrims to the neighbouring shrine of Shahabdulazim, the engine of which has been known, on encountering a tolerably stiff headwind, to give up the struggle on its way downhill to its destination. But the leisurely and appreciative eye will discover beneath the mud-coloured monotony of the Teheran thoroughfares those fleeting glimpses of real Persia which are being so fast overlaid by the shoddy cosmopolitanism which seems invariably to result from the mingling of the East and the West. Teheran, it has often been said, is not typical of the East, and I am inclined to think that its picturesqueness is due less to the Oriental in its "make-up" than to its haunting spirit of medievalism. And here again the medievalism is cosmopolitan. The troubadours of France are here, in the quiet gardens, playing serenades to the night. The Canterbury pilgrim finds his counterpart in the country *mullah* ambling along on his donkey, his spectacled nose buried deep in the sacred book of the Koran, which he reads aloud in a nasal sing-song. Here also, faithfully portrayed, are the proud *hidalgos* and trusty muleteers of Spain, with their air of preoccupation in the traditions of the past. Hajji Baba is surely no Oriental, but a Gil Blas in Persian garb. A few miles from Teheran, too, may be found Robin Hood and Little John and Dick Turpin, as rascally as any of the highway heroes of medieval legend.

The Nile.

In *The Southampton Times* for May 9 there appears a picturesque article by Sir H. Rider Haggard on the "Romance of the Modern Nile." We quote the following passage:—

The Pharaohs are no more; their court and mighty empire are now confined to a glass case beneath a museum dome. Though their blood and that of their subjects survives, doubtless, in the boys who drive the tourists' donkeys, or in the fellaheen who labour in the fields, the proud race of the ancient Egyptians at whose history the world will never cease to wonder has gone the way of the Romans and the Greeks, of Assyria, Phœnicia, and Carthage, and perhaps of many another nation of which we have now lost count. But the river, the immemorial Nile, that made them great, still flows on as it flowed doubtless hundreds of thousands of years before the god-king Osiris, if such a man there were, drank of its waters. Still at the appointed time it rises and refreshes the land of Egypt, making it, perhaps, in proportion to its size, the most wealthy country in the world. It is a strange thing, indeed a very strange thing, to watch, as this writer has done, an Egyptian farmer labouring at his land, or perhaps with the assistance of a son or servant at the "shadoof," where, by the help of a simple counterbalance of clay, he lifts water in buckets from the river and pours it into his irrigation trench, and then to reflect upon the history of that individual plot, or that individual "shadoof." For whole millenniums, almost, one might say, for tens of thousands of years, this same little field has been the object of the earnest care of generation after generation of husbandmen. Sometimes a Pharaoh owned it, sometimes a temple, sometimes a Mussulman sheik, but more often, probably, a little freeholder and his family, whose patrimony it was.

Articles to Note.

"Lord Kitchener's Report on Egypt," in *The Morning Post* (May 27).

"The Day's Work in Albania—VI.," by Anthony Bradford, in *The New Age* (May 21).

"Albania and Epirus," in *The Morning Post* (May 22).

"Flight from Durazzo," by Dr. Dillon, in *The Daily Telegraph* (May 26).

"In Bulgaria," in *The Manchester Guardian* (May 26).

"The Albanian Coup," in *The Standard* (May 21).

"The Bitter Cry of the New Near East," by Lucien Wolf, in *The Graphic* (May 23).

"The Troubles in Albania," in *The Spectator* (May 23).

"Egypt and the Sudan," in *The Financier* (May 23).

"Race Expulsion in the Balkans," in *The New Statesman* (May 23).

"The Situation in Albania," in *The Westminster Gazette* (May 25).

"Peace in Albania," in *The Academy* (May 23).

"The Political Aspect of the Persian Oil Agreement," in *The Times* (May 27).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	May 28 ..	97 11/16—15/32 p.t.
Athens	May 25 ..	25·16 drs.
Bucharest	May 28 ..	25·40½—25·41½ lei.
Constantinople ..	May 28 ..	109⅜—110 pi.
Sofia.....	May 25 ..	27·10—27·24 leva.
Teheran	May 27 ..	55 krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Two important announcements were made last Friday, which were of quite unusual interest to those who follow the development of events in the Near East: one regarding an agreement concluded between the Government and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and the other concerning the amalgamation of the P. and O. and British India Companies. Both indicate that Britannia is not quite so somnolent as some of her critics would have us suppose, and that she has no intention of letting the trident slip from her grasp just yet.

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The first item of news referred to, which was made public on Friday evening, can hardly have come as a great surprise to any regular reader of these notes. The subject is dealt with fully elsewhere, so all I need say about it here is that the arrangement entered into strikes me as one in which both the Government and the company may be congratulated. The former gains a measure of security regarding its supply of oil-fuel, which is certainly a great point scored; it does so by co-operating in a concern which is as purely British as any such concern can well be; and it makes an investment that may safely be described as first-class, from whatever point it is viewed. The company, as the other party to the bargain, besides an increase of capital that will enable it to develop its property to the best advantage, secures a very desirable customer, and at the same time is assured of that official backing the lack of which has so often proved a hopeless bar to success to British enterprise in the Near East. And, incidentally, it is pleasant to believe that the increased activity of the company will certainly benefit Arabistan, by offering settled employment to a larger number of natives and putting a good deal more money into circulation. As the increased purchasing power of the district should also mean a gain to British trade—notably for Manchester—we may all feel uncommonly well pleased by the news. The whole transaction bears the impress of imagination and foresight which is somewhat unusual in our national action, and it has been described by more than one critic as "the biggest thing since the purchase of our Suez Canal shares." May it turn out as successful a deal as that has done for the nation!

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Matchless Cigarettes.
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Factory at Choubra, Cairo.

In one way the amalgamation of the P. and O. and the British India is almost as good news for this country as the Persian oil deal. A fortnight ago, in commenting upon the statistics of the Suez Canal traffic, I remarked that they were "melancholy reading for any man who is interested in the commercial supremacy of the British flag." The amalgamation, in all probability, will go far to lend these statistics a more edifying appearance in the future. The directors of the two great lines concerned have doubtless been studying the figures for some time past; and I take it the combine is one of the results of these observations. Just as the British companies are prepared to hold their own against all rivals on the Atlantic, so will the P. and O. and the B.I. hold *their* own in Eastern waters. They will no doubt have a stiff fight before them. Has not "the Napoleon of shipping" (an odd title surely for a good German to assume!) set himself to drive the Union Jack off the high seas? But I for one have confidence in our own shipowners' capability to hold their own. And once the British travellers and shippers begin to realise that it is better policy in the long run to support their own flag than that of any other country I fancy that the other parties to the contest that has been begun will begin to regret having embarked upon it. Subsidies (direct and "indirect") can do a good deal, but not all the subsidies that were ever granted or are ever likely to be granted will suffice to sweep the Union Jack—whether in the corner of the Red or the White Ensign—off the seas.

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The Persian Gulf is very much in the public eye this week—that is, if people have realised that it is the nearest sea to the Anglo-Persian Company's pipe-line through which cheap oil is to pour into British warships. But apart from Admiralty futures there are commercial actualities. A line of motor-ships has now been organised by the Flower Motor Ship Company, which will serve Aden, Muskat, and the Gulf ports, thus bringing a welcome addition to British tonnage in those waters. The tranquillisation of Arabistan, which will have to be effected if millions of official money are to be sunk in it, will greatly improve trade, and I am very glad to see that our flag is in a position to be in at the beginning of any boom which may come along. Indeed, the importance of the Gulf traffic will of necessity be very greatly increased when Busreh and Mohammerah shall both have become railway termini, the Euphrates and Tigris service greatly increased, and the oilfields of South Persia and Mesopotamia properly exploited and their products exported.

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According to the figures published by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in its report issued in October, 1913, the figures for the monthly production from its refinery were showing a steady increase. The monthly average for the last quarter of 1912 was 1.344,000 gals.; for the first quarter of 1913, 1.400,000 gals.; second quarter, 2,354,000; third quarter. 2.890,000 gals—that for September, 1913. being 3.640,000 gals. By now that figure has probably been largely increased.

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The news which our Bucharest Correspondent sends that the Joint Commission has decided upon the site of a bridge across the Danube to connect the Roumanian and Bulgarian railway systems is most welcome. Corabia is the point selected, partly in deference to the susceptibilities of the Roumanian General Staff for the strategic necessities of the defence of the capital and partly because engineers have pointed out that the gradients on the Bulgarian side are highly favourable at this point. The latter is certainly an important consideration and will greatly affect the weight of trains and the power of engines using the new bridge, which is to be built at the joint expense of the two governments.

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Those who remember the isolation from the rest of the world in which Bulgaria found herself during the second Balkan War and the use made of her enforced silence by her enemies will not be surprised to learn that arrangements have been made to put Sofia in wireless communication with Buda Pest. This will render the Bulgarian capital independent of the amity or hostility of its immediate neighbours, and, like Adrianople, which conversed daily during the siege by wireless with the Seraskierate in Stamboul, Sofia will be able to talk over the heads of the Servians and Roumanians with the rest of the world. At the same time an agreement has been concluded whereby the Danube Steamship Company and the railways to Orsova in Hungary and Lom Palanka in Bulgaria will co-operate to form a direct through service from Hungary to Sofia, and with the opening of the Haskovo-Portolagos line, ultimately to the Ægean. In this way a new route to Europe will be opened for Bulgaria by which her trade will be able to avoid Servian and Roumanian territory.

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The Bulgarians hope to have finished the construction of the Plovdiv (Philippopolis)-Xanthi road by the end of this month. A service of motor-cars will carry the mails by this route from Old into New Bulgaria, and probably a great deal of time will be saved in sending letters directly by road instead of by train past Adrianople and across two frontiers. In any case, the motor road to Xanthi will undoubtedly be the best means of communication between the Upper Maritza valley and the Bulgarian littoral for some time to come, as the actual work of building the Haskovo-Portolagos railway has not yet begun, although a commission of military engineers has for months past been working hard at the surveying of the proposed line and the preparation of plans and elevations.

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According to the Green Book for Bosnia and the Hertzegovina issued by the Austro-Hungarian Joint Ministry of Finance, considerable extensions of railway are proposed in that area, some of which appear to be of a strategic rather than a purely commercial nature. The standard gauge line is to be prolonged from Banja Luka to Mostar, and from Shamatz up the Bosna Valley to Serajevo. In course of time a branch is to be built from Doboj to Ratcha, on the Drina, and Brtchko, on the Save. A narrow-gauge line is proposed between Bugojno, on the new Banja Luka-Mostar standard line, and at present terminus of the narrow gauge, which runs from Serajevo through Lashva and Travnik, and Arzhano, in Dalmatia, across a very mountainous region.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 23.

The Lighterage Corporation.

A memorandum on the subject of a proposed law practically creating a monopoly for the Lighterage Corporation, or Esnaf, at this port has been drawn up and signed by all the British shipping agents established here and handed to H.M.'s Consul. The memorandum states that the acceptance of the proposal of the Government in respect to lighterage in the port of Constantinople would be a death-blow to the liberty of transport in this harbour, and the acquiescence by the Foreign Missions in the proposed régime for lighters would make the position even worse than it is to-day.

In the past, foreigners have possessed their own lighters for their requirements, and the shipping lines have been permitted to hold lighters of their own for the discharge of their steamers. The agents of the Liverpool lines have always possessed a certain number of lighters, and the Port Authorities have respected this right of possession. In the same way, coal merchants own their own lighters, specially built to meet their requirements, and the foreign lines also, such as the Austrian Lloyd, the Russian Company, the Italian lines, etc., all possess lighters for the purpose of discharging cargo from their respective steamers. A few years ago, the corporation obliged the Austrian Lloyd and some other lines to give up most of their lighters, and unfortunately this pressure was not resisted by the foreign Missions. By the acceptance of the present proposal the possession of lighters by foreigners would be entirely abolished, shipping would be absolutely at the mercy of the corporation, and an absolute monopoly would be the result. With the creation of this monopoly any prices could be charged, and any other prejudicial conditions could also be imposed upon the shipping trade of this port and upon commerce in general. It is a well-known fact that the lightermen at this port are an intractable class of men. They are irresponsible; they assume no responsibility for the goods confided to them, frequently delivering the same to the consignees without the permission of the shipping agents; in fact, there is no effective control over them, and they are an exceedingly difficult body to deal with. Shipping and commerce in general has suffered enormously during the past two years from a scarcity of lighters, and the lightermen have become so independent that they choose their own hours, and the unloading of steamers is consequently delayed. Most of the lighters are in very bad condition, and as a result goods are often damaged. The whole trade of Constantinople is clamouring for the abolition of the Lightermen's Guild, which is considered to be the only solution of a very troublesome question; but under no circumstances should the right which foreigners now have of holding lighters be rescinded. The Liverpool lines would protest most strongly against the suppression of the privileges which they have enjoyed for a great number of years, and the withdrawal of the same privileges from the coal merchants would ruin the bunkering trade. In contracting for the supply of coal to the regular liners, a stated number of lighters has to be kept at the disposal of each company, who have them measured and their tonnage registered by marks affixed fore and aft; and this is a condition that could not be guaranteed if Guild lighters had to be employed. In the coal trade, the discharging of steamers is fixed at 4,500 tons minimum per day, and in order to guarantee this, it is indispensable that coal merchants should own sufficient tonnage of their own to discharge one or more steamers at a time. If they have to depend upon Esnaf lighters, steamers would inevitably come on demurrage, as the plea of insufficiency of Guild lighters would not be admitted, and heavy losses would have to be faced by coal importers, thus making the coal business impossible.

The life or death of the coal trade at this port depends upon the handling expenses, and if the slightest increase in the already heavy items were imposed, which would be the case if Esnaf lighters had to be employed, the business would then be gradually lost to other ports. The idea that if the Corporation lighters are brought under proper control, and that if there are sufficient of them the requirements of shipping would be met, is considered to be a fallacy; for, as stated above, shipping would be entirely at the mercy of the Corporation, who could then impose any conditions they chose and dictate their own terms.

The shipping agents are of opinion that the foreign Missions would be making a grave mistake if they were to accept any arrangement whereby the loading and discharging and bunkering of foreign shipping at this port is to be effected absolutely and entirely by the Lightermen's Guild. It would be quite impossible to have any proper control over these lightermen, and it is hopeless to expect any improvement in their methods. Promises of this nature are considered to be worthless, as they have been proved to be in the past.

The acceptance of an arrangement such as that indicated would practically preclude the introduction of a more efficient means of dealing with cargoes at this port. No one will deny that the present system of lighters for discharging and loading steamers, and for transhipping goods from one steamer to another, leaves much to be desired. The accumulation of loaded lighters and their constant movements in the harbour already constitute a serious problem, which, with an increase of trade, will become more acute.

The traffic in the harbour is becoming so great that accidents are more frequent, and insurance companies have to bear this additional risk, a risk which is already sufficiently heavy, owing to goods remaining afloat here in unsafe lighters often for longer than it takes to convey the goods from their loading ports to Constantinople. The port requires not only more accommodation for storing goods, but also a better system of landing and transhipping them, such as motor-barges. The introduction of motor or steam barges would not only accelerate the transit of goods, but would relieve the harbour of the present large traffic of sailing lighters, which constitutes a serious danger, and often leads to accidents. If, therefore, the Corporation is to be further strengthened by legislation, as proposed by the Government, the introduction of any improvement in this sense will be impossible. The Corporation would not introduce a system of motor or steam barges, and anybody else would be debarred from doing so.

This lighterage question is a very serious one for the trade and commerce of Constantinople, for it not only affects merchants and shipowners, but also underwriters, who do not contemplate, when insuring goods coming to Constantinople, that they will remain afloat here for weeks in unsound lighters. It is felt that the foreign missions should insist upon more liberty of transport here, rather than acquiesce in any arrangements that would diminish, if not abolish, the few privileges foreigners have at present in this question. Any foreign line should be at liberty to possess as many lighters as it requires, and in times of insufficiency of Corporation lighters it should be permissible for these foreign-owned lighters to be employed by anybody wishing to hire them.

The strengthening of the power of the Corporation would render the trade of the port even more difficult and expensive than it is at present. This Corporation is an obstacle to trade, and every effort should be made to abolish it or reduce its power. The proposal of the Government would be distinctly a retrograde measure so far as the trade of Constantinople is concerned, rather than likely to lead to any improvement in the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. The impression here in shipping circles is that the Lightermen's Guild has the support of a political party in return for the services it has rendered both during the war and in connection with various boycotts against foreign shipping at different times.

Adjudications.

The Chirket-i-Hairié S.S. Company invites tenders for the supply of 75 tons of machine oil, 6 tons of cylinder oil, and 4 tons of dynamo oil. The closing date for the receipt of tenders is June 13. Amongst other supplies required are also 3 tons of tallow, 5 tons of carbide of calcium, 2½ tons of white lead, 150 acetylene lamps, and 250 tins of paint.

Bosphorus Electric Railway.

The date for the commencement of work upon the Galata-Roumeli Fener Electric Railway, granted to the Lenz Group, which had already been extended for one year, until April 15, 1914, has again been prolonged for a further period of one year to April, 1915. This prolongation, which is made by an Imperial Decree published in *The Official Gazette*, is stated to be the last that will be accorded.

Autobus Company.

An Imperial Decree just promulgated sanctions the foundation of a new autobus company, under the title of Société Anonyme Ottomane de Transport, with a capital of £T25,000. It is not stated where this company intends to establish a service.

BUCHANAN'S SCOTCH WHISKY

"BLACK AND WHITE"

ALWAYS THE HIGHEST QUALITY

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Servian Banks.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 18.

Banque Franco-Serbe.

This bank is one of the most important operating in Belgrade, and is the centre, if not the nucleus, of French financial interests in Servia. The fact that, as I was able to report to you exclusively during the week, this concern is to take over the Imperial Ottoman Bank's branches at Skoplje and Monastir, should only add to its importance. It was formed in 1910 by a group composed of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Banque de l'Union Parisienne, the Société Générale, the Banque Française pour le Commerce et l'Industrie, the Société Financière d'Orient, and the firm of N. Bardac in Paris with a capital of twelve million francs fully paid up. Last year it formed with L. Dreyfus et Cie and the Société d'Entreprises des Dragages et des Travaux Publics, a new company, with a capital of 4,000,000 francs, called the Société franco-serbe d'Entreprises Industrielles et de Travaux Publics. The capital was increased towards the beginning of this year, and is now 10,000,000 francs fully paid up. This firm is the so-called Franco-Serbe to which I referred in connection with railway concessions in New Servia.

New German Bank.

A new German bank is to be created in Belgrade with a capital, it is said, of twenty million francs. The Berliner Handellgesellschaft is the principal promoter, the Diskonto Gesellschaft being likewise interested. The object of the bank will be to promote trade between the two countries, and also to participate in concessions, etc. Previous to this German capital was invested in several of the Austrian banks in Belgrade, but when the feeling against the Dual Monarchy became pronounced these banks were severely handicapped—boycotted would be a more precise way of putting it—and German capital was withdrawn, with disastrous results to the Austrian concerns, such as Andrevitch and Co., etc., which are now leading a contemplative existence. I have gathered from a most reliable source that Austrian capital in disguise will participate in the new German bank. When this becomes generally known in Belgrade it will seriously affect the future of the bank.

Industrial and Commercial Bank.

This is one of the most important banks in Belgrade, and is directly interested in some of the big industries, such as the slaughter houses, etc. M. Marinkovitch, one of the most progressive business men of modern Servia, is a director of the bank, which has also the powerful support of M. Pavlovitch, the leading wholesale importer of cotton goods, who carries on a big business with Manchester. One of the most recent operations of this bank was its acquisition from the Government of a concession for the erection of hotels in New Servia and the formation of a Franco-Serb company for the exploitation of the concession for a period of twenty-five years. Twelve hotels have to be built in the various towns of New Servia by 1917; most of these will be smaller establishments, but that to be erected at Skoplje is to have 150 beds. The name of the new company is La Société Hôtelière Franco-Serbe, of a nominal capital of 2,500,000 francs, of which one-fifth is Servian (the Industrial and Commercial Bank and its group) and the remainder French. From the British point of view the interesting feature of this company is that the Servian group has explicitly obtained from the French group the right to acquire the furniture, hotel fittings, etc., under the best possible conditions, regardless of nationality. This clause, which, by the way is a good indication of the way the wind is blowing in Servia, gave umbrage to the original Franco-Swiss group, which had specialised in selling furniture, etc., at a good profit to the concessionnaires, and consequently it had to be remodelled. The attitude of the Servians in this respect must be highly approved of. British firms now stand an excellent chance of doing business in connection with these twelve hotels.

Export Bank.

One of the strongest banks in Belgrade, with a capital of 5,000,000 francs, this concern is now increasing its capital to 7,000,000 francs. The operation is proving most satisfactory—a proof that, if money is extraordinarily tight at the present moment, it is not due so much to stringency as to precaution.

New Banks.

The following banks have been allowed to open in New Servia:—At Skoplje: The National Bank, the Banque Franco-Serbe, Benzion Bully and the Banque du Pays (Servian). At Monastir: The National Bank and the Banque Franco-Serbe.

The constitution of the following banks, with a capital varying from one-half to a million francs, has been approved (these banks will be essentially commercial banks):—The Bank of Kossovo at Mitrovitza, the Servian Commercial Bank, and the Bank of Skoplje. At Skoplje: The Bank of Uroshevaz at Ferizovich, the Bank of Tikvesh at Kavadar, further banks bearing the names of their respective towns at Novi Bazar, Prizrend, Tetovo, and Kumanovo; also sadrugas co-operative associations) bearing the names of their respective towns at Prizrend, Gilane, and Prishtina.

Proposed, but not yet approved, is the Commercial Bank of Monastir, at Monastir.

Southern Slav Bank.

Under the above title a commercial bank is shortly to be established in Belgrade with an initial capital of 300,000 frs., with agencies in New Servia. This bank, it is stated, will make a feature of introducing British engineering goods on the Servian market.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

LOCUSTS IN SMYRNA.

According to the *Quarterly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna, one of the blots on the horizon is the presence of enormous quantities of locusts. Efforts—but very tardy ones—are now being made by the authorities to grapple earnestly with the pest. A French expert, M. d'Hérelle, was invited to come and use his serum for the self-destruction of the locusts: he came, but said the insects were too far developed for him to attempt their extermination this year. So the authorities are rounding up all the villagers and resorting to the good old methods of destruction. "Such measures, however, as pouring petroleum and boiling water over the locusts can be only local, whilst the old-fashioned remedy of digging trenches may do no good, as the swarm may swerve from its path and go in another direction to that in which the trenches have been dug. The casual observer, seeing so many thousands of soldiers apparently with plenty of time on their hands, could readily be forgiven for asking why they were not turned out in their thousands to assist the villagers in the latters' compulsory service. The Aidin Railway Company has wisely offered to transport any workers free to the various infested spots, and it also carries different appliances free to assist in the task of destroying the locusts. The weather has been propitious until now for the crops, and if the locusts are kept down successfully we should see a bountiful season."

THE HAIFA BRITISH VICE-CONSULATE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Haifa, May 3.

It has long been felt that a thorough investigation into the present state of the British Consular offices situated in this district is necessary, and I learn that it is with this object that H.M. Consul-General at Beyrout has been commissioned by the Foreign Office to undertake a tour of inspection within his Consular district and to submit a report thereon. With this end in view, the Consul-General, Mr. Cumberbatch, C.M.G., arrived at Haifa from Tiberias on April 25, after having made a prolonged camping trip in Palestine for the purpose of studying the commercial as well as the agricultural developments of the country.

Several years ago the majority of the foreign Consuls in Haifa, as well as in other places, belonged to the non-salaried type. In face of the rapid and steady development of the country as time advanced, some of the leading foreign countries realised the necessity of the improvement of their Consular offices and the substitution of non-salaried representatives by Consuls *de carrière*. This course was gradually adopted by Germany, France, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. On the other hand, as a sequel to the failure of the British Haifa-Damascus Railway, the British salaried Consular post of Haifa, which had been created a short time before, was abolished and a non-salaried post substituted—an event which aroused great misgivings in the minds of the onlookers. Now, the efficiency of the Consular service of other foreign governments in Haifa has grown until they possess a body of Consular officers who are most competent and zealous, and who have largely contributed towards the advancement of the interests of their respective countries, commercially and otherwise.

A country such as this, though still in its infancy as regards commercial development, is capable of great and speedy advancement. Germany, Austria, and France, through the instrumentality of their shrewd, competent, and energetic Consular officers—who, by the way, are *de carrière*—have been sedulously attentive to the promotion of their respective interests here, and are ever on the alert to grasp any eligible opportunity that may tend to strengthen their commercial relations with this country. Great Britain, on the other hand, has but feebly supported her trading interests in this locality—a state of things which is due, in great part, to the existence of a non-salaried post in this district.

In view of this activity of other foreign Governments, it is surprising that the British Government has not concentrated on this vital point, and has hitherto refrained from following the example of other foreign countries in this matter. The same efficiency cannot be expected from a non-salaried officer, most of whose time is perforce taken up with other than Consular business, as is demanded from a regular official whose whole time is devoted to his Consular duties. Moreover, the one is an amateur, while the other is a specialist, with the chance of promotion in the service to stimulate his energies. Many complaints have been made in Haifa that inconvenience and difficulties have arisen from the fact that the British Vice-Consul is not always available. Naturally, British prestige and British trade interests suffer.

In the circumstances it may confidently be anticipated that Mr. Cumberbatch's tour will lead to desirable changes, and it is to be hoped that as a result of the steady commercial advancement of the country which the Consul-General himself has had occasion to witness on his trip in Palestine, the question of the creation of a salaried Consular post at Haifa will ere long be favourably settled.

Egyptian trade in 1913 was characterized by large increases in the imports of grain and flour, coal, timber, petroleum, manufactures of iron and steel, and cotton goods, says *Commercial Intelligence*. There were decreases in sugar, coffee, vegetable oils, soap, cotton yarns, copper and brass, and railway trucks. The only notable increase in exports was in skins; there were large decreases in the exports of raw cotton and of cotton-seed.

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THE FINANCES OF THE LEBANON.

Shoucair Pasha's Report.—III.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The fixed system at present in force in the Lebanon is most unsatisfactory and highly inequitable. The most important items of revenue are the land tax (£T25,660) and the capitation tax (£T8,750). Both are levied under the Organic Law of 1861, and on a basis which, having been laid down half a century ago, is quite out of keeping with to-day's circumstances. A request has been submitted to the Porte for the execution of a new cadastral survey, which will have for result not only an increase in the net revenue derived from the land tax, but also a fairer distribution of the burden and a diminution in the number of law-suits in the understaffed courts of the Lebanon. These law-suits are due to appeals made against the unjust proportion of the tax payable on certain lands as compared with the original area, which is no longer traceable in the cadastral survey list, owing to the transfers resulting from the sale of portions of that area.

The capitation tax, which is about P.T. 9 per male adult, will also have to undergo revision; for, apart from any consideration as to whether this is a good or a bad tax in the Lebanon, it is no longer levied per head, but per village. No doubt, when the assessment per village was first fixed, it was an equitable one; but since that time the population has moved about, and in many instances the inhabitants of a village have either increased or become considerably reduced in number, owing to emigration, and yet have to pay the same lump sum as of yore.

Shoucair Pasha is of opinion that, even should the negotiations in Constantinople fail as regards the Customs dues and the restitution of the "Moaissarat," the additional revenue anticipated from the direct importation of salt, from tobacco, tombac, and alcoholic liquors, and from a revision of the cadastral survey will be sufficient to cover the deficit of the Budget and provide for various administrative reforms of which the province stands in need, without increasing in any way the fiscal burden of the population. Should further revenue be needed, he suggests that the Lebanese Government might gradually increase its income by the imposition of some new taxes which would fall proportionately on all classes of the population, and would have for effect the contribution to the exchequer by many of those who at present enjoy all the benefits of government but pay little towards its cost.

The new taxes he proposes—and he lays great stress on their slow and gradual imposition—are: a house and shop tax; a patent, or trader's, tax; a tax on the sale of intoxicating liquors; a system of land transfer fees; a building land tax; a system of succession dues; receipts and promissory note stamps, etc. All these imposts, he considers, whilst they may give rise to some opposition at the outset, will result in a substantial increase in the revenues, and will enable the Lebanon Government to carry out more reforms and execute the numerous irrigation and public works projects that are so necessary.

The manner in which the Budget is drawn up and the accounts are rendered also requires drastic reform. As a result of the working of Article 15 of the Organic Law, two Budgets are framed and two sets of accounts are presented. The first Budget contains merely the revenues and the expenditure authorised by that article, and shows a deficit; this is the Budget that is always sent to Constantinople. The other Budget contains the entire revenue of the country, derived from the taxation authorised by the above Article 150 from the "Mohmeret" taxes, which the Administrative Council has from time to time imposed to meet certain special purposes not recognised by the Organic Law, and it contains on the other side the country's entire expenditure. This Budget, since it shows no deficit, does not go to Constantinople. The accounts are similarly treated.

This duplication has never attained its object—that of getting the Porte to make good the deficit—and there is consequently no reason why the practice should be continued. But until Article 15 is abolished and the Lebanon comes to a more sensible financial understanding with the Porte, it is to be feared that little can be done to improve the situation. Indeed, the abolition of Article 15 and the financial independence of the Lebanon, subject, perhaps, to the payment of a moderate annual tribute, appear to be the sole panacea. Whilst the present relations exist, the Lebanon can raise no extra revenue, and can found no reserve fund with any surpluses it may from time to time amass, for the simple reason that the Porte would certainly proceed to acquire these surpluses in virtue of the afore-mentioned Article 15. If the latter can only be abolished, the Lebanon will be able to set its own house in order; it will be able to stop the irregularities to which the present condition of affairs gives rise and which it favours, and it will be able to carry out all the necessary reforms and develop to the fullest and most profitable extent its rich resources, becoming as a result one of the finest summer resorts of the Near East and a most valuable vilayet of the Turkish Empire.

The foregoing represent briefly the proposals made by Said Shoucair Pasha for the financial and economic reform of the interesting little vilayet that has always aroused the sympathy and appealed to the imagination of Europe. His report ably demonstrates the defects and unjust operation of the present system, which are solely due to the antiquated nature of the Organic Law of 1861 and 1864, and to the non-observance by Turkey of her obligations towards the Lebanon. Certainly the situation of the "Mountain" and the valiant efforts that the Lebanese, guided by the present enlightened Christian Governor-General, are making to extricate themselves in dignity from their present plight merit the serious and sympathetic attention of the European signatories of the Organic Law, who, as already pointed out, acted at that time solely in the interests of the Lebanon, and who cannot in justice remain unconcerned at the unfortunate situation which has grown up to-day as the result of their efforts of fifty years ago.

GRECO-AUSTRIAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

A Reuter's message from Athens reports that the work of the joint Greek and Austro-Hungarian Commission for the drafting of a commercial treaty terminated last Saturday afternoon, when the negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion. The text of the Treaty of Commerce was agreed upon. It includes two tables of tariffs providing for the reduction of Customs duties on imports from all places. Similarly the text of a Navigation Treaty was settled, as well as the text of an arrangement governing the tobacco trade.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A Treaty of Commerce between Greece and Servia was signed at Athens on Saturday evening. The text of a Treaty of Commerce between Greece and Austria-Hungary was also agreed upon, as well as the text of a Navigation Treaty and an arrangement governing the tobacco trade.

The Turkish Government is stated to have ordered twelve torpedo-boat destroyers from a ship-building firm at Havre.

At a meeting of the board of the Deutsche Bank, held yesterday, it was decided to open a branch at Baghdad.

The Servian Government has submitted to the Skupshtina a Bill authorizing an expenditure of £4,912,000 for armaments.

Mr. Hoffmann, of London, has been spending a few days in Belgrade. He is interested in the formation of Anglo-Servian companies to be called, respectively, the Anglo-Servian Mining Concessions and the Anglo-Servian Gold Dredging Concessions. Mr. Hoffmann has been negotiating with the Government for concessions near a small village about half-way between Nish and Vranja.

The Servian Minister of War has asked for a special credit for the appointment of military engineers to the divisional headquarters in Old and New Servia. Failing reliable Servian engineers, foreigners are to be appointed, and applications from British engineers would be welcomed.

To the list published on another page of new banks to be opened in New Servia must now be added the Bank of Bregalnitz, with a capital of 500,000 frs.

The Servian agricultural Zadrugas (Co-operative Societies) will hold their annual meeting in Uskub this year, the co-operatives of New Servia taking part in the gathering.

A severe fire at Tokat recently destroyed eighty-five shops, forty-five houses, three hans, and an Armenian school. A loss of ten lives is also reported.

The Board of Trade *Journal* quotes the British Consul for the Piræus as stating, in his report on the trade of that district in 1913, that earthenware is imported into the Piræus chiefly from France, but the lower classes prefer German and Italian products, owing to their cheapness. Coffee cups are almost entirely imported from the Netherlands; the United Kingdom is represented in toilet sets.

According to a forthcoming report of the British Vice-Consul at Tripoli-in-Syria, quoted by the Board of Trade *Journal*, paper for wrapping round oranges and lemons is now supplied by Austria-Hungary, done up in reams of 480 sheets, and packed in bales of 40 reams. This kind of paper, of which Tripoli imports annually some £2,500 worth, might, according to the Vice-Consul, quite well be imported from the United Kingdom if manufacturers were to take the matter up seriously.

The British Consul for the Piræus reports (quoted by the Board of Trade *Journal*) that commercial travellers are not required to go through any formalities in order to be able legally to exercise their calling in Greece, nor are they required to take out a licence, provided they come and go merely as bearers and receivers of orders. Agents of British firms resident and trading in Greece are, however, required to take out trade licences.

The port dues at Dedeagatch, on the Bulgarian Ægean littoral, for April amounted to 4,000 frs.

The Ottoman Mint is preparing an issue of nickel coins to supersede the silver 1-piastre pieces, the metaliks, and the various minor coins which are shortly to be demonetised.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Bucharest. May 22.

Rain is much needed throughout Roumania, but not so badly as on the other side of the Pruth. The general rain of Monday and Tuesday has, however, helped much. The business in maize, on account of the low lighter freights just now prevailing on the up-river and the stronger demand from the Continent, is lively. Little wheat remains to be shipped. All grain prices are on the upward move. A large business is doing in contracts in wheat for the new crop.

Braila. May 23.

Rain fell abundantly all over Roumania during the early part of this week, and was very beneficial to all sowings. Crop prospects have in consequence improved considerably. In four or five districts the rain was not one day too early; yet it was not too late.

Odessa. May 24.

The general rains of the last few days have saved the situation. They came, so to say, at the eleventh hour. Another ten days of the drought would have had disastrous consequences. The rains have been general over the whole of the southern provinces, and they are followed by what looks like a settled spell of hot weather. For the time being the crops are safe, but more rain is absolutely necessary to carry them over the critical Junetide.

Our market has been a trifle firmer during the past week owing to a slightly better demand from the Western marts. The chief inquiry is for barley, which throughout the season has, in quantity, held the premier place among cereal exports. From July 1, 1913, to May 1 this year the amount of barley exported was 216 million poods, as compared with 153 million poods during the same period of 1912-13. To-day's quotation for barley of good middling quality, with 3 per cent. admixture, is 79½ c. to 80½ c. per pood of 16.38 kilos f.o.b. Rye is also firm at 88½c. to 92c. f.o.b. according to quality. For the finest quality wheat there is little or no call from abroad, but for good middling quality there is a fair demand at from 1r. 13c. to 1r. 18c. per pood, and for lower qualities at 1r. 3c. to 1r. 11c. Maize, too, is in better demand at 73c. per pood f.o.b. for perfectly dry grain of good quality.

The grain stocks here are still very low. They are to-day: Wheat, 430,000 poods; rye, 70,000 poods; barley, 200,000 poods; oats, 30,000 poods; and maize, 130,000 poods.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletin received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Beyrout. May 14.

The market grows quieter every day. Traders complain bitterly of the stagnation. An improvement, however, is looked for towards the end of the month.

Little business passes, and orders continue to be restricted, especially for colonial produce. Buyers delay placing orders in the hope that prices will become more stable, when they will be able to transact business with greater confidence.

In the cereal market there is no change. The crop is expected to be much more abundant than that of last year.

Serres. May 10.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for April:—

The favourable progress of the crops up to the beginning of the month has been delayed by the drought which has prevailed during the month. This is the critical period for the crops, as they depend for success on the rains during this month. However, the situation is not hopeless, and if abundant rains fall during the first fortnight of May the crops will be safe. The tobacco plantations appear also to have been damaged.

Little business has been transacted in our district, and exports have been almost nil. A few purchases of tobacco have been negotiated in the villages.

Aleppo. May 14.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for April:—

The hoped-for rains have fallen during the month, and unless an unforeseen misfortune befalls the crops they will be satisfactory.

The arrivals of sheep continue to come in steadily. The total sales of sheep on our market during April amounted to about 200,000 head.

In consequence of the rains and the prospect of a good harvest, the price of cereals has tended to drop. Butter has begun to come on the market, but sales are few owing to the high prices.

Salonika. April 30.

The following are extracts from the report for March-April:—

The persistent drought has begun to inspire fears for the crops, which were expected to be abundant owing to the excellent weather conditions under which the sowings were undertaken. Some good rains are eagerly looked for just now.

Rodosto. May 11.

The state of the growing crops is satisfactory. The recent rains have done good, but unfortunately the area under crops is much less than in previous years.

The commercial outlook is particularly gloomy owing to the uncertainty of the political situation. Several merchants have countermanded orders which they had placed abroad.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending May 15:—The sales this week on our market amount to 104 cases at 13s. to 15s. 6d. per lb. as to quality. Owing to this continual large demand, our sellers still maintain the position, and very likely will do so until the new crop is all harvested. The arrivals are 4,604 cases, as against 2,393 at the same date last year.

SENNA IN THE SUDAN.

Although senna does not figure as a product of Egypt, and is neither noted in the agricultural publications nor specified in the Egyptian Customs statistics, exports from the Sudan to the value of over £9,400 were recorded in 1912, while for the first half of 1913 the value of exported senna reached £6,078, says *The Egyptian Gazette*. Senna is gathered once a year, in the month of October, from shrubs which grow wild in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and in the Red Sea districts of Arabia. The size and quality of the crop depends on the abundance of the rainfall. Suez is the collecting point both for the Arabian or Mecca senna and for the Sudan variety, which is known as Alexandrian senna.

COMMERCIAL SITUATION OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

According to a report of the German Consul-General at Constantinople no important or lasting improvement has taken place there in the industrial situation. At times there seems to be a brisker buying activity and more enterprise shown, but the old state of commercial lethargy, so characteristic of Constantinople during the war, soon creeps in again. The boycotting of certain of the native merchants by the Mussulman population has acted most disadvantageously against the interests of trade. Although the boycotting may lately have relaxed to some extent in the capital, the policy, according to the latest reports, is still being vigorously pursued in the provinces. Often Greek buyers, afraid of being compelled to leave their property, have tried to protect their goods by having them transferred to foreign firms in Constantinople. Native notaries are, however, forbidden to undertake such transfers. All business between the Capital and European territories is interrupted, payments are completely suspended, and a return to normal conditions cannot yet be expected.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, May 28.

Sugar.

Beet opened quiet, but owing to higher Continental advices and the reduced Cuban estimate, it became dearer; the improvement, however, was not maintained, and the market is now closing quiet and lower. For Aug., 9s. 9½d.; Sept., 9s. 9¾d.; Oct.-Dec., 9s. 8½d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Refined English has been steady, good business passing at late rates to an advance of 1¾d. Foreign first marks granulated was sold, ready, at 11s. 9¾d. to 11s. 10½d.; July-Aug., 12s.; Oct.-Dec., 11s 10½d. f.o.b. Hamburg, German, and Austrian crushed, prompt, 13s. 7½d.; cubes, 13s. 8½d. f.o.b. Hamburg. French cubes, May-July, 14s. 10½d.; loaves, 14s., f.o.b. Paris.

Coffee.

The supplies offered at auction this week met with a good demand at steady prices. Costa Rica low mid. to mid. sold at 69s. to 78s., and bold 76s. to 83s. East India smalls went at 64s. to 67s., and low mid. to mid., 68s. to 72s. Columbian low, 67s., and Nicaragua fine ordinary foxy greenish, 57s. The speculative market is steady at about late rates.

Seeds.

The market has been quiet, with more or less restricted business. Linseed is steady, with fair dealings. London-Calcutta spot and due, 48s. 6d. to 49s. 3d.; May and June, 49s. 3d. to 49s. 9d.; and June-July, 49s. 9d. to 50s. Rape seed is rather quiet but firmly held, brown Cawnpore, May-June, 50s. 9d. Cotton seed is fully steady, London-Egyptian, May. being quoted at £7 18s. 9d., June £7 18s. 9d., and Nov.-Jan. £8 7s. 6d. per ton. Canary seed is inactive, but prices are maintained, as the quantity on offer is very small. Haricot beans remain steady, stocks both here and on the Continent being limited, but the demand is slow; the same applies to white runners. Rangoon beans on the spot are quoted 36s.

Oils.

The market has been irregular. Linseed oil spot pipes landed offered 24s. 7½d., and barrels 25s. 1½d. Rape oil ordinary brown naked 30s., and refined casks 31s. 9d. Cotton oil is steady; crude spot quoted 29s., refined sweet 32s. 9d. to 34s., as to make, and ordinary pale 29s. Petroleum, Roumanian, and Russian very quiet at 7d. per gallon.

Oilcakes, etc.

The market is decidedly better, with a general improvement in prices all round, especially in forward positions. Linseed cakes, best London made, find a more ready sale at £7 10s. to £7 12s. 6d. East India seed pures have changed hands at £7 12s. 6d. to £7 15s. for arrival. Fine quality Russian remain at £7 8s. 9d. to £7 10s. per ton. Cotton cakes are steady, with fair business passing in Egyptians, which remain by far the best value on the market, best brands in warehouse finding a ready sale at £4 11s. 3d. to £4 12s. 6d., whilst for May-June shipment £4 7s. 6d. has been freely paid. English makes are also dearer, £4 13s. 9d. to £4 15s., and Bombay £4 per ton. Decorticated cotton cake and meal are offered sparingly at £7 13s. 9d. to £7 15s. per ton ex docks.

Corn, etc.

Wheat.—The cargo market has been dull this week, and prices displayed an easier tendency.

Barley is steady and sparingly offered; all options June, 21s. 9d., and June-July 21s. 7½d.

Maize is quiet, Varna-Bourgas May (old style) offered 25s., and La Plata May-June 23s. 6d.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 23.

Prices have been more steady, but the market is somewhat undecided, and speculators are inclined to be cautious, although a rise is generally expected.

The prospects of the crop may be regarded as amongst the most satisfactory in recent years. The plants are making splendid progress under favourable temperature conditions. Water is plentiful everywhere, but it is feared that the rise will be late, and that there may be a shortage of water in August.

The industrial demand is considerable, and exports are in excess of those of last year. Exports to England and the Continent have increased, but the United States have taken 200,000 cantars less than in the previous year.

Buyings of new crop for export are increasing daily, but spinners show a marked tendency to buy in the spot market after examination of the goods, and not in anticipation.

Cotton seed is falling, owing to the lack of demand from abroad.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market quiet. July, 17¾, November, 18⅓. Exchange, three months' date, 96¼.

	This week.	Same time. 1912-13.	Same time. 1911-12.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	5,500 ..	6,500 ..	10,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,566,798 ..	7,437,497 ..	7,228,850
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	Nil ..	Nil ..	900
Ditto since Sept. 1	191,107 ..	189,108 ..	187,328
Shipments to Manchester	Nil. ..	4,750 ..	5,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	204,576 ..	196,452 ..	216,436
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	3,250 ..	2,500 ..	5,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	384,054 ..	357,726 ..	336,113
Shipments to U.S. America	Nil. ..	Nil. ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	72,948 ..	116,416 ..	103,372
Shipments to all parts	3,250 ..	7,250 ..	13,900
Ditto since Sept. 1	852,685 ..	859,682 ..	843,249
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,575,000 ..	1,241,000 ..	1,166,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to May 20, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	191,107	189,108	186,394
„ Manchester	204,576	191,647	210,879
Total Shipments to Great Britain	395,683	380,755	397,273
Shipments to France and Spain	109,506	104,185	93,189
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	184,985	174,225	166,095
Shipments to Russia	64,454	57,777	54,810
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,047	788	849
Total Shipments to Continent	360,992	336,975	314,943
Shipments to U.S. America	72,948	116,416	100,738
Ditto to India and Japan	19,812	18,346	16,189
Total Shipments to all parts	849,435	852,492	829,143
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
	—	7,532,920	7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

May 16.—"Norman Prince," Manchester. May 18.—"Castilian."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—Spot cotton has again been in fair request. The estimated sales amounted to 2,100 bales, as against 2,700 last week. As in the previous week, the demand has been chiefly for medium grade Nubari, Assili, and Afifi; and a fair business has been done in Sudan and Tokar cotton. Outside these qualities only a small business has been done. Long-stapled inferior grades have been more sought after than for some time past, and a few small lots changed hands, and as the outside growths which have been in competition with this cotton are becoming scarce, the demand may be expected to continue. Quotations for all grades and qualities are advanced 10 points.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, May 27.

The market during the past week has been a most difficult one for buyers to operate in, prices having again hardened in sympathy with the higher rates in the raw material. In practically all directions progress has been blocked, as operators have failed to respond to the fuller rates demanded by sellers. The raw cotton outlook is very uncertain, and although favourable advices are being received as to the growth in Egypt, the weather recently experienced in the American belt has not been favourable. It is generally believed, however, in Manchester trade circles that the action of the bulls has been overdone, there being no justification for so rapid a rise. A very limited business has been done in piece goods for all outlets. Shippers to Egypt seem quite indifferent as to the course of prices, and the recent appreciation in values appears to have had very little effect in the way of forcing out more offers. The smaller markets of the Near East have also given retail support in all kinds of fabrics. A slow demand has again come through for China, and we do not seem to be any nearer freer operations. For India miscellaneous transactions have been arranged, but most of the bids have been altogether too low. Exporters are now showing a considerable satisfaction at the heavy purchasing of last month. Printing cloths have again been dull of sale. No freer movement can be mentioned in heavy goods. The prospects in the home trade are fairly healthy, there being recently some improvement in the way of distribution. American yarns for home use have been dearer to buy than for a long time back. In some quarters a little more inquiry has been met with in wefts. Complaints from spinners have increased in number, the margin in most counts and qualities being narrowed. There has been very little doing in shipping bundles. Egyptian spinnings have been well held with a fair inquiry.

TEXTILES IN GREECE.

The following information is derived from the report by H.M. Consul for the Piræus (which will shortly be issued) as quoted by the Board of Trade *Journal* :—The statistics of the textile trade in 1913 will probably show that there was a considerable falling-off during the year in the value of imports as compared with previous years. This is due more to the very natural curtailing of credits by exporters than to the reduction in the amount of trade during the period of the war, because, strange as it may appear, the total trade in textiles was brisk during this period. The great number of people who crowded into Greece during the war, chiefly into the capital, from Turkey and Egypt, seems to have more than replaced the trade which was lost owing to the war, and the retail stores did a brisk business during the whole period, obtaining their supplies from the local wholesale merchants. This has had a very good effect on the local textile market, as the heavy stocks which were held by the wholesale merchants were much reduced and in many cases almost exhausted, the imports during this period being correspondingly smaller than usual; consequently it is safe to say that the textile market at the Piræus is now in a stronger and healthier condition than previous to the war. The outlook is good. Trade is already getting brisk, and when the political situation is definitely cleared up there can be little doubt that there will be a boom in the textile trade in Greece. In fact, better times are expected from trade all round, and the Greek market is worth much more attention than it gets from United Kingdom manufacturers, and it would be well worth their while to study the requirements and to cater for them more fully than they do at present. An opportunity also now occurs to meet Italian and Austro-Hungarian competition in textiles, which was getting serious, as merchants at the Piræus are more than ever inclined to prefer the goods of United Kingdom manufacture. A closer study of the designs and colouring required, and a better attempt to meet the requirements of the market rather than to induce the market to accept designs and colourings manufactured for other markets, are necessary.

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE NEW CONSTANTZA SERVICE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 23.

The Hamburg-Amerika line has taken the initiative in introducing a direct line of steamers between Constantza and the United States. The first steamer of the line arrived at Constantza on 16th inst., suitable festivities accompanying the event.

Hitherto the large amount of goods coming from the United States for Roumania, and indirectly for Bulgaria, etc., had to be transhipped at various European ports, which made the cost of freight much more heavy than by the present direct line, apart from having a bad effect on the merchandise. The steamers will also touch at Odessa.

BRAILA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Braila, May 23.

There was a good inquiry this week for handy-sized steamers on charter terms, and a number of fixtures are reported from London at rates averaging 8s. 3d. to 8s. 9d., from Sulina, according to size. A few berth size steamers have also been fixed from Sulina at 7s. 6d. L.H.A.R., with options of other U.K. ports. The demand is due to the sales of maize from the Danube to the United Kingdom, and is consequent on the considerable decrease in supplies from the River Plate.

All our other markets were slow, yet rates of freight show a slight advance, which is due to the firmer tone of the London market. Current rates to-day from the Danube are: Rotterdam, 7s. to 7s. 3d.; Antwerp, 7s. 9d.; Hamburg, 8s.; U.K. ports, 8s. 6d.; Sulina, 1s. less all round.

The Mediterranean berth has been particularly inactive, and several steamers have experienced considerable difficulty in securing cargo. Rates stand nominally at 8.50 frs. from the Danube to Genoa, Marseilles, or Venice.

Steamers in the Danube can load down to 22 ft., and can cross Sulina bar drawing 23 ft.

BLACK SEA FREIGHTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, May 24.

A shortage of tonnage during the past week has had the effect of hardening and improving freight-rates all round, but the amount of business doing is still very restricted. For the moment the outlook is more favourable, but should the supply of tonnage again increase a reaction is inevitable. Such demand as there is is all for spot and prompt loading. For Rotterdam 7s. and for Hamburg and Weser 7s. 3d. was paid yesterday. The quotation for Hull and Antwerp is 7s. Marseilles remains unchanged at 8 frs. To-day there are only three boats loading in this port. At Nicolaieff there is extremely little business doing, and 6s. 6d. is the standard but nominal rate for all destinations. Usually the grain stocks in the Bug port are abundant, but just now they are comparatively very small. At Kherson a fair amount of business has been done during the week; the demand is steady but restricted. Yesterday a prompt steamer was berthed for Rotterdam at 7s., and another for Antwerp at the same rate, while a limited amount of tonnage is booking for Hamburg at 7s. 3d. At Novorossisk the demand for prompt tonnage has for the time being practically ceased in consequence of the very small arrivals of grain from the interior, and shippers are confining their attention to mid-June loading. Nominally, rates are 6s. 6d. Rotterdam; 6s. 9d. Weser and Antwerp; and 7s. Hamburg; for Mediterranean there is nothing doing. Khorli and Skadovsk are doing a small business for Rotterdam at 7s.

MOTOR SHIP FOR PERSIAN GULF.

According to *The Times*, apart from the interest the British Government is acquiring in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, there are reasons why important developments may be expected before long in the Persian Gulf trade. One is that the irrigation schemes in Mesopotamia will bring vast areas of land into cultivation for grain. British shipping companies have at present a large share of the trade, but it is understood that in one of the developments which may be expected shortly not only English, but also German and French financiers will participate. The interests of the British India Steam Navigation Company are well represented throughout the ports of the Persian Gulf, and in well-informed circles the name of Lord Inchcape, the chairman, has been associated with the new scheme. No doubt an official announcement will be forthcoming in due course. It is interesting to note that the Hamburg-Amerika has already a service from Hamburg and Antwerp to the Persian Gulf, and in France the possibility of a subsidised steamship service has long been discussed.

The newly formed Flower Motor Ship Company, Limited, is a sign of the interest which is taken in the commercial future of this part of the East. It is a private company with a registered capital of £1,000,000, and among the directors are Sir Marcus Samuel, Mr. F. Lane, and Mr. Rickmers. We understand that Messrs. Strick and Co. and Messrs. Ellerman and Co. are interested in this new venture

A motor-ship named the "Arum" has been built for the Flower Company, and has just left London on her maiden voyage to the Persian Gulf. She left the Tyne recently for Antwerp, where she loaded a cargo for the East. Some interesting particulars concerning this vessel are given in the current number of *Internal Combustion Engineering*. To the engineer she is interesting as the first British-built motor-ship having engines that are British-built throughout. She is not entirely a British achievement, however, as the design of her engines is based upon the experience of a Continental firm. The builders are Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, who are answerable for the construction of both ship and machinery. The design of engines, though reflecting the Polar-Diesel practice, is original in many respects, the special features tending towards simplification and greater accessibility. The "Arum" is designed to carry somewhat less than 6,000 tons deadweight, measures 350 ft. between perpendiculars, and is 47 ft. in extreme breadth and 27 ft. in moulded depth, with a load draught of 21 ft. 6 ins. She is driven by twin sets of Neptune-Diesel engines, aggregating 1,200 b.h.p., and attains a speed of 10½ knots in ballast. The daily fuel consumption amounts to 4½ tons.

Great credit is due to the firm of Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Limited, for, though they had the results of Polar experience to guide them, they have departed from the principal features of previous designs, with the exception of the main cylinders and the disposition of the scavenging-air and starting-air arrangements. They made themselves responsible for every part, even the fuel pumps and fuel valves being produced in their own works.

According to *The Times*, two sister ships to the "Arum," which are now building, are to be put into the trade. These three ships are designed for carrying general cargo, but it is thought that large tank vessels are likely to be ordered soon in connection with the oil developments.

Presiding at a meeting of the members of the "Flower" Motor Ship Company yesterday afternoon, Sir Marcus Samuel criticised the action of the Admiralty in choosing this moment to subsidise an oil company operating in a foreign country liable to disturbances on the part of the natives. He had no doubt, he said, that the matter would be closely investigated in Parliament, when some explanation of the Admiralty's action would be forthcoming.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chantala."—London-Bombay. Passed Gibraltar May 20. "Chakrata."—Bombay-Antwerp. Left Aden May 25. "Chinkoa."—London-Bombay. Left Suez May 16. "Chupra."—At Bombay May 11. "Chyebassa."—London-Calcutta.—At Madras May 19. "Malda."—London-Calcutta. Left Aden May 21. "Manora."—Calcutta-London. Left Marseilles May 26. "Mashobra."—Calcutta-London.—Left Colombo May 21. "Nevassa."—London-Calcutta. Left Marseilles May 23 "Takada."—At Calcutta May 9.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—London-Bombay. Left Aden May 24. "Candia."—At Calcutta May 17. "China."—London-Bombay. Left Gibraltar May 26. "Macedonia."—At Bombay May 15. "Nankin."—London-Calcutta. Passed Perim May 26. "Nore."—Left London for Calcutta May 23. "Nyanza."—London-Calcutta. Left Suez May 22. "Palawan."—At Port Sudan. "Persia."—Bombay-London. Left Port Said May 25. "Sardinia."—Calcutta-London. Left Port Said May 22. "Simla."—Calcutta-London. Left Colombo May 22.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—Syrian Coast/London. Left Malta May 24. "Corsican Prince."—At Manchester May 18. "Creole Prince."—Left Antwerp for Mediterranean May 18. "Egyptian Prince."—At Alexandria May 23. "Merchant Prince."—At Alexandria May 24. "Norman Prince."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Left Malta May 20. "Orange Prince."—Left London for Alexandria May 20. "Saxon Prince."—Left Alexandria for Syrian Coast May 24. "Sailor Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria May 17. "Stuart Prince."—Alexandria/Black Sea. Left Constantinople May 24. "Tudor Prince."—At Alexandria April 26. "Trojan Prince."—On Syrian Coast May 2. "Welsh Prince."—At Tyne May 15.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Liverpool May 22. "Esneh."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Passed Gibraltar May 20. "Hathor."—Swansea/Alexandria. Left Malta May 4. "Karnak."—Alexandria/Kherson. Left Constantinople May 18. "Khephren."—At Garston May 10. "Meroe."—Liverpool/Alexandria. At Malta May 23. "Moeris."—Garston May 15. "Sebek."—Naples/Odessa. Passed Constantinople May 13. "Siptah."—Liverpool/Batoum. Left Constantinople May 23.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Antwerp. "Barnesmore."—Sulina/Antwerp. Passed Constantinople May 18. "Edenmore."—Left Liverpool for Piræus May 21. "Heathmore."—At Piræus May 20. "Incemore."—At Galatz May 10. "Jessmore."—At Galatz may 11. "Kenmore."—At Varna May 24. "Larchmore."—At Galatz May 3.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—Liverpool-Catania. Passed Gibraltar May 25. "Carpathia."—Left New York for Mediterranean May 19. "Cypria."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean May 15. "Ivernia."—Left Patras for Trieste May 24. "Pannonia."—Left Trieste for Patras May 24. "Pavia."—At Ancona May 24. "Phrygia."—At Batoum May 20. "Saxonia."—Naples-New York. Left Gibraltar May 24. "Thracia."—At Liverpool May 20. "Tyria."—Eastham-Constantinople. Left Gibraltar May 25. "Veria."—At Constantinople May 24.

Ellerman Lines.

"Alexandria."—At Liverpool April 23. "Andalusian."—Left Malta for Lisbon May 22. "Asturian."— Left Gibraltar for Syra May 20. "Austrian."—At Kherson May 19. "Avon."—Swansea-Mediterranean. At Naples May 22. "Bavarian."—Left Poti for Mostyn May 20. "Bosnian."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria May 26. "Britannia."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria May 19. "Castilian."—Left Malta for Liverpool May 22. "City of Cambridge."—At Alexandria May 14. "City of Khios."—At Liverpool. "Fabian."—At Fiume May 23. "Lisbon."—At Smyrna May 23. "Maronian."—Left Patras for Palermo May 15. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Perim."—At Oporto May 21. "Persian."—Left Alexandria for Smyrna April 24.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—At Leghorn May 25. "Castalia."—Bombay-Liverpool. Left Gibraltar May 26. "Circassia."—At Manchester. "Elysia."—Left Bombay for Liverpool May 25. "Italia."—Palermo-New York. Left Port Said May 16. "Massilia."—Liverpool-Bombay. Left Perim May 22. "Olympia."—Liverpool-Bombay. Left Gibraltar May 21.

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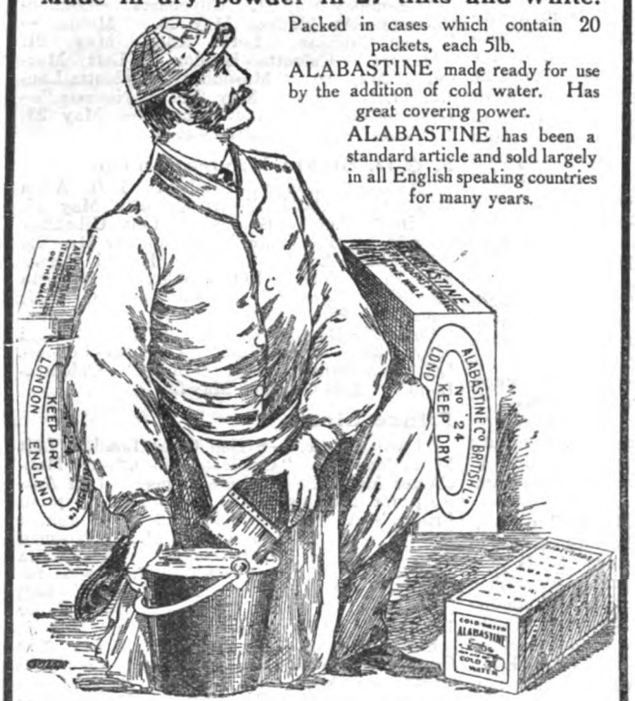

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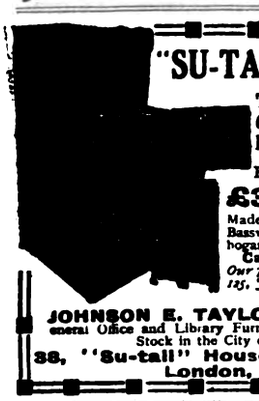

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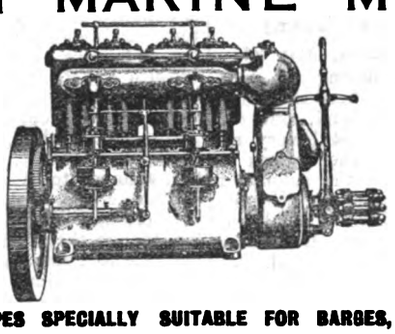

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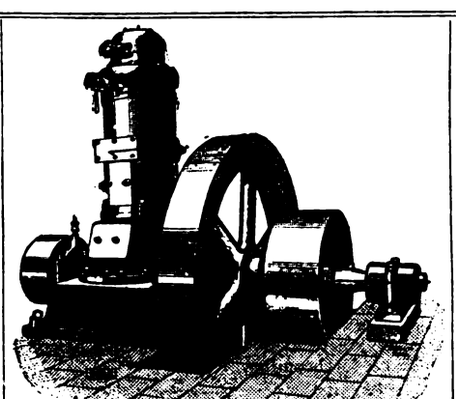

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Engineering Notes.

Rolling Stock Works in Roumania

We are informed by our Bucharest correspondent that a contract has been concluded between the Vulkan Company and the Roumanian State Railways Administration, by which the former guarantees to repair at least 2,000 trucks annually. The contract is for five years. This company is about to erect works for the construction of goods wagons, which will turn out the first specimens of rolling stock manufactured in Roumania.

Roumanian Railway Contract.

The British Vice-Consul at Bucharest reports, on the authority of the local Press, that the Roumanian State Railways Authorities are studying projects and plans for the purchase of forty-two railway passenger coaches of the large type, as well as 100 open and 200 closed goods wagons. Tenders will shortly be invited for the above, but only from firms who have permission to tender. The Vice-Consul suggests that United Kingdom manufacturers desirous of tendering should make immediate application to the "Direction Générale des Chemins de Fer," Bucharest, for permission, and, on securing it, send a representative to Bucharest armed with full power to make offers on the day of adjudication.

Motor Lifeboats.

The "Titanic" disaster, followed so soon by other similar catastrophes, involving loss of life at sea, every one of which revealed an appalling deficiency in life-saving equipment on board the great liners, stimulated motor-boat designers and builders in their efforts to construct thoroughly efficient lifeboats and life-saving devices. A variety of such boats of recent construction is the result, and if the efficiency claimed for some of them is practically demonstrated, the facilities available for life-saving have greatly increased. For example, we have heard of the "Aquitania's" two motor craft, each fitted with wireless apparatus, the range being 300 miles for receiving and twenty-five miles for sending messages. The apparatus is run from a dynamo connected with the paraffin motor of the boat, but if the motor should break down the apparatus may still be worked by hand gear. In the "Titanic" disaster, as well as in the recent case of the "Columbian," the different boats, after leaving the ship, became very scattered, with tragic results. But the "Aquitania's" two motor craft, in the event of this leviathan's 5,000 passengers and crew being compelled to take to the lifeboats, will collect all the lifeboats, fasten them together, and tow them to safety at a speed up to nine miles per hour. The German leviathan, the "Vaterland," has eighty-three lifeboats, of which two are motor launches. The latter will, in case of need, perform the same function as the "Aquitania's" two craft.

The Newest Motor Lifeboats.

A very striking design is that of a lifeboat cruiser of American construction. It is a craft which includes every factor of safety, a vessel which could live through any sea, and which is said to be fireproof, leak-proof, self-righting, and unsinkable. This boat bears the apt name "S. O. S.," the signal sent out by the wireless apparatus from ships in need of help. No matter how much water may come over this boat, there is no danger of her foundering or capsizing. The construction is extremely strong and rigid. A four-cycle heavy-duty motor supplies the motive power, and the engine-room is as nearly fireproof as is possible.

Another Type.

Another motor lifeboat, designed for use on board ocean vessels, is 30 ft. in length, with 10 ft. beam, built of steel on the double hull system, and the design is far from conventional. She resembles very much the ancient viking ships. It is said that she can accommodate sixty-five people with perfect safety. An interesting feature of this boat is that upon each side there are heavy sponsons, or fenders. These are made of the famous balsa or raft wood, which is lighter than cork, fairly strong in texture, and when coated with pitch impervious to water or damp. By many tests it has been proved that this lifeboat cannot be smashed when it is launched from the deck of a vessel. For instance, a boat of this type was lowered over the side of a vessel until it swung just clear of the water. A powerful tug, attached to the lifeboat by heavy lines, pulled her as far as possible from the side of the vessel. Then the lines were cut and the boat allowed to crash against the steel hull of the big ship. It was found that the lifeboat suffered no damage of any kind. This boat is equipped with a 25-h.p. motor, a wireless outfit, and ample space for storage of food and water.

Agricultural Implements in Syria.

The following extract from a forthcoming report of the British Vice-Consul at Tripoli-in-Syria is published by *The Board of Trade Journal*:—"There is a good demand for ploughs in Tripoli-in-Syria, and United Kingdom manufacturers should send travellers to that market to push the sale of their machines. The establishment of shops for the repair of agricultural machinery would meet a much-felt want."

Greece as a Market for Machinery.

The Board of Trade Journal for May quotes from a valuable report by H.M. Consul for the Piræus, which will shortly be issued. The following is an extract:—"The agricultural districts in Macedonia, Epirus, and the Islands offer openings for a good trade in machinery, flour mills, oil mills, and gas motors for working small plants, as well as in electric tramways and motor omnibuses for carrying mails and passengers in districts where there are no railways, etc. The business that can be done in Greece is very important and of great value, and United Kingdom engineers and firms should do their utmost to secure at least part of these orders. Goods should be brought direct to the buyers' notice by advertisements, and by efficient representatives, who could explain the working of the machines and help buyers to obtain what is suited to their needs. Credit may be given against security to bonâ fide agriculturists or proprietors of industrial establishments. United Kingdom machinery, implements of all kinds of goods and articles have always received a marked preference in Greece, but the better methods adopted by foreign competitors, who have a thorough knowledge of trade conditions in Greece, tend to diminish the opportunities of United Kingdom firms."

E. S. R. Rolling Stock.

It is understood that the Egyptian State Railways are experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining delivery of the new locomotives and passenger rolling stock for which orders have been placed in Germany and Belgium, says *The Egyptian Mail*. The new tank locomotives, similar to those on the Mataria line, which were ordered from Henschet's for the Heluan Railway, and which were required by October, will not, it is reported, be delivered before the end of December next. Similarly the delivery of two large orders, of the respective values of £E10,000 and £E90,000, which were placed in Belgium for passenger coaches, and which included those destined for use on the Heluan Railway when it is taken over by the State, will not, it is said, be given before March, 1915. In the meantime, it is presumed, the present coaches will perforce be kept in running, and their transfer to the Tanta-Mansura-Damietta line will be delayed. Commenting on these facts *The Egyptian Mail* remarks, very rightly: "It seems to us very probable that British manufacturers would have been far more prompt in the delivery had these orders been placed in their hands."

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that a group of French capitalists in Roubaix are acquiring the petroleum works and grounds belonging to the Negulescu and Minculescu families in the Bushtenari, Bordeni, and Scaioshi districts. A new company has also been formed at Bucharest under the title of the Union Company for Boring and General Petroleum Work, with a capital of 450,000 francs.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Grease.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration for the supply and delivery of 55 or 110 metric tons of best yellow infusible grease for wagon axle-boxes, for one or two years respectively. July 10. (L.)

Buckets, Pails, Chairs.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of 1,475 mild steel galvanised soil buckets, 1,405 four-gallon mild steel galvanised pails, and 650 office or Windsor chairs, with spare seats and sticks. June 30. (L.)

Sacks for Cotton Seed.—The Administration of State Domains, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4,000 sacks for cotton seed, to be delivered by August 14. June 14.

Forage.—Tenders are invited by the Coast Guard Administration, Alexandria, for one year's supply of forage. June 15.

Candles.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of half a ton of candles into Abbassia Supply Nuzl. June 13.

Bottles and Corks.—Tenders are invited at the Central Administration, Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of bottles and corks. June 30.

GREECE.

Cigarette Paper.—Tenders are invited by the Greek Government for the supply of cigarette paper in rolls required by the Greek Tobacco Monopoly during the three years commencing August 1-14, 1914. The minimum quantities required in each year will be 3,500 rolls of 2,000 metres (2,160 yards) each. June 13.

BULGARIA.

Rails, Fishplates, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian State Railways authorities for the supply and delivery of about 3,403 metric tons of rails, 155 metric tons of fishplates, 643 metric tons of soleplates, also bolts, dog spikes, and spring washers, as well as 72 sets of points and crossings. The estimated value of the contract is 879,019 frs. (£35,120). June 5.

Locomotive Coal.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian State Railways authorities for the supply and delivery of 12,000 metric tons of Cardiff coal for locomotives. June 3.

TURKEY.

Oil, etc.—Particulars are given in our Constantinople Business Letter of tenders invited for the supply of oil, tallow, white lead, etc., to the Clinkel-i-Hairie Co. June 13.

The Servian Minister of Public Works has sanctioned the contract between the Railway Administration and the Franco-Serbe for the supply of normal gauge iron sleepers. 200,000 sleepers at 5.50 frs. are to be supplied annually for the next ten years, for a total of 11,000,000 frs. The Franco-Serbe will have to buy these in the open market.

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AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The High Commissioner, in his opening speech to the Legislative Council, spoke of application "from individuals and syndicates, with a view to the concession of prospecting and mining rights for minerals and mineral oils." Although one must be sceptical until more is revealed on this subject, it is sincerely to be hoped that experts may discover ground for such enterprise.

What is certain is that Cyprus lives by its agriculture, and that progress in this industry is a pressing need. Provision has been made in the year's estimates for some expansion of the Agricultural Department and for improvements on a small scale of several industries. The main produce of Cyprus consists of cereals, vines, and caroubs (locust beans), to which may be added silk. As regards the vine and its products, a subject too large to enter upon, it is to be said that insufficient progress has been made in respect either of wines or raisins. All that can be looked for apparently, under present circumstances, is a combating of the principal disease, oïdium, by providing cultivators with sulphur at a minimum price.

As to caroubs, the crop of which is gathered in August, any disaster affecting the trees on any extensive scale would be a serious calamity for the island. Unfortunately, a disease (called *Brachykarpia*, or "short pod") has been making some progress in late years. The High Commissioner, in fact, attributes a decline in the locust bean trade to this cause. The crop last year fell far below the average in quantity, while in some parts the quality was inferior. Provision is made for "improvement in the cultivation" of this tree; and the Government is not neglecting a study of the disease referred to. The caroub is assailed by many enemies, including rats and fruit-eating bats, as well as by late cold and frost. It is manifestly of great importance that this fresh disease should be dealt with energetically.

The cereal harvests are satisfactory. Good rains fell in April, assuring a good wheat harvest in parts that were backward. The barley harvest, after checks from rain and cold, has proceeded prosperously. On the other hand, agriculturists have had to face a steady rise in the price of wages, which have doubled, and in parts trebled, since the British occupation. Island labour is insufficient for its needs in harvest time, and is supplemented by temporary immigrants from Asia Minor. As much as 18 to 20 piastres (2s. to 2s. 2½d.) a day, plus food, is now paid to a labourer. Unfortunately, too, the majority of cultivators are in the hands of the money lender, who is as rapacious as any in the Levant. So that in view of many, the establishment of an agricultural bank, under Government auspices, is the most pressing need of Cyprus—a bank whose policy will tend to liberate the heavily indebted peasantry from their present bondage, and enable them to put more heart into their work, and to help to bring about agricultural progress.

Unhappily, too, locusts have appeared in certain areas, threatening no little damage and future trouble. Whether this is due not only to favourable climatic conditions, but also in some measure to failure in last year's campaign, is not yet clear. In 1913 experiments were made in the use of solutions of arsenite of soda against the locusts in their wingless and also in their later stages. It would be interesting to know exactly what were the results according to the records kept. In the absence of satisfactory conclusions, the locusts should, of course, be fought by the methods most effectively employed in the past, including purchase of the insect by weight.

General progress in agriculture is still disappointing. Irrigation works have not met with the success that was hoped for, and cannot be repeated in other parts of the island. Artesian borings have not yielded any promising results. They have been half-hearted and inadequate. Meantime, the lands of this too sparsely populated island are, under the present system, only cultivated in alternate years, the half lying fallow. Under happier conditions the productiveness of Cyprus could be immensely increased.

COMPANY MEETING.

BIBI EIBAT OIL CO., LTD.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the first annual general meeting of the Bibi Eibat Oil Company, Ltd., held on Tuesday, said he thought the evidence afforded by the report and accounts justified their faith in the reconstruction of the old company, which had brought such a speedy reward to the shareholders. The net profit for the first year's working had been £36,000. This company owned the entire share capital of a Russian company, which worked three oil plots at Bibi Eibat, leased from the Russian Government, and their income was made up largely from the dividend received on those shares. As time passed he hoped their other interests would equal or outweigh those at Bibi Eibat. For the first year under review the Russian company made a gross profit of about £49,000. After placing £1,500 to reserve, paying £2,500 Government tax on profits, and writing off for depreciation the liberal sum of £19,000, there remained a net balance of £26,315, which was remitted to the English company. Sundry additions brought up the total revenue of this company to £40,916, whilst the net profit, after meeting administration expenses, debenture charges, and other outgoings, was £32,764, or nearly 14 per cent. on the subscribed capital. They were going to write off the whole of the preliminary expenses, amounting to £11,218, by one effort instead of doing so over a period of years, a course from which they would feel the benefit in the future. This still left £21,526 for disposal, and the board recommended that £17,813 be applied to the payment of a dividend of 9d. per 10s. share, or 7½ per cent., and that £3,733 be carried forward. This, he thought they would agree, was not a bad start for their first year, but it should not be difficult to improve upon when the Russian business came to feel the benefit of the capital expenditure provided for under the scheme of reconstruction. The company possessed ample resources, the cash assets alone being over £100,000. One of their most prolific wells had been closed down for some time, to repair a damage, but it should be producing again in a few weeks' time. Their deep well No. 11, on plot 50, had now reached a depth of 2,926 ft., and in the ordinary course should be into the oil sands which it is designed to tap at a depth of about 430 sagenes 3,010 ft. This was a fountain source of a highly prolific character, and, though not hitherto tapped by this company, it had been well proved on neighbouring properties. With ordinary luck the completion of this well might easily revolutionise the fortunes of the company. The directors had authorised the sinking of two more new wells, namely, one on Plot 2 and one on Plot 48. The company had recently acquired several freehold properties at Adji-Cabul, a new field situated about thirteen miles from Baku, which was regarded with considerable favour by the most eminent geologists and petroleum engineers. They had also acquired, on highly favourable terms, both as to price and royalty, a zaiafka entitling them to 10 dessiatines, or 27 acres, of land on the new oilfield at Novo Aldi, a few miles south-east of the town of Grosny. The position of this property was exceptionally favourable, being within a few hundred yards of the prolific plot of the North Caucasian Company, and equally near the Belik and Tchermoieff estates, of which so much was heard just now. All these lands had been paid for, and, as regarded those at Novo Aldi, he thought they would have no difficulty in selling them at three or four times what they had cost. A good deal of correspondence had recently passed with the Government on the subject of royalties, and instead of paying a fixed royalty of 40 per cent. there was some talk of a sliding scale, ranging from 15 per cent. to 35 per cent., according to the price of crude oil. He purposely refrained from indulging in any cut-and-dried estimate of results for the current financial year, preferring to place the shareholders in possession of facts which would enable them to draw their own conclusions. The usual elements of speculation attending the business of oil production were well in evidence; but, on the other hand, they had several promising strings to their bow, their financial position was very sound, and the potentialities of biggish things for the company were not wanting.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Richard Barnett, a dividend of 9d. per share, or 7½ per cent., was declared.

COMPANY NOTES.

Roumanian & Danube Steamship.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports the establishment at that city of a new Roumanian Danube steamship company, the founders being:—The Banca Agricola, Banca Romaneasca, Banca Generale, Banca de Scont, Banca Commerciala, Banca de Credit, Banca Comertului of Craiova, Marmorosch Blank and Co., Kommerz and Discontobank of Berlin, and Fratelli Bach of Braila. The banks, it is understood, will provide sixty-six lighters, four grain elevators, and a tug; Marmorosch Blank and Co., the Banca de Scont, the Banca Comertului, and the Banca de Credit each subscribes 500,000 francs; and the total capital will be 15,000,000 francs. Subscription lists will shortly be opened for seven and a-half millions.

New Egyptian Company.

The report of the New Egyptian Co., Limited, to be submitted to the meeting on June 3, states that the profit and loss account for the year to December 31 shows, after providing debenture interest, depreciation and making conservative reserves, a profit of £17,694, to which must be added the sum of £1,485, being the balance of the profit and loss account for the previous twelve months, making a total credit balance of £19,179. The reserve for profits on sales of land has been increased from £16,249 to £20,925; the capital reserve from £33,005 to £40,398; sundry debtors for lands sold from £136,103 to £187,104, and the following new reserve has been created, "special reserve against realisation of Nashart Estate," £3,209. During 1914 and 1915 the annuities receivable in respect of sales of land concluded previous to December 31 last, including interest, amount to £22,934 and £34,631 respectively. The amount receivable during 1913 was £17,855. From the realised profits, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. (9d. per share).

Athens General Tramway.

The profit and loss account, including 1,683 drs. carried forward from last report, amounted to 437,484 drs. Working expenses, interest on mortgages and new construction absorbed 432,005 drs., leaving 5,479 drs. to be carried forward.

Balkan Bank (Sofia).

Net profits for the year amount to 759,630 leva, against 686,092 leva for 1912. The dividend will be maintained at 8½ per cent. on the capital of £240,000, and 36,999 leva will be carried forward.

National Bank of Greece.

Our Financial Correspondent in Athens informs us that at a meeting of shareholders of the National Bank of Greece, held on May 21 it was proposed by the Governor, Mr. Eutaxias, that the existing post of sub-governor should be abolished, and that in lieu thereof there should be appointed a second governor, with the same powers, responsibilities, duties, and remuneration as the existing governor. This proposal received the shareholders' sanction, and, on the proposal of Mr. Eutaxias, the meeting then elected Mr. Th. Zaimis, the former Prime Minister, and ex-High Commissioner in Crete, to the newly created post.

PERSIAN REVENUE INCREASE.

Under date of May 24, Reuter's Teheran correspondent reports that the gross amounts of the Persian Customs revenue for the year ended March 20, 1914, are as follows:—Northern revenues, £683,000, which is equivalent to an increase of 12 per cent. on the previous financial year; Southern revenues, £175,000, equivalent to an increase of 6 per cent. The total revenue thus amounted to £858,000, equivalent to an increase of 11 per cent.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 600,000.
Reserve - - - - - 680,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Tuesday, June 2.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is June 8.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., June 9.	Wed., June 10	Thurs., June 11

LONDON, May 28.

There are signs of improvement in the market. Dealers consider that the fall has been overdone. The intrinsic position, as far as Great Britain is concerned, is good. We have had three prosperous years, and large sums of money have been made. If the condition of Paris were better and if peace were declared in Mexico we might see something approaching a boom. We understand that the banking difficulties in Paris are in course of arrangement. Many new issues have been offered to the public. Dorman Long was over-subscribed, as it deserved to be. The Bobby preference were good, but the various Canadian offers require no notice. No one should invest any more in Canada at the present moment.

Monetary Stringency.

Money is always tight at the end of the month. However, June is certain to bring us a period of lower rates. The foreign demand for gold has died down, and although the Bank of France will probably strengthen her position during the next few weeks, she will draw her supplies from America. It seems a pretty safe thing to buy all gilt-edged securities.

Internationals Improve.

In the Foreign market the tone is much better. Russians have improved, and all Brazilian stocks have hardened, the rate of exchange having risen to 16d. Bulgarians are 85. Egyptian Unified have been dealt in at 99-99¼ but the arbitrage dealers complain bitterly that the rise in exchange has caused them very heavy losses. Greek Fours are 52. Hungarian Rentes made up at 82½. Japanese stocks have all hardened, and the bears have been buying back Perus. Turkish Unified are 82.

Rails Firmer.

Home Railway stocks have been firmer. Great Western have hardened to 114. The principal movement has been in the Underground stocks, it being supposed that under the new powers the directors will be able to divide up profits. Yankees are steady. Steels continue to rise, and the general tone is slightly more optimistic. Union Pacific and Southern Pacific have both improved their position. There is no new development in the Missouri Pacific squabble, but it seems certain that the Inter-State Commerce Commission will now grant an advance in rates. If this happens we shall see a smart rise.

Rubbers Depressed.

Plantation rubber is now under 2s. 4d., and this has had a depressing effect upon the Share market. Insiders think that the autumn crop from Brazil will be larger than anyone expects. The Rosehaugh report was extremely bad, the dividend having fallen from 36 per cent. to 6 per cent. Bukit Cloh paid a good dividend, and seems likely to pay 25 per cent. for the current year.

Oils Harden.

The Oil market is hard. There has been some steady buying of Shell on rather wild talk about a big increase in dividend. The Anglo-Persian deal with the Government has helped Burmah, which are hard at 4½. The report of this company was excellent. It is a pity that the Shell Company do not give us more information in regard to the Egyptian oilfields. It is rumoured that well No. 13 is now giving oil instead of oil and water, and this story has hardened Anglo-Egyptian B to 1 1-16, Oil Trusts are 4, Suez 6s. 9d., and Red Sea 1 3-16.

Mines Better.

There has been a small movement in Kaffirs, the leading shares being decidedly better. Rhodesians have also hardened. There has been very little business in Russians, but, on the whole, the tone in this market is better. In the Canadian market Kirklands have again been bid for, and insiders have been unloading.

Egyptians More Active.

The Egyptian market has certainly been much busier, although the amount of business doing has not been great. Paris has hardly sold any shares at all, and Egypt has also stopped unloading. The general condition of the country is excellent. Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt report shows a slight reduction in the available profits, and the dividend is reduced from 10 per cent. to 9 per cent., but the company is excellently managed, and holders should certainly keep their shares. The falling-off in the distribution is entirely due to lack of water and consequent failure of the rice crop. It is hardly possible that we shall get another low Nile. New Egyptian report is excellent, and there has been some steady buying of the shares all through the week round about 10s. 3d. Mr. Suares is careful only to buy land that he can sell again readily, and he is speedily building up the company and strengthening its position. The assets work out at 20s., and the shares are, therefore, ridiculously under-valued. National Banks are quoted 14½, with a fair amount of business doing during the whole week. There has been a certain amount of business done in Agriculturals at 4 11-16. Land Banks look cheap at 6⅜ ex the final dividend. Bank of Abyssinia are 5s. 3d. Delta Light Railway prefs. are quoted 8½, but very few shares have changed hands during the week. A few blocks of Delta Lands have changed hands at 8s. 9d. Beheras are slightly weaker at 9. Union Foncière have been done at 1¼. Alexandria Water are quoted 12⅜. The announcement of the dividend has had very little effect on the shares. Aboukir Lands have been offered, and at one time touched 21s. There has been quite a little business doing in United Lands at 1s. 9d. Sidi Salem remain nominally 5s. to 8s. Trusts are 5s. 1d. There is some buying of Salts reported, and the price is 14s. 9d. Markets are harder at 24s. ex dividend. Khedivial Mail prefs. have been idle all the week at just under 3⅞, the ordinary being quoted 10s. Daira Sanieh have been buyers at 3s. Associated Cotton Ginners are a nominal market, the price being ¾.

THE BULGARIAN LOAN.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, May 28.

Mr. Toncheff, the Minister of Finance, left here to-day by the Orient Express for Berlin in connection with the Bulgarian loan. He will possibly visit London subsequently.

MACEDONIAN SETTLEMENT.

(FROM OUR OWN TRADE CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 23.

A noteworthy application has been submitted to the Ministry of National Finance by Greek emigrants in New York. They explain the desperate condition in which they find themselves, and request the Government to assist them to return to their native country, provided land is allotted to them for cultivation in Macedonia. They ask for fifty stremma (say, about seventeen acres) per family, and promise to pay 5 per cent. of the price in advance, and the balance by instalments. It seems that the Government is inclined to consider favourably the application of these people.

BUCHAREST FAILURES.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that two large bankruptcies are reported on the Bucharest market, which have caused some sensation. The first is that of one of the leading agricultural machinery houses —Weil, Joseph, and Co. Liabilities are reckoned at about three million francs. The cause of this bankruptcy is undoubtedly the political occurrences of last year, when all payments were suspended. The second failure is that of the firm of E. A. Pucher for about half-a-million.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, May 22.

The Share Market.

Although the market has been fairly active, transactions are far from numerous. National and Agricultural Banks are neglected. Among the shares that are more sought after are Comptoir Financier et Commercial, New Egyptians, Port Said, Salk, and United Lands. Business in the futures market is almost nil. This is explained by the fact that speculators have practically deserted the share *corbeille* for the cotton market. On the other hand, banks are not at all keen on making advances on securities, which makes it impossible for speculators to buy stock that is not easily realisable.

The Zervudachi Failure.

There will shortly be sold by public auction 4,551 feddans of cultivable land at Cherbine (Gharbia) belonging to the Zervudachi estate. The upset price is £E275,341. Although the land is worth more than this figure, it is doubtful whether buyers will be found at present for such a large property. A new company should have been formed to acquire it, or else, it would seem, those responsible would have been well advised in breaking it up into small plots for sale to the fellaheen, with easy terms of payment. The receivers are also about to sell by auction 4,894 square pics of land at Alexandria, the upset price of which is £E3,009.

New Companies.

The following companies and partnerships have been registered:—

Grands Magasins Hannaux—a limited liability company with a capital of £100,000; objects, to carry on a general dry goods business in Alexandria

Bentata, Ebbo and Co.—capital, £E6,500; business, dealers in Manchester goods.

Hassan Madkow fils—capital, £E12,000; business, furniture dealers.

Hazan and Fua—capital, £E3,598; business, dealers in glassware, etc.

Ahmed Amin—capital, £E500; business, dealer in furniture

Kiriaco Antonello and Co.—capital, £E500; business, carriers.

Abdel Khalek Hassan el Guendi and Co.—capital, £E3,000; business, dealers in manufactured goods.

THE SUDAN LOAN.

The text of a Bill was issued on Saturday "to amend the schedule of the Government of the Sudan Loan Act, 1913." Under that Act the British Government guarantee 3½ per cent. interest per annum on a loan of £3,000,000 to be raised by the Government of the Sudan for the purposes set out in a schedule to the Act. This schedule allocated £1,000,000 to works for irrigating the Gezireh Plain and £1,600,000 for an extension of the Sudan Railway system. In the new Bill it is now proposed to devote £2,000,000 to the irrigation of the Gezireh Plain and only £800,000 to the extension of the Sudan Railway system. The balance of £200,000 is for "other irrigation works and contingencies," instead of £300,000, as proposed in 1913, for irrigating the Tokar and Kassala cotton-producing areas.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	£850 000
RESERVE - - - - -	£210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tauris and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Production of oil for week, 2,500 tons (last week, 1,843 tons), of which Hurgada No. 3, 194 tons (last week 167 tons).

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—Cable received from Campina dated 24th inst.:—"Well No. 24 Bordeni flowed strongly three hours yesterday, about 100 tons; now sanded up; expect reopen to-morrow." Production of crude oil for the week ended 23rd inst. was 389 tons.

BIBI EIBAT OIL.—Holders of share warrants to bearer are reminded that coupon No. 1 will be payable at Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock and Co., 15, Lombard Street, E.C., on and after May 27.

BIBI EIBAT OIL.—Production for the week ended 24th inst., 88,200 poods (1,423 tons).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for ten days ended May 10 amounted to £E7,151, an increase of £E455 over the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—First 5 per cent. debenture coupons No. 31 falling due June 1 are payable in London at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C.

NEW CORINTH CANAL CO.—The net profits for 1913 amounted to 148,200 drs., a decrease of 10,745 drs. from 1912. A dividend of 3 drs. per share is expected.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.—The ordinary general meeting will be held on June 3 at 12.30 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C. The transfer books will be closed from May 27 to June 4 inclusive.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for week ended May 23 amounted to £8,781, an increase of £3,180 over the corresponding period of last year. Aggregate receipts from January 1 amount to £153,992, an increase of £37,336.

STANDARD OIL REFINERY OF ROUMANIA.—An interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the six months ended January 15 last, is announced.

TRAIAN ROUMANIAN.—The production of crude oil for week ending 23rd inst. was 450 tons.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Mars, 1914, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etats et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	554,936
Titres divers	596,603
Comptes-Courants	461,775
Avances sur Marchandises	2,196,394
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,583 027
Avances sur d'autres garanties	696,922
Effets sur l'Etranger	1,288,814
Effets sur l'Egypte	429,248
Immeubles et mobilier	255,534
Placements à courte échéance	1,004,630
Comptes Banquiers	368,438
Gouvern. du Soudan	278,444
Encaisse:	
Especes:	
Or £E.459,636	
Argent et nickel £E.355,888	
£E.815,524	
Billets de Banque £E.346,646	1,162,170
Divers	71,036
	£E.10,947.971

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,462,500
Fonds de Prévoyance	24,375
Comptes-Courants Dépôts et autres	3,285,743
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,668,851
Ministère des Finances	914,359
Ministère Compte spécial	33,296
Comptes Banquiers	170,002
Chèques et effets à payer	119,769
Divers	344,076
	£E.10,947,971

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.1,300,167
Titres	1,299,833
	£E.2,600,000
Billets émis	£E.2,600,000
	£E.2,600,000

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. May 26.	Latest prices. May 27.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	102	102
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	84	84
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	97	97
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99	99
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	86
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	58	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	57	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	57	57
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	79	80
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	88	89½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	92
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78⅛
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	96	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	86	86
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82⅛
Do. 4 % Unified	82	82
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	71	71
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	72
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	79⅛
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	—	⅜
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8⅛
Eastern Bank	—	5⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	15
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6⅜
National Bank of Egypt	14⅛	14⅜
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8⅛	8⅛
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord	19½	19⅜
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	103
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirmus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	88
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	22/-	1⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2 7/16
Do. Do. Def.	—	⅜
Béhéra Co.	9	9
Do. Pref.	—	4⅛
Building Lands of Egypt	—	1 1/16
Daira Sanieh	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	8/9	8/9
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/1⅛
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜
" Founders	—	⅜
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	96
New Egyptian Co.	10/3	10/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	—	⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	98
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	—
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Market Ord.	23/6	7/8
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	7/8
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89⅛
Sues Canal, Ord. Shares (£.500)	—	£197½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	—
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/-	24/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	5/6	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	4
European Oilfields	6/3	6/3
Oilfields Finance Corporation	7/8	7/8
Red Sea Oilfields	—	1 1/16
Roumanian Consolidated	25/6	25/6
Shell Transport	5 5/16	5⅛
Sues Oil	7/-	7/-

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. May 21.	Latest prices. May 28.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	630	627
Canal de Sues Shares	4970	5010
Do. do. Jouissance	4270	5085
Do. do. Founders	2240	2240
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	728	725
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	152	151
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	446½	445
Do. do. do. Act.	204	202
Land Bank of Egypt	160	161
Mines Balia-Karaidin	487	484
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	150	149
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	514	513½
Do. do. Ord.	40½	42
Do. do. Pref.	44⅛	45½
Tabacs Ottomans	465	457
Turkish Unified Con.	82.70	82½
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	419	375

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	May 14.	May 21.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	385	369
Do. do. Priv.	370	370
Do. do. Cap.	175	175
Do. do. Div.	112.50	116
Anglo-Belgian Co.	9.75	10
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	114	115
Do. do. Div.	130	130
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	464.50	459
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	65.75	65.375
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	412.50	410
Do. Priv.	508.75	516.25
Do. Div.	125	125.25
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	356	356
Do. do. Cap.	46	45
Do. do. Fond.	83	84.50
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	62.50	61.25
Do. do. Div.	38.75	40
Esbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1358
Do. do. Ord.	496	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	915
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	395	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	105	105
Do. do. Div.	95	95
Tramways du Caire Priv.	503.25	514.75
Do. do. Jouiss.	510	520.25
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	150	125
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	8.50	8.50

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	May 15.	May 22.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.454	Fcs.452
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.453	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.461	Fcs.461
Do. do. Shares	£15 3 0	£15 2 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.22½	£T.6.15
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.414	Fcs.414.50
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.165	Fcs.165
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.98	Fcs.98
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.95	Fcs.95
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34.50	Fcs.33.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4%	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.30.45	£T.30

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	May 13.	May 20.
Agricole & Industrie. Ord.	Fcs	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs.	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Last.	—
Alexandria Water Co.	Last.	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs.	97½
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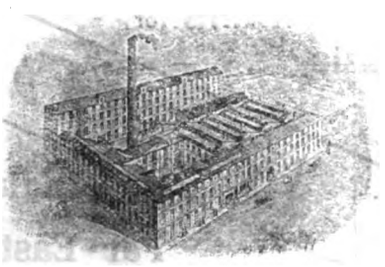
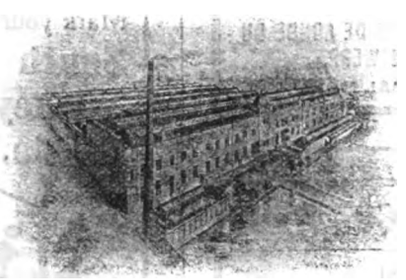
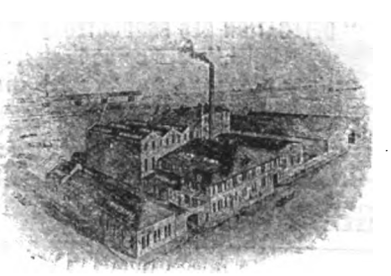

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No. 161.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

At no time during the current year has the situation in Albania been satisfactory, but at the present moment the competition among those who seem set upon aggravating that situation is phenomenal. The impression conveyed to the outside world of the existing state of affairs in Albania is that of a pandemonium in which, from the highest quarters down to the irresponsible peasants swelling the ranks of the so-called insurgents, through the whole gamut of Cabinet Ministers, foreign representatives, gendarmerie officers, and the Prince's personal attendants, everyone's voice is raised to push his own nostrum for the country's difficulties and to decry all other remedies. In the background stand Austria-Hungary and Italy, conscious that the position is intolerable, but unwilling to take the first step necessary towards giving the new State a fair chance of working out its own salvation. That step would be to withdraw their representatives from Albania for the present or to prohibit them from interfering in the domestic affairs of the country. Prince William's Court Chamberlain, now on a visit to Germany, is credited with the statement that open antagonism prevails between the two Powers, which have never been able to work together in Durazzo. But it did not require this blunt assertion to enable the observer of recent events to realise that, directly or indirectly, the jealousies of the two Powers have been responsible for some at least, if not most, of Albania's troubles.

The immediate concern of Albania, however, is not to waste time in mutual recriminations, but to set about to evolve order out of chaos. In view of the multiplicity of interests involved, the task is difficult enough, but, unless it is grappled with at once, the present trouble in the country may give rise to a conflagration that will not be confined within the newly delimited frontiers of Albania. It is fortunate for Prince William and his Government that the chaos existing in the half-fledged State is reproduced in the ranks of the insurgents. If the latter had been led by a master-mind, a new chapter in Albanian history might have been opened with the advance on Durazzo. As things are, the dramatic incidents of that week may possibly be succeeded by an anti-climax while the insurgents are wrangling among themselves. The situation, however, is too obscure to justify any prediction. If the insurgents are able to compose their differences before the Government is prepared for definite action, the insurrectionary movement has already obtained sufficient start to prove formidable. The original grievance appears to have had a religious basis; it was felt that Prince William's Government was indifferent or even hostile to Moslem interests. Closer acquaintance with the condition of things in panic-stricken Durazzo led the insurgents to formulate fresh demands. They require the abdication of Prince William and the restoration of Turkish suzerainty. It is evident that intrigue has been on foot in Albania, and has found serviceable soil in the failure of the new Government to respond to the people's expectations. The International Commission of Control is endeavouring to reason with the insurgents, and, thanks to the differences among the latter, it may be able to restore them to a more complacent frame of mind, if the Government's efforts to raise a reliable military force have in the meantime been successful. The only alternative to the employment of international troops is to play off one section of Albanians against the other. The process is not conducive to the future cohesion of the nation, but, in view of the present temper of Austria-Hungary and Italy, it may be preferable to the introduction of foreign troops.

The fact would still remain that the Albanian Government has been to blame for giving offence to Mohammedan opinion in the country. It is a mistake, however, that can be rectified, and quite easily if Prince William would undertake to assert himself in the affairs of his adopted State. The suggestion has been repeatedly made in these columns, and has been widely echoed. Too much has been heard of individual Ministers or of the Cabinet. At first it was Essad Pasha who was all-powerful. No sooner has he been deported than the name of Prenk Bib Doda springs into prominence. He speaks for the Catholics of Northern Albania, and, as he has not yet accepted the portfolio for Foreign Affairs offered to him, it has been considered necessary to send the new Minister of Finance to Alessio to consult with him. We cannot help feeling that Albania is in urgent need of a little less constitutionalism and a little more personal government. The latter it cannot have until Prince William emerges from his comparative seclusion and takes command. There will be plenty of time for the new ruler to display the virtues of a strictly Constitutional monarch when Albania has settled down to an ordered existence. At the present moment the people

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who are acquainted only with autocratic government are not being encouraged to look beyond the personal domination of their chiefs to a higher loyalty, which would bring Christians and Moslems together in a joint effort for the good of Albania as a whole.

While Ghalib Bey, the Turkish Minister in Athens, has gone to Macedonia to inquire into the complaints brought by Moslems against the Greek authorities, a Commission, composed of military and civilian officials, has left Constantinople for Thrace to investigate the charge that Turkish officials are responsible for the enforced emigration of the bulk of the Greek inhabitants. At the same time a letter to *The Times* from a correspondent near the Dardanelles throws a lurid light on the policy adopted in the various Balkan States, with the object of securing a homogeneous population in the "new territories." According to this informant, Greek villages in the Troad have been invaded by Turkish refugees from Macedonia, who have taken possession of the houses and property of the Greek villagers, and turned the latter adrift, with or without violence. To any remonstrance they retort that the Greeks are at liberty to proceed to Macedonia and to take over the houses and lands from which the Turks themselves had been ejected. If it could be proved that any one State had refrained from this policy of compulsory emigration, a strong case might be urged against the Governments which have acquiesced in it. But it would seem to be the only method of solving the problem of an alien population that commends itself to Balkan statesmanship. In Eastern Thrace military exigencies seem to have prompted the Turks to indulge in the policy on a larger scale than their neighbours, their aim being to interpose a purely Turkish screen between the capital and potential enemies. In certain parts of the coast of Asia Minor the Turkish inhabitants have so far fallen in with official views as not only to eject Greek villagers, but also to dismiss their Greek partners in any business or pursuit, while confiscating for their own benefits the whole of any property that may have been held jointly in the undertaking. Any tale that the Greeks may be able to tell of Turkish misdeeds will find an echo in Bulgarian complaints against Greeks and Servians, and so on until the circle is complete. Apart from the moral aspect, the policy is a misguided one; but, as far as the actual victims are concerned, it is difficult to know whether they are not better off under one great completed act of injustice than in being subjected to a lifetime of exaction, interference, and oppression.

The Roumanians have good reason to be proud of the Emperor Nicholas's decision to visit King Charles in Bucharest. It will be the first time that a Tsar of all the Russias has paid a visit of courtesy to the ruler of a Balkan or Near Eastern State, and incidentally the first time that the Roumanian King and a Russian Emperor have met since the days when Alexander II. passed through Roumania in his advance against the Turks and on his return from the war. Memories of the former meeting have been associated with the subsequent loss to Roumania of Bessarabia. This time King Charles will be able to welcome in the person of the Emperor Nicholas the monarch whose moral support proved most valuable in the sequence of events that led up to the acquisition of Roumania's new territory. It may even be that Roumanian hopes will be raised of a restoration of some of the territory across the Pruth which contains a large Roumanian population. If Russia wishes to clinch the policy for which the Imperial visit stands, she will not hesitate to make this sacrifice to Roumanian feeling. Be that as it may, the visit of the Tsar to Bucharest places the coping-stone on the edifice which Roumanian statesmanship and Roumania's military prowess have built up for the country. It is at once a personal triumph for King Charles and a national triumph for his subjects.

In Austria-Hungary the Tsar's visit to Bucharest is regarded with a chagrin which no attempt is made to conceal. Circumstances have driven the Dual Monarchy and Roumania apart since the outbreak of the Balkan War, and it is felt that the Tsar's action will serve to create a permanent breach. But while Roumania cannot fail to be flattered by the honour paid her, the strengthening of the ties with Russia does not necessarily imply a corresponding degree of antagonism to Austria-Hungary. The Roumanian Government is engaged upon delicate negotiations with the Dual Monarchy regarding the position of the Roumans of Transsylvania, and it will welcome any additional lever for the process of bargaining. But it is far from seeking at the present moment any cause for a quarrel with Austria-Hungary, and if the Russian visit is prejudicial to the relations between Vienna and Bucharest, the fault will not lie with the latter capital. On the other hand, not the least significance of the Tsar's visit is that it provides an additional factor for peace in the Balkans. By just as much as Roumania's prestige is enhanced will her voice carry more weight in Near Eastern councils. That voice, as we know, is likely only to be raised for peace, and with the certainty of Russian backing Roumania has a firm hold on the doors of the Balkan temple of Janus.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST have little reason to be under any illusion regarding the state of affairs in Azerbaijan, but each successive step taken by Russia to emphasise the elimination from that province of the Persian central authority comes as a fresh shock. Shuja-ed-Dowleh, the Governor-General, who prefers to be a creature of the Russian Consul-General to upholding the dignity of his own Government, has recently taken over into his own hands the collection of taxes, and the Belgian revenue officials have been sent about their business. In this action it appears he has secured the support of the Russian authorities, who refuse to support the protests of the Treasury officials. The Persian Government, it is stated, is about to make an appeal to St. Petersburg, in the hope that the Russian Government, which finds it convenient to turn a blind eye to what its officials do in Persia, will feel unable to sanction a particularly indefensible line of action when it is actually brought to its notice. So far, however, Persian overtures in this direction have not met with success, as Russia has refused to accept the Minister who was to state the Persian case in St. Petersburg.

In the meantime M. Mornard, the Belgian Treasurer-General, who profited by Russian antagonism to his American predecessor, but has found it difficult to follow with any degree of gracefulness the Russian triumphal car, has been accused in a Teheran paper of connivance with the alienation of the revenue of Azerbaijan. As the article, according to *The Times* correspondent, is clearly inspired, M. Mornard has informed the Persian Government that, unless the imputations are denied, the Treasury staff will cease work. Unless some other Treasury official is as ready for M. Mornard's post as M. Mornard was to succeed Mr. Shuster, it is to be hoped that the incident will have the effect of raising the whole question of the situation in Azerbaijan. The fiction that Russia is still acting for the best in the interests of Persia to which she pledged herself in the Convention of 1907 can hardly be maintained much longer by the British Government. Great Britain's cynical indifference to Persia's fate promises to form the worst chapter in the whole history of British foreign policy.

The report sent by our Cairo correspondent this week of the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly gives special significance to a passage in Lord Kitchener's report, in which he warned the delegates against "unreasonable obstruction and futile attempts to extend their own personal importance." It is unfortunate that Saad Pasha Zaghlul should have belied the favourable expectations formed of him. The type is not an uncommon one in the evolution of Oriental people, and his prominence in the Egyptian Legislative Assembly is, therefore, not so much a matter of surprise as that his authority to speak for the elected delegates should be challenged at this early stage by one of his own party.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 28.

Patriarch's Appeal to the Sultan.

The Œcumenical Patriarch has appealed to the Sultan. This is the most important event of the week, since in the appeal his Holiness Germanos V. hints that if Greek grievances are not remedied he may find that "the presence of the Œcumenical Patriarch at Constantinople lacks justification." In that case the Patriarch might conceivably repair to Mount Athos if the Turkish Government permitted him to leave the country, but it is more probable that he would attempt to retire to Russia, the Head of the Orthodox world. The Turkish Government is at present somewhat inclined to take the line that if the Patriarch does leave Constantinople Turkey will be no worse, but calmer consideration should show the Turks that such an event might have serious consequences. In the first place the Greek community, which has on the whole been kept in hand by the Patriarchate, might—probably would—fall into the hands of Hellenic agitators anxious to fish in troubled waters. In the second place the improvement in the relations between Russia and Turkey, which has been very marked of late, might cease to impress foreign observers. Russia is essentially a religious country, and the real or alleged sufferings of the Orthodox have never failed to move the Russian masses who have the last word in Government. The Turk in the same way waxes eloquent over the sufferings of non-Turkish Moslems under foreign rule. These sufferings may be less serious by far than he believes, but he is none the less impressed by tales concerning them; and the writer has a strong recollection of the excitement caused at a meeting held at Constantinople by an Indian agitator, who averred—there being none to disprove his allegations—that the Moslems of India were foully oppressed, and of the indignation aroused by a totally unfounded statement made by a local journal that British bluejackets engaged in punitive operations in the Persian Gulf had indulged in a carnival of murder and rape. So it is with the Russian, and the Turks, now that they are on distinctly better terms with their mighty neighbour, would be well advised to "take a rest," as far as the Thracian Greeks are concerned. Over 60,000 of these people have left Thrace and their places have been taken by Moslem colonists, and one wonders whether it is worth while going further in the Turcification of the frontier province.

The Moslems of Macedonia.

There has been a good deal of talk of "atrocities" committed by the Greeks at the expense of Moslems in "Greater Greece," and the writer has been at pains to verify some of the stories which he has heard. Thus far he has been unable to obtain confirmation of most of the graver charges brought against the Greeks. Political murders have in two or three cases turned out to be the commercial operations of brigands who have since added Christians to their bag, and the horrible stories published in a local Jewish paper seem to the writer to require to be taken with a great deal of salt, since in Turkey and the regions recently Turkish there is nothing that the Jew will not believe against a Greek and a Greek against a Jew. If a child disappears in Constantinople or Salonika, ten to one some Greek will start the ritual murder theory. If a fire breaks out some officious Jew will probably tell the Turk that Greek incendiaries were the cause.

The Greek officials from Athens seem, on the whole, to have behaved well; but there can be no doubt that some of the minor Greek officials recruited in Macedonia and a large section of the Greek population cannot refrain from pinpricks, and from what might best be described by the schoolboy word "ragging." Bulgar and Moslem have both suffered much at their hands. The Greek, be it remembered, has more initiative than the Turk. The latter has usually refrained from worrying his neighbours unless a *mot d'ordre* has been issued; the former, less disciplined and more impetuous, cannot easily be restrained even by a Venizelos. Witness the Epirote imbroglio. The situation of the Moslems in New Servia is bad. Leaving the "Old Servian" Albanians out of consideration, as folk who made life so unpleasant for the Serb that they could not expect much kindness from their conquerors, the fact remains that the Moslems (and the Bulgars) of Monastir are still suffering from official and unofficial exactions, and often from real cruelty. Little has been done to relieve distress; forced labour is imposed in certain districts on all males of from ten to over sixty years, who have to find their own food and tools. The penalty for disobedience is a fine of four dinars a day, sometimes accompanied by a beating. These exactions are levied on people whose villages have been impoverished by two destructive wars. Further, there are very ugly tales of the misbehaviour of officials and in some instances of soldiers. These last one cannot check, but that the "under dog" in New Servia is leading a very unhappy existence unfortunately admits of no doubt at all.

Progress in New Bulgaria.

From New Bulgaria one hears quite a different tale. There is no more talk of Pomak grievances; the Turks of Gumuljina have and use the franchise; the elections have not been "made"; and the Moslem now holds the balance between the parties in Bulgaria. Something has been done of late, though not very willingly, it must be admitted, to remedy the more crying grievances of the Greeks, and it would seem that the Bulgarian Government is now finding a certain amount of work for the many unemployed in the new territory. Altogether, it must be admitted that the Bulgars come best out of the comparison between the new masters of the Balkans, or so at least it seems to us here. In this connection I may add that Turks have recently admitted to me and other foreigners that there was "some exaggeration" in the accounts of Bulgarian atrocities in Thrace, to which so much prominence was given when the reoccupation of Adrianople was effected, and that foreign visitors to Thrace report that most of the destruction of houses of which complaints were made was necessary. The Bulgars, and on occasion the retreating Turks, pulled down houses to get at the timber rather than perish of cold, for Thrace is a thoroughly deforested region, and men in the open need fires in winter.

The Tashkishla Barracks Fire.

The fire at Tashkishla Barracks has had a sad sequel. Three of the German sailors of the "Goeben" and a Turkish fireman have died of their injuries. The funeral of the German sailors was attended by many high military and civil dignitaries, and the foreign colonies at Constantinople, who had learned to like and to respect the smart and admirably disciplined German sailors during the "Goeben's" long stay here in 1912-1913, were well represented at the sad ceremony. The injured men appear to have died as much from poisoning by cordite fumes as from the burns and other injuries which they received when the ceilings of the barracks fell in on them. The Turkish Press has spoken very feelingly on the subject, and the words of one of the wounded Germans to a Turkish military officer of high rank who visited him in hospital and condoled with him on his injuries, "I should do it again, Herr General, every time," have been quoted with admiring approval.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 28.

Lord Kitchener in the Behera.

On his way back from Alexandria last week Lord Kitchener, in the company of Mr. Macdonald, visited the proposed pumping station at Mex, and the scene of the irrigation and drainage works in the Behera. He also inspected the site of the model settlements in this province, which it is intended to distribute next year to fellaheen in a similar manner to those at Biala and Shalma. On Friday last the British Agent, accompanied by Mr. Storrs, motored to Galiub, where he inspected the Ankylostomiasis Hospital, which was opened by him and the Khedive last winter. He then drove on to Toukh and inaugurated another and similar institution, which Ibrahim Pasha Murad, one of the richest and largest fellah landowners, has erected and equipped at his own expense. Murad Pasha entertained his lordship and a few notables to luncheon afterwards.

The Report and the Capitulations.

The Annual Report was published here on Monday morning. So far the local Press has had little time to comment on its contents, and I shall next week be better able to analyse public opinion on it. At the same time I do not think that the report will evoke much criticism one way or the other this year. One point has already been seized upon, however, and erroneous deductions have been made therefrom. It occurs at the end of the "Introduction," where, in talking of the capitulations, Lord Kitchener writes that "it may be hoped that a settlement of the question will not now be much longer delayed." This, coupled with the rumours circulated in the Home Press and the statement made locally that negotiations have been started for the renewal of the Mixed Tribunals for two years, instead of the usual quinquennial period, as from February 1 next, has been seized upon as an indication that the long-talked-of modification of Egypt's international status has entered the realm of practical politics, that in fact it will come to pass before 1917. I have, however, the best authority for stating that this deduction is, to say the least, distinctly premature; that there is no question of renewing the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals for only two years, and that no steps have as yet been taken for the renewal of that mandate. This latter fact alone affords conclusive proof that the above-mentioned reform is not imminent, and that no changes whatsoever are contemplated, for usually when any reforms have been necessary the negotiations have had to be opened at least a year ahead, owing to the dilatory manner in which the Chancelleries deal with such matters.

The Legislative Assembly and the Wakfs.

The Legislative Assembly, or, perhaps, I ought to say a certain section of it, is distinguishing itself in a most unfortunate manner. As I wrote you last week, the Wakfs Budget came up for discussion on Thursday, but before the Commission's Report was examined Saad Pasha Zaghlul rose and raised the question of the legality of the creation of the Ministry of Wakfs. In a long and vigorous speech he criticised the Government and accused it of having violated the Organic Law by not submitting to the Assembly the decree constituting the new portfolio. His contention was that the Organic Law was promulgated on July 21, from which date the Assembly, theoretically speaking, existed, and that until it assembled the Government had no right to introduce any new measures, such as the one in question. The elected Vice-President moved that the examination of the Wakfs Budget be postponed until the Government either submitted the decree to the Assembly or furnished full explanations of its actions. A somewhat heated debate ensued, and late in the evening the sitting was adjourned until the following Saturday.

On that day the Prime Minister, who had been confined to his bed for some time with an abscess on his leg, came down to the House specially in order to reply to the question raised at the preceding sitting. His speech most ably refuted Saad Pasha's contentions. Briefly, his arguments were the following: Between the promulgation of the Organic Law and the inauguration of the Assembly the Khedive alone had the right to introduce legislation, and the fact that the elections took place in December, instead of earlier, did not alter matters, since the Khedive had the right to fix the elections whenever he liked. Moreover, even if the Assembly had been sitting, the Government would not have submitted the decree to it, seeing that the transformation of the Wakfs Administration, which was under the Khedive, into a Ministry constituted a gift made by his Highness, which the Assembly could not criticise, and that the Executive had the right to create Ministries without consulting Parliament or the Assembly, as the case might be, as was done in France in connection with the creation of the Ministries of Labour and of Posts and Telegraphs. In conclusion, the Premier insisted on the Wakfs Budget being examined without any further delay and "without any systematic opposition, which can only have a vexatious object." (He might have added that the creation of the Wakfs Ministry had been sanctioned by the Caliph, whose decision should surely not be contested by devout Moslems.)

Saad Pasha replied in an exceedingly long speech, in which he was followed by Me. Abdel Aziz Bey Fahmy, both of them trying to refute the Prime Minister's arguments. After Sarwat Pasha, Minister of Justice, had emphasised in an eloquent manner the points made by his chief, there came the surprise of the debate, when one of the elected members, Zacharia Namek Effendi, made a speech, in which he most spiritedly attacked Saad Pasha, who, he said, represented no one, and whose attitude merely tended uselessly to excite public feeling, and was dragging the Assembly to the edge of a dangerous precipice. After further desultory discussion, the Assembly accepted the Government's explanation by forty-nine votes to nineteen, and agreed to examine the Budget next day.

Thus two whole days have been wasted in a futile and purposeless discussion at the very juncture when the Assembly can ill afford to devote time to other than the many important projects that still await its approval. For this we have solely to thank Saad Pasha Zaghlul, who once again seized the opportunity of giving proof of his eloquence, but by contrast confirmed the impression gained during the preceding debates that he lacks all sense of proportion and foresight. *El Mokattam*, commenting on this debate, makes the very apt remark that the Assembly has become a sort of literary academy and debating society; that no doubt a great deal of satisfaction may be derived from the resultant debates by certain sections of the public, but that the Assembly was formed to attain other, more useful objects. There was no need to make an *affaire d'état* of the question at issue. All that was necessary, if the delegates really deemed any further remark necessary—a protest had been lodged on the subject at the beginning of the session—was to ask the Government its reasons for acting as it did, and to hear its reply. The matter would then have ended with the wasting of but half an hour instead of two whole sittings.

The debate has, however, had one satisfactory feature—it has shown that the rank and file are getting restive at the attitude that Saad Pasha Zaghlul and one or two of his friends are adopting towards it and all the measures brought before the Assembly. Hitherto it had been believed that the influence of the elected Vice-President over his fellow-delegates was paramount, and the applause from the gallery, which has invariably greeted his utterances, and which was suspiciously marked during this debate, has always seemed to impress the House. But from the courageous attack made by Namek Effendi it is evident that Saad Pasha's reiterated professions of disinterestedness and of solicitude for his country's rights no longer carry weight, and that the fact is slowly dawn-

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ing on the delegates that he may have his own axe to grind. That after this speech the Government should obtain a majority of thirty in a House of sixty-nine certainly is very significant of the general feeling of the members, and shows that if only one or two of the more clear-minded delegates would take their courage in both hands, and speak out, the deliberations of the Assembly would assume a healthier and more useful tone. The way has been shown, and it is to be hoped that the good example set will be followed, and that Saad Pasha, who has undoubtedly many good qualities calculated to make him of great use to the Assembly, will realise the mistake of his tactics ere it is too late.

The Sudan.

Sir Rudolf von Slatin Pasha, the Inspector-General of the Sudan, has arrived in Cairo, and leaves to-day for Europe. I managed to obtain a few words with him yesterday morning, and he assured me that the state of affairs in the Sudan had been greatly exaggerated. The bad rains and low Nile had, of course, affected the country, but there was no such thing as famine or anything approaching it.

SUEZ NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Suez, May 26.

Summer has commenced. The hot season was inaugurated last week by a succession of hot days, felt the more by reason of the cool spell preceding. From 85 deg. to 105 deg. shade temperature is a fair jump, even for Suez, where the maximum and minimum show greater differences than most towns hereabout. The annual exodus homewards has already commenced, and the dog days will be dull to those remaining.

Social life has been fairly brisk of late, however, what with an amateur Pierrot entertainment and golf competitions. The former event was contributed by musical and histrionic members of the Eastern Telegraph Company mess, and achieved a great success. The Bush Golf Cup competition, an annual event, attracted a fair number of entries. Of the men, Mr. Robinson, playing from scratch, was successful, and Mrs. F. D. Davidson, also a scratch player, gained the Ladies' Cup. The competition was played under handicap, and provided close finishes in the men's division. Port Said sent down a golfing team to play return matches, and Suez managed to avenge the defeat sustained by the team sent to Port Said some weeks ago.

It is with much regret that the sudden decease of Mr. H. B. Bush, British Pro-Consul, has to be recorded. He had been ill for some little time, but no serious result was anticipated. The deceased was a prominent figure in all branches of public activity, and is sincerely mourned by a large number of relations and friends.

A VICTIM OF SUNSTROKE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, May 23.

A distressing tragedy occurred on Tuesday last at one of the principal hotels in Port Said. An Austrian subject, Mr. Oscar Vojnieh, engaged a room, and, locking the door, shot himself in the head with a revolver. He had been on a shooting expedition in East Africa, where it is thought he had contracted sunstroke. Embarking at Mombasa in the s.s. "Berbera," it was noticed on board that his conduct was very eccentric. He appeared to suspect his fellow passengers, and on landing at Suez sent the Port Said police a long telegram to the effect that he was being shadowed and that his life was in danger.

The unfortunate man was taken to the Egyptian Hospital, where he expired the following day. He is said to have been well connected and personally acquainted with several distinguished Anglo-Egyptians.

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EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

EXTRACTS FROM LORD KITCHENER'S REPORT.—II.

Irrigation.

The report testifies to the great value of the heightened Assuan dam. Without the extra amount stored by the raising of the dam the total quantity of water available "would have been totally inadequate to meet requirements," owing to the abnormally low Nile.

The thickening and heightening of the dam has thus been entirely justified in the first year after its completion, and the fact that even further storage room is necessary to meet abnormal years and future development in new areas has been fully demonstrated.

The emptying of the reservoir began on March 10, and continued until the abnormally late date of July 31, a total period of 144 days, whereas in ordinary years the period should not usually exceed 100 days. However, with the exception of a few days in the month of April, when demand is generally heavy for cotton sowings, no great difficulty was experienced in water distribution until the beginning of July.

As to the future, the report states:—

The low flood has had a further serious consequence, as it is being followed by much lower levels than are usual in the river during the spring season of the year, an indication that the summer supply will also be much less than normal. The possibility of having to make provision for such an event was indicated in my last report, and the suggestion was made that the construction of a dam on the White Nile, somewhere in the vicinity of Gebel Auli, would probably be necessary. So far as the summer supply of Egypt is concerned this dam would not, when the possible development of Lower Egypt as well as the conversion of the remaining basins in Upper Egypt is taken into account, be adequate of itself to supply all the water required, though it is certain to meet all requirements for many years to come. Moreover, the erection of a dam as proposed might not be justifiable simply as a means of forming a storage reservoir to increase the Egyptian summer supply, since the true solution of this latter problem apparently would be to deal with the river as it flows from the great lakes, in order to produce a steady and adequate flow. But the site selected has the important advantage of permitting some control of excessive flood waves passing down the main Nile. Therefore the erection of a dam for the double purpose of control of excessive floods and of incidental use as a storage reservoir is very thoroughly justified, but its construction will not mean that resort will never be made to regulation on the Great Lakes as a final settlement of the problem of Egypt's summer water when all available areas are being developed. As a result of borings on the proposed site it was found that comparatively good rock can be reached at a reasonable depth right across the river bed. Detailed plans have yet to be prepared, but it is expected that the whole work will cost well under £1,000,000.

New Works.

Under the heading of "New Irrigation Works," some particulars are given of the Central Gharbieh Drainage Scheme and the Beheira Drainage Scheme. Concerning the former it is stated that—

1,373,340 cubic metres of earthwork have been excavated by hand in the remodelling of drains in this area during the course of the year. Practically all this work was done in the top layer of each drain, none of them being lowered to the eventual section. Further excavation, being under water, will be effected at a much cheaper rate by dredging. The thirteen dredgers already in operation completed 592,000 cubic metres of excavation during the year.

The contract for the Salahib masonry group, including a large syphon under the main drain of the system and a lock from the Bahr Tira into this drain, has been commenced and is making good progress. . . . The systematic piping of all drains and canals with reinforced concrete pipes is being carried out as far as possible in conjunction with the main earthwork.

In addition to the above work on the drainage system, the project for the subsequent irrigation of the area to be drained is being studied, so that the remodelling of the irrigation system may immediately follow the completion of the drainage. The total expenditure during the year was £E138,555, and the total spent up to date amounts to £E182,661.

Of the Beheira scheme:—

1,400,000 cubic metres of earthwork were excavated by hand last summer on the remodelling of the drains; 34 new bridges were erected, and 55 syphons, aqueducts, etc., were altered. Six dredgers, of a capacity of about 800 cubic metres per day of 10 hours, working in the Umum, Sharashra, and Nubaria drains, excavated 738,000 cubic metres. In order to assist these machines, the large 24-in. hydraulic dredger, having a capacity of about 7,000 cubic metres per day of 10 hours, was removed from the Sudan to Alexandria about the middle of April. Operations for re-erection commenced at once. The hull was launched at the end of August and the dredger is now almost ready.

The outlet channel from the pumps at Mex has been completed for three-quarters of its final length of 960 metres. The total expenditure during the year was £E128,650. In addition to the above works, the study of both drainage and irrigation projects in this area has been vigorously prosecuted.

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BULGARIA REDIVIVA

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 31.

Life, vigour, and energetic resolve are the keynote to the character of Bulgaria the New. A grave fault was committed—it seems but yesterday that the second Balkan War broke out—shattering for years to come the hopes and ambitions of those who sought to create a confederation of the Balkan States. To-day that fault, or series of errors leading up to that fault, is freely discussed, and names, both of people and States, are bandied about. There is much bitterness, but it is not the bitterness of those who are either despondent or resigned. For the Bulgarian there is no Kismet; there may be a written word, but if it is contrary to the national consciousness it must be effaced. The people must work, strive, and labour to that end; the wrong done must be wiped out. How? There is no thought how it will be done, whether by bayonet or compromise, but in the public mind there is no denying that it must be done. This shows the virility of the Bulgar, his self-consciousness, and his determination. He may have to wait years or more, but the painful situation created by the force of circumstances will never be forgotten. How, eventually, the memory of 1913 will be erased belongs to the future; the Bulgar, though continually dreaming of what will happen, lives in the present, which can be defined as a period of preparation and invigoration.

"We must be strong, so strong that our neighbours seek our aid and friendship; in return for which they will gladly recompense us for our losses in 1913." And my representative Bulgar mumbled words which sounded like Macedonia and the Dobruja.

"Our relations to the Powers are cordial," said the Prime Minister the other day in the Sobranje, and he added that they were friendly to Turkey, more cordial to Roumania, improving with Greece, and correct towards Servia. The anti-climax is significant. Noteworthy likewise were the rumours reproduced on the same day in the semi-official press to the effect that Talaat Bey's visit to Bucharest is not devoid of political significance, and that there may eventually be a *rapprochement* between the three eastern Balkan States bordering on the Black Sea. There is, of course, the question of the Dobruja, but its elimination by means of compromise need perhaps not be despaired of. Macedonia would then remain —the Alsace-Lorraine of the Balkans—the bone of contention between Bulgaria and her western neighbours. "Three members of the present Cabinet," Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, told me, "are Macedonians, and at least thirty deputies in the Sobranje are Macedonians."

But the shadows of Austria and Russia must never be lost sight of in the Balkans. Servia's only too natural bitterness against Austria was analysed in these columns a few weeks ago; in Bulgaria the bitterness against Russia is equally intense. "If Russia had said a word," it is argued, "Roumania would never have ventured on Bulgarian territory." I do not wish to discuss the accuracy or inaccuracy of this argument, but its effect can easily be established—namely, that the people of Bulgaria are now distinctly anti-Russian. Naturally enough, the Government, on the other hand, observes correct relations with all the Powers.

"We are not favouring either one group of Powers or the other," was the tenour of Dr. Radoslavoff's conversation with me; "we are pursuing a national policy, a purely national policy"—words which were amplified later on in the day in the Sobranje in such a way as to imply that the national policy would of necessity incline to those States whose interests were identical with those of Bulgaria.

In the meantime the delegates at Budapest strew flowers in Roumania's path, attempt to cover up the sufferings of Roumanians living in Hungary, and urge King Carol's Government to remain true to the Triple Alliance. Attempts are even being made to minimise popular anti-Austrian outbursts in Bucharest. Simultaneously comes the announcement of the Tsar of Russia's visit to the waters of Constantza.

In view of all these currents and counter-currents, it is not surprising that the Bulgarian to-day should discuss foreign politics in a hundred varied ways. But, in spite of this indecision regarding the means to an end, the end itself is clear, concise, and ever-visible. The country must be strong, must have its soldiers, must thoroughly exploit its resources, create industries, develope rapidly, and command the respect of some and the fear of others. Those who were fortunate enough to witness the wild, patriotic enthusiasm of the crowds last Sunday during the ceremonies in commemoration of the Macedonian saints, Cyril and Methodius, will have understood the vital force which produced it; no beaten race, conscious of and deploring its defeat, could have acted as did these crowds.

At present circumstances, not of Bulgaria's seeking, are inclining the country in the direction of the Triple Alliance. The new loan is being negotiated in Berlin, and its realisation will doubtless imply the construction of the Haskovo-Portolagos railway, as well as the port at the latter place, by the German financial group. But the Bulgarians as a people have no love for the Germans, Austrians, and Italians. Previous to the war their trust had been in Russia, and their admiration for Great Britain; to-day they look only to Great Britain. Sir Edward Grey's words in the House on the safeguarding of the interests of the minorities are hopefully acclaimed. "Do you think," I have been asked over and over again, "that they mean a revision of the Treaty of Bucharest?"

Such, then, is Bulgaria the New—a people determined to become strong and to efface the past; a people who are for the present isolated in the Peninsula, but whose statesmen are tentatively feeling their way in the "open market" of friendships. Public sympathy, however, inclines strongly towards Great Britain, for Great Britain, it is argued, is disinterested in her friendship, and can be trusted; which can be said of no other Power.

Our Bulgarian Correspondent reports that the Sobranje has appointed a Committee of thirty members to inquire into the responsibility of the Gueshoff and Daneff Administrations for the outbreak of the second Balkan War. All parties are represented with the exception of those supporting the two statesmen implicated.

AN UNWORTHY PRESS CAMPAIGN.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 31.

The British public, interested in fairplay for British citizens, should be informed concerning the scurrilous campaign of libel and slander which is being directed by a certain irresponsible section of the Hellenic press against Mr. James Bourchier. Broad head-lines, bearing the words "Lies of Bourchier," etc., introduce accusations of intentional prevarication, even of venality and corruption, that must disgust every fair-minded person. When these attacks were limited to insignificant and worthless "rags" published in obscurity they needed but little comment, but not only has the tendency been shown for these attacks to be published and extensively circulated in English by a Greek paper in America—at the time of the proposed visit of the Queen of Bulgaria to the United States—but there is also a tendency to extend the campaign so as to include Sister Augustine (as witness the letter of The Near East's Salonika Correspondent last week), a woman of the Florence Nightingale type, and one of whom every Englishman must feel proud.

The campaign is unworthy of the Greek nation. The services rendered by Mr. Bourchier to the cause of the Hellenes have been many and varied; he has been thanked publicly by the nation, and privately by Royalty and statesmen. Why, then, should ebullient provincial farthing sheets be allowed to place the Greek nation in a false light, as though it were thoroughly ungrateful and totally unacquainted with the modern principles of press polemics?

I feel convinced that when the matter has been brought home to the Greek authorities in this light they will do their utmost to muzzle the would-be biters and whip them back to their kennels.

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SERVIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 30.

The Government's Difficulties.

The Parliamentary crisis continues, the entire Opposition absenting itself at each sitting, and leaving the Government to itself to sanction the new Bills laid before the House.

One of the most important projects which has passed the first reading and will be finally adopted on June 2, should the Radical Cabinet still remain in office, is an extraordinary credit of 122,823,866 francs for military purposes. This credit is to be spread over three years—1914, 1915, and 1916.

As it is considered urgent that the military orders should be placed and executed with the least possible delay, and as for this purpose it is expedient to contract another State loan, which, however, cannot be realised at present on account of the present state of the European money market and political circumstances, the Finance Minister, with the consent of the Council of Ministers, is authorised, in order to meet the payments necessary for these military requirements, to enter into provisional arrangements, substituting Treasury bonds, drafts, or other written engagements in place of cash payments. These engagements have to be for short periods only, and not to extend beyond the date of the conclusion of the next State loan, which will be made for the express purpose of liquidating them.

King Peter and the Cabinet.

The Opposition protest against legislation by a majority whose entire strength scarcely exceeds one-half of the members of the whole House, and they demand the resignation of the Cabinet and a new General Election. The Government, on the other hand, has considered it its duty to carry through the urgent Parliamentary work which the Opposition had attempted to hamper. The King, it is said, is placed in a difficult position, as he has to decide whether Parliament shall be dissolved after the urgent Parliamentary business has been disposed of and new elections take place under the existing Government, or whether the resignation of the Cabinet shall be permitted. The decision of his Majesty will probably be known in two or three days.

Army Reorganisation Scheme.

The Minister for War has worked out a new scheme of Army organization, and has laid it before the Council of Ministers. According to this project, the first contingent remains in active service until January 31 next, whilst for the second contingent men are available until forty-one years old, and for the third contingent until fifty years old, instead of forty-five as hitherto. The military service is to last two years, and the officers' pay is to be further increased.

The Servian authorities have restored to the Moslems several mosques at Veles, in the new Servian territories, which had been converted into taverns. The restoration of these buildings for religious purposes has given great satisfaction to the Mohammedan population.

*** According to a Reuter telegram, M. Pashitch, the Servian Prime Minister, has once more resigned in in view of the obstructive tactics of the Opposition. The resignation has been accepted, but apparently it will lead not to a change of Ministry, but to a reconstruction of the Cabinet under M. Pashitch and to an immediate General Election.

ASTONISHING ACTION OF GREEKS AT OKCHILAR.

Our Sofia correspondent announces that Mrs. Frank Musker, the wife of a British employee of the American Tobacco Company at Xanthi, in Bulgaria, was very grossly maltreated by the Hellenic frontier authorities at Okchilar. Both Mr. and Mrs. Frank Musker were provided with British passports and letters of introduction from the Greek General Damianos, but the lady, who is only eighteen years old, was compelled to strip in a room which failed to secure her privacy, and was minutely searched for "compromising documents." The victims of this astonishing behaviour on the part of a petty official have very properly complained to the Foreign Office and have presented their case to the notice of the British Diplomatic and Consular representatives in Athens and Salonika.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 31.

The Tsar's Visit.

The arrangements for the visit of the Tsar to Constantza are being rapidly pushed forward. A special pavilion is being constructed at Constantza, where the formal meeting of the two Monarchs will take place. The Tsar is expected to arrive on June 12 on board his yacht, "Standart," and to be accompanied by the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Sazonoff. Although not officially stated, it is well known that the visit is in connection with the engagement of Prince Carol to the Grand Duchess Tatiana, and that it has also the object of strengthening the friendship which is growing rapidly between this country and Russia.

It is stated that after the departure of the Tsar, King Carol will visit Dobritch.

In connection with the visit, the Russian cruiser "Almaz" arrived on Thursday at Constantza, and the usual compliments were exchanged. No Roumanian war craft being in the harbour at the time, the salute of twenty-one guns was fired by a battery of artillery.

Talaat Bey's Visit.

The visit to Bucharest of Talaat Bey, the Turkish Minister of the Interior, and the extremely cordial reception accorded him are giving rise to much discussion and surmise. Ostensibly his visit was merely in return for that made by Mr. Take Jonescu to Constantinople last autumn, but according to most papers his object was to beg King Carol and his Government to act as intermediaries between Turkey and Greece on the Island question. Other journals declare that the real object was to secure a promise of Roumania's neutrality in the case of Turkey's going to war with Greece, the former country having formed an alliance with Bulgaria for such an eventuality, and Bulgaria fearing an attack from Roumania in the event of war. Whatever the truth may be, if one may judge from the amount of attention paid to the Turkish statesman, this country must be supposed to be in agreement with any proposals made by him.

Anti-Austrian Feeling.

Yet another of those incidents which have gone so far to create the present state of coolness existing between this country and Austria-Hungary has occurred at Blag (Blazendorf), in Transylvania, where on May 23, Roumanian Independence Day, the "Mokans," as the Roumanians of Transylvania are known in Roumania proper, hoisted the Roumanian tricolour on their church. The gendarmes first ordered its removal, and on their request not being complied with endeavoured to force their way into the church in order to remove the flag themselves, but were prevented by the crowd assembled. A second attempt was equally fruitless, and, as the crowd was beginning to get out of hand and to assume a threatening attitude, the help of the military was called for, when, a regiment of cavalry arriving, the crowd was dispersed by repeated charges. Many persons were injured on both sides, and a number of students and others were arrested. This is, of course, cited in the Roumanian papers as an instance of Hungarian oppression and rapacity; but it is really the opposite, and anyone arrested or injured has only himself to thank for it. The people in question are Hungarian subjects, and their ancestors have been so from time immemorial. What would their sympathisers in this country think if the Bulgarian inhabitants of the Dobruja hoisted the Bulgarian colours and started anti-Roumanian demonstrations on every possible excuse and occasion? The people in question are supposed to be working for greater liberty of language, education, and religion, but they defeat their object almost weekly by such childish (and, to Hungarians, exasperating) actions

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, May 28.

The Royal Visit.

About nine o'clock on the morning of the 15th inst. a salute of twenty-one guns from the Seven Towers' Battery welcomed the arrival of the cruiser "Psara," having on board the King and Queen, accompanied by Prince Alexander and Princess Helen, and half an hour later a similar salute from the cruiser announced that the Royal party had left the ship for the landing-place at the White Tower. Here their Majesties were received by all the high military and civil authorities, foreign Consuls, and notables of the town, but long before this a compact crowd had gathered along the route to the Royal residence, the whole way being gay with the Greek colours and lined with troops or Cretan gendarmes. The King and Queen, with their children, drove in open motor-cars, their passing being everywhere the signal for an outburst of enthusiastic cheering. During the afternoon his Majesty received the foreign Consuls, military and civil authorities, etc., an excursion being subsequently made to the model farm.

The following day the King inspected the different barracks, the fortifications at the little cape, and visited the drill grounds of the new recruits, in many cases speaking to each man personally. On Monday morning at nine o'clock his Majesty, with his two children, left by special train for Veria, the Queen leaving immediately after with the "Psara" to return to Athens. Throughout the stay of the Royal visitors the town was profusely decorated with flags, and there was official illuminating at night.

After Veria, the King, with the Prince and Princess, visited Niaousta, Yenidjeh, Vodena, Verticop, Florina, Sorovitch, Kozani, etc., reviewing the troops, inspecting all barracks, military works, and fortifications on his route, and having a most loyal and enthusiastic welcome everywhere. Leaving Vodena yesterday morning by motor car, his Majesty, with the Prince and Princess, left for Larissa (passing through Serfidjeh and Elassona), whence they would return to Athens by special train.

The Refugees from Thrace.

The immigration and emigration question is daily becoming more acute; so much so that the commander of the gendarmerie, who is our chief of police, has issued an order that whereas during the last and present months 65,000 Greek refugees from Thrace have arrived in Salonika, of whom 12,000 remain here, 4,000 of them being in the vicinity of the Custom House, and 2,500 still on board steamers through there being no place available for them, while some tens of thousands expelled from Turkey are expected; and whereas owing to the presence of Turkish emigrants in the town there is a danger of quarrels and disputes between the two elements calculated to cause further excitements and disorder; until this danger no longer exists all emigration through this port and all entry of refugees into this town are provisionally prohibited; which order has been communicated to the police of the interior, and published by them for the warning of those who are desirous of emigrating.

The situation is undoubtedly a most serious one, for in addition to the thousands of Greek immigrants under tents outside the town, those in the vicinity of the Custom House are lying in the open and in the streets without shelter and without any sanitary conveniences whatever. Last week, after a long spell of drought, we had exceedingly heavy rains, with occasional strong squalls, which washed away and blew down the tents of those encamped outside the town, so making things even worse, and increasing the general distress. Under such adverse circumstances, is it to be wondered at that some of these Greek immigrants, possibly driven to desperation by having had to leave their homes for a strange land, took forcible possession of about 200 Turkish houses in the town, driving out and ill-treating the occupants? Appeals for help and protection to the police being of no avail, the Turkish Consul-General had to take the matter up and to protest to the authorities in a most energetic manner. Thereupon the Governor-General gave orders that the Greek invaders were to be turned out by the police and the houses restored to their owners, which, however, was not done without considerable trouble and some arrests being made.

Now incidents of this kind cannot fail to give rise to a wondering as to what would happen under similar circumstances in an interior town or village, where are no regular authorities nor Consuls to whom an appeal can be made. Thousands of these immigrants are being sent into the interior, to settle down in the vicinity of Turkish and Bulgarian villages. Dump down a hundred immigrant families near, say, a Turkish village of fifty families, and what will happen? Undoubtedly, the Turk will be squeezed out and find it desirable to leave. The result is certain, and may account for much of the large Turkish emigration.

The Gift to King Constantine.

After all, it seems that the town is to pay for the purchase of the Villa Modiano and grounds, to be presented to the King, and that they are not a gift from the high military and civil officials and the members of our municipality. Moreover, another piece of land and some adjacent houses are to be expropriated to round off and seclude the property, so the total cost will probably exceed £25,000. It is thought by many, however, that while fully appreciating the desire of the inhabitants of the town to make this gift, his Majesty, taking into consideration the general distress here and all around us, will decline to accept it.

Charges Against the Jews.

We again have another glaring instance of the culpable licence allowed to the Greek Press in the matter of creating ill-feeling between the different sections of the population. The Janina *Epiros* accused a Jewish firm of that town of having sold poisoned flour to the refugees, whereupon the Athens papers, *Patris*, *Embros*, and *Athenî*, reproduced the charge as if it were a proved fact. The accusation is so monstrous and preposterous, so unlikely to thinking people on the face of it, so eminently calculated to foster hatred on the part of the ignorant classes, that one cannot understand how any respectable paper could fabricate or repeat such a gross charge, nor how the authorities could let it pass without exemplary punishment. Are the Jews also to be squeezed out? There is no doubt many would like to see it done; and even Mr. Venizelos, in an interview with a correspondent of the Paris *Temps*, showed he realised this feeling existed when he said: "As for Salonika, the Government have nothing to fear, notwithstanding that certain persons think the presence of the Jews in that town retards assimilation."

The action of the bands during the last fortnight has not been of any great importance, but a stiff fight in the Radovishte region between a strong Bulgarian band and Servian troops resulted in the former losing several killed, while the rest fled. Another engagement at Tsareva-Selo, again between Bulgars and Servian soldiers, ended in the same manner. The papers also report that some 1,700 Bulgarian *komitajis* made an incursion into Servian territory near Ghevgheli, and that Greek troops had been sent against them. Possibly this somewhat unsettled situation had something to do with the King making no tour in the eastern part of the province. All the same, I hear no big move is to be undertaken at present.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

The Cambridge University Press have issued "Greek Sculpture and Modern Art," by Sir Charles Waldstein. The volume is a collection of lectures, and the price is 7s. 6d.

Mr. John Lane will issue on June 9 a work entitled "A Chid of the Orient," by Demetra Vaka.

Mr. Edward Arnold has published "The Struggle for Scutari," by Miss M. Edith Durham. The price is 14s.

Mr. Percy White has completed a novel on which he has been working for the last two years, the scene of which is laid in Cairo. The novel is entitled "The Third Element," with the sub-title, "A Story of Modern Cairo," and is described as a comedy of manners. It will be issued by Messrs. Constable in the autumn.

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THE PERSIAN COSSACKS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

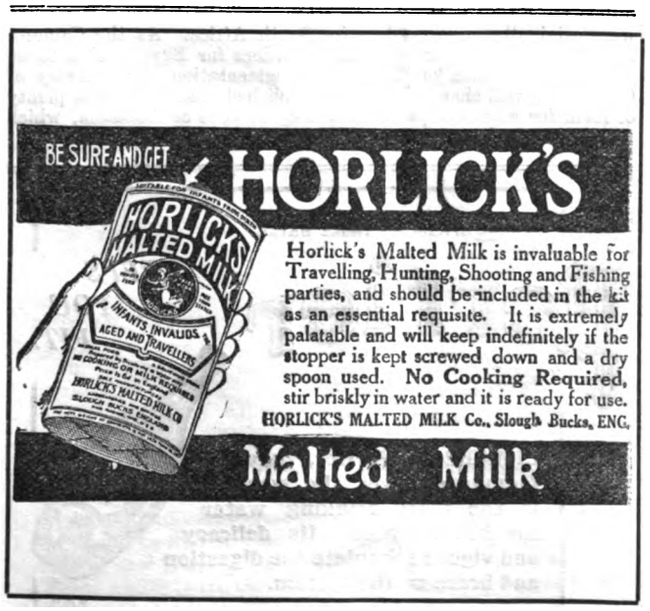
Odessa, June 1.

A private despatch from Tabriz received here a few days ago says that it is there credibly stated that the numerical strength of the Persian Cossack brigade is to be increased from 3,500 to 6,000 men of all arms—infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The additional force, it is understood, will be largely recruited from the Caucasus and from time-served Russian soldiers in Azerbaijan. The newly augmented brigade will, it is further stated, be officered by Russians, commissioned and non-commissioned. If this report be trustworthy the Persian Cossacks are likely in the near future to lose their present nondescript character as far as nationalities are concerned, and become, practically, a Russian legion, nominally under the control of the reigning Shah, but to all intents and purposes subject to the Russian Protectorate; and there is nothing to prevent Russia, should she later deem it desirable and expedient, from raising the strength of the force to 10,000 men. In any case the greater the strength of the Persian Cossack army, the more essentially Russian it becomes, and its paymaster is the Russian Exchequer.

For the moment Russia would appear to be particularly anxious to eliminate the activities of the Swedish Gendarmerie in Northern Persia; their very presence is irksome to the Russian authorities in that province, who insist that the services of the Swedes should be confined to Southern Persia. It is a matter in which the British Foreign Office has a clear claim to be consulted; but it has latterly, apparently, become a very far cry from Downing Street to Northern Persia, where Russia's policy of territorial absorption undeviatingly maintains the even tenour of its way, regardless of the polite remonstrances of Sir Edward Grey.

ELEUSINIAN MYSTERIES.

Mr. C. Delisle Burns dealt with the Eleusinian mysteries on Friday last, when he gave the last of his course of lectures at the University of London, South Kensington. The Greeks, he said, connected the rhythm of agriculture—the sowing and harvesting of corn—with the rhythm of life and death in the human race. The festival of the mysteries lasted nine days, and took place after harvest in late autumn. First came purification in the sea. Afterwards came the sacred procession, leaving Athens at sunset and reaching Eleusis at midnight. At Eleusis the mystics would wander backwards and forwards all night, waving their torches, ostensibly searching, like Demeter, for Persephone, but really imitating by sympathetic magic the movements of the sun in order to make the corn grow. Later, when mystics were gathered inside a huge hall in darkness, a curtain would be raised, and they would see in a blazing light figures moving about acting a play, representing a sort of marriage between Persephone and the god of the underworld. Of the mysteries themselves nothing definite was told, but no man saw them and was the same afterwards. The tendency of the Athenian mysteries was to lift the gloom from death. The tendency in Egypt, on the other hand, was to cast the shadow of death on life. Thus Attica was a land of temples, Egypt of tombs.



PERSIAN RAILWAY QUESTIONS.

Lord Sydenham's speech in the House of Lords on May 25 (briefly referred to in our issue of last week, page 117) dealt with several important aspects of the Persian problem. We are now able to give some further extracts from the speech, from which it will be seen that his lordship's remarks upon the subject of railway construction lend fresh emphasis to the views already expressed by us, notably in our leading article last week.

Lord Sydenham said that the railway question was one which raised many issues of the greatest importance to British interests in Persia. He did not know anything that could be more unsatisfactory and even more melancholy than the present condition of affairs in Persia and our relations to that unhappy country. We had a large sphere of interest in Persia, and we seemed to exercise no influence in it. We had responsibilities in Persia which we did not take any steps to fulfil. We had rights of which we did not make use—rights which we could never abandon—and, finally, we had a number of interests which we were bound to safeguard. It appeared to him that the future of Persia and our relations to Persia would depend to a very great extent upon the construction of railways. Therefore, it did seem most desirable that we should know clearly how the railway question stood.

The assurance given us by Nasr-ed-Din Shah to the effect that if any railways were constructed in Northern Persia we should be empowered to construct railways in Southern Persia was our charter for railway construction in Persia, and he assumed it still held the field. Then came the Anglo-Russian Agreement, which parcelled Persia into two spheres of influence, with a neutral zone of extraordinary shape, and containing most of our interests lying in between. He believed he was right in saying that Russia had formally recognised our special interest with regard to the Gulf Provinces of Persia which lay entirely within that neutral zone, and that when the Agreement was concluded with Russia both Powers arranged to recognise any previous treaties, rights, or concessions obtained by either of them. The Persian Railway Syndicate had obtained priority of rights to construct three railways from the Gulf inland—namely, Mohammerah to Khorremabad, Bushire to Shiraz, and Bunder Abbas to Kerman. He assumed that this syndicate still had that option of constructing those railways and that the option was not contested; but those railways seemed important if the Gulf Provinces were to be tranquillised and if their resources were to be peacefully developed. All those railways lay within the neutral sphere laid down in the Anglo-Russian Agreement. It, therefore, seemed vital that our position in this neutral zone should be placed beyond all doubt, and, if necessary, that that position should be re-defined.

Considering the Trans-Persian railway only as it would reach the coast at Bunder Abbas, he had been told that Russia was now willing to construct the line through Teheran to Yezd, on the very southernmost point of her sphere of influence. The remaining section to Bunder Abbas lay wholly in the neutral zone. If that northern section were created and the southern section were not, it seemed as if all the trade of Persia would be drawn away to the north, and that our great interests in the Gulf itself would be prejudiced. From the point of view of British interests, if that northern section was begun the southern section should be begun also, and not long afterwards, and should be kept under British control and administration. And in any case, in the interests of the pacification of Persia, those three branch railways from the coast should be begun with as little delay as possible.

LORD BRYCE ON TURKEY.

Lord Bryce, as Guest of Honour at the annual dinner of the Central Asian Society, on May 27, at the Savoy Hotel, delivered a speech full of interest to the student of developments in the East. He first dealt with the situation in China and the Far East, and said that he would deplore the break-up of China, and hoped the Western Powers interested in the East would continue their support of Yuan-Shi-Kai. Coming to Turkey, he said that he regarded conditions there with pessimism. Signs were not wanting denoting the break-up of that Empire. The near future might see great changes in the position of some of the European Powers concerned with the future of the component parts of the dying Empire, and statesmanship of the highest quality would have to prove itself if trouble of a general nature were to be avoided. Never having actually visited Persia—though he had touched her frontiers at various points—he felt a certain disinclination to speak of that country, but he thought the same spirit of change held sway there as throughout the countries passed in review from China to the Mediterranean. Every thinking person who had come in contact with the races of Central Asia and the Far East, and had before him a picture of the sequence of events which had led to the presence of the Mongol and the Greek at the gates of Vienna in the sixteenth century, and had some acquaintance with their arts and history, must feel the liveliest interest at the very critical phase through which the East, both Far and Near, was passing at the present moment. The pendulum was taking a swing from West to East, and no one could foresee the consequences. British sympathies had gone out to the East, but momentous changes would be witnessed, he thought, during the next twenty years.

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THE TURKISH BOY SCOUTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 30.

A few days ago the swearing in of the troop leaders, Oimak Begs as they are called, and of the Kalyai of the Turkish Boy Scouts, or as we should say the Vice-Chief Scout, Mr. Parfield, took place at the War Office in the presence of Enver Pasha, who, we are told, is to become the Bashbogh (Chief Scout) of Turkey (I trust the readers of The Near East who take an interest in things Turkish will not be too astonished by these strange names to continue to read this passage). The fact is that the Boy Scout movement in Turkey has two distinct objects—the military and the "Neo-Turanian." A certain number of influential Young Turks, and certain Old Turks, too, have come to the conclusion that the Turk of to-day is rapidly losing his Turkishness and becoming a sort of Moslem Levantine, speaking a language largely mixed with Arabic and Persian, leading a life which is half Oriental, half Latin, thinking in terms of Persian and Byzantine life. The peasant remains a Turk, but he, poor fellow, does not count for much in the Turkey of to-day, and the upper or better educated class calls itself Osmanli, but is in reality an amalgam of all sorts of elements, many of them non-Turkish. The word "Turk" is often used as signifying a chawbacon or lout in modern Turkish. The new tendency which I have called the Neo-Turanian is for the suppression of all unnecessary Persian and Arabic words in the language; the development of a Turkish nationalism, based on the fact that the Osmanlis were merely one clan of a great people which, coming from the Altai, conquered enormous areas in Asia and Europe, and under the rule of the kindred Mongols of the dynasty of Djenghiz Khagan made Turki or Jagatai, a language which is very closely related to Osmanli, and can still be understood by an up-country Turk, the lingua franca from the Magyar border to Peking; the insistence on the necessity for the Turk to turn his back on the influences of Arabia, Persia, and Byzance, and to develop on truly national lines as the Magyar and the Finn have done. It is a sign of the times that the word for God in the Turkish Boy-Scout's oath is not Allah, but Tengri, and that the Sultan is called therein not Padishah, but Khakan. The troop leaders are Oimak Begs, not Beys. The scouts, who are called Izdjis, will not hold a "Mejlis," but a "Kurultai," and so forth. As for the military side of the movement, it seems pretty clear that the new régime has determined to use the Boy-Scout as a means of making military service popular among the educated classes, which, despite professions of patriotism, have till now shown a rather unmilitary tendency to "buy out" on every possible occasion. This attitude, which compares unfavourably with that long since adopted by the Bulgars, and latterly by the Greeks, towards universal service will, it is hoped, be corrected by the Boy Scout training. It may be said that the close association of the latter with the Government, and especially with the War Office, is not calculated to develop the initiative and flexibility of the new organisation. Still, one cannot help feeling that the Boy Scout movement will in any case be a force for good.

THE BARZAN KURDS' RISING.

A letter received in London this week, and dated Mosul, April 30, gives some particulars of the fighting between the Government troops and the refractory Kurdish chieftain Abdul Salam, which was first reported in The Near East of April 17. The writer says:—

The latest news of the military expedition against the Sheikh of Barzan, according to the version of the Vali of Mosul, is as follows:—A fight took place between the Turkish troops and a band of brigands led by Sheikh Abdul Salam. A great number of brigands, with eight of their chiefs, were killed, and two soldiers were killed and eight slightly wounded. The Sheikh has taken to flight, pursued by the troops.

A version from a private source puts the number of killed and wounded at from 60 to 70 for the troops, and between 30 and 40 for the Kurdish tribe. The Sheikh is said to have taken refuge on the Persian frontier with the rest of his men, and will reoccupy his former positions on the retreat of the troops, whose permanent maintenance in the Barzan region will, it is feared, be too burdensome for the Government to undertake.

M.C.C. v. EGYPT AND SUDAN.

The annual match between the M.C.C. and Egypt and the Sudan, which was played at Lords on Wednesday and Thursday, was chiefly notable for the poor show put up by the visitors. Against some good bowling by Newman and Captain Crichton-Maitland, their first innings only aggregated 79, out of which meagre total Captain Brander was responsible for 34. The M.C.C. replied with 270, the Hon. R. Anson and M. K. Mackenzie making a useful stand of 83 for the second wicket. Good cricket was also shown by the last pair, J. R. Head and F. H. Browning, the captain of the I Zingari team that recently toured Egypt, who between them raised the total from 199 to 270 by some good, forceful batting, particularly on the off-side. The visitors fared little better at their second innings on Wednesday, and, when stumps were drawn, had lost seven wickets for 79, all the individual items being negligible. When the match was resumed yesterday another wicket quickly fell, but with the association of N. R. Udal with P. C. Organ the success of the M.C.C. bowlers received a check. At first the batting was very slow, but when both batsmen were set cricket of a most attractive nature was seen. Udal, in particular, batted finely, making some pretty leg glides and drives to the off. By slow and sure degrees the score mounted to 176, and then Udal, attempting an off drive, skied the ball over mid-off's head. The chance was not accepted, but in the following over Watson bowled Organ. Udal now monopolised the scoring and, batting freely, brought the score to 196, saving the innings defeat. He now abandoned all caution, and twice in succession drove Watson to the pavilion rails, but attempting to deal with the next delivery in the same way was bowled, the innings closing for 204. Udal had suffered a bad strain while bowling on Wednesday, and had to have a substitute to run for him. Under the circumstances, he played a wonderful innings for his side, and one that the few chances he gave in no wise marred. The Club set to get 13 to win obtained them in seven balls, E. J. Cuthbertson driving the seventh clean out of the ground for six. Score:

EGYPT AND SUDAN.

	First Innings.		Second Innings.	
R. E. More	c Maitland, b Mackenzie	13	st Cuthbertson, b Newman	14
P. C. Organ	c Newman, b Watson	5	b Watson	31
Capt. Brander	b Newman	34	b Mackenzie	10
G. McLaren	c Cuthbertson, b Maitland	6	b Mackenzie	13
C. W. Peel	c Cuthbertson, b Newman	10	b Mackenzie	9
J. R. P. Sandford	b Maitland	5	c Watson, b Anson	11
C. F. Beyts	not out	4	c and b Maitland	11
N. R. Udal	b Newman	0	b Newman	77
R. G. McLaren	b Maitland	0	b Anson	0
W. Fraser	b Newman	0	not out	2
P. W. Gardner	b Newman	0	c Gordon-Lennox, b Maitland	5
	Byes	2	Byes	21
	Total	79	Total	204

M.C.C.

	First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Capt. F. Crichton-Maitland	c Beyts, b Udal	1	not out	8
Hon. Rupert Anson	b Peel	55		
M. K. Mackenzie	b Fraser	47		
Lord B. Gordon-Lennox	b Brander	10		
Newman	c R. G. McLaren, b Beyts	16		
E. H. Cuthbertson	c R. G. McLaren, b Peel	8	not out	6
D. J. C. Glass	c R. G. McLaren b More	2		
B. P. Dobson	run out	9		
J. R. Head	not out	40		
Watson	c Peel, b G. McLaren	4		
F. H. Browning	b Fraser	42		
	Byes	36		
	Total	270	Total	14

According to *The Egyptian Mail*, the 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, now stationed at Peshawar, India, are under orders for Egypt next trooping season. The 1st Sussex Regiment were originally under orders for South Africa. As the Camerons (from Malta) are also under orders for Egypt, it is to be presumed that the long expected augmentation of the Army of Occupation will shortly be an accomplished fact. There is plenty of room for more troops in the main barracks at Abbassia, which have recently been renovated and are now unoccupied.

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P.C.B.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am given to understand that certain of the Powers are supposed to be wearying of what they are pleased to call "the Albanian experiment," annoyed that the infant state, which was so hardly born amid the unceasing quarrels of partisans, has not yet found its feet amid the barren mountains, which alone have been left to it by those Powers who courted the favours of its neighbours solely at its expense. There are statesmen who are inclined to advocate the consignment of the newly fledged Principality to the lethal chamber in order to put an end alike to its independent existence and their annoyance occasioned thereby. In fact, they suggest that Albania should be partitioned between Servia and Greece in the interests of the peace of Europe. Undoubtedly, such a solution of the Albanian problem, which, after all, is now purely domestic, would lead to profound peace at least from Shkodra to Shkumbi, for readers of Miss Durham's new book will perhaps realize how other races besides the Romans

"Solitudinem faciant, pacemque appellant."

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Not long ago, THE NEAR EAST deprecated the introduction of international troops into Southern Albania for the purpose of settling the Epirote difficulty on the ground that the occasion did not warrant the risk, and that the difficulty would speedily be adjusted without recourse to such drastic measures. In the event of a proposal for the partition of Albania as an alternative to international occupation, the latter must unhesitatingly be chosen. Great Britain was one of the chief sponsors of the new State, and, if necessary, must stand out as a protector in the event of calculated weakness on the part of the other Powers. France, in her affection for Greece and Greek armament orders, has shown undisguised hostility to the State which has been endowed with a German sovereign. Russia bewails the retention of any scrap of territory by Albania in the north as so much soil lost to her beloved Slav protégés. Germany, as there is as yet no money in the Principality, rivals an historical character in her elaborate disregard of these things. Remain therefore the other two members of the Triple Alliance. For the sake of Albania I can still hope much from the unwillingness of Vienna to see Servia on the Adriatic at Durazzo, and from the dislike of Rome to the prospect of finding the blue and white of Greece floating over Valona now that the Marchese di San Giuliano has successfully chased it from Sasseno. We are the only people who are likely to support Shqipenia for her own sake—and maintain the right of a Balkan people to a place in the sun. But I cannot but help thinking that our altruistic support will be seconded by the jealous activities of the Interested Powers—even though their eager machinations may contribute not a little to internal unrest in the realms of the Mpret.

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It is axiomatic that agricultural land requires the presence of cultivators and that without them the most fertile province is reduced to an economic equality with a barren steppe. With this in view, it is no wonder that the continued depopulation of Servian and Hellenic Macedonia is exciting the anxiety of statesmen. According to *The Times*, the latest estimate of the population of new Greece is 2,030,419, a figure more than 410,000 in excess of the foreign calculations which were published in THE NEAR EAST on April 10 of this year. But it must be remembered that of these many are town-dwellers—for, as a rule, the nimble-witted Hellene finds agriculture but a poor opening for his pre-eminently commercial and maritime genius—and many are refugees but recently arrived from over the new borders. I hope no one will make the mistake of considering refugees as being as valuable citizens as voluntary emigrants from a foreign country. Violent and compulsory uprooting from old associations usually precedes the arrival of a destitute fugitive, who, often physically damaged and suffering from the loss of family as well as fortune, has to face the world with nothing upon which to rely except his shattered faculties and the charitable provision of an embarrassed Government. I have myself seen refugees who, nine years after their expulsion by political and racial adversaries, had not recovered heart and spirit enough to fend for themselves and had, instead, deteriorated into feckless sawners subsisting upon doles, a nuisance alike to themselves and their neighbours.

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In Macedonia the shortage of population will have deplorable results. Numbers of Turks and Bulgars have emigrated, many Albanians have simply disappeared, and, in the Servian provinces, the efforts of the Government to Serbize its new territories tend to depopulate still further an area which Old Servia cannot for years to come hope to colonize. Attempts have been made to attract Serbs from the Dual Monarchy, but there are two reasons why this has failed. The first is that the subjects of the Emperor Francis Joseph saw little prospect of bettering themselves in Macedonia under existing conditions, and the second is the opposition of patriotic Serbs to the weakening of the southern Slav element over the border as tending to militate against the irredentist policy which finds favour in the hearts of many. Hopes have been expressed that Servians now resident in the United States may be persuaded to return in order to help in the opening-up of Macedonia to commerce, but as most of these people have a niche waiting for them in their native villages in Old Servia, it is improbable that any large influx of population will be obtained from transatlantic sources.

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The greater number of Balkan residents in Canada and the United States appear to have small intention of adopting either of those countries as a native land. Rather they regard them as sources of wealth where labour is better paid than at home, and as soon as a reasonable competence has been amassed, these voluntary exiles purpose to return and enjoy an enhanced position in their native village. In the case of the Greeks, this tendency is particularly marked. The Continent of America is for them a place where money can be earned for remitting to Greece, and so considerable have been the sums patriotically sent home by Hellenes from their temporary Tom Tiddler's ground that the course of Greek exchange has been materially improved by that means alone. Nor during their exile do these people lose touch with the homeland. Many publicists in the United States were shocked and grieved at the time of the Balkan war at seeing so many reservists return from "God's own country" to fight the battles of an effete Europe, thus demonstrating that the celebrated melting-pot which was to have turned Bulgar, Gheg, Tosk, Greek, Vlach, Serb, and Rouman into enthusiastic celebrants of the Fourth of July had failed in its duty.

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A correspondent in Persia sends me two items of news which throw a little more light on Russian methods in Persia, and bear out all that "Mirza Firooz Khan" and other correspondents write on the same rather painful subject. The first item referred to is a copy of an official telegram from Menjil, a small town between Enzeli and Teheran. It reads:—"May 7, 1914.—Three days ago eleven Russian Cossacks, one of them a photographer, arrived here. After taking a census of the inhabitants and making minute inquiries as to the wealth of the inhabitants they photographed the surrounding villages and went towards Tarum. They are particularly interested as to the amount of cultivable land in the villages they visit." My correspondent's brief comment is:—"Preparations for fresh Russian immigrants, perhaps!" I am afraid I cannot reply, "Perhaps not."

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The second item sent by my correspondent is a translation of a message forwarded by the Ispahan correspondent of the *Raad*, a Radical paper with a large circulation. This says:—"Under instructions from Teheran the Governor had the seven supervisors elected to control the general elections. On the result being made known, the Russian Consul wrote to the Governor recommending either of two, from among the number of his protégés, to be put in the list. The Governor replied that the legal number being complete, he could not oblige the Consulate. The Consulate finds this reply not satisfactory, and insists upon one of the seven already elected being made to resign to make room for his protégé." On this telegram my correspondent offers no comment at all. I feel I cannot do better than copy his example. In such a case words seem to be quite useless.

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I gather from various sources that a number of Orthodox in the diocese of Metrai (Chatalja) have offered to become Uniats in order to enjoy the foreign protection accorded to Latins in the Ottoman Empire. This overture has been apparently embodied in a petition to Mgr. Saidi, Archbishop of Cæsarea, the local representative of the Vatican. Should it lead to any considerable secession of Orthodox we may yet live to see a Latin Patriarch of Constantinople once more resident in his titular city. At present Mgr. Ceppetelli, the Latin Patriarch, lives in Rome, but doubtless, should occasion arise, he would be ready to resume a practice which has for various reasons been in abeyance since 1261.

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It is truly a remarkable coincidence that the Northamptons, who now form part of the Army of Occupation in Egypt, should have been called upon to conduct the funeral of French soldiers killed by the old 58th Regiment in the Battle of Alexandria in 1801. Some human remains were recently found while building new barracks at Alexandria, which, from the buttons with which they were surrounded, have been identified as having once been General Menou's men who fought Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The 58th Regiment in the interval has become the Northampton Regiment, and France and Great Britain have built up the Entente, on the one hand, and have shared in the regeneration of Egypt, for the lordship of which they were fighting when last those dry bones lived.

CORSAIR.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—To those foreigners who have resided in Turkey for any length of time, or, rather, for a period long enough to enable them to become acquainted with the traditions and ambitions of the peoples of Asia Minor, most of what appears in the British Press about Turkey, the Turks, the party of "Union and Progress" and its policy, appears hopelessly biassed. It matters not one iota whether he be pro-Turk, or pro-Hellene, whether the politics of the country have received his attention or not—indeed, if he has paid no attention to them the better his judgment—whether he be of French, German, Italian, or British nationality, he experiences the same difficulty—how to account for the strangeness of views expressed in the British Press and by British writers, and their narrowness of vision.

The writer's only explanation of the phenomenon is that all who make a study of the Near East and its politics internal and external begin and end with Constantinople and Constantinople's point of view.

The traveller athirst for knowledge starts with a letter for his Ambassador, and through him obtains a passport, signed by the Grand Vizier, or Minister of the Interior. Could beginning be more inauspicious? The very act of seeking a letter of introduction to the Ambassador and a recommendation from the Grand Vizier to the Valis and Kaimakams in the provinces constitutes a formidable obstacle to a conscientious effort to obtain accurate information; and the very sight of Constantinople obscures the vision for all future impressions. And if the would-be traveller and seeker after knowledge has the further ill luck to fall in with the personnel of the Embassy, newspaper correspondents, or the European-educated Turkish official, then he might just as well return home; he can do no good to the cause he has at heart. For where is the Briton that wends his way Eastwards for such purpose who is not fathered by some pompous committee or association, be it Ottoman, Hellenic, or Balkan? Does an Englishman or other European wish to arrive at some unbiassed conclusions as to that complex problem, the Near East, let him leave London, or his native city, vow to avoid all officials and eschew all preconceived ideas, and, above all, never set eyes on Constantinople—land in Beyrout, and gradually work his way up as far as the Dardanelles via Alexandretta, Mersina, Adana, Konia, Afion-Karahissar, Ushak, Alashehr, Magnesia, and Smyrna, and then visit the principal towns served by the Ottoman Railway Company, such as Aidin, Nazli, Odemish, Denizli, Dineir, and Egerdir and Sparta, and he will have seen the best part of Turkey. In dealing with Turkey, the Turk and his Government, let him keep well to the fore the following cardinal factors:—(1) That Constantinople is not Turkey, and that the political instincts of the inhabitants of Constantinople itself and within a radius of 50 miles are not those of the rest of the Empire; (2) that the Rayah is Western Asia Minor's economic backbone, on which the prosperity of Turkey's best provinces depends; (3) that Turkey has been ever since the advent of Abdul Hamid to the throne, and still is, governed by the worst elements of the Ottoman race; (4) that patriotism as a moral force is non-existent among the higher governing classes. Were it otherwise men like Mahmoud Shevket and Enver could not possibly have come to the front.

The writer could give any number of proofs of the complete absence of any idea or desire among the ruling classes to do something for their country, but he will limit himself to one instance as an illustration. The Western Provinces of Asia Minor were, and still are, threatened with a plague of locusts. Eight months ago an edict was issued obliging all inhabitants of the infected districts to bring in to the authorities 10 okes of larvæ *per capita*. No sooner had the various Kaimakamliks or Mudiriets collected a sufficient quantity, than they started selling to all such who had to comply with the law, but could not afford the time, or for other reasons, to hunt for the eggs, thus defeating the object of the measure, viz., the destruction of the locust. The local government of Smyrna then brought out a French expert, Monsieur d'Herelles, to advise as to the best means to be adopted for fighting the evil. After a stay of a week in Smyrna, Monsieur d'Herelles left, the Government giving it out that he considered the season too far advanced, whereas everybody knew that the miserable £T15,000 credit asked for to organise the campaign against the pest was not forthcoming, and that this was the true reason of his departure. Meanwhile, the local authorities had mulcted the poorer population of this Vilayet of thrice the amount, to say nothing of the time and labour given by the peasant in collecting larvæ, which the same authorities afterwards turned into cash.

Now can it be pretended by Messrs. Aubrey Herbert and Pickthall and Mrs. Margaret Robinson that the authorities of the Vilayet of Aidin knew nothing of all this, or that the source of the revenue they so illicitly collected for headquarters in Constantinople was unknown to Talaats and Djavids? Of course it was—and these are the men who are ruling Turkey to-day.

But such is always the case. Any misfortune that visits the land is absolutely seized upon by the authorities as an excuse to rob the people. Let the pro-Turk writers mentioned above come and live in Turkey during a visitation of cholera, or any plague, but far away from Embassy, Sublime Porte, or the Grande Rue de Péra, and their eyes will be opened to what government by the party of union and progress means.

Lest your readers should think that I am unduly severe, I will quote the following story as proof that even Turks know exactly what is happening and what the future has in store. A friend of mine was lately in some very remote village in one of the most unfrequented parts of Asia Minor. He there met the Hodja, who asked how things were getting on, and whether there was any hope of better times. My friend, not wishing to hurt the old man's feelings, answered that he hoped the present Government meant well, and would bring about some improvement in the land, upon which the Hodja promptly retorted: "You are not an honest man, for you know even better than I do that there is no hope for our country." And need I add that the poor Hodja's hope of better times was a foreign occupation? The Englishman is too dull-witted to see that even in Turkey the benefits to the fellah of his rule in Egypt is being compared with the lot of the Turkish peasant, and that the dullest Turk is capable of making his comparison, and drawing his own conclusions, however clumsy.

Those who uphold the present Government in the European Press are doing the worst possible service to Turkey. At least, such is the opinion of,

Yours, etc.,
PRO-TURK, BUT ANTI-GOVERNMENT.

THE ISLANDS OF THE ÆGEAN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Your impartiality emboldens me to send you a few lines, hoping that you will be kind enough to publish them in your estimable journal.

In your issue of May 15 Mr. C. Mayo, in replying to "Macedonicus," makes what I can assure him are very inaccurate statements.

I do not know if "Macedonicus" has seen the Near East at close quarters or not, but, having been born in Macedonia and having known Turkey in Europe for forty-two years consecutively, I can assure Mr. Mayo, in spite of what he pretends, that, except the Jews dwelling in great towns and the strangers enjoying particular protection, all other natives of this country, including the Turks themselves, have a desperately bad opinion of Turkish rule.

Mr. Mayo seems to ignore that Turkey's friends in Europe, the so-called "acquainted with the Near East," are those who have visited only the great towns of the empire, without coming into any free communication with the peasantry. I ask Mr. Mayo what can be the value of the opinion formed by the European who, immediately on his arrival in Turkish territory, is received by the authorities with all possible ceremonial suggested by the fear of the Freñk, who is for the Turk a superhuman being, who suspends over his head the sword of Damocles?

The Turks are masters of hypocrisy, and are not so mad as to commit violence before the stranger, having plenty of time and means to outrage the *giaour* when they choose to do so.

Mr. Mayo believes that Turkey's friends in Europe are increasing, but he does not tell us why and how long. Is it since her false Constitution, or by the expulsion and massacres against Greeks now committed in Thrace and Asia Minor?

As for his remarks about naval matters, he proves himself so inexcusably ignorant of the facts as not to be worthy of contradiction. But I wish to inform him that Greece's naval superiority is exclusively due to her excellent seamanship; that the Turks possessed two more big warships than the Averoff; and that if the solitary cruiser of the enemy was able to range for some time over the Eastern Mediterranean, and finally to take refuge in the Red Sea, it was because the only other Greek cruisers were older and slower than she.

Mr. Mayo says nothing about the blowing up of the Turkish cruiser by the torpedo No. 11 in Salonika harbour, and seems to have forgotten that the Averoff served as a cork to the Dardanelles.—Yours, etc.,

(DR.) ANT. NAKIS.

Salonika, May 24.

CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I regret having to encroach upon your valuable space in order to reply to Dr. Hollist and Mr. Seed. It is perfectly clear that a correspondent ("A Member of the Ottoman Association") asserted that the Turcophils kept silent about outrages perpetrated by Christian races. Dr. Hollist was justified, therefore, in pointing out that, under the title of the "Ottoman Committee," members of the said Association had certainly not kept silence. Mr. Seed goes a step further, and claims apostolical succession for the Ottoman Association from the late Ottoman Committee. So far as this claim has any foundation, it only endorses Dr. Hollist's contention.

When your distinguished correspondent passes to the question of creating rancour and venom by making an historical statement as to the Balkan atrocities, I naturally refuse to accept his standpoint. He takes the usual course of assuming that none but himself and those holding his own views have studied the past

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history of the subject. *The Review of Reviews*, to which he refers us for information on the Balkans, was run by a man who was a monomaniac on the subject of Turkish rule. He neither adopted a "dignified policy of silence and reticence" nor did he act in a level-headed manner.

I have not expressed any regret that the public are sick and tired of atrocities—in fact, I said in my last letter, "Turkey's task is not to recount her sorrows, but to renew her strength."

Just a word to my very good friend Mr. Seed. I would be very unwilling to spend time on distinguishing between the claims of Mr. Duse Mohamed and myself to be the founder of the late Ottoman Committee. I was the first to propose it; Mr. Mohamed the first to organise the proposal. Both Mr. Mohamed and myself, together with Mr. Adolphe Smith, Professor Léon, Mr. George Palmer, Mr. C. F. Ryder, Dr. Griffin, the O'Donnell, Mr. C. E. Ward, Mr. Barling Fisher, Mrs. Summers, Mr. Douglas Fox-Pitt, Colonel Hime, Mr. John Arnall, together with many others, who were later members of the Ottoman Committee (but not among the earlier members), formed the Anglo-Ottoman Society when the late Ottoman Committee came to an end. It would, of course, as Mr. Seed hints, be most unseemly for any dispute to arise between the friends of Turkey in this country. Nothing in my last letter in any way brings our two Societies into any relations which could be considered disputatious. At the end of 1913 the Committee distinctly divided into two organisations. Mr. Seed considers that at a meeting in December, 1913, the Committee definitely decided to become the Ottoman Association. He is wrong in his facts. What happened was that, at an irregularly convened meeting, with insufficient notice, the members having no information to guide them in the proposals which were to be voted upon, a scratch resolution was passed, by which the late Ottoman Committee voted into the hands of an extraneous body the power to alter the Ottoman Committee into another form of association. On the same evening those who protested against this action met, and resolved to continue the work of the late Ottoman Committee as "The Anglo-Ottoman Society." The absurdity of Mr. Seed in saying that "one or two others withdrew from the organisation" will be seen from the fact that Lord Mowbray and Stourton, the original President, remained President of the movement in its form of the Anglo-Ottoman Society, and was always of opinion that the resolution of December, 1913, should have been ignored and our work continued as the Ottoman Committee. To avoid anything like a charge of irregularity, however, we agreed to hand over to Mr. Seed's Society the assets and liabilities of the old Committee, on an undertaking that neither Society would use the title "Ottoman Committee" in future.

Such details are of no interest to the public, and would not be quoted here except for Mr. Seed's statement. He speaks of twenty-five persons joining his Society who were members of the old Committee. I will not go into the peculiar facts about the way in which those names found their way on to his Society's books, except to say that many were sublimely ignorant that they had become members of his Society until they were informed of that fact. At the present moment there is no dispute between these two Societies, and there has always been the utmost good feeling between Mr. Seed and ourselves. We do not, however, accept his statement of the difference between the two Societies in the matter of policy or constitution. It is quite gratuitous to assume that his Society alone contains persons who have a special knowledge of Turkey or are connected with matters Turkish. Professor Léon, H.E. Djélaleddin Arif Bey, Ahmed Quilliam Bey, Messrs. G. W. Bennett, C. Mayo, and T. C. Tucker, of Constantinople, may be taken to know at least as much about Turkey as Mr. Seed himself. It is quite true that some members of the Ottoman Committee at first threw their lot in with Mr. Seed, and subsequently have joined the Anglo-Ottoman Society in addition. This is a proof that the Anglo-Ottoman Society must be carrying out properly the work inaugurated by the late Ottoman Committee. Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall is now a Vice-President of this Society, Mr. Louis Wills a member of the Executive, while among the members is Miss Grace Ellison. We think that these mutual memberships will tend to bring about that unity of action which Mr. Seed so much desires. Perhaps our Society will be able to do a little special work in consequence of its refusal to restrict its membership solely to Europeans. For example, none can over-estimate the value to our movement of such men as H.H. Prince Omar Toussoun or of Moulvie Zafar Ali Khan. The patronage of such men forms a practical link between Moslems of all parts of the world and those Britons who stand for good-will and good-fellowship with the Moslem world.—Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR FIELD
(Secretary of the late Ottoman Committee;
Secretary of the Anglo-Ottoman Society).
The Anglo-Ottoman Society,
158, Fleet Street, London, E.C.,
June 1, 1914.

THE THRACIAN PERSECUTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Mr. Hollist and Mr. Field are both labouring under a misapprehension of the sense of my letter. I ought to have expected as much. The "we were silent" applied to the whole of Great Britain, not to any friend of Turkey. If my letter gave cause for sorrow to any such person, I regret heartily not to have made my meaning clearer.—Yours, etc.,

A MEMBER OF THE OTTOMAN ASSOCIATION.

June 1.

PERSIAN INFLUENCE ON JUDAISM.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I have read with much interest in your issue of May 8 your quotation from the Rev. C. T. Harley Walker's article in *The Interpreter* concerning the Persian influence on Judaism.

The allusion in Isaiah to "the Lord who forms the light and who creates darkness, who makes peace and creates evil," is evidently borrowed from the Mazdean doctrine of the two principles of good and evil.

Whereas the Persians attributed the good to a good God (Ormuzd) and the evil to a wicked God (Ahriman), the Jewish prophet does not attribute the evil to Satan, but proclaims one God alike author of good and evil.

There are many connections between the Persian and Jewish religions, besides the fact that these two only of all religions of old are iconoclastic. This religious affinity explains the great kindness always shown by the Persians towards the Jews.—Yours, etc., MATINU-SALTANAH.

Teheran, Persia, May 23, 1914.

PLAYING THE GAME FOR RUSSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—In your issue of the 8th inst. your correspondent, Mrs. Diana Apcar, returns to the charge, vilifying the Turks and traducing anyone defending these much-maligned people. It must be unfortunate for your correspondent that 90 per cent. of those who have visited Turkey and resided for long periods among the Turkish people should testify that they are a most kindly, simply honest, clean-living, and sober race. The Armenians paint the Turks in the blackest colours—so did the erstwhile Balkan allies. What do we find? As soon as Turkish rule is removed from these warring sects and races in the Balkans they commence a fratricidal war of extermination, and their subjects are now pleading for the Sultan's protection. The alleged ill-treatment of their subjects by the Turks is an exploded fallacy. A little support is given to this assertion by a Servian, H.E. Chedo Myatovitch, a former Servian Minister to the Court of St. James's. Writing in last October's number of *The Asiatic Review*, he says:—"Political interest made us (the Balkan peoples) paint the Turks as cruel Asiatic tyrants, etc. An impartial history would prove that the Turks are rather Europeans than Asiatics, and that they are *not* cruel tyrants, but a nation loving justice and fairness, and possessing qualities and virtues which deserve to be acknowledged and respected." This belated confession may be pondered over by the Armenian, and also the wholly pitiful Nemesis which has so speedily overtaken the Slavs in the Balkans, who are now starving and perishing in a country which they have made almost a desert.

Your correspondent further says in her letter that she neither wishes nor cares for my opinion or advice. It is proverbial that the truth is often not palatable, but may I ask your correspondent why she brings her grievances to us and makes mischievous statments in our Press about the Moslems, 60,000,000 or more of whom are our fellow-subjects?

If your correspondent is not playing the game for Russia and her own personal aggrandisement, and really desires peace in Turkey and the welfare of the peasant, without further delay she ought to take her grievances to Russia, and try and get a hearing there. If she succeeds, and can persuade the Tsar and his Black Hundred to remove their covetous eyes and their agents provocateurs from the provinces where unruly Kurds and Armenians reside and lend themselves to plotting and stirring up strife, she will be taking the first step along the path to peace in Turkey. If England has kept Russia at bay in the past she has, I repeat, saved the Armenian peasantry from hell. It is obvious that the Powers do not care one iota about reform in Turkey or elsewhere, for if they were sincere in the matter of genuine reform they would have enough to do to put their own houses in order. Their sole concern is for fresh fields as dumping grounds for their war material; human lives are of no more importance to them than pawns in the game. Your correspondent is too self-centred. She says the Powers have assisted the Turk to victimise the Armenians, whereas it is rather the Turks who are harassed and victimised by the Powers, assisted by traitors in Armenia, who are ready to sell themselves and their people to the highest bidder. But may I ask, Who are the Powers upon whom your correspondent calls for vengeance? Alliances, wars, ententes (so-called) are made over the heads of the people—who are not consulted, but are misled by a Jingo Press—by half a dozen men in the Chancelleries, and by the financier who pulls the the strings therein. The people everywhere are victimised by the soulless spoliators—in Africa, in Mexico, in China, in Japan, in the U.S.A. The Turks are almost the only people who have no desire to take part in this sordid game, for it is very many years since Turkey sought fresh territory. There are worse tyrants in the world to-day than ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, who was provoked by treachery and plotting, and was open when young to the good influences which *our* statesmen and diplomatists could have brought to bear upon him. But instead they abused their power to deceive and betray and plunder.

These men in the Chancelleries do not desire peace; if they had been in earnest they could have stopped the infamous brigandage in Tripoli and the Balkan War. But they hoped for a share of the spoils. They do not desire peace, otherwise the islands of Chios and Mytilene would have been secured to Turkey and the help of British officers given (at the Turks' request) for administering the Asiatic provinces. In conclusion, I may say I will help the Turks, and by helping the Young Turks I shall be helping the Armenian peasantry, whether Mrs. Diana Apcar likes it or not.—Yours, etc., (Mrs.) MARGARET MARION ROBINSON.

20, Sutherland Place, W., May 25, 1914.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Balkan Chess-board.

In the current number of *The National Review* there is an important and illuminative article on "Future Developments in the Balkans," by "A Diplomatist." Referring to the relations of Roumania with Russia and the Dual Monarchy, he says:—

Transylvania can only be won by the overthrow of Austria, and that, in its turn, implies the victory of Russia. But such a victory signifies the definite triumph of the Slav race, which will then form a vast ocean, encompassing Roumania on all sides. . . . On the whole, and appearances to the contrary notwithstanding, it is very doubtful whether Roumania has at any moment seriously thought of altering her traditional policy.

In spite of the traditional friendship of Greece with England and France, she is more likely to find that she has more in common with the Triple Alliance than the Triple Entente. "When all the facts about the latest Balkan crisis are known," he says, "it will be found that some of the warmest champions of Greek interests come from unexpected quarters." The present uneasy distribution of forces in the Balkans will in the future assume the form sketched in the following passage:—

A Servo-Bulgarian understanding will be equally advantageous to Servia and Bulgaria. To the former country it will not only afford an additional guarantee against the Austrian peril, but also an indispensable support in the event of a union with Montenegro. Such a step is certain to meet with stubborn opposition in the Dual Monarchy, which will probably be backed on this occasion by Roumania. The friendship of Bulgaria, under these circumstances, becomes a valuable asset and is worth acquiring, even at the price of some territorial modification in Macedonia and the recognition of the Bulgarian nationality in that province. These concessions must be made by Servia, as otherwise the profit will be all on one side, and Bulgaria will have no inducement for striking a bargain. Just as a whole set of circumstances warrant the conjecture that a *rapprochement* between Bulgaria and Servia is by no means excluded, so, on the other hand, there are facts which point to the conclusion that the present Greco-Roumanian friendship will eventually mature into something more precise and permanent. Thus, instead of the present somewhat uneven distribution of the Balkan forces, two distinct groups will be formed, each drawing its inspiration from a different source, and each pursuing a different ideal. And, as the law of attraction holds good in the political as well as the physical world, the Slav group will naturally gravitate towards that European constellation with which the fortunes of the race are linked; while the non-Slav group, probably reinforced by Turkey, will be arrayed on the opposite side.

"But," the writer adds, "then, as now, the Balkans will remain what they have been for many years past—a chessboard on which the Great Powers play their game, using the Balkan peoples as pawns."

In Epirus.

In an article entitled "A Visit to Epirus" a correspondent of *The Morning Post* (June 1) contrasts the Janina of to-day with the Janina of six years ago, when he last visited the place:—

There is now a good hotel, with a view over the lake and the great snow-clad range of mountains behind it which Switzerland might envy, and which, as I saw it, with the full moon shining in the romantic and tragic waters, where once the "Lion of Janina" drowned the fair Euphrosyne, is the realisation of grand opera. A club, to which visitors are admitted, provides meals and the newspapers, and a military band in the evenings enlivens the "Square of Constantine the Liberator," as the centre of Janiote life is now called. Janina however, suffers commercially from the loss of Northern Epirus, which cuts her off from some of her old markets, such as Argyrocastro, while the problem of the 25,000 refugees weighs heavily upon the country.

Of the heads of the "Autonomous Government" he writes:

People in England, accustomed to regard insurrections as the work of *sansculottes*, hardly realise the position and quality of the men who have directed the government of Autonomous Epirus. . . . M. Zographos, the President, is a very rich man, who was Foreign Secretary for a few weeks in 1909 at Athens, and holds what we should call Conservative views. His nephew, M. Alexander Karapanos, who directs Epirote foreign policy, is an ex-diplomatist who represented Greece in Rome from 1910 to 1912, and has inherited a large fortune from his father, who excavated Dodona at his own expense. M. Parmenides, the Minister of Finance, might easily pass for an Englishman, for he was born in England, speaks English to the manner born, and is married to an English lady. He has abandoned his beautiful villa near Benizze, in Corfu, to work for the Epirotes. All these men have left luxurious homes to live in tents and spend laborious days and nights in the cause of Northern Epirus. With them is the Metropolitan of Vella and Konitsa, a striking example of the Church Militant, a divine who carries a prayer book in his pocket and has a Mauser rifle handy beside him.

Persian Oil and Imperial Communications.

The Daily Graphic (May 28) has an interesting note, under the heading "A Problem in Oil and Water," from which the following is an extract:—

When Lord Beaconsfield sought to secure our maritime route to India by buying the Khedive's interest in the Suez Canal our domination of other sections of the route was complete and unquestioned; and later on, when, by the Cyprus Convention, he made the whole of Asiatic Turkey a British sphere of interest, he not only earmarked the landward route for Great Britain, but also brought those very oil-wells in Persia which are now so necessary to us within easy reach of British protection. To-day the situation has so completely changed that one of the hardest problems for us in case of a great war would be, not how to utilise the Suez Canal and the Persian oil-wells, but how to get to either of them.

Lord Kitchener's Report.

We give below some representative extracts from the Press on Lord Kitchener's Report:—

It was well said a few weeks ago that Lord Kitchener's link with the life of Egypt is "a human link." To those familiar with his views his long and careful analysis of the degree to which an Oriental race can be entrusted with a share in its own control will not in the least be unexpected. His vein is hopeful, but cautious. He perceives that in Egypt representative institutions must be plants of slow growth, sometimes liable to droop and become weak; but the obstacles encountered do not deter him from favouring a guardedly progressive policy.—*The Times* (May 28).

Lord Kitchener's great personal influence is seen very clearly in every page of the annual report on the finances, administration, and condition of Egypt and the Soudan, which has just been published. It is a document that recalls in some respects the brilliant annual reports which Lord Cromer used to issue during his long and successful *régime*. That is to say, there is the same note of quiet confidence which comes from strong self-reliance, and an entire absence of all fuss and over-eagerness. The British Agent points out that Egypt is making steady progress. He does not pretend that it is fast, or that miracles are being accomplished, or that all the difficulties have been surmounted. But he gives a record of sound, untiring work on the part of the Administration, and shows what energy is being expended in promoting the best interests of the Egyptian peoples.—*The Daily Telegraph* (May 28).

The British public may well be proud of the work done by its representatives in Egypt. . . . The report may be recommended to the careful study of everybody interested either in Egypt especially, or in Imperial matters generally, for it will bear out the belief that in Lord Kitchener we have a statesman as well as a great soldier.—*The Statist* (May 30).

If one cannot quite picture an Egypt cleared of ophthalmia, debt, drought, and dirt diseases, one can at least imagine twenty years of Kitchener making serious inroads on all these plagues of the Nile. But what we hope is that this enlightened policy of barrages, inspections, anti-usury laws, and scientific agriculture will go hand-in-hand with the not less important aim of teaching Egypt how to work it.—*The Nation* (May 30).

Articles to Note.

"A New German Empire: The Story of the Baghdad Railway" (*concluded*), by André Géraud, in the *Nineteenth Century* (June).

"The Feminist Movement in Turkey," by Miss Ellen I. Ellis and Miss Florence Palmer, in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

"Russia and Great Britain in Persia," in the *Academy* (May 30).

"Albania and the Powers," in *The Times* (May 29).

"Hands off Albania," in the *Manchester Guardian* (May 28).

"Winding up the Balkan Business," in the *Statist* (May 30).

"Russia, the Navy, and Persia," in the *Nation* (May 30).

"Sir Edward Grey's Panaceas in Albania," in *The Outlook* (May 30).

"The Cyclopean Mystery of Abydos," in *The Illustrated London News* (May 30).

"A Disquieting Situation," in *The Times* (June 3).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. June.	1914. May		1332. Rejab	5674 Sivan
5	23	Friday	11	11
6	24	Saturday	12	12
7	25	Sunday	13	13
8	26	Monday	14	14
9	27	Tuesday	15	15
10	28	Wednesday	16	16
11	29	Thursday	17	17

To-day, 11 Rejab, is the birthday of Princess Fatma Sultana, daughter of the late Sultan Murad Khan, who married Damad Refik Bey in 1907.

Sunday is the birthday of Tsar Ferdinand's unfortunate first cousin the Dowager Empress of Mexico.

Monday, 14 Rejab, is the birthday of the daughter of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, Princess Naiyme Sultana, who was at one time married to Damad Kemal-ed-Din Pasha, son of the famous Ghazi Osman Pasha, and is now the wife of Damad Djelal Bey.

Thursday is the birthday of Princess Olga, the eldest daughter of Prince Nicholas of Greece.

Thursday is the birthday of Prince Igor Constantinovitch of Russia, brother-in-law of Princess Helena, only daughter of the King of Servia.

Thursday is the birthday of Prince Gaëtan of Bourbon-Parma, half-uncle of the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

Thursday, 17 Rejab, is the birthday of Mehmed Abid Effendi, the youngest son of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid.

Reuter's telegram from Constantinople states that in honour of the King's birthday a garden party was held on Wednesday at the British Embassy, and was very largely attended by the British colony and the official and diplomatic world. A Turkish naval band played during the reception, which was a great success.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is reported to have arrived at Ebenthal, in Lower Austria, to spend a few days on his estate there.

According to the *Matin*, the Ottoman Heir Apparent, H.I.H. Yussuf Izz-ed-Din Effendi, who last year took a "cure" at Edlach, in Austria, wishes this year to consult a French physician, and will possibly be accompanied by H.I.H. Zia-ed-Din Effendi.

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, attended by Mr. Venizelos, his Prime Minister, is in Corfu for the jubilee celebrations of the union of the Ionian Islands with Greece.

According to *The Manchester Despatch*, Mr. Thomas Mawson, who is engaged in the replanning of Athens, has returned to England.

A Reuter's telegram from Athens, dated June 3, reported that in connection with the celebrations commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece, King Constantine telegraphed from Corfu to King George on Wednesday expressing the gratitude of the Greek nation for Great Britain's action on that occasion, and the support given by her to the Greek cause. Dr. Streit, the Foreign Minister, also telegraphed to Sir Edward Grey, in the name of his Government.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 31):—Prince Carol of Roumania left on Monday morning last for Potsdam, in order to resume his military duties in the Prussian Regiment to which he is attached.

For some time the younger members of the Crown Prince's family have been stopping at Constantza. Lately Princess Ileana and Prince Mircea made a sea voyage as far as the Piræus, where they were for a time the guests of the Greek Royal family.

H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, has arrived in Madrid, where she is the guest of her aunt, the Infanta Beatrice d'Orleans of Spain.

Lord Kitchener who, as we have already announced, will leave Cairo on June 18 for Alexandria, will there embark on the Austrian Lloyd steamer for Europe with Major Fitzgerald. Mr. Ronald Storrs will be on the same boat, but will disembark at Brindisi. Lord Kitchener and Major Fitzgerald will proceed, viâ Trieste, direct to England. The British Agency will move into its summer headquarters at Ramleh on June 18, and Mr. Cheetham, who is returning about that date, will then become Chargé d'Affaires.

Sir Francis Elliot, H.B.M. Minister in Athens, has left Greece on leave, and during his absence Mr. Erskine will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

Our Roumanian Correspondent announces His Excellency Mr. M. G. Ristitch, who has been Servian Minister in Bucharest since the end of 1906, has been appointed to the vacant Legation in Berlin. Mr. Grigorovitch will succeed him in Bucharest.

H.E. Fethi Bey, Ottoman Minister in Sophia, has left for Constantinople on two months' leave of absence.

Halil Bey, Councillor of Legation in Sofia, will act as Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of his chief.

The Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius have returned to the Legation from the country, where they spent Whitsuntide.

Captain Orr, the Chief Secretary of Cyprus, will shortly be coming home on leave. Major Bolton, Commissioner of Limassol, will act for him.

Mr. Alison Russell, the King's Advocate in Cyprus, will be coming home on leave in July. Mr. Alan Stuart, President of the District Court, of Limassol, now at home on six weeks' leave, will act for him.

Mme. Gennadius, the wife of his Excellency M. Jean Gennadius, the Hellenic Minister in London, has consented to perform the naming ceremony on the occasion of the launch of the "Basileus Konstantinos" on June 9.

Mr. Nedcoff, Bulgarian Consul-General at Adrianople, has been appointed in a similar capacity to Salonika.

Lieut.-Colonel Sirmanoff, Bulgarian Military Attaché in St. Petersburg, is about to retire, and has been received by H.I.M. the Tsar in farewell audience at Livadia.

Don Ernesto Freire, Spanish Consul at Trieste, has been appointed Consul at Tangier vice Don Juan Potous, promoted Consul-General in Lisbon.

A Reuter's telegram from Constantinople, under date May 29, stated that Talaat Bey, the Minister of the Interior, returned to Constantinople from Bucharest on that date.

Our Jaffa correspondent writes, under date May 25:—Mr. W. Hough, H.B.M's. Vice-Consul at Jaffa, left Jaffa on the 18th inst., on three months' leave, and Mr. N. H. Fiani, the British Pro-Consul, has assumed charge of the Vice-Consulate during his absence.

Colonel Echague, A.D.C. to H.C.M. Don Alfonso XIII., has gone to Rabat to visit the French Resident-General in Morocco.

M. Georges Morand, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, has been appointed French Vice-Consul in Cairo.

The Japanese Military Mission under General Tanaka, which has been visiting the Balkan capitals, went to Constantinople and was received as the Seraskierate by Damad Enver Pasha, the Minister of War.

We appear to have been very unfortunate in giving the name of the German Consul at Tabriz. A Tabriz correspondent informs us that it is neither Von Linden nor Wilhelm Liken, but Wilhelm Litten. We hope that this third attempt is correct.

The Cavaliere Enrico Albertazzi has been appointed Judge-Consul in the Italian Consular Court in Constantinople.

Major von Strempel, formerly German Military Attaché in Constantinople, has been appointed Instructor to the Ottoman Imperial Princes who have gone to Berlin for their education.

Mr. Hallett Johnson, the newly appointed Secretary to the American Embassy at Constantinople, arrived in town on Monday evening from Draycott, Chippenham, where he has been spending Whitsuntide with Princess Hatzfeldt.

Comte Doynelde St. Quentin, secretary to the French Embassy at Constantinople, arrived in London last week, and visited M. Paul Cambon, the French Ambassador, last Friday.

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C. Serkis Bey Hamandjian, Secretary to the Turkish Embassy, has returned to London from Paris.

A Central News telegram from New York, dated June 2, states that according to a telegram from Phœnix, Arizona, Mr. Ryan, Controller of the United States Reclamation Commission, has announced that Sir William Willcocks has been retained by the Government as consulting engineer in the reclamation service.

We regret to learn from a *Times* correspondent that Sir Reginald Wingate, who arrived at Cairo at the beginning of this week, is indisposed. He was expected, however, to leave for Europe yesterday.

Sir Rudolph von Slatin Pasha, the Inspector-General of the Sudan, is on his way to England.

El Kaimakam C. E. Palmer Bey, D.S.O., has been appointed acting Adjutant-General of the Egyptian Army during the absence on leave of H.E. El Lewa Drake Pasha.

The Right Rev. Dr. Gwynne, Bishop in Khartoum, who has made a ten days' visit to Jerusalem and other places in Palestine, returned to Egypt on May 21. He was expected to arrive at Khartoum last Friday.

Sir George Macaulay, Director-General of the Egyptian Railway Administration, will leave for England on June 15.

Brugsch Pasha has left Egypt for Europe.

Lord and Lady Mowbray and Stourton have arrived at the York Hotel, Albemarle Street.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hickman Morgan and Mrs. Morgan have returned to 14, Grosvenor Place from yachting in the Adriatic.

Mr. Wellcome, who has stopped his excavations at Jebel Moya for the summer, left Khartoum on May 21.

Dr. Ethel Smyth has left Alexandria by the Austrian Lloyd steamer on her way to Vienna to make arrangements for the production of her new English opera, which she has composed during her five months' residence this winter at Heluan. It is a dramatisation, by the composer, of W. W. Jacobs' well-known story, the "Bosun's Mate."

Major and Mrs. Comfort, with their daughter, Mrs. Crookshank, who has just returned from Egypt, are expected to make a short stay at Vichy before returning to England.

Mrs. Bernard left Khartoum on May 21. Colonel Bernard was not expected to leave Khartoum before the end of May.

The King has been pleased to grant unto Mr. Charles Elliott Lyall, Senior Inspector, Sudan Government, authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Osmanieh, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the Khedive, authorized by the Sultan.

Tsar Ferdinand has conferred the Military Cross for Valour upon Sister Augustine of Salonika in recognition of her services to the Bulgarians (sick, wounded and imprisoned) in Hellenic Macedonia.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* announces that H.H. the Khedive has conferred the Second Class of the Order of the Mejidieh upon Said Pasha Shoucair, Director-General of Accounts, Sudan Government.

Mr. Zographos, formerly the President of the Autonomous Government of Epirus, has been returned to the Greek Parliament in unopposed for a constituency in Attica.

Lady Inchcape is giving a ball at the Ritz Hotel on June 19.

Mrs. Peter Ralli's ball, which was to take place on June 3, at 11, Hyde Park Gardens, is postponed owing to illness.

Mrs. M. G. Mavrogordato is giving a ball, at Hyde Park Hotel, on June 10.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Hermann Nathaniel Bowden-Smith, of the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, eldest son of the Rev. F. H. Bowden-Smith, of Careys, Brockenhurst, Hants, and Daisy Beatrice, youngest daughter of the late George Edward Porter, I.C.S.

The marriage arranged between Major Cyril Eustace Palmer, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, attached to the Egyptian Army, and Nina Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scarlett, of Prestone, Firle, Sussex, will take place on August 6, at Firle Church.

A marriage has been arranged between Peter, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Pandia Rodocanachi, of 34, Pont Street, and Dunchurch, Rugby, and Olga, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Zitto, of 18, Cleveland Gardens.

Major-General the Hon. Sir Savage Lloyd-Mostyn, who died suddenly on Tuesday morning at Cole-Orton Hall, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, where he was staying as the guest of Mrs. Abel Smith, served in the Crimea in 1855, taking part in the siege of Sebastopol and the attack on the Redan, and was awarded the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal.

We regret to announce the death from typhoid of Mr. Ernest H. Walden, on May 21, at Cairo. He was well known and greatly respected in the city.

We regret to report the death of Prince Constantine Soutzo in Bucharest.

By the generosity of Sir Charles Waldstein, Vice-President of the Hellenic Society, and Lady Waldstein, the Victoria and Albert Museum has just acquired a remarkably fine velvet cope. This is one of a complete set of vestments, consisting of this cope, two dalmatics and a chasuble, which has been on loan at the museum for some time past. The cope, which is, perhaps, the finest of the set, has an embroidered hood showing the Virgin and Child enthroned, while on the magnificent orphreys appear SS. Apollonia, Philip, Margaret, John the Evangelist, Simon, Mary Magdalen, Bartholomew and Catherine of Alexandria, thus adding great iconographical value to its general artistic importance. The gift is made in memory of Lady Waldstein's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Einstein, whose great collection of textiles and needlework was deservedly famous.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—The first Roumanian woman engineer is Miss Elisa Leonida, daughter of Colonel Leonida, who has just completed her examinations at the technical school at Charlottenburg and obtained her diploma as engineer. It will be interesting to see whether the young engineer will be able to follow her profession in her native land. So far only lady doctors and chemists' assistants have been allowed. Although one lady succeeded in passing every examination for lawyer, she is legally not permitted to follow her vocation.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred the following docorations on the members of the British Naval Mission serving with the Greek Fleet:—Grand Officer of the Second Class of the Order of the Redeemer, Rear-Admiral Mark Kerr. Commander of the Third Class of the Order of the Redeemer, Engineer Captain James Watson, R.N. (retired); Commander Reginald Henderson, R.N.; Commander Hubert Cardale, R.N.; Commander Gerard Wells, R.N.; Commander Cecil Hamilton, R.N.; Commander Andrew Strange, R.N.; Commander George Leith, R.N.; Engineer Commander Sydney Bryer, R.N.; Lieut.-Commander Sidney Meyrick, R.N. Officer of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Redeemer, Acting Lieutenant C. P. Pizey, R.N.R.; Engineer Lieutenant George Cannan, R.N.; Assistant Paymaster Alexander Winter, R.N.; Assistant Constructor C. W. Kerridge; Assistant Naval Store Officer, W. B. Stanton. Knight of the Fifth Class of the Order of the Redeemer, Mr. George Prince, gunner, R.N.; Mr. Frederick Moon, gunner, R.N.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1914.

CYPRUS AND CORFU.

Yesterday was the thirty-fifth anniversary of the signature of the Cyprus Convention which constituted that island into an autonomous sanjak of the Ottoman Empire, to be administered by Great Britain on behalf of the Sultan so long as Russia should occupy certain provinces in Asia Minor, which will probably still be Muscovite some centuries hence. To-day the inhabitants of Corfu are engaged in celebrating the jubilee of the evacuation of the United States of the Ionian Islands by Great Britain in order that they might be annexed to Greece, a fate which had been demanded for them by vote of the Ionian Senate. It may seem to the casual observer that there is no particular connection between these two events of which the anniversaries happen to coincide. In the minds of Hellenic Irredentists, however, the abandonment of Corfu in favour of Greece is merely a precedent for the transfer of Cyprus to the same country. That Great Britain, after spending much good money and building many miles of good roads, should have been intimidated by a vindictive Press campaign of vilification and mendacity into making a present of some islands in the Adriatic to her calumniators is, to some people, an excellent reason why she should yield to another campaign of misrepresentation and abuse on the part of grievance-mongering agitators and gracefully concede an island in the Levant upon which also a million of good money has been spent from the pockets of the British taxpayer. It is a curious argument at best, and the methods of enunciating its beauties adopted by many of its advocates are singularly unlovely, and would, under any but a British Administration, have led long ago to rigorous methods of repression, such as fines and imprisonment for sedition or *lèse majesté*. Advocates of ἕνωσις in Cyprus picture themselves as victims of an oppressive and stultifying rule which chokes their every effort, of an intolerant and incompetent alien bureaucracy which by its mere existence deprives many Cypriots of eagerly desired political employment. They assert that but for the odious presence of the detested British the island of Cyprus would have been seized by the Greek Navy during the recent war with Turkey, oblivious of the possibility that it might have been previously occupied by the Italians, whose sovereign's ancestors for many generations styled themselves Kings, not only of Sardinia but also of Cyprus. Had Cyprus been in the market, so to speak, at the outbreak of the Turco-Italian War it is a moral certainty that Rome, which represents the claims alike of the House of Savoy and of the Republic of St. Mark, would have restored the Italian dominion in Cyprus which was overthrown by the conquering Ottoman in 1570. In the unlikely event of the British Government deciding to withdraw from Cyprus at the present juncture the island would revert to the unfettered simplicity of Young Turkish administration, and enthusiastic supporters of union with Greece would doubtless find themselves subjected to a similar régime to that which is inducing so many Greeks in Thrace and the Troad to realize that there are more ways of becoming a subject of King Constantine than waiting for actual annexation to his realms. It is possible, however, that the Turks might be persuaded that Cyprus was a marketable property. Greek residents in Rhodes are unlikely to advise their Cypriot cousins to pray for an Italian occupation. Annexation by Germany, while possibly preferable to subjection to Rome, would not be union with Greece, and might tend to limit the licence allowed by a tolerant British Administration to vociferous patriots. Acquisition by France would undoubtedly revive unpleasant memories of the Latin ascendency of the days of the Lusignans, and in spite of French friendship for Greece could not be considered as a real triumph of Hellenic irredentism, while in all probability natives of the island would find less and less room for them among the ranks of their salaried administrators. Subjection to Russia would be to put "Hellenic soil" under the foot of the Slav, a proceeding which has no cheerful precedent to sweeten its adoption. It may appear that we have been discussing unlikely hypotheses, but at least we can assure the somewhat noisy advocates of the abandonment of Cyprus by its present Administrators that in the first place such an abandonment, possible in the case of Corfu fifty years ago when international rivalries were less developed, is quite outside practical politics so far as Cyprus is concerned, and in the second place we should like to impress upon them, on excellent authority, that if Great Britain at any time has to withdraw from Cyprus Greece has no chance whatever of being her successor in the possession of the island. The claims of Hellenic nationalism may find Continental support when arrayed against Albania or Bulgaria—against Turkey they are in a less favoured position inasmuch as the Porte has more potential concessions at its disposal than the Cabinet of Athens, but a conflict between Hellenism and the actual interests or ambitions of any great Power could only end in lamentable disappointment for Greek aspirations.

We do not claim that the Government of Cyprus is perfect; indeed, the majority of the elected members of the Legislative Council devote immense energy to the perpetual obstruction of its efforts whenever they can find opportunity for so doing in a sufficiently public manner. Apart from that there is the burthen of the Tribute, although the High Commissioner has at last won the consent of the Colonial Office for a minor mitigation of its incidence by securing the application of surplus revenues to immediate works of utility within the island. It is not for us to discuss whether or no the Tribute is too large. It exists. The British Crown is pledged to the payment by Treaty, nor do we advocate that disregard of an international obligation which is involved by the arguments of those who clamour for the immediate abolition of that onerous charge. But by agreement with the Porte the Tribute can be capitalized, the British Government can guarantee a Cyprus loan at such a rate of interest as will allow the island to establish a sinking fund for the ultimate liquidation of the loan, and the Treasury of Nicosia will then be honestly free of a serious financial incubus, while the British taxpayer will equally be quit of his present obligation to contribute £50,000 a year to assist the island. The payment of so large a sum of ready money to the Porte can readily be made contingent upon Ottoman recognition that "inhabitants of Cyprus," who at present have an unsatisfactory international status, are to enjoy British protection when in the dominions of the Sultan, and upon the readjustment of those minor points of detail wherein at present Ottoman official procedure is detrimental to the interests of the Cypriots. We have already emphasized the profound modification which has been effected in the political and mercantile importance of Cyprus by the establishment of a German commercial centre at Alexandretta, and by French railway and harbour activities along the Syrian coast. Opportunities are at hand; let the inhabitants of Cyprus grasp those opportunities, let them, by way of change, do something for themselves and devote their adaptable genius to building up the commerce of the island to something like what it was under the Latins, and abandon the sterile fields of a preposterous political agitation to those whose mental calibre prevents them from framing a commercial advertisement or competing with real antagonists, and limits them to the acquirement to notoriety by mouthing abuse of an adversary who merely despises them. Heaven has given most men the capacity to make the best of what they have, and it is only a child, or a politician with the mind of a child, who sulks because he cannot get the moon, and declines to make shift with the earth which is offered to him.

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THE ALBANIAN "ULSTER."

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Victories of the Pen.

Since the outbreak of war in the Balkans—and, indeed, before it—the triumphs of journalism have rested with the Greeks. That quick-witted and cosmopolitan race, possessing opulent and influential colonies in all the great centres of European civilisation, has used its wealth and its very considerable intellectual equipment without stint in the national cause, and has acquired a scarcely disputed monopoly in the creation of Western opinion. Gifted with an inherited talent for dialectics and great imaginative powers, the Greeks have won an easy victory in the literary arena; as each question affecting Hellenic interests arises their view is impressed upon the public in a host of newspapers, reviews, and books, and the battle is already won before their slow-paced opponents are ready to take the field. A signal instance of Greek mastery over the public mind was afforded by the wonderfully successful Press campaign against the Bulgarians last summer; those who organized it, according to a Greek assertion in the British Press, "deserve to be honoured by their country far more than the brave men who have fallen on the battlefield. That the impression created throughout Europe was false only proves more clearly than ever the intellectual superiority of the Greeks." Another remarkable Greek triumph has been won in the presentation of the case of the "Epirotes." That the world has been successfully convinced is shewn, among other indications, by the frequent designation of Northern Epirus—or, rather, Southern Albania—as "the Epirote Ulster."

A False Analogy.

The analogy, of course, is totally false, or rather non-existent, and Ulster, if she only knew the facts, would protest with indignation. There is absolutely no parallel either from the racial or the religious point of view. In the Protestant portion of Ulster there is a fairly compact population, Anglo-Saxon—or, at least, Scottish—in origin, alien in race and in religion from the neighbouring Irish element and bound by the strongest ties of tradition and sentiment to the kindred people of Great Britain. In Northern Epirus nine-tenths of the population is Albanian both in its origin and its sympathies, the remaining tenth being Kutzovlach, or "Arumanian"; the genuinely Greek element is practically negligible, and is confined to a few inhabitants of the principal towns. In religion the Tosks, or Southern Albanians, are mainly Moslem, with a very considerable Christian minority, which is quite as Albanian in sentiment as the majority. The proof of this may be found in the fact that wherever the Christian Epirotes have been left free to act independently they have taken part in the recent struggle against the Greeks. With the Moslems as well as the Christians the consciousness of nationality is strong, notwithstanding the persistent efforts of the Turks and the Greeks to widen the cleavage of creeds. The comparison of Southern Albania with Ulster is therefore wholly illusory.

"Greek" and "Orthodox."

The prevailing error with regard to Albanian sentiment is largely due to the mistaken idea that all Christians in these regions are "Greeks," an impression confirmed by the loose and incorrect description of the Eastern Orthodox Communion as the "Greek Church." The Patriarchate at Constantinople is, strictly speaking, Œcumenical or universal, and formally condemns "phyletism," or the propagation of any racial movement, as contrary to its teaching and principles. The Greeks have nevertheless at all times sedulously employed the ecclesiastico-scholastic propaganda for the furtherance of their national aims, and from the days of Byron the Christian inhabitants of Southern Albania have been commonly misnomered "Greeks." But even in the maritime district of Chimara the Greek propaganda has only been partially successful; only three villages speak Greek to any extent, and the great majority of the population speaks Albanian in the household. This is universally the case in Northern Epirus; the circumstance that a portion of the male population is bi-lingual is solely due to the fact that the Turks absolutely prohibited the teaching and even the writing of the national language while leaving the Greeks free to open schools wherever they pleased. The principle *Divide et impera* was sedulously applied by Abdul Hamid with the object of extinguishing Albanian national sentiment, and his example was followed by the Young Turks, who, though nominally allowing the opening of Albanian schools, imposed the Arabic characters, which the Albanians would not accept. The Greek bishops and schoolmasters have thus been enabled to create a small Greek party (especially in the principal towns), which has been augmented by various means since the Greek military occupation of Southern Albania.

The "Epirote insurrection" cannot therefore be described in any sense as an indigenous movement. Its outward and visible sign has been the formation of an "insurgent" force—in reality a heterogeneous body composed of adventurers and free-lances from all parts of the Levant, "deserters" from the Greek Army, contingents from Crete, Acarnania, Aetolia, and the Morea, and a small admixture of mercenaries drawn from the local Christian element, which was exposed to considerable pressure during the process of recruitment. The Cretan contingent, composed of professional warriors under the leadership of Manurekis, Zurudakis, Kapetanakis, Yerogiannis, and many other pallikars, is especially numerous, and is stated by the Athens Press to exceed 2,500 men. There are also the "Garibaldians," under Count Roma of Zante, and the Maniotes, under Mr. Mavromichalis, the son of one of Mr. Venizelos's most conspicuous opponents. The "Holy Battalions" are indeed a motley force, commanded and instructed by commissioned and non-commissioned officers from the Greek Army and furnished with field artillery, quick-firing guns and ammunition from the same source. The indigenous element is as conspicuously lacking in their ranks as it is prominent in those of the Ulster Volunteers.

A Fictitious Hellenism.

The effort to create a false conception of racial conditions in Northern Epirus was also made—but in this case with indifferent success—during the investigations of the International Commission for the delimitation of the Albanian frontier. The Greeks, being in military occupation of the districts through which the Commissioners passed, provided all the requisite apparatus for a *mise en scène*. The villages were tricked out with Greek flags, the natives were shut up in their houses, and genuine Greek peasants from Southern Epirus—and even, it is said, from the Morea—were imported in order to personate the inhabitants. The Commissioners were everywhere met by clamorous deputations of men, women, and children demanding annexation to Greece. At Kinami, in the Colonia district, a purely Moslem village, the usual Greek paraphernalia were exhibited, and a bell was heard tolling, which the Commissioners were assured belonged to the Christian church. Unluckily, the servant of one of the delegates was a native of the village. He stoutly protested that neither a church nor a Christian, much less a Greek, was to be found in the neighbourhood. The Commission decided on an autopsy, and proceeding towards the supposed church, discovered a bell suspended from a tree and being lustily pulled by a Greek emissary. At Prodani a deputation of so-called Moslem women made the usual Philhellene demonstration, but the fraud was exposed by the wife of an Albanian Bey, who had been banished to Crete for revealing his Albanian sentiments. She declared that the women were Greeks from Southern Epirus, and suggested the removal of their upper garments. This was done in presence of the Commission, and the costume of peasant women of the Janina district was revealed. When another deputation—of "Greek" women and children—presented itself one of the delegates threw some coins to the children—a scramble followed, and exclamations in the purest Albanian rent the air.

It is easy to mislead the unsuspecting Western, and, to judge from such phrases as the "Albanian Ulster," it would seem that the British public is still under the illusion that the "Holy Battalions" represent a gallant peasantry contending *pro aris et focis* against an alien tyranny. Owing to extraneous causes, the Epirote movement—in reality a foreign aggression—has attained a certain measure of success, and a limited autonomy will be conferred on the disputed area. The decision of Europe is from one point of view satisfactory, inasmuch as the future of the young Albanian State undoubtedly lies in the creation of a series of autonomies. But under any system of self-government the real sentiments of the people will assert themselves, and Northern Epirus will remain, as it is to-day, essentially Albanian.

THE NEW ALBANIAN CABINET

Turkhan Pasha's Cabinet, which originally took office on March 17, has been reconstructed, and is now composed as follows:—

Grand Vizier and Foreign Affairs	Turkhan Pasha
Minister of the Interior.....	Akif Pasha
Minister of Finance	Mr. Philip Nogga
Minister of Justice.....	Mufid Bey Libohova
Minister of Public Works and Posts	Midhat Bey Frasheri
Minister of Education	Dr. Turtulli Bey
Minister of Agriculture	Abdi Bey Toptani

The Foreign Office was offered to the Mirdite Chief, Prenk Pasha Bib Doda, but was apparently declined. Abdi Bey Toptani is cousin to Essad Pasha Toptani, but a political rival. The Ministers of Justice and Education, together with the Grand Vizier, are the only representatives of the old Cabinet to retain office. Midhat Bey Frasheri is the Albanian member of the International Commission of Control, and Mr. Philip Nogga was for some weeks in London during the peace negotiations of 1912-13 as a delegate of the Albanian Provisional Government.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	June 4 ..	97⅛—⅜ p.t.
Athens	June 1 ..	25·16 drs.
Bucharest	June 4 ..	25·42½—25·47½ lei.
Constantinople ..	June 4 ..	109⅜—110⅜ pi.
Sofia.....	June 1 ..	27·10—27·25 leva.
Teheran	June 3 ..	55·20 krans

I am glad to see, by our Cairo correspondent's letter, that Sir Rudolf Slatin declines to join the prophets of evil who have been predicting gloomy things for the Sudan. One of these gentry, I observe, in a report dated May 22, said: "The maize crop, upon which the population depends for its staple food, has practically failed entirely, with the result that in many districts famine is threatened. The Government is importing maize in large quantities in order to relieve the distress, and the order has gone forth that the strictest economy is to be observed in every Government department." That the exercise of economy—even of the strictest kind—should be regarded as a sufficient excuse for some of the alarmist reports that have been circulated would be amusing, if it were not mischievous. None the less, I am not sorry to find Sir Rudolph inclined to cheerfulness, and ready as ever to give expression to the optimism that is in him.

***

The remarks made last week by Sir Marcus Samuel as chairman of the Flower Motor Ship Company were surely made at the wrong company meeting. I can understand a responsible official of the Shell deploring the sudden entry of the British Government into the arena of competition in the oil trade, and the consequent transformation of an important customer into a powerful rival. But surely it is a case of mistaken identity when the chairman of a shipping company complains of a decision which can only result in the re-establishment of order in one of the chief areas to be served by his fleet, and in all probability will lead to considerable business for him in transporting engineering and other supplies for the development of important new properties. Influential financiers, as a rule, keep their varied interests reasonably distinct, and take care not to bewail the woes of one company to the shareholders of another, just as tact induces them to refrain from congratulating a general meeting of an unsucessful third upon the handsome dividend declared by a competitive fourth.

***

The Epirote settlement, by placing a frontier between Janina and Santi Quaranta, the somewhat overrated roadstead which has hitherto been called the "port" of Ali Pasha's former capital, has at last induced the Greeks to think of Gumenitza, just south of the mouth of the Kalamas, as a necessary substitute. This town was made the capital of a sanjak by the Young Turks for electoral purposes, but no steps were taken to connect it by road with Janina. This will now have to be done as a first step to making the town of value as the gateway to Epirus. Hitherto the intermediate Austrian Lloyds have called there, but the judicious expenditure of no very considerable sum will do much to make Gumenitza a far more important place than poor Santi Quaranta, squeezed in between high mountains and deep sea, could ever hope to be. I suggest that some enterprizing British firm might make an offer to supply the Greeks with a port and railway—at least to Janina—or do it as a business proposition themselves. Gumenitza, with care, will readily be able to supplant Preveza as the future port of Epirus.

***

Our Constantinople trade correspondent draws attention to the creditable display made by British firms with their exhibits in the Electrical Exhibition which is being held in the Grande Rue de Pera. It is both unusual and pleasant to find that British commerce is brisking up in order to retain, in the face of assiduous competition, a position won by long years of honest but somewhat haughty, conservative, and unaccommodating trade. Our correspondent pleads for the establishment in the Ottoman capital of a centre for British commercial and national influence similar to those already founded for the benefit of France, Germany, and Italy—the "Union Française," the "Teutonia" Club, and the "Societa Operaja Italiana." These institutions are more than mere clubs, and as a rule house their respective Chambers of Commerce.

***

It is interesting to notice that local observers believe that the opening of the Alexandretta-Aleppo line will very gravely harm the commerce of Tripolis and El Mina, which has had a chance of expanding since the opening of the railway to Homs. For a year or so this may be the case, but I am prepared to assert that the prospects of Tripolis will not necessarily be blighted, as the extension of the Homs line on to Ed Deir, on the Euphrates, should more than compensate Tripolis for the loss of that transitory prosperity which it now enjoys as the railway port of Aleppo. Moreover, it is one of the coast towns which is to be handed over to French engineers in order that proper harbour works should be constructed, and I am interested to learn how far the reef and islands are to be utilized in this connection. It is at least probable that when the harbour has been made, the local centre of commerce will return from modern Tripolis—which was the outlying castle and village of Mont Pelerin during the Crusades to El Mina, which stands on the site of the famous Tripolis of old.

***

So much has been said about British "commercial ineptitude" and "hidebound conservatism" that it is almost a relief to find that others are in the same boat. I see that Mr. Harris, the United States vice-consul at Tripolis, deplores the insufficient packing for American imported machinery, and I am told that this is a long-standing grievance of customers against American exporters all the world over. The firm in question on this occasion lost further orders, and—deplorable sign of the times on the Syrian coast—the trade went to Germany. In giving advice in his consular report, Mr. Harris urges that the "exporter of agricultural implements should remember that such machinery, in order to comply with native conditions, should not be too heavy or too complicated, and that local importers should keep in stock such spare parts as do not require too great a technical knowledge for their application."

***

We hear daily of fresh efforts on the part of the Germans not only to hold the commercial and financial influence they already enjoy in the Near East, but to reach out and strip their rivals of the "few poor shreds" of what they have left. It may be that our share of trade in that part of the world is still substantial—but that only makes it the more worth while for Germany to acquire it, and it is high time for the British merchant to abandon a purely defensive policy. In shipping circles great British combines have been formed with the avowed intention of fighting the highly organised and skilfully directed German competition in the outer seas. Can nothing be done on similar lines to pool British interests in Levantine waters and the countries around them, and thereby construct a vast commercial organisation which, by sheer weight of capital and vigour of enterprize, will win back the lost fields of British commerce in the Near East? The position already established by our commercial rivals is not easily to be attacked with success. For years past they have lent money right and left—and have drawn stiff interest upon it with one hand while with the other they have sold their own goods at a good profit to the borrowers. It is a form of giving "tick"—only it is more convenient to the creditor to disguise these trading operations under the respectable cloak of an international loan. This practice is extraordinarily lucrative to our rivals, and places them in a most commanding position, for in addition to having to pay the trader his interest and buy his goods with part of the borrowed money, the unfortunate client has to soften the heart of the financier with some sort of concession which enables him to turn still more pennies—honest or dishonest, as the case may be. Verily, the proverb is bitterly true in the case of certain Near Eastern Governments: "Who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing." One of the greatest difficulties which lies before those who attempt to readjust the balance of trade in the Near East is the necessity for keeping finance and Foreign Offices apart.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, May 30.

Electrical Exhibition.

There was opened last week, without any great flourish of trumpets, an Electrical Exhibition, the first of its kind, organised by the Société Anonyme Ottomane de l'Electricité. To some the mere mention of an exhibition conveys to the mind extensive grounds, imposing buildings, and immense crowds of people; to others, perhaps, it recalls recollections of banquets and handshaking with royalty. The Electrical Exhibition of Constantinople is lacking in every one of these adjuncts of an exhibition, with the exception of a display, for which no admission is charged, of a goodly variety of electrical appliances—I should be inclined to call them requisites—as well as novelties, and this to a public of whom the great majority have not the faintest notion of the many uses to which electricity is put in modern life.

This modest exhibition has been simply but very tastefully arranged in a not over-large shop in the Grande Rue de Pera by the Constantinople Electric Company, with a view to teaching the inhabitants of this city in general the uses of electricity, and in this way it serves a purpose. It is a pleasure to note that a few British firms, locally represented, make a most creditable display. It is not my intention to attempt to deal in more than a very superficial manner with the various appliances exhibited. Electric lights and fans represent a very large percentage of each firm's display, but apart from these one sees every imaginable article, from a vacuum cleaner down (or up) to a perfect model of a torpedo boat built by Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Ltd., and displayed by the British Agencies' Association, of which the director is Mr. Robert Rowell, and the technical advisers, Messrs. Willliam Sprowson and Bernard Tubini, A.M.I.E.E. Amongst the firms represented by this Association and exhibiting are:—Messrs. Thomas Firth and Sons, Ltd., makers of tool steel, engineers' tools, projectiles and shells, steel castings, etc.; Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Ltd., builders of war vessels, passenger steamers and tug-boats, marine engines and turbines, marine boilers, locomotives, etc.; Messrs. Dick, Kerr and Co., Ltd., electrical installations, generating plants, motors, etc.; Messrs. Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., cable manufacturers and electrical engineers; Watlington and Co., Ltd., electrical appliances of all kinds; Messrs. The British Vacuum Cleaner Co., Ltd., vacuum cleaners and vacuum cleaning plants. The British Agencies' Association is to be congratulated on its well-displayed section, and if some of the other important firms which it represents have not an exhibit, this is due to the limited space for the display of big machinery, such as motor wagons, electric and steam cranes, pumping machinery, forced draught apparatus, etc., which, in any case would hardly come within the scope of an electrical supply current exhibition.

Another section which does great credit to the enterprise of a British firm is that of Messrs. Sidney Nowill and Co., of Constantinople, representing the General Electric Co., Ltd. Their display is one of the best of the exhibition, notwithstanding the fact that when I visited the exhibition in its early days there were several blank spaces in their section bearing notices to the effect that the steamer carrying some of their exhibits having been delayed these would be exposed at a later date. This exhibit does credit to both agent and principal alike, and is due to the taste of Mr. Rowland Rees, who is a certified electrical engineer and a member of Messrs. Nowill's staff. This firm claim to have in their stores the largest assortment of electrical goods in Constantinople, which claim I have no doubt they could substantiate. Messrs. S. Nowill and Co. likewise have a sanitary and heating department, which is in charge of Mr. G. W. Barwell, R.P.C., London.

Yet another London firm with a local branch must share the credit of the British Section, Messrs. Claudius Ash, Sons and Co., Ltd., whose exhibit covers every branch of the dental supply trade, from an artificial tooth to an electrically worked operating chair. Messrs. George and Arthur Baker, of Constantinople, have an attractive display, and are exhibitors of office furniture, lamps, vacuum cleaners, electrical heating stoves, breakfast table bread-toasters, etc.

I do not claim in this short description to have done justice to the exhibits of the British firms concerned, but I do commend their enterprise and wish it were imitated in some similar manner by every British manufacturer doing business in this country.

Permanent Exhibition.

Why not a permanent exhibition or museum of British manufacturers? This ought to be possible in a distinctive British building, housing the Chamber of Commerce, with showrooms and the British Club under the same roof. France has a magnificent building, the Union Française, which is a club, and the meeting place of all Frenchmen visiting Constantinople, and in this building the Chamber of Commerce has its offices. This national monument was built with the aid of a grant from the French Government and the contribution of French firms interested in the trade of this country. It is furnished throughout by French firms. In its concert hall, the largest in Constantinople, are pianos of French make, presented to it on condition that no foreign make of piano is allowed in the building. This idea is even carried to the extreme of not allowing any other than a French tuner to tune these instruments. Germany has its "Teutonia," likewise a club, and run under similar conditions. Italy has its "Societa Operaja Italiana," which is the meeting place of all Italians visiting or resident. Our Chamber of Commerce rents rooms in an office building; we have a British library dating some forty or more years back and possessing many valuable works of reference, presented by the British Museum and others, and this institution now has refuge in a single small room rented from the British Seamen's Home, a building owned by the British Government. A British Club has recently been established by purely local effort and has filled a much-needed want. Ought it not to be possible to bring these various British institutions under one roof, the "Britannicus" Club, Library, Chamber of Commerce, Permanent Museum of British-made goods? To the man in the street this would be the "British House," and it could be made a living advertisement of everything British. Show cases of goods in various stages of the process of manufacture, samples, models, reading-room of trade publications (which the Chamber of Commerce can hardly display effectively in its limited premises), these thrown open to the public would make it a permanent museum. A British School for Boys has been established by subscription here and in Great Britain. Now let us set about the British building to rank with the Union Française and the Teutonia. Where is the firm to start the ball rolling with a donation of £1,000? Don't all speak at once, please!

TURKISH FINANCE.

In a message dated May 30, Reuter's Constantinople correspondent stated that the general estimates for the year 1914-15 were submitted to the Chamber on that date. The expenditure amounts to £T34,007,619, and the revenue to £T31,921,163, showing a deficit of £T2,086,456. The President invited the Financial Committee to proceed to the examination of the estimates without delay, in order to enable the Chamber to begin the debate on them in about a fortnight's time. In the course of the sitting the Chamber for the first time in the session manifested some independence, having voted by a large majority against the opinion of the President that the discussion of the Bill for the Encouragement of Industries should be adjourned pending a report on the subject by the Financial Committee.

In a statement accompanying the Budgetary estimates, Djavid Bey, Minister of Finance, observes that, notwithstanding the economy in expenditure and the increase in receipts, it has been impossible to obtain equilibrium. Nevertheless, he says, when it is considered that the Empire has emerged from two disastrous wars, the deficit seems very insignificant, and practically nil with the elimination from next year's Budget of certain items of expenditure. Although he is optimistic as to the future equilibrium of the Budget, the Minister recommends that there shall be no departure from the spirit of economy and the exercise of strict control of all branches of the administration, and he further states that his forecasts of the past five years regarding the progressive increase of revenues has been justified, even two disastrous wars, followed by the loss of the European Provinces, not having affected the regular growth of the revenue of the Empire. It should be observed that this increase will become more marked with the progress of the irrigation works in Anatolia.

The Minister hopes that the negotiations with the Powers with regard to economic questions will enable the Government to acquire liberty of action at the beginning of ext September. The Army estimates amount to £T6,000,000, and the Navy estimates to £T1,338,932. Finally, the statement calls attention to the high figure of the civil and military pensions, which exceeds £T2,000,000. The Finance Bill annexed to the statement authorises the Ministry of Finance to conclude advances or issue Treasury bonds, repayable in the current year, for an aggregate amount of £T2,000,000.

BANKS IN THE NEAR EAST.

Referring to the opening by the Deutsche Bank of a branch at Baghdad, as reported in our last week's issue, *The Financial News* says:—"This particular institution is already largely interested in Turkey and the East, and is already established at Constantinople. In view of the growing commercial importance of that part of the world, the step just taken is of some significance, and presages considerable development of trade and industry there in the near future. The big continental banks, following their policy of extension to all parts, either by holdings in separate banks or occasionally by branch establishments, are keenly alive to new openings which may be presented. Undoubtedly good opportunities exist in both Asiatic Turkey and the Balkan States for banking enterprise, and these institutions are rapidly completing their arrangements to avail themselves of the existing circumstances. The Deutsche Bank, although not now the largest German bank from a capital point of view, is still the foremost German commercial bank from most other standpoints, and is evidently bent upon an expansion policy. The great service to German trade and industry rendered by the German banks does not need any mention, but it can safely be concluded they will be continued and extended in future."

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

COMMERCIAL & AGENCY CO. OF EGYPT, LTD., Alexandria & Cairo.

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Servian Trade Opportunities.

Openings for British Exporters.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

British firms desiring further information concerning paragraphs marked (A), *please to communicate with the Manager*, The Near East, *Devonshire Square, E.C.*

Belgrade, May 22.

The Servian market has not been popular in Great Britain for many years, but it is difficult to determine why this has been so. If we take the State Treasury returns and the report of the Monopoly Service, we must admit that the Government has always loyally met its obligations, and that the country's finances have shown a steady improvement. On the other hand, I know of no big firm dealing through bonâ-fide channels that has made a single bad debt in Servia. Admittedly the Servian farmer is not always a regular payer; sometimes he is months in arrears, but for those months he pays interest at 6 per cent., and when he realizes on his crops or cattle he invariably regularizes his payments. The fact of the matter is that Servia is essentially a land of smallholders, a certain area of whose land is inalienable (the Five Feddan Law in Egypt is based on this system), but anything over and above this area can be mortgaged and is mortgaged by the agents in Belgrade if the need should arise. It is above all necessary, therefore, that the British manufacturer should deal through an established agent who has his sub-agents and other sources of information and is not speculative enough to take any risks.

Servia and the Entente.

Nor is Servia's "black fate" on our market due to local antipathy to England. On the contrary, I have observed during my stay here a desire—nay, an eagerness—to improve trade and business relations with England. This applies to State offices as well as to private individuals, and it is a notorious fact that when Servia's railway programme was being drawn up and Continental firms were urging their claims to carry the work out, the Council of Ministers reserved one line for England without a single effort being made on our part to secure anything at all! The reason for this consideration shown to England is partly political, partly an expression of gratitude. It is generally recognised that the Entente counteracted Austro-Hungarian policy with regard to Servia's port in the Adriatic, and this naturally throws Servia into the arms of the Entente group; the French, on the other hand, have been too grasping, and, as moneylenders, have imposed heavy conditions, with the result that Servia is attracted rather to England than to France; besides which, Great Britain is the great trading partner of the Entente.

The two factors in the past which have made the Servian market uninteresting to us were:—(1) the lack of a port and (2) some dubious Anglo-Servian company promoting in London. If our traders as a whole knew what harm is done abroad by British or soi-disant British adventurers, who take advantage of our lax company laws to finance foreign propositions in London, they would urge the modification of those laws. As regards the port, Servia is now to have her free zone in Salonika, which will facilitate trade between both countries. (The Johnston Line, in connection with Shenker and Co., of Vienna, already draws up direct bills of lading from Liverpool to Belgrade viâ Salonika at rates comparing favourably with those viâ Trieste, Fiume, and Vienna.)

State of the Market.

At the present moment trade is dull and money tight, bills being discounted at the larger banks at from 8-10 per cent., and from 12-15 per cent. at the smaller banks. But this is only a momentary inconvenience, due largely to the wars and to the failure of last year's crops. The outlook for this year's crop is excellent, and when it is realized there will be a big demand from the interior. Hence agents in Belgrade are busily preparing for the coming season, which begins, as a rule, towards the end of August.

Regarding New Servia, the time has not come to express an opinion. Salonika and Monastir are dead as trading centres; the former's immediate rôle will be that of a transit port for Servia, and the latter may eventually develope some industries (*e.g.*, leather and sugar), because water power is available. Skoplje, on the other hand, is the coming distributing centre for Servian Macedonia, and already customers from Shtip, Veles, Kotchané, and Giurgejevo, even from Vranja and Nish, in Old Servia, are beginning to deal through Skoplje, and some of the agents there to appoint sub-agents in Belgrade. After this year's crops in New Servia (opium, by the way, is going to be a failure), there will be a considerable amount of trade, especially in cotton goods and yarns, but whether, in view of the exodus of the population, this trade will steadily increase during the next two years is doubtful. After that, if the country settles down, the importance of Skoplje as a commercial centre will be second only to that of Belgrade.

Agents.

Methods of trade in Servia are the simplest imaginable. The British manufacturer has to deal through his agent in Belgrade (the necessity of an agent in Skoplje for certain articles is beginning to show itself), the great and only distributing centre for the whole of Old Servia. The number of agents in Belgrade for British, German, Austrian, American, and other goods is extraordinary. Some of these agents are good, others indifferent, and others again worthless. But the big ones have been coining money, and are now preparing for the new season, when orders will come from the interior through sub-agents, or when, as is generally the custom, the peasant comes to town and saunters through the streets on business bent.

The essential, therefore, is the agent; both as regards openings for private business and Government contracts. These are many and lucrative, for the State municipal system flourishes in Servia. But if the plums are to fall in the way of a British firm, the latter must have *a good agent*. (A newly opened agency wrote to 200 of the leading German firms asking to represent them; of the 200, 189 replied that they were already represented!) It is difficult sometimes to get a good agent: as to his reliability, information can be obtained through the British Vice-Consulate (we need a Consul badly here), the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, or the Servian branch of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkans. As for the energetic and capable agent, I would strongly advise big British firms intending to compete on the Servian market to send their own man out (to Belgrade only), who will be able to "spot" the agent suitable for pushing his line of goods. The expense is practically nil, and the firm can then rest assured that they have not only a good, but a capable, agent. (A)

(To be continued.)

A SERVIAN LOAN RUMOUR

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 30.

Mr. Chedo Mijatovitch, the former Servian Minister in London, was lately at Belgrade, and whilst here was in constant negotiation with the Servian Government in connection with British enterprises. Among other things, it is currently reported that on behalf of a British syndicate he offered to this Government to float a Servian State loan for several hundred million francs. The initiated, however, are very sceptical about the truth of the rumour.

In order to encourage the exportation of live cattle from Servia, all exporters of live cattle will obtain a reduction of 15 per cent. on the railway carriage on all Servian lines of railway.

THE ORIENT RAILWAY QUESTION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 30.

It is expected that a definite arrangement will be concluded in a few days between the Orient Railway Company and the Servian Government.

The chief obstacle to arriving at a conclusion is the amount to be paid to the Orient Railway Company, which demands sixty million francs, whereas the Servian Government is only willing to pay thirty-five or thirty-six million francs.

The Servian technical officials estimate the worth of both Orient lines in the new Servian territories at only about thirty million francs, and it is believed, therefore, that the Orient Railway Company will at the last moment reduce what is considered here as an exorbitant demand. On the other hand, as the Servian Government is anxious to put an end to these prolonged negotiations, it is thought in well-informed circles that Servia may considerably increase its offer for the purchase, even though it is far beyond the actual value of the railways.

RAILS AND ROADS IN SERVIA

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 30.

There is a pressing need for railway material in this country just now, and the Germans have lost no time in taking advantage of the present financial situation in order to obtain orders for manufactures from the Servian Government.

The firm of A. Borsig, in Berlin, has not let the grass grow under its feet, and has quickly offered to supply railway material and accept Treasury bonds in payment, and as this firm formerly manufactured for and delivered to the Servian Railway Direction several railway engines for goods trains and for passenger traffic, which have given satisfaction, the Government has placed with the firm an order for twenty goods locomotives, costing each 89,900 frs., to be paid for in bonds bearing 5 per cent. per annum interest.

The country roads in Servia are, generally speaking, in a very unsatisfactory state, and this applies more especially to the roads in the newly annexed Servian districts. Before the war a French company of contractors for street building, with a capital of two million francs, had agreed with the Ottoman Government to reconstruct 420 kilometres of roads in those territories which have since been annexed to Servia. The work had just been begun when the war between the Balkan States and Turkey broke out, and now negotiations are going on between the Servian Government and the same firm of contractors to continue the work, and there seems to be every prospect that a new contract for the same purposes will shortly be concluded between the parties.

BULGARIAN TOBACCO.

The Monopoly Rumours.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Sofia, May 31.

A commission of Xanthi tobacco merchants, representing Bulgarian and foreign firms, of planters and workmen, has just left Sofia after having interviewed the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and other politicians and statesmen.

Their mission was in connection with a rumour which has been current here to the effect that the German group negotiating the Bulgarian loan had made it a condition that not only were they to construct the Haskovo-Portolagos line, together with the port at the latter place, but that they were also to be empowered to create a tobacco monopoly in Bulgaria.

The Commission was informed by the Prime Minister that the Government had no intention whatsoever of granting the German group the desired monopoly. In an interview which I had subsequently with Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, a similar assurance was given to me; and in reply to a question whether the Government intended to create a State tobacco monopoly, I was told that the Government had no such intention at present.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Odessa. June 1.

The firmer tone taken by our grain market at the end of last week is well maintained, although from the foreign consumption markets the demand is still restricted. It would appear that the quality of the Argentine maize crop is by no means so good as was anticipated, and, consequently, more interest is shown in the Russian (Bessarabian) commodity. Barley of good middling quality, with 3 per cent. admixture, is to-day quoted at 81½c. per pood f.o.b. here. Maize brings 77½c., and Cinquantin 91½c. to 92½c. Rye of good quality, 90c. to 93c. Wheat is steady at 1r. 19c. f.o.b., but the chief business done in this cereal during the last few days has been with the Russian millers. The arrivals from the interior are mere driblets, and the spot stocks are still very small, namely, 370,000 poods of wheat; 20,000 poods of rye; 150,000 poods of barley; 100,000 poods of maize; and 15,000 poods of oats.

Cloudbursts and hailstorms have wrought considerable damage in several southern districts, but the general outlook is fairly good. One always reckons with a certain loss through summer hail in these latitudes.

Bucharest. May 31.

The rain which has fallen during the last few days has been most beneficial to the wheat crop; whether the maize, barley, and oats have similarly benefited the next few days will show. The drought must, in any case, have caused damage in certain quarters, but this the rain will partially remedy. In any case, unless most unfavourable weather conditions prevail hereafter, a more than average wheat crop may be counted on.

The effects of the heavy rains have made themselves appreciably felt on the Bucharest Bourse, where for some time things had been altogether flat. Now the favourable crop outlook has had a very stimulating effect.

The foreign markets will also benefit, as orders for manufactures and goods in general abroad, which were being withheld on account of the unfavourable crop outlook, are now going forward daily. Should the favourable situation be maintained, a very lively summer and autumn business in the import trade in all branches is assured.

Cyprus Caroubs.

It is still too early to speak positively as to prospects of the caroub (locust bean) crop. It is hoped that it will be good, notwithstanding the disease prevailing in parts. Last year the crop was poor, being 50 per cent. or more below average, the quality being also indifferent.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletin received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Angora. May 20.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for April:—

Some good showers have fallen, and the optimistic crop forecast is consequently strengthened. Unfortunately the rains have been only partial, and though a good crop may be expected in the district of Haimana and Polatli, it will only be a mediocre one round Kalaidjik and Tchibouk. Nevertheless rains are still indispensable, and all is uncertain for a month to come.

The cold weather during the second fortnight of April has ruined the fruit crop. The loss from this cause alone amounts to more than £T50,000.

The mohair market is quite active, and large purchases have been made. The mohair markets of Constantinople and Bradford, however, remain dull.

The business in cereals is very restricted, and the prices on the Constantinople market are unfavourable.

Homs. May 15.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for April:—

The alternation of abundant rains and bright sunshine during the month in review has largely benefited the growing crops. We were assured that the previous drought was going to do serious harm to the crops, but only in a few places of secondary importance will the yield be reduced, while for the district as a whole it is expected to be at least equal to, if not better than, last year's.

During the month in review the great cattle fair took place in this town. This market grows in importance from year to year. It seems that the cattle trade prefers Homs to Aleppo, as Homs is the central junction of the branches of the Damas-Hama-Liban Railway, and the town has greatly benefited by this situation.

Imports of English manufactures and colonial produce have stimulated the activity of our market. Sugar, coffee, and petroleum continue to be bought in the hope of a rise in the prices of these articles.

Busreh. May 8.

The shipments of cereals to Jeddah, referred to in our last report, have lent a momentary animation to the market. On the other hand, the harvests having begun everywhere, the arrival of the produce of an abundant crop will stimulate business. But the prices offered by foreign buyers, especially in London, are considered to be unfavourable, and holders, it is feared, will refuse to sell.

Last week the steamer "Koweit" loaded 2,000 tons of cereals for Jeddah. The "Woolwich" and the "Tigre" will shortly leave our port for the same destination with cargoes of about 2,000 and 1,500 tons respectively.

The stock of cotton cloth is very limited, and prices are harder.

The colonial produce market improves gradually. The available stock of sugar here is estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000 packages.

Mosul. April 30.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for March:—

The continual rains, usually rare enough at this season, greatly benefited the growing crops. The yield of the barley harvest, which is on the point of commencing, will be superior to last year's. In spite of the locusts in certain parts of the vilayet, the wheat crop forecast is still optimistic.

The second fortnight of the month was marked by the preparations for the wool sales, which promise to be excellent, thanks to the good pasturage of this year.

SMYRNA CROPS.

In a report dated May 4, H.M. Vice-Consul at Smyrna (Mr. C. E. Heathcote Smith) forwards particulars of the crop results and prospects in that district. Weather conditions for the 1914 sultana crop have not, he says, been unfavourable, rain having been fairly plentiful, and the vines seem to be in a fair condition. Locusts are abundant, however, and growers are apprehensive as to the damage this pest may cause. As to figs, the prospects for this year are good, and hopes are entertained of a satisfactory yield, the fruit so far being in good condition.

The 1912-13 olive crop was a complete failure, whilst that for 1913-14 was excellent, being only slightly inferior to the bumper crop of 67,000 to 70,000 tons in 1911-12. The quality of the oils was good, and in view of the large yield, low prices were expected. As demand has been keen, however, sales have been effected at high levels, ranging up to £47 5s. c.i.f. United Kingdom.

The prospects of the next valonea crop are so far satisfactory.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending May 22:—Early this week the Interior reported a material deficit to the crop owing to the dryness of the weather, and as a natural consequence small speculative purchases were effected, bringing up the price of Extrissimo Carahissar of 11½ per cent. to 16s. 3d. and 11 per cent. Carahissar to 15s. 6d. Since Wednesday, however, copious showers of rain have fallen all over the country, which will very likely make up in part for the reported deficit of the yield; and although prices have not receded, there is a feeling that holders will be induced to sell at a shilling lower. The sales in all amount to fifteen cases, all taken for account of Interior and local speculators. The arrivals amount to 4,627 cases, against 2,420 at same period last year.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 4.

Owing to the Whitsun holidays the produce markets have shown little activity this week, and prices were fairly maintained.

Sugar.

Some time ago the opinion was expressed by good authorities that if the Cuban yield did not exceed the estimated 2,500,000 tons, there would not be enough sugar to meet the world's consumption, but the large receipts of the last two or three months led to the belief that the crop would be larger than 2,750,000 tons, and thus the disquieting opinion created no fears in the markets. It is not so now, however, for the rainy season has set in much earlier than usual, and there has also been a rapid falling off in the receipts, while, at the same time, well informed authorities are now estimating the crop at 2,502,000 to 2,529,000 tons. The effect of these was the creation of a strong speculative demand in the American markets. However, this American and Cuban situation has not yet had the stimulating effect upon prices in the European markets as was expected. On the contrary, owing to some beneficial rain on the Continent, Beet sugar fell from 9s. 10½d. to 9s. 8½d. for August, and from 9s. 9d. to 9s. 7½d. for October-December. Prices of all other kinds of sugar remain unaltered.

Coffee.

The steady advance in the Brazilian market and the falling off in the receipts had the effect of advancing prices on the terminal market fully 1s. per cwt., and much larger business has been done than for a long time past. It is now evident that the total crop for the year will be as much as 13½ million bags, or one million more than was originally estimated. Advices from all quarters are to the effect that there is very little more Costa Rica to come forward. The market here has been very quiet this week, the auctions after Whitsun recommencing to-day. Prices, however, are well maintained.

Currants.

There has been a very steady demand, especially in medium grades. The recent arrival of some 500 tons, mostly of Pyrgos and smalls, is being quickly disposed, and with the prospect of no further arrivals for three or four weeks it is very probable that holders may stiffen their prices. Pyrgos bags are quoted 22s. 6d. to 23s., quarter cases 24s. to 25s., Amalias 25s. to 27s., Patras 27s. to 29s., Gulf 30s. to 36s., Vostizza 32s. to 45s., and siftings 28s. to 36s.

Sultanas.

There has been a very large business in sultanas and heavy buying by importers, owing, it is believed, to the reports of a reduced estimate, and to the possibility of damage to the new crop. This has brought about an advance of 2s. on the lowest grades, and this market is now cleared of any fruit below 28s. In Liverpool the position of sultanas has undergone a considerable change, and latest quotations show an advance on the old rates of 3s. to 4s. per cwt. This sudden rise is attributed to reports of unfavourable weather in the growing districts and serious damage to the vines by peronosporus.

Seeds.

Linseed has been dull with little business at late rates. Canary seed is more inquired for, and Turkish has sold at 92s. per 464 lbs. Haricot beans are in more demand, and any cheap lots are being secured by dealers. Split peas are dearer; supplies of small Indian suitable for splitting are exceedingly scarce, and prices will probably rise, particularly when the demand sets in.

Egyptian Onions.

Egyptian onions, although just a little cheaper, are still much higher than usual at this time. Finest bright are quoted 16s., fine 15s. 6d., good 15s.; bags about 1 cwt,

Corn.

Wheat.—The cargo market has been, and remains, quiet, but no material change occurred in price. Barley is sparingly offered, Azoff-Black Sea, June, offered at 22s., September-October 21s. 7½d. Oats are quiet and unaltered. Maize is firm, with rather more inquiry.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, May 29.

Owing to the rise in American, prices here have advanced, the market has been more animated, and speculators are active. In the futures market certain purchases are reported on behalf of spinners with a view to providing for long term sales of cloth.

The rise very soon made its effects felt on spot, in which transactions have been active. The superior grades of Afifi, Assili, Joannovitch and Sakellarides are advancing and in strong demand. Exports are on the increase.

Reports regarding the new crop are very favourable. The warmth of the past few days has been very beneficial. The plants are making satisfactory progress, and it is recognised that the set-back caused by the cold has been partially made up for. The question of water no longer causes any anxiety. The levels of the Nile in the Sudan have risen, and an early rise is expected, so that a shortage of water is not feared. The cotton worm has not made its appearance, and with the increased area under cultivation we ought to have a record crop this season, which will compensate us for the loss of the rice crop.

Cotton seed continues to fall in price owing to the lack of demand from abroad. But, on the other hand, local consumption increases day by day.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. July, 18⅛, November, 18 11/16. Exchange, three months' date, 96½.

	This week.	Same time. 1912-13.	Same time. 1911-12.
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	4,000	6,500	7,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,570,772	7,443,860	7,335,796
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	4,250	Nil	2,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	195,357	189,108	189,516
Shipments to Manchester	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	204,576	196,432	216,436
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	6,250	8,750	10,750
Ditto since Sept. 1	390,411	366,599	346,968
Shipments to U.S. America	3,000	Nil.	1,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	75,948	116,416	104,456
Shipments to all parts	13,500	8,750	14,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	866,292	868,555	857,376
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,478,000	1,182,000	1,005,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to May 27, 1914.

	1913-14	1912-13.	1911-12.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	191,107	189,108	187,328
„ Manchester	204,576	196,432	216,436
Total Shipments to Great Britain	395,683	385,540	403,764
Shipments to France and Spain	110,111	105,579	93,603
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	187,627	175,156	169,032
Shipments to Russia	64,454	57,777	56,320
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,057	788	894
Total Shipments to Continent	364,249	339,300	319,849
Shipments to U.S. America	72,948	116,416	103,372
Ditto to India and Japan	19,912	13,426	16,264
Total Shipments to all parts	852,792	859,682	843,249
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamer Sailed.

June 1.—"City of Cambridge."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—During the three days upon which the market has been open since our last report there has been only a small inquiry for Egyptian spot cotton. The sharp rise experienced over the week-end induced one or two concerns to secure lots for which they had been in negotiation for some time past, but outside these transactions the business put through has been of a very light description. Quotations for all qualities are raised 5 points. Estimated sales for three days: 1,000 bales.

News reached London last Saturday that a small Greek coasting ship coming from Samos had been fired upon from the Asia Minor shore. There were four victims, according to a Smyrna newspaper.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, June 2.

This has been a holiday week in our market, the only market day being Tuesday, when there was a meagre attendance, as is usual at Whitsuntide. There was, however, an important feature, namely the publication of the Washington Cotton Bureau report on the condition of the American cotton crop. The report is very adverse as to the average state of the plant, the figure being 74.3, which compares with the corresponding period last year of 79.1, of two years ago 78.9, and of three years ago 87.8, and a ten years' average of 80.4. This sent up cotton in the States, which was reflected in Liverpool. Quotations of cloth were against buyers, but the demand was unimportant. There does not seem to be very much trade about for Egypt. Shippers have few orders of weight to place. The nearer markets of the Continent are slack. China is doing hardly anything for the Nelson sateen trade. It is said that half the production of that town goes to China. The coloured woven trade in Colne is depressed, indeed the weaving branch of our staple industry leaves much to be desired. Manufacturers are losing money, but they prefer, for various reasons, to run rather than stop. American cotton spinners are also losing money. A company has declared today a loss of over £4,000 for the last six months. This refers to American yarns. Egyptian spinnings keep steady, and for the most part profitable.

THE LOCUST WAR IN CYPRUS.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The locust war has been again occupying considerable attention in Cyprus, in view of this year's invasion. Complaints have been raised by Greek members in the Legislative Council, and petitions received from certain districts (chiefly in a part called the "Kokkino Khoria," or red villages), asserting that not only has the system adopted last year of spraying locusts with a solution of arsenite of soda been a failure, but that damage has been caused in other directions, e.g., to bees, by the spraying of plants which they visit.

The truth of the matter appears to be plainly and satisfactorily given by the Receiver-General in his reply in Council. He states that the system adopted in 1913 proved thoroughly successful. In one part only (Ayios Kendéas) the application of the remedy was made later than circumstances required, and a considerable incursion of locusts into the crops took place. But the fault lay with the people, who failed to notify the Government respecting the hatching out of the pest, owing, it is surmised, to the villagers indulging in hopes that the Government would revert to the system of purchasing locusts by weight. Fortunately, too, the damage caused was insignificant. In most other parts where the poison was used the areas have been absolutely cleared of the pest. Moreover, as regards cost, the new system is much less expensive than the old. The Receiver-General states that the average cost of the campaign during the last ten years has been £3,500 per annum (sometimes reaching £10,000), whereas the new method has cost £1,000, a sum which it is hoped will be reduced.

It would, however, be far more satisfactory if the Government were more prompt in publishing facts and figures on this and some other subjects connected with agriculture for general information. There is also a strong feeling that the locust tax should now be suspended, and that other funds should be applied to purposes of destruction. One proposal is that the cost should be defrayed out of the sum derived from surplus of tithe grain. Cereal tithe is taken by the Government in kind; and, as is well known to those conversant with such matters, there is always a surplus of at least 3 to 4 per cent., due to the difference between measuring in and out: tithe grain not being weighed but taken and sold by bushel measure.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Ottoman Post Office has issued a postal guide in Turkish and French.

A party of Italian merchants and manufacturers are shortly expected in Servia, says our Belgrade correspondent. They are visiting the country for the purpose of studying its commerce and agriculture, and it is hoped that their visit may serve to draw the two countries more closely together. They intend to visit the newly acquired territories as well as Old Servia.

The Greek Chamber of Deputies has passed the Bill for the creation of a Council of State.

There is a rumour that a French company intends to ask for a prospecting concession near the Gemsah oilfields.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that the International Tariff Commission, consisting of forty delegates from the German and Austro-Hungarian railways, and others, which met in Bucharest, after two days' negotiations arranged for through tariff rates beween Italy, Roumania, Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Balkan States.

According to Belgian Consular reports, the trade in fancy cloths is assuming great importance at Aleppo, the value of the annual imports amounting to 450,000 frs. The demand is chiefly for merinos and cashmeres of a black and dark blue colour, 100 to 105 centimetres wide, which are used in the make-up of clothes for the Moslem women.

The General Manager, Sudan Government Railways, is prepared to receive offers for the following scrap material :—15 tons of copper, 20 tons of brass tubes, 10 tons of steel, 50 tons of tyres, and 150 tons of scrap iron. The material will be delivered free on truck at Halfa or Port Sudan Quays, as desired by the purchaser.

The Egyptian Government schools require teachers of English and a Science Master. Inquiries for further information and for application form should be addressed not later than June 10 to Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, care of the Director, the Egyptian Educational Mission in England, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Selected candidates will be interviewed in London.

The adulteration of grain by some dealers in Cyprus, which was the cause of serious complaints received from Egypt last year, is a matter of some importance. The appointment of a Commission to investigate the subject may be necessary as a first step towards the adoption of preventive measures.

On Wednesday the Ottoman Minister of Marine handed over the Naval Arsenal to the newly constituted shipbuilding company created by Messrs. Armstrong and Vickers.

According to the Consular Report Cd. 7,048-92, the trade of Syra and the Cyclades during 1913 has decreased from £384,330 in 1912 to £358,818. Imports from the United Kingdom have increased by £6,447 over the figures for 1912—to £152,610, but are still £28,000 below the figures for 1911. British shipping in Syra during the year was 111,134 tons, compared with 133,874 tons under the Austro-Hungarian flag and 500,483 tons under Hellenic colours.

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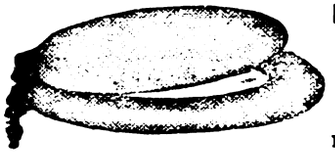

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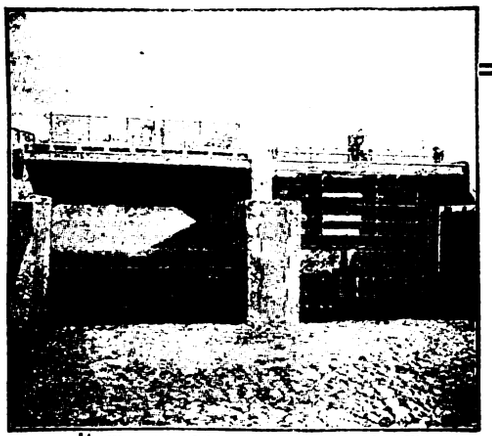

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Engineering Notes.

Acetylene Lighting.

Lighting by acetylene is becoming quite popular in the East. Besides the ordinary stationary plants there are those used for lighting factories, large warehouses, private houses, etc.; there are also in use small hand lamps of a very simple construction, which even peasants can charge with carbide and light as easily as they would fill and light an ordinary paraffin lamp. But for its simplicity, powerful illuminative properties, and moderate cost acetylene appeals particularly to authorities in rural districts for lighting small towns or villages, and to estate owners and farmers for either indoor or outdoor use. There is, however, a wider scope of the acetylene light for outdoor use, and a suitable portable plant that can be employed by contractors, railways, harbour authorities, shipping companies, etc., would be welcomed. For such outdoor purposes, as well as for mines, quarries, farm work, etc., a new portable plant, of recent design and simple construction, may be found very suitable, particularly in the East. The plant consists of three main parts, an outer tank holding water, an inner receptacle holding the carbide, and a burner stand pipe. The lights are small and compact in size, being less than one-half the weight of oil lights of equal power. The apparatus is more quickly charged and put into operation than any other portable light made, only water and carbide being necessary, while the action is entirely automatic. With this lighting system there is no possibility of an explosion. The flame is not affected by currents of air, and requires little oxygen for its consumption, a most important feature in its favour when used in tunnels, mines, or other underground work. One or two powerful reflected lights can be supplied from one generator, or a series of smaller burners. This system is cheaper to operate than oil or arc lights, and is extremely simple to handle.

Motors for River and Canal Service

Paraffin or crude oil motor-driven shallow-draught boats are coming into more extended use for river and canal service in the United Kingdom and upon the splendid waterways of the Continent, and in some of the British possessions motor-propelled boats for carrying freight have long become a common feature. Some new barges which recently began to trade on the Mersey and between various ports around the Lancashire coast are giving, it is said, entire satisfaction. One that we happened to see on her trials has an engine with four cylinders 6-in. bore by 8-in. stroke, driving a propeller at 350 revs. per min., and placed aft of the cargo hold, so that the cargo capacity is not affected. The fuel is paraffin, and the controls are worked from the deck. On a long and severely tested run the average fuel consumption proved to be 0.47 pint per b.h.p. per hour.

Turning to the practical side of the matter, there is everything in favour of introducing such craft, of suitable draught and capacity, in the East, where the cumbersome and costly steam-tug and the sefina and other native craft are still serving the modern hustling commerce in their slow and costly way. The paraffin or crude oil motor-driven shallow draught boat would prove far more economical to run, and, of course, more serviceable than the above vessels. It would be easier to handle; it could travel greater distances at greater speed; and could carry, as well as tow, much heavier loads. These advantages are real ones, and it only remains for our engineers and boat builders to be more alert and ready to cater for the demand that is eventually bound to arise, especially if they take more practical steps to draw the attention of Eastern buyers to the advantages of such craft.

Motors in Epirus.

A correspondent of *The Morning Post*, who has been making a tour in Epirus, gives some interesting particulars about the progress of the motor car in Epirus. Contrasting his recent journey with one made six years ago, he writes:—"On my previous journey it took me the best part of two days by carriage to accomplish the sixty-five miles which separate Prevesa from Janina, while from the port of Santi Quaranta, a distance of seventy miles, the drive was somewhat longer. Now a daily public motor takes one up from Prevesa in four hours; and, when the Albanian question is quiet, similar public motors ply between Arta and Janina. Janina and Argyrocastro, Janina and Santi Quaranta, and from Janina to Premeti and Leskoviki. Ere long, moreover, the communication between Janina and the outside world will be still further facilitated by the new road in course of construction between the Epirote capital and the fine natural harbour of Goumenitza, opposite the southern end of Corfu. When the supposed interests of Italian policy demanded that Greece should be deprived of Santi Quaranta, the Epirotes began at once to bethink themselves of Goumenitza, which lies well within the new Greek frontier. Goumenitza is only forty-eight miles from Janina, and, as of these forty-eight miles the first six coincide with the fine carriage road from Janina to Santi Quaranta, only forty-two miles actually required making. Goumenitza, which is mentioned in the later Venetian days as one of the Epirote dependencies of Corfu, will then become the usual port of Janina."

Greek Railways.

The permission of the Greek Ministry of the Interior has been sought for the purchase of the necessary rolling-stock for the new railway between Larissa and Papapouli, also for the construction of certain new works on the Athens-Larissa line. Herr Truck, a retired officer of the Austrian Army, is reported to have submitted proposals to the Greek Government for the survey and construction of new railways in Macedonia and Epirus.

Oil in Roumania.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (under date of May 31):—The question of the price of benzine does not yet seem settled. The mill proprietors, who are the largest consumers, have called another meeting for June 6 and 7, in order to discuss the reduction for the price of heavy benzine. They contend that benzine of a consistency of 770 is not good, and that this quality was formerly sold at a much lower price than it is at present.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Greek Chamber of Deputies has finally sanctioned the scheme for bringing the waters of Lake Stymphalos to Athens and Piræus, to which reference has frequently been made in our Engineering Notes.

Our Belgrade correspondent informs us that an English group has asked for a concession for a coal mine in Valjevo, and undertakes to form a limited company, with a capital of £120,000, for working it.

A message received in London last Friday from Gibraltar stated that seven gunboats built in France for Turkey had arrived there on their way to Constantinople.

A company has been formed in London under the title The Roumanian Sheet and Galvanizing Co., Limited, with a capital of £75,000, for the erecting and working of a tin and iron plate factory at Galatz, Roumania.

The section of the Baghdad Railway from Baghdad to Sumike, a distance of about thirty-nine miles, was handed over for traffic on Tuesday.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that the result of the tenders for the completion of the buildings on the Merzdra-Vratza-Lom Railway will be announced about the middle of June.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY RATES.

A Fayoum representative in the Legislative Assembly has given notice of his intention to question the Government on the subject of the preferential tariffs granted by the Egyptian State Railways, which operate unfavourably to Fayoum. Details of the case are of interest (says the Cairo correspondent of *The Railway News*). The port of shipment is Gabbary (Alexandria), and the commodity most concerned is ginned cotton in bales. The distance from Fayoum to Gabbary is 334 kms., and the rate for transporting hydraulically pressed ginned cotton between these places is 10.92 milliemes per 10 kilos. at railway risk and 9.78 milliemes at owner's risk (1 millieme equals 1 farthing). More favoured stations are Maghagha, Beba, and Beni-Suef. Maghagha is 384 kms. from Gabbary, but the rates for the commodity under notice are only 9.32 milliemes per 10 kilos. at railway risk and 9.07 milliemes at owner's risk. Beba is 349 kms. from Gabbary, the rate per 10 kilos. being 9.33 milliemes at railway risk and 8.61 milliemes at owner's risk. Beka is 349 kms. from Gab-Gabbary, and the rates are 9.03 and 8.33 milliemes respectively. The details given are best summarised in the following table:—

To Gabbary from	Distance. Kilometres.	Rate per 10 ton per kilometre. Milliemes.
Fayoum	334	32·5
Maghagha	384	24·3
Beba	349	26·7
Beni-Suef	328	27·5

Apropos of a question raised by *The Egyptian Mail*, "Do the rules governing the formation of tariffs on the Egyptian State Railways admit of unbridled preference being given at anybody's discretion?" the correspondent comments: "This, perhaps, is scarcely fair. Railway tariffs in Egypt are largely dependant upon water competition. Towns situated on the Nile, which are in direct water communicatiton with the port of shipment by means of the river and the Mahmoudieh Canal, must perforce enjoy the advantage of preferential rates if the railway is to get any traffic from them at all. Human nature and business being what they are, the tendency then is to level up matters by levying higher rates from centres which are solely dependent upon the railway, as is Fayoum."

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Sundries.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of the following articles at the Citadel Stores, Cairo: Canvas, sail, native; Crena, vegetable; Kharz, cotton; Shammoot, cotton; leather, Kusla; calico, Wilaya; wax, bees. June 25.

Petroleum.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the supply of petroleum required by the police for one year commencing July 1, 1914. June 25.

Cement.—Tenders are invited by the State Dominions Administration, Cairo, for the supply of 50 tons of cement. June 6.

Coal.—Tenders are invited by the Local Mixed Commission of Kafr el Zayat for the supply of 130 tons of coal (Newcastle). June 24.

Egyptian Engineering Co., Ltd.
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Egyptian Engineering Stores, Alexandria.
Government Contractors, Engineers, Importers of Machinery of every description, Diesel, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Pumps Windmills, Agricultural Machinery, &c. Large stocks kept at all depots.
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Shipping Intelligence.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

(From Our Port Said Correspondent.)

Some interesting comparisons may be drawn from the statistics of canal traffic issued by the Suez Canal Company for the quarter ending March 31, 1914.

The receipts for dues paid during the month of March compare very favourably with past years, and while the number of transits is practically at the same level as the four previous years, the tonnage has considerably increased, as the following figures will show. This increase is mainly due to the growing dimensions of vessels trading in Eastern waters:—

Year.	No. of Steamers.	Tonnage in Thousands of Tons.	Receipts in Thousands of Francs.
1870	53	72	621
1880	213	452	4,130
1890	297	835	5,785
1900	288	1,122	7,406
1905	407	1,728	10,698
1906	401	1,779	10,152
1907	398	1,850	10,351
1908	352	1,736	9,865
1909	378	1,860	10,446
1910	473	2,352	13,329
1911	475	2,374	12,622
1912	497	2,536	12,338
1913	477	2,547	11,561
1914	476	2,605	11,895

From the foregoing it will be seen that in March, 1914, 476 vessels, of a gross tonnage of 2,605,000 tons, transitted the Canal and paid dues aggregating Fcs. 11,895,000, whereas in March, 1911, 475 vessels, of a total tonnage of 2,374,000 tons, paid dues amounting to Fcs. 12,622,000, representing to shipowners an increase of 231,000 tons passed through the Canal, and a decrease in dues paid of Fcs. 727,000.

During the month of March three large steamers made their maiden transits, namely, the Union-Castle s.s. "Llanstephen Castle," 11,600 tons; Hamburg Amerika Linie s.s. "Wurtemburg," 7,700 tons; Holt and Co.'s s.s. "Troilus," 7,500 tons.

The average duration of transit of vessels during March was 16 hours 42 minutes, 22 per cent. of passages being made in 14 hours or less, and 52 per cent. in from 14 to 18 hours.

It is of interest to notice that since the recent extension of the maximum draft, six vessels have passed through the Canal which before could not have entered, as their draft in each case exceeded 28 ft.

Some striking figures are given of the exports from India through this famous waterway.

During the quarter ending March 31, 1914, 1,237,000 tons were exported, including 364,000 tons of rise and 369,000 tons of cereals. These figures compare as follows with the same period in 1912, the most active year in the history of the Canal:—

First Quarter, 1912	1,502,000
First Quarter, 1914	1,237,000
Decrease of	265,000

A corresponding reduction is apparent in the outward tonnage passed at the ballast rate through the Canal to shift the Indian crops, namely:—

First Quarter, 1912	392,000
First Quarter, 1914	202,000
Decrease of	190,000

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH CYPRUS.

It is stated that a new line of Greek steamers will shortly connect Cyprus with Greece, *vid* Egypt, and that the Hellenic Government has promised a substantial subsidy. Greek merchants are called upon to support the new line.

LEVANT SHIPPING.

Every day now seems to bring news of some fresh attack on British commercial supremacy, and not the least disquieting of these is the determined efforts which are now being made to substitute foreign flags for the Red Ensign in the Levant ports. Statistics recently published by the French Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople give eminently unsatisfactory figures for the relative proportions of the tonnage frequenting all Ottoman ports, with separate figures for Constantinople as well. We consider these unsatisfactory, because, in spite of the limitations imposed on Hellenic shipping alike by war during six months of the year under review, March, 1912, to March, 1913, and by organised boycott in many ports since the restoration of peace, the blue and white flag of Greece shows itself to be a very serious competitor to our own. Other flags, notably the Austro-Hungarian and the Russian, are increasingly formidable, and the steady rise in German tonnage during the last few years is far from pleasant. The figures are:—

A.—For All Ottoman Ports, 1912-13.

Flag.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	8,014	12,021,273
Austro-Hungarian	4,418	7,667,143
Russian	4,026	5,037,563
Ottoman	99,378*	5,030,318
Greek	6,649	4,657,881
French	3,602	3,352,710
German	1,912	2,246,105

B.—For Constantinople Only, 1912-13.

British	3,008	5,371,905
Greek	2,310	1,958,201
Austro-Hungarian	810	1,616,417
Russian	952	1,428,435
Ottoman	18,505*	906,416
German	535	733,580
French	852	572,750

*91,914 sailing vessels in Table A, and 16,788 in Table B.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—At Bombay May 29. "Assaye."—At Bombay May 26. "China."—London/Bombay. Left Marseilles May 29. "Devanha."—Left Shanghai for Bombay June 2. "India."—Shanghai/Bombay. Left Singapore May 29. "Macedonia."—Left Bombay for London May 30. "Nyanza."—London/Calcutta. Left Aden May 27. "Persia."—Bombay/London. Left Gibraltar June 1. "Sardinia."—Due at London from Calcutta June 5. "Simla."—Calcutta/London. At Aden May 30. "Sumatra."—At Bombay March 27. "Simla."—At Calcutta May 14.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chantala."—London/Bombay. Left Suez May 29. "Chakrata."—Bombay/Antwerp. Left Aden May 25. "Chinkoa."—London/Calcutta. At Karachi May 27 "Chupra."—At Bombay May 11. "Chyebassa."—At Calcutta May 24. "Culna."—Left London for Bombay May 29. "Malda."—London/Calcutta At Colombo May 28. "Manora."—Calcutta/London. Left Plymouth June 2. "Mashobra."—Calcutta/London. Left Aden June 1. "Nevassa."—London/Calcutta. Left Suez May 30. "Neuralia."—Left London for Calcutta May 30. "Takada."—At Calcutta May 9.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—At Genoa May 29. "Carpathia."—New York/Mediterranean. Left Genoa June 1. "Cypria."—At Venice May 31. "Ivernia."—At Fiume May 28. "Pannonia."—Left Palermo for Gibraltar May 30. "Pavia."—At Venice May 29. "Phrygia."—Passed Constantinople May 30. "Saxonia."—Left Naples for New York May 21. "Thracia."—At Liverpool May 20. "Tyria."—At Smyrna June 2. "Veria."—At Batoum May 27.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—At Naples May 31. "Elysia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Passed Perim May 30. "Italia."—At New York May 29. "Massilia."—At Bombay May 28. "Olympia."—Liverpool/Bombay. Left Port Said May 28. "Perugia."—Left New York for Gibraltar May 23. "Scindia."—At Glasgow May 29.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—Syrian Coast/London. Left Malta May 24. "Creole Prince."—Antwerp/Alexandria. Left Malta May 26. "Egyptian Prince."—At Alexandria May 23. "Highland Prince."—Passed Constantinople May 26. "Italian Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria May 30. "Merchant Prince."—At Alexandria May 24. "Norman Prince."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Left Malta May 20. "Orange Prince."—Left London for Alexandria May 20. "Saxon Prince."—Left Syrian Coast for Novorossosk May 28. "Sailor Prince."—Eastham/Alexandria. Left Malta May 27. "Soldier Prince."—Left London for Alexandria May 31. "Stuart Prince."—At Kherson May 27. "Tudor Prince."—At Alexandria April 26. "Trojan Prince."—Left Syrian Coast for Liverpool May 27.

Ellerman Line.

"Alexandria."—At Liverpool April 23. "Astrian."—At Smyrna May 30. "Austrian."—At Nicolaieff May 26. "Avon."—Swansea/Mediterranean. At Palermo May 26. "Bavarian."—Left Poti for Mostyn May 20. "Belgravian."—Left Swansea for Gibraltar May 28. "Bosnian."—Left Liverpool for Gibraltar May 26. "Britannia."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Malta May 29. "Castillian."—Left Malta for Liverpool May 22. "City of Cambridge."—At Alexandria May 14. "City of Khios."—At Liverpool May 26. "City of Oxford."—At Alexandria May 22. "Fabian."—At Patras May 29. "Lisbon."—At Constantinople May 29. "Malatian."—Left Constantinople for Palermo May 29. "Mardinian."—Left London for Odessa May 26. "Maronian."—Left Patras for Palermo May 15. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Antwerp. "Barnesmore."—Sulina/Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar May 29. "Edenmore."—Liverpool/Piræus. Passed Gibraltar May 27. "Heathmore."—At Salonica May 26. Passed Constantinople May 28. "Inoemore."—Galatz/Antwerp. Left Sulina May 28. "Jessmore."—At Galatz May 11. "Kenmore."—Left Sulina for Galatz May 25. "Larchmore."—At Galatz May 3.

According to the British Vice-Consul's report on the trade of Lingeh, just issued, enamelware shows a steadily increasing demand in this district, not to the detriment of porcelain, china, and glassware, all of which have increased considerably in recent years. Enamel bowls, 6 to 10 ins. in diameter, are mostly used, which sell at an average price of 6s. per dozen.

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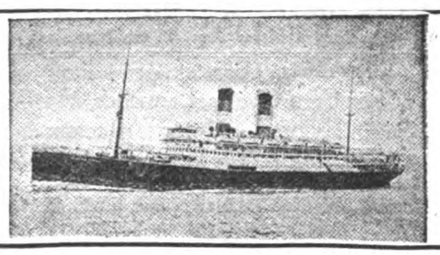

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Company Notes and Reports.

Heliopolis Oasis Company.

The annual general meeting of the Heliopolis Electric Railways and Oasis Company was held in Cairo on May 19. The Chairman announced that, owing to the recent loss of an important lawsuit against the Egyptian Government in the Court of Appeal, the board, after paying the heavy costs thereby incurred, found itself unable to declare a dividend for the past year. It was with some satisfaction, however, that the directors were able to announce that they were carrying forward a sum of 222,375 frs. towards the dividend of next year. The directors and auditors were then re-elected and the annual statement approved. The annual meeting was immediately followed by an extraordinary meeting, at which, however, only provisional resolutions could be taken, to be confirmed at the next general meeting, which will take place in November.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, to be submitted to the meeting on the 9th prox., covers the year ended March 31, 1914, and states that, after providing for interest on the Four and a-Half per Cent. First Charge Debentures and on temporary loans, the accounts show a profit for the year of £93,680. Deducting the amount of the dividend paid and accrued on the Five per Cent. Preferred shares to March 31, there remains a balance of £43,680, to which is added the amount brought forward from the previous account, making a total sum of £49,883. The directors propose to pay a dividend of 8 per cent., being 2s. per share, on the amount paid up on the Ordinary shares, less tax, to add to general reserve £17,500, to write off the balance of expenses of the Preferred share issue, £3,399, and to write off the discount and expenses of the Debenture issues, £2,800, leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next account of £6,184. In November, 1913, an offer made by the Agricultural Bank of Egypt to purchase the whole of the Ordinary shares of the Mortgage Company of Egypt at £2 1s. 2d. per share was communicated to the shareholders. Out of a total issue of 200,000 Ordinary shares 194,721 shares were sold to the Agricultural Bank of Egypt on the above terms, and are now held by them. An arrangement has been entered into between the two companies whereby advances are being made by the Agricultural Bank to the Mortgage Company at a fixed rate of interest and secured by the deposit of scrip for Four and a-Half First Charge Debentures. With the funds so provided the Mortgage Company is increasing its business in a satisfactory manner. Mr. E. W. P. Foster, M. J. Mosseri Bey, and M. J. H. Thors, directors of the company, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., the auditors, retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment.

The following figures, showing the amount invested in first mortgages at March 31 in each of the years stated, illustrate the growth of the company's business since it began operations in December, 1908:—1910, £1,183,611; 1911, £2,064,178; 1912, £2,597,473; 1913, £3,037,991; 1914, £3,276,225. The area of agricultural land mortgaged to the company is 80,550 feddans, well spread over the different provinces of Egypt. The total value of this land and of the town properties mortgaged to the company is upwards of £7,400.000. The results of the company's operations during its existence are shown below:—

Year ending 31st March.	Profit.	Dividend on Preference Shares		Dividend on Ordinary Shares.		Carried to Reserve Fund.	Written off Issue Expenses.	Carried Forward.
		Amount.	%	Amount.	%			
	£	£		£		£	£	£
1910	39,880	28,219	5	10,000	4	—	—	1,661
1911	78,821*	50,000	5	15,000	6	8,000	3,000	2,821
1912	81,837*	50,000	5	17,500	7	12,000	4,500	2,837
1913	93,203*	50,000	5	17,500	7	15,000	4,500	6,203
1914	99,883*	50,000	5	20,000†	8	17,500†	6,199†	6,184†

* Including amount carried over from previous year. † Proposed.

Union Fonciere d'Egypte.

The following resolutions were carried at the ordinary general meeting of the above Company held on May 15:—

1°.—L'assemblée après avoir pris connaissance du rapport du Conseil d'Administration et du rapport du Censeur, approuve le bilan tel qu'il lui est soumis, ainsi que le compte (Profits et Pertes), et décide de reporter à nouveau le solde présenté par ce dernier compte.

2°.—Prend acte de la démission de Messieurs S. Bonan et E. W. P. Foster et donne quitus de leur gestion aux Administrateurs pour l'Exercice 1913-1914.

3°.—Renouvelle le mandat d'Administrateur arrivé à terme de MM. Isaac Aghion, René Ismalum et J. Charles Roux et nomme Administrateur Monsieur Guy Foster, pour une durée de trois ans.

4°.—Fixe le montant des jetons de présence à livres Sterlings trois par séance.

5°.—Renouvelle à Monsieur S. Pappo, sous-directeur de la Land Bank of Egypt, le mandat de censeur pour l'Exercice 1914-15 et fixe ses émoluments à Livres Sterlings Quatre-vingt par an.

Land and Mortgage of Egypt.

Sir Walter F. Mieville, presiding at the meeting of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt on May 29, said the present position of the company was sound and satisfactory. They were declaring a dividend of 9 per cent., and then the shareholders would have had returned to them in the past ten years 99 per cent. of their capital. This was a satisfactory record, considering the troubled state of company finance in Egypt and the monetary crises during seven at least of the ten years. They had not distributed all their earnings, but had made provision for certain eventualities. The board placed sound finance before all other considerations.

Albanian Development Syndicate, Limited.

A new "private" company with the above title was registered on May 21 by S. M. Perowne, 10, Coleman Street, E.C. (and Paris), with a capital of £3,000, in £1 shares. The objects are to carry on the business of explorers, prospectors, miners, builders, farmers, etc. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than five) are to be appointed by the subscribers. Qualification, 50 shares.

COMPANY CHARGES.

New Egyptian Co., Limited.—Particulars have been filed at Somerset House of a charge created outside the United Kingdom, dated February 3, 1914, to secure £64,000 Egyptian. The property charged is certain land in El Kahwokieh and elsewhere in the province of Behera. Holders, Crédit Foncier Egyptien, Cairo.

Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited.—Particulars have been filed of an issue on May 5, 1914, of £222,200 debentures, part of a series of which particulars have already been filed.

Standard Petroleum Exploration Co., Limited.—Particulars of £20,000 debentures created May 4, 1914, filed pursuant to Section 93 (3) of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, the amount of the present issue being £10,000. Property charged—Certain specified properties, the company's undertaking, and other assets, present and future, including uncalled capital. No trustees.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.

The following is the report of the directors submitted to the shareholders at the thirty-sixth annual general meeting held at Alexandria on May 28:—The directors, in submitting to the shareholders their annual report on the year's working, together with the accounts and balance-sheet, have pleasure in again showing a very marked progress in the company's affairs. The comparative table of the last two years' working in the accounts shows a total number of 34,896 consumers, as compared with 33,013 last year, an increase of 1,883. During the course of the year there has been a considerable decrease in revenue due to the general lowering of house rents, but this has been compensated by the large increase in the number of consumers. The total number of fire hydrants at the disposal of the fire brigade amounts to 942, of which 142 are connected to the high pressure mains in the Minet-el-Bassal district. The length of new filtered water mains laid during the year amounts to 9,237 metres and includes a new 12-in. main between the Ramleh road and Ibrahimieh for increasing the pressure to some of the higher parts and also to provide for the large extension of this quarter of the town. Certain existing canalisations have been renewed, amounting to 1,280 metres, the cost of which has been paid out of revenue. Referring to the high pressure installation at Minet-el-Bassal, the new installations during the year consist of 6,000 sprinklers and drenchers, 43 high pressure hydrants, and 3,500 metres of additional high pressure mains. There have been seven cotton fires during the year, requiring the services of the high pressure installation, which in all cases has proved its efficiency. The water supply to shipping has shown a considerable increase during the year, the receipts being £2,048 more than last year. A larger main has been laid for filling the water barges quicker, and powerful pumps have been installed on the barges thus reducing the time required for supplying ships at anchor. At the Ramleh pumping station an entirely new engine house has been built, and one of the steam engines has been replaced by a Diesel engine of 150 h.p., which has now been at work about three months and is giving entire satisfaction. A second Diesel engine of 250 h.p. for driving an existing pump is now in course of erection. The rebates on water consumption, allowed to mosques, churches, hospitals, and charitable institutions, amount to £1,221 for the year; in addition to this, the rebates given to the Municipality and the Egyptian Government amount to £6,741, not including the share of the Municipality in our profits, which this year amounts to £16,500. The Government and the Municipality having changed the commencement of their financial year from January 1 to April 1, a rebate on fifteen months' water consumption has been laid out of this year's revenue, so that in future their financial year and that of the company will coincide. The amount of the extra three months' rebate is £554. A sum of £8,163 has been spent on new works during the course of the year:—Pipes, sluices, fire hydrants, £1,604; machinery, £3,858; port, £832; water meters, £1,803; water installations on hire, £66; total, £8,163.

The total lengths of canalisations existing are as follows:—

Filtered Water Mains.

	Inches			
Diameter.....	24	20	18	15
Diameter.....	12	10	9	8
	Metres			
Length	1935	6395	4850	1840
Length	12053	1555	2690	12020
	Inches			
Diameter.....	7	6	5	4
Diameter.....	3½	3	2½	2
	Metres			
Length	13874	22441	500	41123
Length	4270	908·8	3165	39099

Total 258690 metres.

Unfiltered Water Mains.

	Inches			
Diameter.....	20	16	15	14
Diameter.....	12	10	8	7
Diameter.....	5	4	3	2
	Metres			
Length.....	1590	2000	940	1120
Length.....	2440	1240	3580	1650
Length.....	3950	10690	6320	820

Total, 38,740 metres.

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State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

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Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £000,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

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IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 65,000

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(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

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ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

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RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

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All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

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RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

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Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Ispahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

DEUTSCHE ORIENTBANK A.G.,

BERLIN.

CAPITAL - MK. 32,000,000.

Hamburg, Alexandria, Cairo, Mansourah, Minieh, Tantah, Beni-Souef, Damanhour Constantinople, Brussa, Mersine, Dedeagatsch, Adana, Aleppo, Adrianople.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Incorporated in A.D. 1720.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

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Egyptian Branch: Head Office, Tantah.
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The Corporation accepts all classes of FIRE INSURANCE, such as MERCANTILE RISKS, HOUSE PROPERTY, FURNITURE, etc., etc., on the best possible terms and effects LIFE INSURANCE in Egypt at the same rates and under the same conditions as in England.

Proposals and requests for information should be sent to the Central Office of the Corporation, P.O. BOX 50, TANTAH. EVERARD STOKES,
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Telegraphic Address, "FOXHOUND," Tantah.

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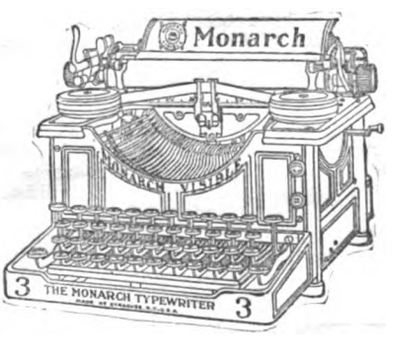

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HIGH PRESSURE WATER MAINS.

	Inches				
Diameter.....	12	8	6	4	3
	Metres				
Length.....	1448	8071	372	1058	1837

Total, 12,786 metres.

The total receipts, which amount to £144,270, show an increase of £6,227 as compared with last year, and the working expenses show a decrease of £63, making a net increase of £6,290. The directors have decided to write off a sum of £4,280 from their securities owing to a general depression in all first-class securities, also a sum £7,109 off buildings, machinery, meters, canalisations, etc., making a total amount written off of £92,882. Besides this £200 have been written off materials in stock and £50 off furniture. The balance of the profit and loss account, after making the above depreciation and the usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid on December 15, 1913, is £69,000, from which should first be deducted 6 per cent. to complete with the interim dividend, the 10 per cent. on the capital, £36,000, leaving a balance of £33,000, of which one-half is due to the Municipality according to our Convention (£16,500), and the other half to the shareholders, £16,500, which represents two shillings and ninepence per share, and which, added to the above 6 per cent., makes a total of eight shillings and ninepence for the dividend of June 15, 1914. The directors therefore recommend the shareholders to fix the dividend payable on June 15, 1914, at eight shillings and ninepence per share, which makes with the interim dividend of four shillings paid on December 15, 1913, a total dividend of twelve shillings and ninepence for the year. According to Article 84 of the Articles of Association Messrs. M. C. Salvago and H. E. Barker are the two directors who retire by rotation, and, being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election.

NEW EGYPTIAN.

Increased Profits.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the members of the New Egyptian Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Arthur A. Baumann (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Day) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I must apologise to you for the late date at which the meeting is held. The accounts from Egypt arrived quite a month later, for some reason or other, and we have had to wait an unexpectedly long time for the conclusion of a mortgage on our Docmera and Nashart properties, to which I shall refer later on. The mortgage is not yet completed, but we trust that it will be in a few days. There are merely technical formalities to be gone through. The fact is, of course, that lawyers in London do not, as you know, hurry themselves, and in Cairo apparently they hurry themselves even less. I understand, however, that nothing has now to be done except the examination of some cadastral maps. Now, I will turn to the accounts, and first of all to the profit and loss account, which is what interests everybody more than anything else. Our total gross profit for 1913 amounted to £39,256 odd, as compared with £36,581 odd for the previous year, showing an increase in gross revenue of £2,675. That increase is made up as follows:—The increase in profit on sales, together with sundry profits, amounts to £6,019, from which we have to subtract a decrease in the net revenue from the company's rentals of £1,802 odd, and an increase in interest on loans of £1,541 odd. The decrease of £1,802 in the net revenue from the company's lands is due chiefly to the record low Nile, and the increase in the item of interest is principally on account of the company taking the responsibility of the whole loan of £36,661 secured on Samatay, whereas formerly the R.S. Syndicate were charged with 50 per cent. of the interest on that loan.

The Dividend.

Coming back to our net profit, we have to subtract from the £39,000 odd £18,353, which are our total expenses for debenture interest, salaries, travelling, law, advertising, depreciation, directors' fees, and reserves, which leaves us finally with a net realised profit for the year of £17,693 odd. To that you must add the carry-forward of £1,485, which gives us an amount available for dividend of £19,179. Out of that amount we recommend you to accept a dividend of 5 per cent., or 9d. per share, less income-tax, which will absorb about £15,762 odd, to which must be added the managing directors' and directors' percentage, £2,087 odd, making a total of £17,850, and leaving to carry forward to next year £1,328 odd, as compared with £1,485 in the previous year. With regard to the balance-sheet, I do not know that I need say very much, as the account is so very ample and so very detailed; but, turning to the debtor side, I may remind you that the debentures show a reduction of £3,100, being the amount of the debentures purchased and cancelled during 1913. The debenture debt now amounts to £110,450, as against the original issue of £125,000. The Samatay loan stands at £36,661, which is an increase of over £18,000, and is accounted for by the company taking over, as I mentioned just now, the 50 per cent. share of the R.S. Syndicate. As to Kahwakia, that is perhaps the most important item in the balance-sheet, and you will see on the debtor side a sum of £110,966, which is the purchase price of this new property. The property has been financed, or paid for, in the following manner. There was an existing mortgage of £65,641 on the property, which we renewed at 6 per cent. for a period of fifty years, and that left a balance of the purchase price of £45,000 to be met, which we paid out of the money which we had standing to our credit and by the assistance of an overdraft from an Egyptian bank of, I think, some £16,000. Now, that money, of course, was taken out of our revenues and rental, and it is to repay that money taken from our revenue that we are now concluding a further mortgage of £66,666 at 6 per cent. with the Mortgage Company of Egypt. That sum will enable us to repay to revenue the amount that we have taken out and it will also give us something between £20,000 and £30,000 for capital expenditure purposes. The capital expenditure both on this new property and on our other estates is likely to be heavy this year, because we hope to be able to finish once for all the greater amount of our capital expenditure.

The Kahwakia Property.

That Kahwakia was an extremely good purchase is, I think, evidenced by the fact that the purchase price is something like £50 per feddan, and will cost, when we have spent on it a certain amount for improving it, £60 per feddan. It is an estate of 2,300 feddans, and we have already sold over sixty feddans of that estate since the beginning of the year at an average price of £155 per feddan, and I think you will all agree with me that that looks like extremely good business. The next item I should like to call your attention to in the balance-sheet is that we have placed £3,209 to what we call the Nashart reserve. That is really a sum of money by which we have written down the estate of Nashart, and we have done that because Mr. Bonan, our expert told us that, in his opinion, it was the prudent thing to do to write off this sum, as the estate had deteriorated. But it is our expectation that we shall be able at the end of this year, when we have spent a certain amount of money in improving the property, to write back that £3,209. I must remind you that our net profits for this year would have been £20,000 if it had not been that, as a measure of precaution, we wrote off this £3,000, which we hope to replace, from Nashart. Turning to the credit side of the balance-sheet, I do not know that there is anything that calls for remark. "Sundry debtors for the sale of land" shows the satisfactory increase of over £51,000 as compared with last year. The amount now stands at £187,104. Turning to the report, I would ask you to just glance for a minute at the paragraph relating to the sales of land, which is, after all, the most important part of our business as a land company. From June 30, 1909, to December 31, 1913, 2,589 feddans have been sold for £241,048 odd, or an average of £93 1s. 11d. per feddan. That does not include some 682 feddans of sandy land on three of the Upper Egypt sites which have been granted to the purchasers of those estates.

Sales and Prices.

But let us take the last two years, 1912 and 1913, and see how our sales compare. In 1912 we sold 497 feddans at an average price of £99 19s. 5d., and in 1913, not including the sandy lands in Upper Egypt, we sold 795 feddans at an average price of £89 15s. 4d. Now, that looks as if the average selling price of our land had fallen off, but it is not so. The reason for the difference in the figure is that last year we sold a large block of land in Upper Egypt, and when you sell land en bloc, of course, you get a lower price. Now, in regard to Rodah, we sold 400 feddans odd out of the 795 feddans at an average price of £80 per feddan, but the rest of our lands, excluding the sales of Rodah, realised an average selling price of £102 per feddan, so you will see there is no falling off either in the market or in the prices that we obtained per feddan for our properties. I do not know that there is any other point I need allude to, as you have all had this report in your hands for a considerable time. I might mention that since the beginning of this year we have sold over 600 feddans at an average price of over £110 per feddan. With regard to the concluding paragraph in the report—namely, that which relates to our staff—I may mention that our secretary, Mr. Day, went out to Egypt this year and visited our properties. He presented a very able and detailed report to the Board, and there can be no doubt that we have in Egypt a marvellously well equipped and energetic organisation, and a staff that works with enthusiasm under the guidance and direction of Mr. Suares and his fellow director, Mr. Barker.

Additional Working Capital.

I think that we are one of the most progressive and successful land companies in Egypt, but you must remember this: that it is our business to buy and sell land. We have sold, as I have told you just now, no less than 2,500 feddans. If we are going on selling our property, we shall gradually subside into the stagnant condition of a mortgage company, which is not what we want to do; we want to remain a live and active company, buying and selling land. For that purpose we shall have to consider how we may increase the resources of our working capital. Gentlemen, I beg to move: "That the directors' report, together with the annexed statement of accounts, duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted, and that a dividend of 5 per cent. (9d. per share), less income-tax, be paid, such dividend to be payable on June 27, 1914." I will ask Sir Ernest Spencer to second the motion.

Sir Ernest Spencer (Deputy Chairman) seconded the motion, which, in the absence of questions or comment, was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That Mr. Edward Nathan be re-elected a director of the company."

Mr. T. L. Gilmour seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Gilmour, seconded by Mr. Nathan, Mr. T. F. Dalglish was re-elected a director pursuant to Article 71 of the company's articles of association.

Mr. J. Foat proposed the re-appointment of Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. as auditors of the company, which was seconded by Mr. Rikoff and unanimously approved.

Mr. Rikoff proposed and Mr. Gibb seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors for the splendid results achieved, which was passed, and the Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

Increase of Capital Sanctioned.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Limited, was held on the 29th ult. at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, passing resolutions for increasing the capital of the company and making certain alterations in the articles of association. Mr. C. W. Wallace presided.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said that before proceeding to deal with the strict business for which the shareholders had been called together he desired to express the great sorrow which they all felt that their late chairman, Lord Strathcona, had not lived to preside over that meeting, called to confirm and consummate the objects for which he so ardently laboured during the closing years of a life spent strenuously in the service of the Empire—objects

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RESERVES - - - - „ 13,500,000

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GOVERNOR - - - - - ———
SUB-GOVERNOR - - - - J. EUTAXIAS.

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Branches:
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Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. — J. S HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.

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F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

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CAPITAL - £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.
PAID-UP CAPITAL - £3,500,000. RESERVE - £4,000,000.
DEPOSITS EXCEED - £84,000,000.

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Deputy Chairman - WALTER LEAF, ESQ.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

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but for which, indeed, he would never have joined this company. No hope of personal gain would secure his co-operation, but only their exposition of the opportunity of doing a great service to the nation, and only the resolve to accomplish this could have drawn him so far afield from the scene of his previous life's work, from Canada to Persia Lord Strathcona quickly formed the view that it was essential for the welfare, or, indeed, the safety, of the Empire for its Navy to secure a hold over, or at least a claim in, oilfields of such extent and productivity as would ensure to its rulers a continuous supply of oil fuel—the best fuel known to science at the present day for naval purposes. He became the chairman of the company in the strong hope that these fields might be found in Persia, and as a director watching the daily progress of the company's experts, geologists and drillers, he felt hope grow into confidence, and confidence into certainty, that the Persian fields filled those conditions, and he spared no effort to impress both his own and the directors' views upon the authorities, and so to bring about the conditions they had now reached. Next to Lord Strathcona, the credit for the success of their efforts was due to their hard-working managing director, Mr. Greenway, and he hoped he would long be with them in health and strength to mould, or largely to assist in moulding, the commercial destinies of this company.

Although he did not think that any advocacy on his part was necessary, and although he felt quite confident that the resolutions would be passed without a dissentient voice, yet the shareholders were, no doubt, expecting to hear something as to the nature of the arrangements entered into with his Majesty's Government. The agreement provided for the subscription by the Government at par for £2,000,000 in 2,000,000 ordinary shares and £1,000 in 1,000 preference shares, one-fourth of which amounts would be payable on application, and the balance in calls at not less than one month's notice, as and when required by the company. The object of the Government in taking this small amount of preference shares was that their holding might be slightly more than one-half of the total issued capital in order that they might secure a voting majority. The remaining £99,000 of the authorised preference share capital had been allotted to the Burmah company, and, therefore, when their arrangements with the Government had been completed their issued share capital would stand at a total of £4,000,000. The Government had also undertaken to take up at par, as and when required by the company, debenture stock to the amount of £199,000, such stock to rank pari passu with the £600,000 of first debenture stock already issued. Furthermore, the Government had stipulated that the company should, if called upon to do so, redeem on December 31, 1920, the whole of the debenture stock already issued, and re-issue it to them at the redemption price of £105 per cent. This additional capital of £2,200,000, which was to be provided by the Government, was the amount which it was estimated would be required to cover the cost of the further field work, extensions to pipe line and refineries, additional tank installations, jetties and transport facilities necessary to enable the company to carry out the contracts which had been entered into by the company for the supply of oil fuel to the Admiralty, and also to expand the company's general trade. As regarded this contract, he regretted that he was not permitted—as the shareholders were doubtless aware from what passed in the House of Commons—to give any information as to the quantity of oil fuel which had been contracted for, nor as to the price to be paid for it; but it would, he thought, suffice to say that the quantity was of a sufficient magnitude and the term of years over which the contract extended sufficiently long to justify this large additional outlay of capital, and that the price to be paid for the oil fuel was one that would give a remunerative return. He might, however, mention that the contract provided for an automatic reduction in price down to an agreed minimum to the equivalent of 25 per cent. of any profits earned by the company in excess of the amount required to pay the preference dividend and a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum upon the ordinary shares.

As would be seen from the new clauses which it was proposed to incorporate in the company's articles of association, the Government had taken power to be represented on the board by two directors, who should have the right, subject to appeal to his Majesty's Government, of negativing any resolution which might be proposed at a board or committee meeting, but he was pleased to tell them that they had a letter from his Majesty's Government stating that they did not propose to make use of this right of veto except in regard to matters of high general policy, such as questions which might affect the foreign naval or military policy of the Government, sale of the company's undertaking or change of the company's status, or the control of new exploitation or sales of crude or fuel oil or other exceptional sales which might endanger the due fulfilment of current Admiralty contracts, and that their interference, if any, in the ordinary administration of the company as a commercial concern would be strictly limited to the minimum necessary to secure these paramount objects of the Government. The chairman then proceeded to give some account of the further developments on their concession, which had led them to the conclusion that it was desirable immediately to embark upon a much larger programme of work than was anticipated when the company was first formed. On the Maidan-i-Naphtun and the neighbouring Maidan-i-Naphtek fields they had so far proved about three and a-half square miles of oil territory, in which it should be practicable to drill some 400 wells at a distance of 500 ft. apart. They were putting down a test well on another field known locally as the White Oil Springs, this field having been favourably reported on by their geologists. Several other fields in closer proximity to the coast had also been examined by their geologists, and had been very favourably reported on by them, and at one or more of those fields they would shortly start drilling further test wells. Everything indicated that their oil resources were very large, and, therefore, there was every reason for embarking as quickly as possible upon a larger scale of operations. Their present refinery was now completed and was in full operation. So far as regarded the arrangements made with the Government the shareholders would, he thought, agree with him that they were extremely satisfactory from the points of view of both parties. From the company's point of view, they not only ensured the additional capital necessary for developments on very favourable terms, but also a large purchaser for one of their main products, without any of the large expenses attendant on creating a marketing organisation. Moreover, the provision of this large amount of additional capital in ordinary shares and the admission of the Government as predominant partner in their concern would, of course, greatly increase the value and security of their preference shares, and extend the possibilities of the company's future operations. From the Government's point of view, the arrangements ensured a certain supply of a large portion of the Navy's requirements of oil fuel of a quality eminently suitable for naval purposes from an absolutely independent British company—conditions which it would be quite impossible for the Government to secure at the moment in any other direction, either within the British Empire or from any British-controlled company. *The Times*, in an article which appeared on Wednesday, drew attention to the possible political difficulties which might arise from the Government's participation in their undertaking. Although he was not in a position to know what the Government's views on this point might be, he thought it desirable to say something as to their own views on this matter.

The political aspect of the question might, he thought, be separated under three heads—(1) danger of damage to their properties by the local tribes; (2) possible consequent need for protection by the Indian Army; and (3) possible complications with other Powers. As regarded the first, their relations with the chiefs and the tribes in the districts in which their work was being carried on had always been of the most friendly nature, and in their opinion there was little, if any, reason for uneasiness on this score. It had also to be recollected that the Persian Government and the chiefs of the local tribes were interested pecuniarily in the success of the company, and it might be confidently anticipated that the railway and industrial developments which were now taking place in this part of the country would, as they progressed, more and more tend to promote the prosperity and tranquillity of the country. As regarded the second possibility, which could, of course, only arise in the event of serious menace to their properties, all he need say was that they should have every right to expect protection from the British Government, no matter whether they were, or were not, financially interested in the company's undertaking. As *The Times* quite correctly pointed out, "British property, even in the neutral sphere, was entitled to due protection," and, should the need arise, it was inconceivable that the Government would in any circumstances deny this protection to an undertaking of such financial and national importance as the one which they were conducting. Therefore the political responsibilities of the Government would not, he ventured to state, in this respect be in the least increased by the step which they were now taking. The third point was one that it was scarcely in his province to deal with, but he would take the opportunity of pointing out that this concession was granted thirteen years ago—long before the Anglo-Russian Convention was ever conceived, and consequently that it was in no way governed by the spheres laid down by that Convention. But even under that Convention it was agreed that neither party should oppose the grant of concessions to subjects of the other in the neutral sphere, and that all concessions existing at the date of the Convention were to be maintained. This, it appeared to him, effectually disposed of all possibility of any difficulties of the nature contemplated by the writer of *The Times* article in regard to the sphere in which their operations were being conducted.

Another Press comment which had appeared was one by a naval correspondent suggesting that the Government should look for oil within the Empire rather than go to Persia. This was quite sound so far as it went, but to-day there was no oilfield within the British Empire capable of yielding more than a very small proportion of the supplies required by the British Navy, nor was there any certainty that one would ever be found, and for the Government to risk the loss of the Persian supplies on the offchance of sufficient oil being produced at some future time within the Empire by companies under British control would be a very grave mistake, particularly in view of the fact that the Navy's needs were immediate and could not await the uncertainties of the future. And, failing the existence of sufficient supplies within the Empire, what better source could be found than one that was so much under the sphere of British influence as Southern Persia? Apart from one or two criticisms based on incorrect premises, he had been pleased to see that the comments in the Press expressed the warmest possible approval of the Government's action in this matter, and he hoped the shareholders would indicate their approval of what the directors had done on behalf of the company by unanimously passing the resolutions. The chairman concluded by moving resolutions to the effect that the capital of the company be increased to £4,000,000 by the creation of 2,000,000 additional ordinary shares of £1 each, and that the company's articles of association be altered in the manner as set out in the notice convening the meeting.

The resolutions, which were seconded by Mr. W. K. D'Arcy, were carried unanimously without discussion, and the proceedings terminated.

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H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
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Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
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The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

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Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
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The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

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ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

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RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

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HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Koum, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, July 1.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is June 8.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., June 9	Wed., June 10	Thurs., June 11
Wed., June 24	Thurs., June 25	Fri., June 26

LONDON, June 4.

A flood of liquidation destroyed the nerves of the Stock Exchange when it met after the Whitsuntide holidays. Most of it appeared to come from Paris and St. Petersburg, where there has been serious trouble. A reaction is certain, for, as far as Great Britain is concerned, the position is perfectly sound, and such losses as have been caused by depreciation can be met without difficulty. It is quite probable that when the Ulster and Mexican questions are settled we shall get a revival in the markets. Both questions appear on the eve of arrangement.

Russian Loan.

A five million Russian railway loan is to be offered. The interest is 4½, and the issue price 93. The security is quite sound. The City of Moscow will also be asking for three millions. The Montreal Central Terminal bonds appear somewhat speculative, and the Bachelet Railway scheme just a gamble. The Gold Coast Government loan is, of course, a gilt-edged trustee.

Egyptian Unified Bought.

In the Foreign market there is no particular selling. It is rumoured that arrangements have been made for a new Brazilian loan, but the story must be received with great reserve. Bulgarians are quoted 84 ex coupon. There has been a certain amount of buying of Egyptian Unified, which are a shade over 99. Greek Fours are quoted 53. Hungarian Rentes are 82. Turkish Unified remain at 82, but it must be admitted that the dealers are not inclined to put any stock on their books.

Rails Dull.

Home Railways, in spite of excellent Whitsuntide traffics, remain dull. Undergrounds have been sold on the fear of a strike, and although Great Western show quite a respectable increase on the half year to date, they do not rise over 114. In spite of the fact that Missouri Pacific notes have now been extended for a year, Yankee Rails refused to respond. Coppers are all weak, the metal having fallen. Canadas continue to be sold, and in spite of the good news from Mexico, Mexican Rails are very dull.

Rubber and Oil.

There is no business in the Rubber market. Plantation remains at 2s. 4d. All the talk is of synthetic rubber, but very few people have seen anything larger than a small sample, and it is clear that the big lots that are sold on the market are either fine hard cured Para turned into crepe or reformed rubber sold as synthetic. There has been a bad break in the Oil market. North Caucasians have been heavily sold, and are now 5s. down from the make-up price. Roumanian Consolidated hold their own, but the Maikop group has been very weak. It is said that good news has come in from Egypt, and although nothing has been published, prices in this section have kept steady. It is now officially stated that one Red Sea share will receive one Anglo-Egyptian share plus 2s. 6d. in cash, and one Egyptian Oil Trust A will receive three Anglo-Egyptian shares plus 19s. in cash. 100 Red Seas, therefore, get 110 Anglo-Egyptian and 11s. in cash, and 100 Trusts A 376 Anglo-Egyptian and 9s. in cash. Fractions are sold at 1¼.

Mines Neglected.

There is no business in the Mining market, which has become completely unfashionable. A few Modders have been purchased. Modder Deep being now 2¾. Both Tin and Copper have been very flat and the shares have tumbled. Russians were heavily sold, but are now harder.

Egyptians Steady.

The Egyptian market has kept fairly steady, with very little business. There has been no attempt to sell. The reports that have come out have all been satisfactory. The New Egyptian meeting went off well, and the shares look a bargain at 10s. 6d. National Banks are now 14 9-16. Agricultural Banks are a shade harder at 4 13-16, and the deferred are nominally £260. Land Banks are quoted 6¾ ex the dividend of 4s., whilst the deferred are quoted 40 ex dividend of £2. Delta Light Railway preferreds are steady at 8¼—8⅝. Delta Lands are 8s. 9d. Behera are a shade weaker at 9—9¼. Union Foncière are nominally quoted 1½, but buyers have to pay a shade over this price. Alexandria Water figures are good, and the shares are now 12¾. There has been very little business doing in Aboukir. The middle price is 22s. United Lands are 1s. 9d.—2s. Sidi Salem are a nominal market, the price not having changed during the week. Investment Trusts have been picked up at 5s. 3d., and there have been some buying orders for Salts at 15s. Egyptian Markets remain at 24s. 9d. Khedivial Mail preferreds have hardly been mentioned, and are quoted 3¾, whilst the ordinary remain at 10s. 3d. Daira Sanieh look a shade harder at 3s. 3d. But the business throughout the whole week in every section of the Egyptian market has been of a very limited character. The tendency remains good.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market everything has been dull. Brazil Tractions were sold on the report, which does not come up to the official prophecy. Shipping shares are being quietly unloaded. Marconis have been offered, and Hudson Bays have been down to 9.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to March 31, 1914 (new style January 14 to April 13, 1914):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Mar.	1914	3,537,287.99	2,789,556.32
Do. do do	1913	1,969,676.25	2,409,854.37
Estimated Receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)		7,225.000.00	2,675,000.00
Actual receipts, 3 months	1914	10.815,031.31	7,593,844.02
Do. do. do.	1913	7,578,539.60	6,571,304.06
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months	1914	+3,590,031.31	+4,918,844.02
	1913	+ 353,539.60	+3,896,304.06

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

TURKISH DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received from the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt at Constantinople a statement, of which the following is a summary, of the complete receipts in respect of the month of January, 1914, as compared with those of January, 1913:—

COMPLETE RECEIPTS.

	January, 1914.	January, 1913.
*Five revenues	£T164,723.12	£T120,648.87
Tobacco Tithes	31,797.03	37,597.05
3% Customs surtax	95,147.45	68,482.11
Sundries	4,180.59	6,811.45
	£T295,848.25	£T233,639.48

* Including provisional surtaxes imposed on salt and spirits for three years from August 1, 1912.

Servian Government Monopolies.

The figures for the Servian Government monopolies for this year show the following increases:—

	1913.	1914.
Receipts for April	3,919,587 dns.	6,793,670 dns.
Total to April 30	13,650,885 dns.	27,649,404 dns.
Paid o National Debenture Account	9,023,765 dns.	15,373,050 dns.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, May 29.

The market is extremely inactive, but our leading securities show a little firmness. As for the Cairo share market, it is in a state of absolute stagnation.

There has been a certain demand for Cassa di Sconto shares, which has led to a rise of 2½ frs. The fall in Cotton Ginners is due to the fact that the company has ginned less cotton than last year.

Port Said v. Alexandria.

It is announced that the Menzaleh Canal Co. is making efforts to establish a centre for the export of cotton at Port Said. As a matter of fact, freight rates for England or the Continent are much lower from Port Said than from Alexandria, and this fact ought certainly to divert a good deal of cotton from the former port, without taking into account the fact that railway rates to Port Said are lower from certain districts. But the absence of pressing facilities, of stores, and of a cotton market constitute obstacles to the export of cotton from Port Said. The latter port has a great future as a centre for the coal importing trade, etc., but it is hardly likely that it will ever prove a serious rival to Alexandria as a port of exportation for cotton or for onions.

Industrial Building Co.

At the last general meeting the board was authorised to reduce the capital from £150,000 to £50,000, as a consequence of the losses in connection with the Société des Biens-Fonds du Caire and other bad debts. As a result of this reduction, the company finds itself practically in liquidation, since the statutes provide for the dissolution of the concern in the event of half its capital being lost. Now a group is being formed to take over the affairs of the company and its liabilities and engagements on behalf of third parties.

Recent Failures.

The following are particulars of some recent failures:—

H. Bercovitz—liabilities, £E3,623; assets, £E1,466

Nabih S. Anhouri—liabilities, £E9,855; assets, £E10,269.

Mohammed Hassan el Sabban—liabilities £E9,078; assets, £E14,165.

Cesana, Tanil and Co.—liabilities, £E4,992; deficits, £E2,326.

Jean Sotiris—liabilities, £E14,137; deficit, £E44,409.

Nessim Moussa Cabbani—liabilities, £E5,519; assets, £E3,239.

Ahmed and Mohammed Abou Heif—liabilities, £E5,849; assets, £E1,258.

D. and B. Serapian—liabilities, £E7,691; assets. £E7,142.

FINANCIAL ITEMS.

As submitted to the Chamber, the Turkish Budget Estimates show that the expenditure amounts to £T34,007,619, and the revenue to £T31,921,163, showing a deficit of £T2,086,456. The Army Estimates amount to £T6,000,000, and the Navy Estimates to £T1,338,932.

On account of the international loan granted to Montenegro by the Great Powers the Government has arranged with Paris and Milan banking houses for a fresh advance to the amount of £120,000.

The directors of the Imperial Ottoman Bank announce that they have opened a branch at Zahlé, Lebanon.

It is stated that the Deutsche Orientbank will absorb the branches of the Deutsche Palestina Bank in Egypt and Palestine from July 1. These branches will thenceforward take the name of the Deutsche Orientbank. Their branches are situated at Jaffa, Jerusalem, Haiffa, Beyrout, Damascus, Alexandretta, and Tripoli.

Mr. Fitzpatrick William Bulkley Praed, of Chester Square, chairman of the Lake Copais Co., Limited, and a director of other companies, who died on April 26, left £37,959.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week, 2,425 tons.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN. — Production (week ended May 30), 628 tons. Bordeni Well No. 24.—Corked 9 p.m., Friday; made another flow yesterday; now 40 ft. very hard cork; continuing cleaning.

ASTRA ROMANA, BUCHAREST.—After large amortisations, the dividend for 1913 has been fixed at 50 frs. per share.

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION TRUST CERTIFICATES.—The Bank of England announce the numbers of 368 4 per cent Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates which have been drawn for redemption on July 1, when interest thereon will cease.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Receipts for week ended May 28 amounted to £841, an increase of £1 on the same period of last year. The aggregate to date amounted to £24,642, a decrease of £1,418.

GREEK LOAN OF 1890.—The coupons falling due on June 15 of the Greek Five per Cent. Loan of 1890 (Piræus-Larissa Railway) should be presented at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son for payment of 56 per cent. in gold of their face value, being 32 per cent. ordinary interest and 12 per cent. per annum augmentation payable on the coupon of the first half of the year.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.—The annual meeting will be held on June 24, at Winchester House, E.C., at 1 p.m.

OTTOMAN 4 PER CENT. LOAN OF 1909.—The dividend due 14th inst. will be paid by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 27, Throgmorton Street, and by Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell, and Co., 22, Old Broad Street.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN. —The receipts for week ended May 30 amounted to £8,008, an increase of £2,629 over the corresponding period of last year.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS.—Receipts for the month of March were:—762,469 drachmas, an increase or 83,605 drachmas over the corresponding period of last year. Aggregate from January 1, 2,082,450 drachmas (increase 292,874 drachmas).

UNITED EGYPTIAN LANDS.—The seventh ordinary meeting will be held at the company's offices, 12, Rue Mahmoud Pasha El Falaki, Alexandria, on June 11, at 4 p.m. The transfer books will be closed from June 3 to 11, inclusive.

UNITED HOTELS OF EGYPT.—An extraordinary meeting is called for the 6th inst., to receive the liquidator's report, and to consider the question of further remuneration to be paid to him.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT FOUR per CENT. LOAN of 1909.

Notice is hereby given that the half-yearly COUPONS due 14th June, 1914, may be PRESENTED daily between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the offices of the Coupon Department of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C., and at the offices of Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell and Co., 22, Old Broad Street, E.C. They must be entered on forms which can be obtained on application, and be left four clear days for examination before payment.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Article 29 of the Statutes, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held on Wednesday, the 24th June, 1914, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, at 1 o'clock p.m., to receive a Report from the Committee, with the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1913, to propose a Dividend, and to replace the retiring Members of the General Committee.

By the 27th Article of the Statutes, the General Meeting is composed of Shareholders possessing at least thirty Shares, who, to be entitled to form part of the Meeting, must deposit their Shares at the Chief Office of the Company, Constantinople, or at either of the several Branches or agencies abroad (in London at 26, Throgmorton Street), 10 days at least before the day fixed for the Meeting.

CHARLES E. L. CORTHORN,
London, 30th May 1914. Secretary.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. May 26.	Latest prices. June 3.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	102	103
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	84	83
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	97	97
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99	99
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	85
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80
Greek 5 %, 1881	58	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	57	58
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	52	53
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	57	58
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	79	81
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	88	89½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	92½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	96	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	86	86
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	82	82
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	71	71
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	72
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅜	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅞
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	79½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	15
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	14½	14½
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8⅛	8⅛
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs. Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord	19½	19
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	90
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassabe and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	88
Do. do. 3 % Bonds.	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	22/-	21/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	—	⅜
Béhéra Co.	9	9
Do. Pref.	—	4½
Building Lands of Egypt	—	⅛
Daira Saniah	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	8/9	8/7½
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	—	99½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜
" Founders	—	⅛
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd	—	96
New Egyptian Co.	10/3	10/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord	1⅜	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/8	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	—	98
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1½
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/6	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅛
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	—	£197½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2⅛
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/-	24/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	—
Eastern Petroleum	5/6	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	4
European Oilfields	⅝	6/3
Oilfields Finance Corporation	⅜	⅜
Red Sea Oilfields	—	1⅛
Roumanian Consolidated	25/6	25/9
Shell Transport	5⅝	5⅝
Suez Oil	7/-	—

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. May 28.	Latest prices. June 4.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	627	622
Canal de Suez Shares	5010	4946
Do. do. Jouissance	5085	4945
Do. do. Founders	2240	2222
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	725	722
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	151	145
Damas.-Hom. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	419
Do. do. rev. var.	265	257
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	446	—
Do. do. do. Act.	202	203
Land Bank of Egypt	161	162
Mines Balia-Karaidin	484	477
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	149	—
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	513½	506
Do. do. Ord.	42	40
Do. do. Pref.	45½	44
Tabacs Ottomans	457	464
Turkish Unified Con.	82½	82.35
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	376	371

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	May 21.	May 28.
Agricole et Industrielle 4½ Debs	369	385
Do. do. Priv.	370	300
Do. do. Cap.	175	146
Do. do. Div.	116	118
Anglo-Belgian Co.	10	10
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	115	117.50
Do. do. Div.	130	129.75
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	459	453.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	65.375	68
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	410	415
Do. Priv.	516.25	510
Do. Div.	125.25	128
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	356	344
Do. do. Cap.	45	40
Do. do. Fond.	84.50	72.50
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	61.25	61.25
Do. do. Div.	40	37.50
Esbekiah (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1356
Do. do. Ord.	495	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	285
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	915	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. 4%, '95	395	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	105	98
Do. do. Div.	95	95
Tramways du Caire Priv.	514.75	506.50
Do. do. Jouiss.	520.25	518.75
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	125	138
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	8.50	8.50

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.	May 22.	May 29.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.452	Fcs.452
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.461	Fcs.461
Do. do. Shares	£15 2 0	£15 7 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.15	£T.6.40
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.414.50	Fcs.414.50
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.165	Fcs.165
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.98	Fcs.97
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.95	Fcs.93
Laurium Greo.	Fcs.33.50	Fcs.34
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %	£15 12 6	£15 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.30	£T.29.50

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.	May 20.	May 27.
Agricole & Industrie. Ord.	Fcs	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs.	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst.	97½
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst.	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs.	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst.	⅛
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New.	Fcs.	44
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs.	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs.	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs.	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs.	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs.	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs.	340
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs.	268½
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs.	270½
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs.	108
Do. Do. Jouissance.	Fcs.	185
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.		12/3
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler.	Lst.	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs.	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs.	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst.	2½
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst.	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs.	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E.	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst.	⅜
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E.	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst	⅛
Nungovich Hotels	Lst.	2⅛
Port Said Salt Association	Sh.	18/3
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E.	8⅛
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst	4⅞
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs	100
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs.	80
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E.	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E.	—

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Janina
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Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul(Constantinople)
Soufli
Xanthia

ASIA.
Adalia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Brousa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denisli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerasounde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nasli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebisonde
Tarsus
Van

SYRIA.
Aleppo
Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah
Zahlé

EGYPT.
Alexandria
Beni Mazar
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MONGOLIA ..	10,000	—	June 5	Australia, India, China.
§ARCADIA	7,000	June 5	June 12	Bombay, Karachi.
*SICILIA	7,000	June 6	—	Colombo, Calcutta.
§†EGYPT	8,000	June 12	June 19	Australia, India, China.
*MALTA	6,000	June 13	‡	Straits, China, Japan.
§PERSIA	8,000	June 19	June 26	Bombay, Karachi.
§†MALWA	11,500	June 26	July 3	Australia, India, China.
*SARDINIA	7,000	June 27	‡	Straits, China, Japan.
§CALEDONIA..	8,000	July 3	July 10	Bombay, Karachi.
*KHIVA	9,000	July 4	—	Colombo and Calcutta.
§†MOREA	11,500	July 10	July 17	Australia, India, China.
*NUBIA	6,000	July 11	‡	Straits, China, Japan.
§INDIA	8,000	July 17	July 24	Bombay, Karachi.

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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

If the latest reports from Albania may be trusted, the state of affairs in that country has in some respects taken a turn for the better. Durazzo remains in a state of siege, but the insurgents have shown no inclination to advance upon the town. Any movement they may have made has been away from it. Attempts have been made by some of their number to leave the insurgent camp and to make overtures to the force in Durazzo, but as no one has been allowed to enter or leave the town, their efforts have not borne fruit. Meanwhile, discussion is reported to be rife among the insurgents, who have been unable to agree among themselves in regard to the claims to be put before the International Commission of Control. Nearly a fortnight has elapsed since the insurgents approached Durazzo, and it would be strange if an unorganised force of this description proved able to keep the field indefinitely. The longer they remain quiescent, the better the opportunity for organising some force against them. Steps to this end are now being taken by Prince William; and unless the insurgents disperse, an attempt will presumably be made to converge upon them from three directions by the forces remaining loyal to the Mpret.

But while the insurgent problem may be in process of being overcome Prince William has had other difficulties to contend with. From giving counsel, not always of the wisest, his advisers and coadjutors have proceeded to action on their own account. Two Italian subjects, one a colonel officially attached to the Italian Legation, were suddenly arrested one evening by a Dutch officer of the Gendarmerie, and the house where they lived and their effects were searched. The intervention of the Italian Legation secured their release, and a Commission was appointed to investigate the documents seized by the Gendarmerie, with a view to establishing their innocence or guilt. Only one sentence in a single document appears to have been capable of being construed into evidence of some attempt at intrigue in Italian interests, and on the strength of this discovery Colonel Thomson, the Dutch officer commanding the Gendarmerie, has refused to apologise for the arrest. The Italian Government has accordingly requested the Albanian Government to dismiss Colonel Thomson. But inasmuch as the latter as head of the Gendarmerie is virtually the nominee of the Powers, Prince William's Government finds itself unable to accede to the Italian request, and has merely notified the Netherlands Government of the demand for Colonel Thomson's recall put forward by the Italian authorities. Up to the present the Dutch Mission to Albania has not been signally successful. An excess of zeal led its members to court disaster for the Gendarmerie in an encounter with an insurgent rabble; their subsequent panic, or inability to prevent one in Durazzo, brought about the Prince's temporary flight to a man-of-war in the harbour, and now they have contrived to prejudice the foreign relations of the Albanian Government. If the proposal made elsewhere in this issue that Roumania should be invited to provide the military force necessary for the support of Prince William be adopted, it might be advisable to entrust the Gendarmerie to the same hands.

In their quarrel with the Italian authorities local sympathy in Durazzo will probably be with the Gendarmerie officers. There is not enough evidence in the reports of the proceedings before the Commission of Inquiry to determine whether the arrest of the two Italian subjects was justified by the contents of the documents seized. But there can be little doubt that the whole attitude of the Italian community, or the interpretation which it has placed on its duties in Albania, has materially enhanced the difficulties of the Mpret and of the Gendarmerie. So long as Prince William is left to the mercies of Italy and Austria-Hungary friction is likely to come. In the multitude of the counsellors with whom he has surrounded himself—all, it would seem, ignorant of or unsympathetic towards Albania and its people—the Mpret has sought to find wisdom. What he has achieved is to increase the opportunities for intrigue, against which he ought to have been on his guard from the outset. The system of government or misgovernment that he has introduced has been condemned, lock, stock, and barrel, by the sequence of events. His one chance of saving his own reputation and of extricating the country from the confusion now overwhelming it is to take the reins of government in his own hands, and with the help of those of his Ministers whom he has reason to trust to put himself in close touch with his people. If he were himself to apply for Roumania's assistance, and the request were granted, he would be assured of sympathetic support and of disinterested advice when it was required.

With nearly every Government in the Near East embarked upon a policy of ousting by fair means or foul all

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the subjects of other Balkan countries from its territories, it is obvious that the Government with the largest number of such subjects is going to make itself the most objectionable. Turkey, with her large Greek population, is in this enviable position. For many weeks or months past Bulgarian refugees, whether rightly or wrongly we need not stop to inquire, have felt themselves forced to abandon, amid the greatest hardships, their homes in Greek Macedonia. The Bulgarian experiences, but to a larger extent, are now being reproduced in the case of thousands of Greeks settled in Thrace and Asia Minor. The Greek Government is just as angry with the Porte as the Bulgarians were angry with the Greek Government. But little heed has been paid to Bulgarian protests. The Greek Government, on the other hand, has more effective means of making its grievances heard. The Holy Synod in Constantinople has closed all Orthodox churches and schools, and the Œcumenical Patriarchate has ceased for a time to exercise its functions. Undoubtedly the policy of forced emigration has become a scandal in Turkey, and the Porte will now be as anxious to discontinue it in Asia Minor as it was in Thrace. But if we are to place the same credence in Bulgarian statements as we do in Greek allegations, it is evident that Greece is undergoing the penalty which her officials imposed upon a helpless Bulgarian population. We do not suppose that M. Venizelos and his Cabinet were cognisant of all that was taking place in Macedonia. The responsibility, however, remains theirs. In the face of the long list of complaints presented by the Bulgarian Government, official denials from Athens carry little weight. If the treatment meted out to British subjects in the person of Mr. and Mrs. Musker can be the work of an officer at a railway station, it is not difficult to infer what is likely to have been the treatment of Bulgarian peasants off the beaten track.

The streams of refugees from the different countries exercise a very prejudicial effect on the relations between the different States. In Bulgaria there have been reprisals at the expense of Greek churches and schools. The Bulgarian Government has tendered a prompt expression of regret to the Greek authorities, and can in no way be held responsible for the isolated occurrences, however regrettable. In the case of Greece and Turkey, not only does the influx of refugees impose a severe financial strain on the Greek Exchequer, but it serves to increase the nervousness with which each State views the still unsolved problem of the Ægean Islands. In order to redress the naval balance which was disturbed by the recent purchases and orders of the Turkish Government, Greece has had to place orders for further men-of-war, this time in the American market. Even if the money for this expenditure can be found, it can ill be spared at the present moment, when there are so many demands on the Greek Exchequer. But there is little chance of an improvement in Greco-Turkish relations while the question of the Islands remains unsettled and the forced emigration of Greeks from Asia Minor continues.

The elections in Roumania for the Constituent Assembly, as was expected, have resulted in the return of the National Liberals with a strong majority in the Chamber. As soon as the alterations in the constitution have been passed through Parliament another general election will follow, in order that the two Houses may be elected in accordance with the terms of the amended Constitution.

Mr. Roosevelt is not the only enterprising traveller engaged in correcting or amplifying the world's maps. Captain Shakespear, the British Resident at Koweit, has recently reached Suez after a fifteen weeks' journey across Arabia, in the course of which he discovered between Buraidah and Jauf-al-Amar a hitherto untravelled route. This contribution to our geographical knowledge may not be as important as the discovery of Mr. Roosevelt's new river, but it is the more likely to be accepted without challenge.

The interminable Bulgarian State trial has been advanced a stage by the delivery of judgment upon various pleas raised by the defendants. Two of the defendants, the Court has decided, cannot be prosecuted for violation of the Constitution; but as all five are required to answer other charges brought against them, whether they were or were not mentioned in the vote of impeachment in the Sobranje, the trial will continue. To this judgment the defendants have replied by raising fresh issues, and the real business of the prosecution has once more been deferred.

In spite of the influence and prestige which the successful direction of two Balkan wars have won for him, Mr. Pashitch, the Servian Prime Minister has fallen a victim to intrigues, which in some measure revive the unsavoury episodes which brought about a change in the Servian dynasty eleven years ago. There is still a Military Party in the country, and some of its leaders appear not to have forgiven Mr. Pashitch for their removal at one time from the active list of the army. The Ministerial crisis has other ramifications; but it is difficult to believe that in forcing it upon the country at this juncture the Opposition have consulted the interests of Servia to the subordination of their own. It cannot fail to be a blow to their aspirations and intrigues that the King should have again confirmed Mr. Pashitch in office with his former Cabinet.

Nine months have passed since the Persian Government announced its decision to hold Parliamentary elections and issued instructions to the provinces to this end. But until recently, except in Teheran, no elections had been held, and even in the case of the capital they do not appear to have been completed as far as the outlying districts are concerned. The reason for this state of affairs is not necessarily to be attributed to any lack of good intentions on the part of the Regent or of his Ministers, but to the incapacity of the Persian Government to translate its decisions into action. No doubt obstacles are encountered in the provinces themselves; they arise both from the attitude of individual Governors-General and from the conditions of country districts. In Azerbaijan the Governor-General and the Russian authorities decided that elections should not be held, and the Persian Government has been powerless to take any further steps in the matter. In another province the holding of elections had to be postponed owing to a transfer of officials. At Ispahan the Russian Consul was dissatisfied with the personnel of an electoral committee, and it was necessary to nominate a new one.

The advantage of elections held in such circumstances would be problematical, even if they could be carried out systematically throughout the country. When they are confined to a few provinces they can only be regarded as useless. Meanwhile the date of the coronation of the young Shah is approaching, and it is felt that the constitutional significance of that event will be lost if there is no Parliament or an unrepresentative one before which the monarch can take the oath. The failure of Parliamentary institutions both in Persia and in other countries similarly situated prevents much store being set upon the usefulness of any body of popular representatives. But if the constitutional form of the coronation is to be adhered to there is much to be said for a Parliament regularly constituted. If, therefore, the Persian Government is unable to hold elections in a satisfactory manner, it would be a wiser course to adopt to acknowledge its powerlessness and to dispense with Parliament altogether for the time being.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 6.

Greek and Turk.

St. Constantine's day has passed off quietly, though it is the name day of the Greek sovereign, and the Hellenic colony at Constantinople displayed Greek flags to an imprudent extent in Pera and Stamboul. I do not for a moment dispute their perfect right so to do. This is a free country; there is a Constitution (tempered by martial law and courts which try you *in camera* without counsel and without appeal), and Greece is nominally and officially on friendly terms with the Sublime Porte. Still, given the tension that exists between Greece and Turkey in reality—given also the belief of many Turks that the Greek Rayah population is longing for the day when King Constantine shall reconquer the Empire of his predecessor, one cannot but think that the Hellenic Consul-General at Smyrna, who forbade excessive decoration and discountenanced a *Te Deum*, played a wise part. The large number of Greek flags which appeared in Constantinople, flanked though they were by the Crescent and by the flags of other nations—for June 3 was celebrated by the British colony, it being the King's birthday—caused considerable ill-feeling; but Talaat Bey had given strict orders to the police and gendarmerie to prevent any disturbance.

The Minister of Interior has now gone to Geumlek near Mudania to inquire into an alleged plot by local Greeks to massacre Moslems. How far the story of this plot, as published by the Turkish Press, is accurate, it is impossible to say. It certainly seems improbable that the few hundred Greeks of Geumlek would have arisen in their wrath, and smitten the tens of thousands of Moslems in their vicinity, or would even have thought of doing so. It is also noteworthy that the Greeks assert very strongly that the evidence against the persons arrested was based on anonymous denunciations which, alas! remain in favour under the new régime as under the old.

Talaat Bey and King Carol.

Of Talaat Bey's visit to Roumania little is said, so little that there is a very general impression that the Minister did not find King Carol at all inclined to encourage the policy of adventure which the Committee extremists would desire the Porte to favour. It is said that he received Talaat with the courtesy and kindness which the compelling personality of the best man among the Young Turks merits, but that as regards European adventure he was icily cold. "Hands off Salonika and no tampering with the Treaty of Bucharest" was the substance of his advice to Talaat, and these counsels were coupled with a recommendation to find a pacific solution of the question of the islands. It would be interesting to know whether Talaat discussed the Albanian situation with the Mpret's aunt, the Queen of Roumania! He seems to have advised the Mpret—through the medium of a Roumanian newspaper—to take Izzet Pasha, ex-Generalissimo of the Turkish Army, into his service, and with his assistance bring the disorderly Albanians to their knees. Excellent advice, but was not Izzet Pasha the candidate for the Albanian throne, and in whose name Bekir Bey and his followers landed near Avlona to be cast into prison on landing? Vainly will that net be cast in the sight of the bird!

Albania.

As for Albania, a great deal of news has reached Constantinople of late. The general belief is that the rebellion is more or less due to Turkish inspiration, but that the initial errors of the Prince were a factor therein. At present it would seem to a dispassionate observer that whatever happens Albania as a State may come to grief owing to the fact that if there are Albanian Nationalists there is no Albanian nationality. If you have a Christian Prince the Moslems of the Centre rise and demand Turkish flags and a Moslem Prince, provided that the latter comes in to the tune of "Nothing to pay." If there is a Moslem Prince, a Turkish general, Essad Pasha, or Burhan-ed-Din Effendi, son of Abdul Hamid, a youth who knows less of Albania than the babe unborn, it remains to be seen how he will be able to govern Moslems who pay no taxes and object to military service; Epirotes who only agreed to sign the Treaty of Corfu because Albania had a Christian Prince; Roman Catholics who fear a "Turk" ruler, and Tosk Moslems whose Beys detest the Ghegs. A loose confederation of cantons under the rule of an international Governor-General seems the only way out of the impasse, but will it suit the Triple Entente to adopt the one solution which can prevent Italy and Austria from quarrelling?

The Situation in Arabia.

There have been unpleasant rumours abroad of late concerning the situation in the Hejaz and elsewhere, but it is to be hoped that they are exaggerated. It does, however, seem that the Beni-Harb, a really strong clan, which controls the road between Mecca and Medina, is on the war-path, and demands subsidies and a promise that the Hejaz Railway will never be prolonged from Medina to Mecca. The Sherif, so rumour says, can do nothing to check the unruly Bedouins. Meanwhile, the Turkish garrisons, in consequence of numerous skirmishes with Said Idris's people and with the nomads, are sadly depleted. They are not at all strong—seven weak battalions in Hejaz, seven in Assir, and fourteen or fifteen in the Yemen is their normal effective. Battalions at Constantinople do not average more than 480 men: it is doubtful whether there are half as many men to many a battalion in Arabia, and even with the dispatch of about 2,000 soldiers from Damascus to Medina the total garrison of Turkish Arabia does not exceed 15,000 troops; and this force is not nearly sufficient nowadays when the Bedu is armed with Martini, Gras, or Mauser, and Idris's warriors are well supplied with Italian imported rifles.

In Mesopotamia the Muntefik and other clans of Southern Irak seem to be doing what they please, and the Government cannot do more than send preachers among the tribes that are being converted to the Shiah tenets. Artillery would be more suitable; but the authorities have no force to spare. The fact is that the army just now is in rather a parlous condition. It has lost an immense amount of war material, and its morale has suffered; for the recapture of Adrianople was followed by a great mortality from sickness among the troops crowded in insanitary barracks or exposed in flimsy tents to the inclemency of the Thracian winter. Kurdistan needs its quota of troops if the wild tribes of that region are to be kept in order, and the necessity of keeping a considerable force in easy range of the Dardanelles, Smyrna, Mermeris, and other points of great strategical importance in case of a war with Greece prevents the depleted garrisons of Irak and Arabia from being rapidly reinforced. If the Beni-Harb remain on the war-path this year's pilgrimage is likely to be a perilous affair.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Cairo, June 3

The Birthday Review.

Early this morning the usual review of the British troops that is always held on the King's Birthday took place on the square outside Abdin Palace. It passed off exceedingly well, though such ceremonies are nowadays somewhat shorn of their brilliance owing to the khaki uniform. The men all presented an efficient and smart appearance. Lord Kitchener, who was wearing Field-Marshal's uniform, was accompanied by Sir Reginald Wingate, who arrived from Khartoum on Friday last. (The Sirdar had to hasten his departure from the Sudan owing to sudden indisposition, but I am glad to say that he is quite well again now.) After the troops had marched past, Lord Kitchener rode forward towards the Palace and saluted the Regent, Rushdi Pasha, who had watched the ceremony with the Ministers from one of the balconies, and whose arrival had been heralded with military honours. This courteous action of the British Agent is, as far as is known, quite unprecedented, and was much remarked by the spectators. To-night, a dinner followed by a reception is being given at the Agency.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Organic Law lays down that the annual session of the Legislative Assembly must last until the end of May, but that no prorogation shall take place until all the measures submitted to it have been dealt with. It is said that the Assembly will not sit after the middle of this month; it is, therefore, to be presumed that the Government will agree to hold over the Co-operative Syndicates measure until next session; for otherwise it is difficult to see how the Assembly, with the best will in the world, is going to dispose of all its business in the time. But nine working days at the very outside remain, and the House still has to finish off the discussion of the Wakfs Budget, which has had to be delayed owing to Moheb Pasha's illness, and to deal with several projects amending the Native Penal Code and creating various new schools. If so much time were not taken up at each sitting with the reading of the minutes and of petitions and replies to questions sent by the different Ministries, it might perhaps be possible to discuss the Co-operative Syndicates Bill, but it would appear that it will take up some considerable time, owing to the divergent views of the members on the subject, and it is for these reasons that it is thought that the Bill may be held over.

This week the Assembly passed the Birkets (Pools) and Marshes Bill, but not without a somewhat stormy debate, due to one of the delegates asking that private individuals should be authorised to fill in and take possession of birkets belonging to the Government if the latter neglected or refused to do so. The law empowers the Government to force private individuals or corporations to fill in the birkets and swamps on their estates, or to take them over and do the work itself, the object being to render the districts more salubrious, since these birkets are the breeding-place for all manner of germs that do serious harm to the local population. The Prime Minister characterised this request as revolutionary, whereupon a terrible hubbub resulted, and quiet could not be restored for a long time.

But, whilst this very excellent measure has been approved of by the Assembly, it appears that its enforcement may be subject to some delay. Very rightly the Committee deputed to examine the measure recommended that it should be made applicable to foreigners as well as to natives, and the Government quite readily promised that it would take the necessary steps to obtain the approval of the Mixed Courts. That did not, for some inexplicable reason, satisfy the Assembly, and by 44 votes to 21 it decided that the Bill must not be promulgated until the assent of the Mixed Courts had been obtained. It was no use explaining to the House that this would take four months at least, and that few foreigners owned birkets: the point was insisted upon, with the afore-mentioned result. It is understood that the Government declines to accede to the Assembly's unreasonable request, and that it is referring the measure back. It is to be hoped that the members will adopt a sensible attitude and not waste more time in needless discussion of what is after all not a vital point, since the Government undertakes to make the measure eventually applicable to foreigners.

Mis-statements in the London Press.

My attention has been drawn to an article that appeared recently in the *Asiatic Review* entitled "The Darkness over Egypt." It contains a most amazing collection of mis-statements with regard to this country and considerable surprise has been expressed that such a periodical should publish an article of this nature, which can do little good to whatever cause it may be intended to further, and which can work incalculable harm to British prestige in the East.

Egyptian Students in Europe.

In his report Lord Kitchener referred to the scheme which has been initiated with the object of providing Egyptian students studying in Europe with the care and guidance of which they stand badly in need. On Sunday last a meeting of the Advisory Committee formed for that purpose was held under the presidency of the Minister of Education, and a report on the progress made was read. From this report it appeared that about 600 Egyptians are studying in Europe at their own expense (373 in the British Isles, 139 in France, and 64 in Switzerland). Nearly half of these have been placed under the guidance of the Advisory Committee and its inspectors, whilst 61 are having their accounts paid through the director of the Educational Mission. Over 750 reports were received from the inspectors and transmitted to the parents and guardians of private students. Of these, 369 related to the conduct or diligence and progress of the students, and of this number only 180 were classified as satisfactory. This shows that there is something wrong; and to the committee will fall the duty of ascertaining where the fault lies and of prescribing a remedy. It is satisfactory to learn that the hostility which the students at first displayed towards the scheme has ceased almost entirely, and that they now realise its value to them. It may interest those concerned at home and on the Continent to know that the committee is seriously considering what are the best measures to adopt to prevent students incurring debts in Europe and leaving them unpaid. From other details published, it is evident that the scheme is steadily gaining favour in this country.

Time's Whirligig.

One hundred and thirteen years ago there took place near Alexandria the battle of Canope, in which Napoleon's troops were defeated by British soldiers. Ten years ago the remains of a French soldier were unearthed on the beach at Mustapha Pasha and handed over with military honours to the French authorities. The other day British soldiers unearthed at Mustapha Pasha Barracks the skeletons of three soldiers, identified from buttons found by their side as belonging to the famous 32nd Half Brigade of Napoleon; and on Friday last, amid great ceremony, these remains, together with others near by, were handed over by the British military authorities to the French colony, and were afterwards escorted with full military honours to Sidi-Gaber station, whence they were conveyed by special train to Cairo. The next day, on a gun-carriage provided by the Army of Occupation, and escorted by detachments from each British regiment in garrison, they were paraded through the streets out to the Latin Cemetery, where they were solemnly interred. This ceremony and, indeed, the whole incident bears eloquent testimony to the changes wrought by the whirligig of time, for amongst the British troops engaged at Canope was the old 58th Regiment, which, under its more modern name, "Northamptonshire," is now in barracks at Mustapha Pasha. It was fitting that the remains of the French soldiers should have been found by the great-grandsons of the men who killed them; it was fitting that they should have assisted in rendering them the last honours; but it was even more fitting that this ceremony should have taken place in Egypt, the scene of fierce rivalry between the two countries up to ten years ago. For the fact affords

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eloquent testimony of the change that has come over their relations, thanks to the Entente Cordiale. It is by incidents such as these, which appeal so directly to the imagination, that the links of friendship that now bind the enemies of a century ago are drawn even tighter, and that the two peoples are enabled thoroughly to appreciate one another and the benefits accruing from this "unwritten alliance."

The Pan-Islamic Tendencies of Enver Pasha.

The accounts of the welcome accorded to the Turkish aviators during their stay in Egypt, which have been sent to Constantinople by the organising committee, appear to have pleased the committee immensely, and Enver Pasha has sent to the president, Prince Omar Pasha Toussoun, a warm letter of thanks. In it he makes use of a sentence which, to say the least, is extraordinary. He says: "These sentiments strengthen the hope of a renaissance of the Moslem world." Apart from the ironic fact that the welcome could scarcely be said to strengthen such a hope, since it was not even lukewarm—*vide* the gala performance in Alexandria, where the audience shone by its absence—this remark is noteworthy, since it places on record in an unmistakable manner the pan-Islamic tendencies of the present Turkish Government; and as such it has been freely commented upon here.

EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT.

In connection with the Egypt Exploration Fund, the Rev. Professor Sayce gave a lecture on "Recent Discoveries in the Nile Valley" in the rooms of the Royal Society at Burlington House on Monday. Professor Sayce said that Egypt just now was the scene of feverish international competition in archæological research, and the Egyptian Government itself was in a chronic state of excavating. The scientific excavator had passed on into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and some interesting and unexpected results had been obtained. In Egypt itself there was still no lack of important, if not sensational, discovery. The sites already known covered only certain periods of time. Other periods were unrepresented, or meagrely represented, which was the case with the Hyksos period.

When once a purely Hyksos cemetery was discovered they would find that in many localities graves and monuments now assigned to the middle period really belonged to the Hyksos age. Sooner or later discoveries would be made which would throw light on the dark periods of Egyptian history. There was, however, one enemy to be reckoned with—the irrigator. The Egyptian dead were buried in the desert, which had now been invaded by the irrigating engineer. The sites of the ancient towns had been changed into fertile fields. The chief monument of the English occupation was the destruction of the temples of Northern Nubia. If the past history of Egyptian civilisation was never fully known it would not be because no records were left, but because the records were destroyed by the Ministry of Public Works. All the more honour, therefore, to those who were spending time and money to save these before it was too late. The greatest discovery of the season had been made by Professor Naville at Abydos. The famous tomb of Osiris, which had been brought to light, reminded them that the history of Egyptian culture was in many respects a history of decadence.

A little to the south of the third cataract Dr. Reisner had made discoveries which would completely change our ideas of early Sudanese history. When the lecturer made some diggings there four years ago he came across some pottery of the Fourth Dynasty, and concluded that the cemetery belonged to that period. Dr. Reisner, however, had found that the cemetery really covered a long space of time. The earliest tombs went back to the age of the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties, while the later graves came down to the end of the Seventeenth Dynasty. This proved that the Northern Sudan was already occupied by Egyptian troops as far back as the time of the Egyptian Empire, the time of the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties. It was possible that the history of the Hyksos period, which had been obliterated in Egypt itself, might yet be discovered in the Sudan.

At Meroe an African Pompeii had been brought to light. This included a larger area than Memphis, and included the Royal City surrounded by a magnificent wall of dressed stones, which was 15 ft. thick in places, and must have been 30 ft. high. Meroe was the Birmingham and Liverpool of ancient Africa. It was the place where the trade routes from the Red Sea met the Nile, and was the centre of the iron industry. On the north and east rose veritable mountains of iron slag, and the furnaces in which the iron was smelted had been discovered. Enough iron must have been worked to supply the whole of northern Africa with iron implements. Many of the most beautiful objects found in the ruins were made of biscuit ware, which was as fine and thin as that of china, but was not translucent. Recent discoveries in China had shown that under the Hun dynasty trading voyages were made by the Chinese as far as the coast of Abyssinia. Pottery was among the articles of trade. The work of excavation was showing how false were the ideas prevalent a generation ago. Ancient Egypt was no more isolated in its culture than Great Britain was to-day. The intercourse was more leisurely, but it existed.

THE SUDAN IN 1913.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 1.

The Sudan Government is now occupied in drawing up its preliminary estimates for 1915, and it is therefore of interest to study the accounts for 1913, which have just been closed. These accounts present a peculiar and unprecedented feature, as they are the first to be submitted since the Egyptian Treasury ceased to accord an annual subvention to Khartoum. That subvention at the last amounted to £E163,000 nett, and in its place the Sudan now receives from Egypt payment of the dues levied by the Egyptian customs on all goods destined to the Sudan that enter through the Egyptian ports. For the past year that payment amounted to £E85,000, so that the Sudan became a net loser to the extent of £E78,000 by the new arrangement.

Under these circumstances a comparison between the figures for 1912 and 1913 gives an interesting insight into the progress made by the Sudan. The figures are as follows:—

	1912.		1913.
Receipts	£E1,591,605	.....	£E1,654,149
Expenditure	1,490,668	.....	1,614,007
Surplus	£E100,937	.....	£E40,142

From this it is apparent that the Sudan has made up the loss it incurred by the stoppage of the subvention, and that, in fact, the final result is £E17,205 better than that of the previous year.

The principal increases in revenue heads are: Customs £E93,676, Railways £E48,587, Ushur tax £E46,646, Animal Tax £E17,977, Royalties £E12,173, Tribute from Nomad Tribes £E5,899, Rent of Government Land and Properties £E13,696, etc.

The actual revenue is £E23,149 more and the expenditure £E16,993 less than were budgeted for, and on the face of it the position appears satisfactory; for these figures have been realised in spite of an abnormally low flood and of the absence of the usual heavy rains. But, although the Sudan authorities have been exceedingly prudent, and have fixed the estimates for the current year at £E10,000 less than the actual figure attained in 1913, they will have a very anxious time during the next six months; for the real effects of the unfortunate climatic conditions that have prevailed will only make themselves felt from now onwards. It is, therefore, permissible to expect that the surplus at the end of 1914 will not exceed that realised in 1913, if, indeed, it attains that figure, whilst unless better conditions set in soon, it is to be feared that no expansion in the ordinary expenditure such as has characterised the administration during the past few years, and has had such beneficial effects, will be possible in framing the estimates for 1915.

An additional and serious reason why the Sudan Government will have to walk warily is that whereas at the beginning of 1913 a small balance remained in the Reserve Fund, the latter was exhausted at the beginning of 1914, *i.e.*, the whole unspent balance of £E127,746 had been pledged; whilst of the special credits advanced by Egypt for capital expenditure, only £E5,659 remained unexpended on December 31, 1913.

The Sudan has all along shown such wonderful recuperative power, and has, indeed, during the past year maintained its reputation in this respect, that any restriction on the expenditure side, where every outlay has been hitherto so directly remunerative, is to be deplored, and it is to be hoped that the forebodings ex-

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pressed at present will not be realised, and that a change in climatic conditions, which is required as much by the Sudan as by Egypt, will soon set in.

By many it is considered that the cessation of the payment of the Egyptian subvention was premature, and that that assistance should have been continued until the Sudan had built up a fair Reserve Fund; but although its continuance for some little while longer would undoubtedly have alleviated the stringency caused at present by the low Nile and insufficient rainfall, such a course would necessarily have meant the postponement of the raising of the loan required for the capital expenditure by means of which the Sudan will be enabled to develop its resources as they should be developed, and towards which Egypt herself could contribute no adequate sum.

However, the present situation, whilst it is anxious without being grave, is but one more cogent argument in favour of the policy that has dictated the execution of irrigation and other works, for they will, in time, render the country more independent of climatic conditions, and since to-day the Sudan is suffering by its absolute dependence thereon, it is a great satisfaction to know that a start is to be made this coming autumn in the direction of remedying this state of affairs.

PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, May 31.

The Summer Season.

A ball given at the Casino Palace Hotel last night, which was attended largely by our cosmopolitan populace, signalised the opening of the Port Said summer season. The town is growing yearly in popularity as a summer resort for the wives and children of residents in Cairo and the villages whose business keeps them in Egypt during the hot season, and to whom the expense of sending their families home each year is an alarming if not prohibitive item in the domestic budget. The hotels are already commencing to fill with visitors, and a large number of furnished flats and villas are engaged for the summer. Bathing-boxes are obtainable only with great difficulty and at high rates.

Port Said possesses many unexpected attractions to the overheated dweller of the interior. First and foremost is the sea bathing, with a sandy beach rivalling the most approved French "plage," and covered for half a mile with bathing-cabins three deep. A large number of visitors as well as residents spend many hours of the day in the cool surf, while the children play on the beach at sand-castles, and paddle to their hearts' content. For the more energetic tennis and cricket can be had at the International Sporting Club, which opens its doors to the visitor, and a sporting nine-hole golf course has recently been constructed out of the native sand near the railway station. A club has quickly sprung into existence, monthly competitions are held, and the "royal and ancient game" is as keenly played in Port Said as on the classic home courses. Sir Thomas Dewar recently played on the links, and marked his appreciation of a pleasant sojourn and the hearty reception accorded him by offering a challenge cup to the club, which was readily accepted, and will be played for next month. Boating, sailing, and fishing are easily obtainable in the harbour, while the more adventurous spirits fish outside in deep water for sharks. Moonlight donkey picnics along the beach are greatly in vogue, and excursions by steam launch down the Canal to Ras el-Aish provide a popular and pleasant variation to the visitors' programme.

From being the insanitary, dreary spot of thirty years ago, notorious for its immorality, it will be seen that Port Said has become a well-conducted, alluring summer resort for the less fortunate residents of towns in the interior, numbers of whom eagerly avail themselves of the cool sea breezes and pleasant attractions of Lesseps' Port.

Rex v. Debarro and Debarro.

This case came up for hearing at the British Consular Court on the 28th instant before Mr. Vice-Consul Chafy. The defendants, Maria and Giuseppi Debarro, both Maltese, were accused by the Crown of stealing Egyptian Unified Bonds to the value of £1,000 from the estate of the late Marianna Gameo, who died at Suez on March 22, 1912. The female defendant was charged with the theft, and her husband with being an accessory after the fact.

It is alleged that the deceased had kept a school at Suez, Mme. Debarro having been one of her pupils, and subsequent relations between the two were of an intimate nature. Mme. Gameo was an eccentric old lady and a miser to boot. When she died the British Consul was called in and found large sums of money lying about the house, and the whole place in a state of filth and disorder. Her estate realised about £3,000, part of which resulted from the sale of Egyptian Unified Bonds, which were found wrapped up in cloth on the top of a cupboard in a disused lumber-room. From inquiries made at the time it would appear that certain of the bonds were missing, as the number of coupons cashed before Mme. Gameo's death were considerably in excess of those on the bonds realised for the estate. The Caisse de la Dette were notified, and although the accused succeeded in cashing several of the coupons as they fell due, it transpired in evidence that she inquired carefully whether payment of them had been stopped. Becoming suspicious, she, together with her husband, deposited the missing bonds with the British Consul at Cairo, making a statement that they had been given to her by the deceased lady as a pledge for a loan of £625. She had no acknowledgment of such debt, and, after inquiry, the present proceedings were instituted by the Crown prosecutor, Mr. Preston. Defence was reserved, and both the accused parties were committed for trial, bail being allowed under substantial sureties.

THE ART OF EGYPT.

Mr. Talbot Kelly, speaking on the Art of Egypt at the Arts and Crafts annual dinner at the Lyceum Club, on Monday evening, said that the environment of the early Egyptian artists consisted of plains and arable countries, one dead level, as flat as a billiard table, and beyond that mountain plateaus of biscuit coloured rock. Such poetry as the country had produced was sensuous and not elevating, and it was touched with the pessimism of Solomon and Omar Khayyam. Granting that their inspiration came from nature, it had been adapted to their purpose remarkably well. The most striking feature of Egyptian art was its bigness and dignity, but their large structures were not without elegance and grace, as could be seen in the colonnade at Luxor. You would not find in Egypt any form of animal or human life wrongly depicted. Perspective was eliminated entirely from their decorative scheme, except in the procession of pylons, or entrance gates to their temples, so that the growing grandeur burst on the mind of any stranger entering the shrine. In painting they never achieved as much as in sculpture. We might justly look to Egypt as the source and origin of all the art we knew, and could only wonder that so long ago the marvels of stone-cutting and animal and natural life were achieved.

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM.

Presiding at a lecture on "The Gospel of Islam" delivered by Zari Sarfaraz Hussein, of Delhi, at Caxton Hall, on Monday afternoon, the Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali said that for more than forty years he had been trying to bring about an understanding between Christianity and Islam, and he believed that to some extent he had removed the false impressions in the West regarding the latter religion. He saw no reason why Christianity and Islam should not work together in the elevation of the human world; they worshipped the same God, had the same traditions and ideals, and did not differ in their moral standards. It grieved him to see that some of the heads of the Church of England had taken up rather a militant attitude against the diffusion of Islam among races where they themselves were unable to make any progress. As a matter of fact, it must be acknowledged that there was a great deal of work for both religions. It was the greatest misapprehension, he concluded, to think that Islam degraded the position of women; it had done more to raise the status of women than any other creed or religion or social system in the world.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 6.

The Epirotes and the Mpret.

The events of the past fortnight in Albania have somewhat overshadowed the Epirote question, but it is understood that amid the preoccupations of Durazzo the Albanian authorities have realized the necessity of ratifying the Convention of Corfu at the earliest opportunity. In view of the dynastic possibilities in Albania it must be remembered that the Epirotes have agreed to submit to the reigning Mpret, in whose Christianity they found a guarantee that their political position would not be rendered intolerable. If, however, a Moslem Prince were to ascend the Albanian throne, whether it be an Ottoman, an Egyptian, or even Essad Pasha Toptani, the Epirotes would appeal for Greek assistance to preserve them from the re-establishment of Moslem domination.

By-elections in Attica.

The event of the past week has been the double by-election in Attica. The Opposition parties united to support Mr. Pop, a bitter opponent of the Prime Minister's policy, who at one time was one of Mr. Venizelos' most ardent supporters. The Prime Minister made the mistake of accepting the challenge of the Opposition, and declared that he would regard the result of the by-elections as an expression of confidence, which if withheld would lead to his resignation. One of the vacant seats fell to Mr. Zographos, who enjoyed the united support of all who approved of his patriotic labours in Epirus, while the Ministerial candidate was returned for the other with but a small majority—a bare 500 out of a total poll of 4,500. In consequence of this the Opposition is predicting the speedy downfall of the Administration. I think its members are mistaken, as by-elections go for little in Greek party politics, and I believe that many Venizelists did not trouble to vote, knowing that the result of the polling was a foregone conclusion.

The Cession of Sasseno.

The Prime Minister was fiercely attacked in the Chamber for having agreed to the cession of Sasseno and for not having occupied Durazzo during the war. Mr. Venizelos, recalling his previous statement on this subject, reminded his hearers that Greece had only yielded the point under threat of war from Italy. The same reasons had induced him to give way on the question of the coast opposite Corfu, a matter which interested not only the Adriatic Powers, but, in a less degree, the rest of the Concert as well. It was impossible for Greece to oppose united Europe, which had removed the Servians from Durazzo and the Montenegrins from Scutari. The Prime Minister reminded the Chamber that Sasseno was an uninhabited island and valueless to Greece.

The Islands.

Dr. Streit, the Foreign Minister, in the course of the same debate, denied that Greece had ever made proposals for a *condominium*, or had ever proposed to recognize any form of Turkish suzerainty, over the newly acquired islands in the Ægean. He further asserted that the Hellenic Government had no intention of withdrawing from the islands, the annexation of which had received international sanction in virtue of the decision of the Powers, which it was obligatory for Turkey to respect.

The Greco-Servian Convention.

The recently concluded Commercial Convention, which guarantees highly advantageous terms for Servian commerce passing through Salonika for the next fifty years, is expected, in conjunction with the new railways about to be constructed in Macedonia, to preserve for Salonika much of its commercial hinterland, and to contribute to the development of the Hellenic mercantile marine. It is hoped that the Commercial Treaty which is shortly to be signed may lead to the formation of a Customs Union with Servia. Naturally such an increase in commercial relations cannot fail to draw tighter the political ties which unite the two countries, and that friendship which has been manifested during the last week by Athenian society towards the members of the Choral Society of Belgrade, who have been visiting this capital.

The Corfu Jubilee.

Their Majesties and the Prime Minister are at Corfu for the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the union of the Heptanesos to the Hellenic kingdom. The memory of this historical event, which did honour alike to the patriotic aspirations of the Ionian Islanders and to the great people which for half a century had accorded them its civilising protection, fills the hearts of the Greeks with gratitude towards Great Britain. The example set on this occasion might well serve as an object-lesson for certain other States, which, although they occupy no position at all amongst the ranks of ordered nations, and are indeed far below zero in point of civilisation, claim to enforce their yoke on civilized subjects whom they were once able long ago to subjugate by force of arms, and even presume to demand the retrocession of such populations as have already been liberated from their detestable domination.

THE CAPITULATIONS.

IN THE LOST PROVINCES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, May 22.

The question of the capitulations in the ex-Turkish territories is perhaps more complicated than would appear from the short paragraph dedicated to it in the account of my conversation a fortnight ago with Mr. Pashitch. Thus, for instance, our two vice-consuls in Monastir and Skoplje (Uskub) are not accredited to the Servian Government, but to the Turkish Government. Officially they still recognize the capitulations, and, I believe, our Consul-General in Salonika and the Vice-Consul in Kavalla are placed in a similar awkward position. Austria and Germany are increasing the number of their consular officers in New Servia, but will they, who, perforce, must be accredited to the Servian Government, recognize the Capitulations or not? The Capitulations in the "Principality of Servia" were abolished by treaty with the Powers years ago, and as a result the Levant Consular Service had no officer at Belgrade, the post being filled at the present time by an honorary vice-consul, our only accredited consular representative in Servia. In Bulgaria, on the other hand, the Capitulations were never officially abolished, though negotiations to this effect have been carried on, I am told, during the past few years.

We are, therefore, confronted in the new territories with a threefold problem: first of all, the abolition (or non-abolition) of the Capitulations; secondly, the accrediting of our respective consular officers to the powers that be or the abolition of their posts altogether; and, thirdly, the status of the Levant Service. If the abolition of the Capitulations is officially recognized by the Powers, including Great Britain, the following consular posts will be affected: Candia, Canea, Salonika, Skoplje (Uskub), Monastir, and Kavalla. Will the Levant Service be directly affected by these changes, or will it retain the posts now held by it? If not, there will be a considerable shrinkage in the number of posts available for the Service, and a proportionate number of officers awaiting promotion. If, on the other hand, the Service retains these posts, it will only be logical that the remaining officers in Greece and Servia should belong to the same consular body, which should also have jurisdiction over Albania and Bulgaria.

It is likewise possible that the posts mentioned will be abolished entirely, with the exception of Salonika. In which case Servia will have no consular officer *de carrière*. This would be deplorable. We need a consul in Belgrade badly, and the vice-consulate at Skoplje should, I think, be maintained; though perhaps the best way out of the present muddle would be its temporary abolition. The outlook in Monastir is, on the other hand, not sufficiently promising to warrant the upkeep of a vice-consulate at the present time. With regard to Albania, I can get no information here as to what are our intentions, either diplomatic or consular.

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RUSSIA AND ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Bucharest, June 6.

At last the date of the Tsar's visit to this country, and the programme to be followed—which are said to have been kept secret until the Russian police arrangements had been perfected—have been made public. Accompanied by the Empress and their four daughters, the Tsar will arrive at Constantza on the morning of the 14th inst., on board the royal yacht "Standart," and will be welcomed by the Roumanian Royal family, who will travel on the Roumanian Royal yacht. The actual meeting will take place on the "Standart," on which luncheon will be served. In the afternoon the visitors will land and see something of Constantza, and in the evening a gala banquet will be given at the Municipal Palace, after which the Russian party will leave.

It is reported that Prince Carol may obtain leave from his military duties at Potsdam for the occasion, and rumour is again rife to the effect that his betrothal to the Grand Duchess Tatiana will take place and be publicly announced during the visit.

M. Sazonoff will not travel with the Tsar, but will come here by rail, and will arrive a day or two earlier than his Royal master. While in Bucharest he will have interviews with the Roumanian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and on the 14th he will proceed to Constantza. The entire Roumanian Cabinet will also go to Constantza and accompany the Royal family when they put to sea to meet the Russian yacht.

Naturally, much significance is attached to the visit here. It would be ridiculous to pretend that it is not connected with a strong desire for Roumanian friendship on the part of Russia; and the Roumanians as a whole appear to be weary of a pro-Austrian policy. Indeed, feeling against the Dual Monarchy runs high just now, and the conferring upon Count Czernin of the Order of the Star of Roumania has caused considerable surprise, not to say dissatisfaction, amongst the public.

Odessa, June 7.

The Bourse Gazette says that M. Isvolski, the Russian Ambassador from Paris, will attend the meeting of the Tsar and King Charles at Constantza. Much importance is attached to this consultation of MM. Sazonoff, Isvolski, and Bratiano. The Tsar is expected to disembark from the Imperial yacht "Standart" at Constantza early on the 14th inst., and re-embark in the evening of the same day for Odessa, arriving here in the forenoon of the 15th. His Majesty's halt in this city will be of brief duration; he proceeds the same day to Kishineff.

From Bucharest it is stated that the meeting of the Russian and Roumanian Sovereigns will take place in a spacious pavilion, and one of the features of the occasion will be a review by their Majesties of a complete Roumanian army corps. The *Indépendence Roumaine* says there is nothing conventional or platonic about the Imperial visit. It is one of true and genuine friendship between the two monarchs and the two Governments, and an epoch-marking event for Russia and Roumania, the sealing of a bond of enduring amity between the two nations, the Northern Colossus and the dominant Power in the Balkans.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 7.

The meeting between King Carol and the Tsar next Sunday is keenly interesting public opinion here, and in official circles there is a tendency to clothe it with political significance. I have been given to understand that Talaat Bey left Bucharest last week greatly pleased with the results of his visit, it being the object of the Porte to strengthen its friendly relations with Roumania in view of possible developments in the Balkans, to which the Ottoman Empire could not remain an indifferent spectator. But the greatest interest will centre in the propsed visit of the German Kaiser to the Court of King Carol, which, I have been assured on good authority, will take place this year.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 6.

Anti-Greek Demonstrations.

Last Thursday being the name-day of King Constantine of Greece, a Te Deum was celebrated at the Greek Church here, and at the same time a Greek flag was hoisted on the building. The latter fact caused a large crowd to gather round the church, and very soon insistent demands were made for the flag to be pulled down. The Prefect of Police, arriving on the spot, suggested that the Greeks should either haul down their flag or hoist the Bulgarian one beside it, and, finally, his first suggestion was acted upon. The Greek Chargé d'Affaires, however, lodged a complaint with Dr. Radislavoff, who gave orders that the Greeks should be allowed to hoist their flag again, which was done in the afternoon. But the angry crowd rushed into the church, pulled the offending bunting down, and tore it into strips. The following day Mr. Hajji Misheff, Secretary-General of the Foreign Office, called upon the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, expressed the Government's regrets for the incident, and assured him that the offenders should receive exemplary punishment. The Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens was also instructed to offer similar apologies and assurances to the Greek Foreign Minister.

On the same day the citizens of Varna held a mass meeting, at which the Greek terrorisation and persecution of Bulgars in Macedonia were described, and it was resolved, as a measure of reprisal, to take possession of the Greek churches and schools in Varna. Accordingly, at the close of the meeting, the crowd marched in procession and occupied the four Greek churches and schools and the Bishop's residence. The authorities were able to avert bloodshed and rioting, and, apart from the actual "capture" of the buildings mentioned, there was no other incident to record.

Rumano-Bulgarian Postal Convention.

The new postal and telegraphic convention recently concluded between this country and Roumania, by which the postal and telegraphic rates are reduced, has received the approval of the Sobranje.

The Government's Majority.

The Sobranje is proceeding with its scrutiny of the elections, and the commission charged with the investigation of their legality has proposed that four of the Opposition deputies should be unseated on the grounds of illegal practices. Should the Sobranje uphold this proposal, the number of Ministerialists would be brought up to 133, which would give them a majority of twenty-one over the united Opposition, and thus render it easier for them to pass the Budget, the Peace Treaties, and all the other legislation necessary for the financial and military consolidation of the country.

THE BOSNIAN RAILWAY.

Our Special Correspondent writes from Bucharest under date of June 7:—"Commentator's" reference on May 29 to the Green Book for Bosnia and the Herzegovina ought to draw British public attention to a matter of immense political interest. The statement that it is the Austrian Government's intention to prolong the standard gauge line from Schamatz to Serajevo indicates a reawakening of Count Aehrenthal's old policy of linking up Salonika with the Dual Monarchy not only by way of Belgrade, but by an alternative route farther to the west. The fault committed at the time was the construction of narrow gauge railways in Bosnia, the Salonika-Mitrovitza section being standard gauge. The conversion now, at no little cost, and at a moment when the sale of the Orient Railways is practically concluded, shows that the old policy is going to be revived. It is, however, impossible to believe that Austria would burden herself with the enormous expense (the lines are purely strategic) without being convinced that ultimately the continuation of the line to Uvatz and its prolongation across the frontier to Mitrovitza, etc., will be assured. Developments in Albania or Austrian policy in connection with that State will probably be found eventually to conform in the most marvellous manner with railway construction in Bosnia and the creation of a line dangerously near the frontier, which will be in a position to throw Austrian troops between Belgrade and the Adriatic.

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NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, May 29.

The Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council has at last passed the Estimates for the current year, and may now possibly give its attention to the more useful task of legislation. Among the new Bills is one introduced by a private member for the establishment of co-operative societies, which is practically identical with one submitted by the Government some three years ago, but not proceeded with. The present Bill includes provisions for co-operative banking, but is intended to cover all kinds of co-operative enterprise.

New Khedivial Service.

The Khedivial Steamship Company has lately formed a new route by which its steamers will leave Larnaca fortnightly on Sunday for Rhodes, Smyrna, and Constantinople, arriving at the latter port on Wednesday afternoon. This route should become very popular among the English community who wish to proceed to Europe, and will doubtless find much favour also among the Turks who are frequently travelling backwards and forwards between Constantinople and Cyprus. The cost of the journey to England compares quite favourably with that of the various routes viâ Port Said and Alexandria. It is decidedly quicker, and at least the traveller is spared the extreme annoyance of an indefinite delay at Port Said or Alexandria while waiting for passage accommodation. It is a surprising fact that, in spite of the large number of vessels calling at these ports on their homeward way, the difficulty in obtaining berths for passengers from Cyprus is very great during the summer leave season. The ships mostly arrive full from India or other Far Eastern parts, and any possible spare accommodation is snapped up by the swarm of Anglo-Egyptian officials who take their annual three months' leave. The unfortunate Cyprus official who, not infrequently, is only able to arrange for his leave at short notice, finds himself crowded out, and if he is travelling with a family the expense is no small additional annoyance to that of wasting precious days of his limited holiday in sweltering Port Said. Much the same difficulty is met with when he returns in October or November, when the rush is all in the outward direction, and valuable last days, which might be occupied happily with gun or rod, must be spent in London, in a fretful, chafing spirit, seeking passages and finding none. This new itinerary provided by the Khedivial Steamship Company should for these reasons meet a very decided want. The success of the service will, however, mainly depend on the amount of cargo, and this, we hope, will not be wanting.

Vital Statistics of the Island.

The vital statistics for the year ending December 31, 1913, have been published, and show a total population in the island on that date of 286,442. The birth rate for the year was 29.4 per 1,000, and the death rate 11.4 per 1,000.

Of the total population above stated 48,178 are in the six principal towns, and in these towns the birth rate was 19.5 per 1,000, and the death rate 10.8 per 1,000.

REFUGEES IN SYRIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, May 25.

The great influx of Albanian and Macedonian emigrants into Syria is deeply perturbing the native population both Moslem and Christian. About 3,530 emigrants from the new territory acquired by Servia on the Albanian frontier have lately arrived, of whom about 3,000 were landed at Tripoli and the remainder at Beyrout, to be sent thence on to Aleppo. The Government is said to have decided upon sending as many as 30,000 Macedonian emigrants to the vilayet of Aleppo alone. According to a very recent report from Aleppo, the mosques in that town are teeming with these emigrants, whose number is estimated at from 3,000 to 4,000. Most of these are said to be the remnant of those whom the Government had sent to the caza of Rekka, but who refused to settle therein. Some of these emigrants demand settlement in the lands of Al Hamraa, which, however, are occupied by the Arabs.

The fact that the Government, in spite of its financial difficulties, has just voted a first instalment of £tq 40,000 for this purpose is taken to indicate on the part of the Young Turks certain political designs that the Arabs, both Christians and Moslems, cannot but view with the deepest apprehension. The former look upon the dumping down of such great numbers of Macedonian emigrants as an attempt on the part of the Young Turks to further weaken the Christian element, while the Moslems see in this action a contrivance for strengthening the Turkish element in Syria. Whatever may be the real design of the Turkish Government, it seems that it would have been more logical for them to settle these emigrants in Anatolia, where by race and language they could more easily be assimilated by the native population, and where climatic conditions approximate those under which they were born and bred.

BISHOP BLYTH'S RESIGNATION.

In a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, dated May 23, published in *The Guardian* of June 4, the Right Rev. Popham Blyth tenders his resignation as Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, the resignation to take effect on October 18.

Bishop Blyth, who was ordained deacon as long ago as 1855, was appointed to his position in Jerusalem after twenty-one years of service as chaplain in India, the last eight of which he was Archdeacon of Rangoon. At a time when many Anglo-Indians return home to enjoy a leisured life upon a pension, Archdeacon Blyth received the call to a sphere of new interests and activity.

Probably no one, and least of all he himself, dreamed that he would be spared to administer his new responsibilities for over twenty-seven years. It is not wonderful that he cannot now any longer make the arduous journeys necessary for the proper episcopal supervision of an area which includes much of Asia Minor and all Syria, Egypt, and Cyprus. Recently he has had much assistance from his Suffragan, the Right. Rev. L. C. Gwynne, of Khartoum. The episcopacy of Dr. Blyth has witnessed a considerable expansion of the two old Church societies—the C.M.S. and L.J.S.—both in Palestine and Egypt, and a new society initiated by the Bishop, the Jerusalem and the East Fund, has done much excellent and needed service both in supplying chaplaincies and in educational and missionary work. Bishop Blyth will pass on his jurisdiction with greatly extended responsibilities and agencies, but his tenure of office will always be notable for the splendid buildings he has erected, particularly the Collegiate Church of St. George's the adjoining Bishop's house and College, and St. Mary's Home for girls, all in Jerusalem, and the beautiful buildings, including a church and hospital, at Haifa. Not less important has been the Bishop's friendly attitude towards the leaders of the Greek Church in Jerusalem.

The English Bishopric in Jerusalem has had a remarkable history, and was once—when missionary bishoprics were unknown—the subject of acute controversies. The first three bishops were appointed under a peculiar arrangement whereby the Prussian Government paid £600 per annum, a second £600 being derived from interest on funds raised by Lord Shaftesbury and other leaders of evangelical thought some seventy years ago. Before the appointment of the present Bishop the Germans withdrew from this arrangement, and the two Church societies then working in Palestine—the C.M.S. and L.J.S.—undertook to contribute £300 per annum each. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London are the three trustees of the Jerusalem Bishopric Funds, and upon them will fall the responsibility of selecting a successor to the retiring Bishop. It is a difficult post, yet it is one which should present great attractions to the right kind of man. One experienced in Oriental life, knowing at least Arabic, thoroughly conversant with the problems of historical Christianity, and sympathetic towards different points of view in the Church, would seem essential. It would appear that the separation of the original bishopric into two—one for Palestine and one for Egypt—is not likely to be carried out at once, and if that is so, the work of the new Bishop will be one demanding not only scholarship and diplomacy, but energy, activity, and a sound constitution innured to the semi-tropical climate of much of the diocese.

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INSECURITY AT KAZERUN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Persian Gulf, May 18.

After re-occupying Kazerun the gendarmerie despatched a force into the hills to punish the Nasr-i-Diwan and his followers, and in this they were joined by Mohammed Khan Kashguli, cousin and rival of the famous outlaw Mohammed Ali Khan Kashguli. The expedition, however, came to naught, and nothing more has been heard of it.

It would, perhaps, be of interest to explain here that the Kashgulis are a sub-division of the great Kashgai tribe, whose nominal head or Ilkhani is Sowlet-ed-Dowleh. The chief of the senior branch of Kashgulis is Mohammed Ali Khan, and that of the junior branch his cousin Mohammed Khan. These two chiefs are deadly enemies, and whilst the former professes to own allegiance to Sowlet-ed-Dowleh, the latter is a partisan of Sardar Etesham, Sowlet's half-brother, and formerly Ilbegi of the Kashgais. Both Mohammed Ali Khan and Mohammed Khan are enemies of the Nasr-i-Diwan, and before the advent of the gendarmerie the neighbourhood of Kazerun was a scene of periodical conflict between Mohammed Ali Khan and the Kazerunis.

The Kazerun plain and town remains in a state of great insecurity. The townspeople are in a pitiable condition, and after nightfall are preyed on and robbed by outlaw "tofangchis," who descend from the hills, which they took to after the fight, and infest the outskirts of the town. Although the gendarmerie are now quartered in Kazerun in large numbers, their presence would seem to have little effect on the marauders. And, as you will doubtless have learnt from the cables, on April 25 a caravan of over forty mules travelling to Shiraz from Bushire was attacked and carried off just outside the town without opposition and in broad daylight. It is true that after the event a force of gendarmerie set out in pursuit of the brigands and succeeded in recovering the mules, but it cost them eight men killed and some half-a-dozen wounded, whilst not a single kran's worth of the goods was retrieved, the whole caravan-load—again much of it British owned—being successfully carried off by the robbers.

More recently a caravan of mules journeying down to Shiraz from Ispahan has been attacked and carried off by Boerahmedis in the neighbourhood of Yezdikhast, some of the loot including valuable chests of opium belonging to British firms.

NOTES FROM BAGHDAD.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Baghdad, May 22.

The New Vali's Activities.

The new Vali, Djavid Pasha, has lately been instituting an inquiry into municipal matters, with the result that the *Rais el Belladieh* (head of the municipality) has been replaced by a *mudir* appointed by the Vali, and the whole council has been suspended until they are able to justify their methods in certain transactions inquired into. Considerable pickings are alleged to have been made from the street-asphalting contract, but perhaps the most important question is that of the *Gaz Khane*, or municipal oil store. Oil deposited in this depôt is supposed to be insured against fire risk by payment of a higher rate than that required for deposits at owner's risk. Two years ago a fire occurred at the store, and since that time those merchants who had oil deposited there at the insured rate have been endeavouring to obtain some compensation for their loss. Now it would appear that such compensation, amounting to something like £T3,000, must eventually come from the pockets of the members of the Council, since they had neglected to take up fire insurance on the depôt and so cover their liability.

A military officer of no small reputation, the Vali appears to have taken great interest in military matters in the vilayet. There is a constant movement of troops in and around Baghdad, long route marches seem to be the order of the day, and at the recent review on the occasion of the anniversary of the Sultan's accession one could not help favourably comparing the general appearance of the different corps with that observed during the last few years. It would seem that the Vali is striving to attain the standard of efficiency maintained in the days of the late Nazim Pasha.

The Irrigation Works.

The works at the Hindieh Barrage are practically complete, and the finishing touches are being put to the escape which was afterwards considered necessary to take the weight of water from the main barrage in the high floods, and can best be described as a "safety valve." The majority of the British engineers engaged on the works have left for Home, and several Turkish engineers have arrived and taken up their residence on the spot. They have, however, not yet taken over entire control of the barrage, and the regulating of the sluice gates is still in the hands of the British engineer in charge. Some of the plant has been already transported to Ramadi for use on the Habbania works; but it remains to be seen what steps the Turkish Government will take for the furtherance of this latter scheme, and whether the work will be continued by the firm of Sir John Jackson, Limited, on the present commission basis, or whether sufficient funds will be voted for Mesopotamian irrigation to allow the Government to give the contract for the completion of the works to either Sir John Jackson, Limited, or Messrs. Pearson, whose engineers have lately made a survey of the district. At the present moment work is going on slowly at Ramadi, and only a comparatively small number of men are employed in cutting the canal into the Habbania depression from the Euphrates.

Progress of the Baghdad Railway.

It is expected that the first section of the Baghdad Railway will be opened for traffic on June 1, the line from Baghdad to Semaika, a distance of about eighty kilometres, being ready. The line to Samarra should be completed by September, and a fair passenger traffic will no doubt be done, considering the great number of pilgrims who travel annually to that place to worship at the holy shrine there.

Baghdad-Kermanshah Road.

The roads between Baghdad and Kermanshah are again in a state of great insecurity, some of the tribes on the route having recommenced marauding.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Late Sir H. Layard's Pictures. June 9.

Mr. Montague Barlow asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with regard to the pictures, the property of the late Sir H. Layard, which were left to this country by his will (to which reference has frequently been made in The Near East), whether negotiations were proceeding with the Italian Government with a view to their being transferred to this country; if not, whether they were being retained in Italy, and, if so, under what circumstances; and what was proposed to be done with them?

Sir E. Grey: Negotiations are proceeding with the Italian Government in the matter, and in the meantime the pictures are being retained in Italy. I trust, however, that a satisfactory settlement may shortly be reached.

Gun-running in the Gulf.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether His Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf had been engaged with gun-runners during the months of April and May.

Dr. Macnamara: No, sir, so far as the Admiralty is aware.

Persian Food Duties.

In answer to a question from Sir Richard Cooper, Mr. Burns said, with regard to Persia: Foods and beverages generally are dutiable at specific rates, but there is a provision in the tariff that "groceries" other than those specifically mentioned (*i.e.*, other than pepper, curry-powder, pimento, mustard, cinnamon, nutmegs, cloves, vanilla, vanillin, saffron, and truffles) are to be dutiable at 15 per cent. ad valorem.

Rights of Minorities in the Balkans. June 10.

Mr. Acland (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs) stated, in reply to Sir J. D. Rees, that His Majesty's Government propose to inform the Balkan States concerned that they are willing to recognise the recent annexations in so far as such changes constitute a departure from the settlement sanctioned by the Treaty of Berlin, and subsequent international agreements between the Powers signatories of that Treaty, provided that the annexing States on their part acknowledge the binding force in respect of the annexed territories of those provisions of the Treaty of Berlin which ensure the equal rights of religious or national minorities.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Affairs appear to be working up for another Greco-Turkish crisis. I see that reprisals are at last being contemplated by the Cabinet of Athens, and in order to impress the Ottoman public with the intense resentment which is felt throughout the Hellenic world at the treatment of Greeks in Turkey, the wholesale confiscation of the property of Moslems in Hellenic Macedonia is being suggested. Two blacks do not make a white, and the Hellenes of the kingdom must remember that if it comes to the point of making official reprisals there are far more Greeks exposed to Turkish antipathy in the Ottoman dominions than there are Moslems upon whom to retaliate in Hellas, old or new. Like most people in this country, I detest racial or religious persecution—more especially so when the persecution is carried out by a mob—and I think third parties should intervene to compel a proper respect for individual liberties, guaranteed in both countries by the letter of the law and the spirit of the Constitution. A Moslem mob, accustomed for years to regard most Christians as "Greeks," may at any moment make the mistake of treating all Christians as Greeks. There would, of course, be a hideous uproar; a naval brigade would be landed to protect Pera, Ambassadors would vie with one another in demanding apologies and reparation. I suggest, therefore, that the proper persons should intimate to the Young Turks that if they want to be rid of their Greeks they had better expropriate them by legislative enactment and award them reasonable compensation. The Hellenic Government has agreed to co-operate in such a scheme, and the requisite transfer of populations could then take place as if they were human beings. It is quite obvious that the Powers are being merely selfish spectators of what, did they desire a grievance against the Porte, would have already led to a magnificent display of journalistic heroics and international fireworks. As, unfortunately, they are entirely selfish, it is necessary to point out that by making the Turks bear the cost of an expropriation, by which they hope to benefit, the Powers will be spared the expense of naval movements and armies of occupation, which will become necessary if a Moslem mob gets out of hand and kills or beats some foreign Christian who does not happen to be a Greek. Meanwhile the relations between the two countries become daily more strained, and I am told that the Young Turks are calculating on the breaking point being reached by the end of August—though, of course, Mr. Venizelos may see fit to strike before then.

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The action of the Oecumenical Patriarch in closing all Orthodox churches and all Greek schools within his jurisdiction as a protest against the cruel maltreatment to which his flock are subjected in various parts of Turkey, appears to be a return to the medieval interdict which used to play so large a part in the foreign policy of the Vatican at one time. The situation is desperate, and needs a desperate remedy; but it still remains to be seen whether His All-Holiness has prescribed the correct treatment. The attitude of the Turk towards his Greek *rayah* is very hostile at present, and gives the impression that he is anxious entirely to rid himself of the *millet-i-Roum*. In these circumstances it may be that the Porte will regard the action of the Phanar as an act of insubordination on the part of a Government official—such being the status of the Oecumenical Patriarch in the eye of the Ottoman—and will treat it accordingly. On one occasion a Patriarch was hanged; very frequently have they been deprived; and the immediate predecessor of Germanos V. was forced to make way for a successor, himself now in exile, and was restored to the throne only after years of retirement. The Bulgarian Exarch some months ago withdrew from Turkish territory, and if the position alike of the Patriarch and his people is made intolerable under the Turk, it may be necessary for the successor of St. John Chrystostom to retire from Constantinople, as did his predecessor, John X. Kamtera, in 1204, when the Latins sacked that city and established a Latin hierarchy, while the Orthodox Church transferred its headquarters to the temporary capital of the Byzantine Emperors in Nicæa.

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I see that the Albanians, like their neighbours in Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Roumania, have realised that the average inhabitant of the West is a stupid fellow who understands no Balkan language and is too lazy to try to do so. In consequence of this they have established a French and English edition of *Koha*, an Albanian journal published in Koritza. This is purely for the benefit of foreigners, and will enable them to read the Albanian point of view. I believe that the Servians and Montenegrins are now the only Balkan peoples who have failed to appeal to the West in a journal published locally, but printed in a language more readily understandable by foreigners than the native idiom.

Jules Verne's hero went round the world in eighty days, and other enthusiasts have since then considerably reduced his record. In fact, there is now nothing remarkable about rapid transit, and it is only those travellers who can reckon their journeys by weeks or months who are worthy of attention. I see that the British Resident in Koweit has returned home viâ Er Riadh and Cairo, taking three-and-a-half months to ride the first 1,800 miles of his route. Captain Shakespear is to be congratulated on having thus acquired a sound working knowledge of the interior of Arabia, its political conditions and commercial possibilities. I look forward with interest to the lecture which I understand he is to deliver before the Royal Geographical Society, and to the alterations in maps which he will then make.

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One correspondent in Cyprus tells me that it is not at all unlikely that a deputation of Cypriote Greeks will visit London at no very distant date in order once more to urge the British Government to "hand over" the island to Greece, a matter on which they have suffered rebuff once or twice already. With somewhat suffragette-like tactics the Greek agitators have been trying to make representative government impossible in the Island as a protest against the non-fulfilment of their aspirations, with which we dealt in last week's issue. For days they opposed every item in the Estimates, but at last, as another correspondent puts it, "worn out by loss of gas, they practically collapsed over the last few votes." It is a silly policy, and does not impress people over here. I shall be quite pleased to see another Cyprus deputation in this country, as it all tends to advertise the island, and advertisement is good for trade. It is to be hoped that the missionaries of Ἕνωσις will have a second string to their bow, and, after exhausting their forensic eloquence on behalf of their party, will turn their attention to arranging measures for the benefit of the Island—as, for example, the formation of a powerful company for building first-class hotels on Troodos and making it a recognized summer station. I can assure them there are far larger profits to be made from such a venture than from years of political agitation—though naturally the work, being useful, would be harder.

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"On account of the unfavourable weather prognostications for the approaching total eclipse of the sun throughout the European countries traversed by the track of totality, it seems particularly desirable that stations should be occupied beyond the Black Sea, nearer the sunset limit of eclipse, in Eastern Turkey and Western Persia." I am quoting from an article in *Nature* by Mr. David Todd, in which the most eligible spots for making observations are pointed out, and advice and directions are given one how to get to them. It may be expected that several parties of astronomers will trek across Turkey and Persia with the object of making their observations of the solar eclipse under clearer skies. The central line of the eclipse passes through Baiburt and Bitlis, just a few miles to the west of Lake Van, in Turkey; and in Persia, through Kermanshah and Khoremmabad, to the south-west of Teheran, and through a point midway between Persepolis and Dehbid, and slightly to the north-east of Shiraz, only a few miles distant from Bushire. These twentieth-century students of the heavens will be able to visit the country of the Chaldeans, their forerunners of antiquity. As most of this region is desert, the chances of a cloudless afternoon sky in August are good; and the height above sea level of the country traversed by the shadow (as much as 5,000 to 6,000 ft.) "would, in large measure if not entirely, compensate for the lesser altitude of the afternoon sun at local totality." The travellers will have many difficulties to overcome, not the least being the safe transport of delicate instruments and telescopes on muleback. And doubtless they will experience many little rubs and mischances, not conducive to scientific calm and detachment, which are incidental to travel in the unsettled country between the Black Sea and the Persian Gulf.

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Those who have read Mr. Anthony Hope's "Phroso" will remember that the path of the purchaser of a Greek islet in the Ægean was not strewn with roses, but tried, like those of glory, to lead "but to the grave." I see, however, that the Italians, no whit abashed by Lord Wheatley's experience, have just bought the Island of Akronnisos from Mr. Manglis, and now enjoy full rights of proprietorship. How far these will conflict with Ottoman sovereignty remains to be seen, but, as the island dominates the historic port of Budrum (which used to be Halikarnassos), a famous castle of the Knights of Rhodes, it is certainly a somewhat curious commentary upon the statements—believed in some quarters—that the Italians intend to evacuate the Dodekanese. If that operation depend upon the consent of the Porte to the new Italo-Aidin railway agreement, it may yet have to be postponed a little.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE INNER HISTORY OF THE BALKAN WAR.*

Among a score of books on the latest Balkan crisis, the volume which Colonel Rankin has just published stands out as one of the few contributions of abiding interest. Most of those who preceded him in the field had to labour under difficulties which were bound to detract much from the permanent value of their work. The storm came as a surprise even to the meteorologists of the European Chancelleries, and where responsible statesmen for a long time only saw chaos it was hardly reasonable to expect that journalists would discover system or sequence. Those of them who had been eye-witnesses of the Balkan drama did well to record their personal impressions as raw material for the future historian, but this was the utmost limit to which their ambition could aspire. To have aimed higher would have been to attempt the impossible.

The lapse of one year has altered conditions and greatly simplified Colonel Rankin's task. His object has evidently been to write a book that will stand the test of time. Putting things at their lowest, he has endeavoured to combine the functions of a conscientious journalist with those of an historian. Every page of his bulky volume contains evidence of his constant preoccupation to neglect no source of information, and to give a rational explanation of occurrences which at first sight appear as by-products of human perversity. Most of the authors who have hitherto written on this topic mainly indulged in homilies and censures at the expense of the Balkan States. In contrast with them, Colonel Rankin never forgets that free peoples cannot be tempted into shedding their blood in order to gratify the lust for destruction, but are actuated by motives of a nobler nature. As an impartial spectator, cherishing kindly feelings towards all the parties, he is able to do justice to their separate claims and to distribute blame, where blame is deserved, in an even-handed manner, The result of such a judicial attitude will probably be that no one will remain entirely satisfied with his conclusions, but this is the highest compliment which can be paid to the author's fairness and impartiality.

While recognising conspicuous merits in Colonel Rankin's book, it must be admitted that its perusal does not altogether justify the expectations awakened by the title. It hardly advances our knowledge of the inner side of the Balkan Wars beyond the point where it stood before. Colonel Rankin has been at great pains to unravel the threads of secret negotiations which led to the war with Turkey, and succeeds in giving a tolerably good account of the formation of the Balkan League. On this subject he accepts the guidance of the well-informed Balkan correspondent of *The Times*, to whom he very gracefully dedicates his work. It is, therefore, not surprising that he should have fallen into the error, committed by Mr. Bourchier, of ascribing to M. Venizelos the inception of the League. The services rendered by the Greek Prime Minister to the cause of Balkan union are beyond dispute, but it is none the less true that the Serbo-Bulgarian alliance had been practically concluded before earnest negotiations between Sofia and Athens had commenced. Colonel Rankin makes no mention of the circumstances under which Montenegro was induced to join the League. This took place during the early summer of 1912, and not the least piquant detail of the transaction is that it took place under the roof of the Imperial Palace in Vienna, where King Nicholas was staying as the guest of the Austrian Emperor. There was on this occasion no written pact, but the Bulgarian Government undertook to serve Montenegro a subsidy of 700,000 francs per month in the event of the war breaking out. Colonel Rankin maintains that King Nicholas declared war on his own responsibility and without the knowledge of the other Allies. Although this is the prevailing impression, future disclosures will establish that the conduct of Montenegro was in conformity with a pre-arranged plan.

It is, however, with respect to the war among the Allies that Colonel Rankin's book fails to turn darkness into light. Next to nothing is known of the various intrigues and schemings that went on behind the curtains from the break-up of the first Peace Conference to the eve of the second Balkan War, and in the absence of such information it is well-nigh impossible to apportion responsibilities among the contending parties. Within the last few months the Governments of Roumania, Russia, and Austria have published very interesting collections of diplomatic documents bearing on these events. It is much to be regretted that Colonel Rankin has not been able to avail himself of the fresh materials. In the light of these disclosures he would have had to modify some of his conclusions and abandon a good many of his surmises. Some time must elapse before all essential facts become public property, and until then the most scrupulous pronouncements will be liable to periodic revisions and corrections. Much may be expected in this direction from the inquiry which the Bulgarian Sobranje has just ordered into the circumstances surrounding the disasters which overwhelmed Bulgaria last summer.

What has been said of diplomatic events also applies to military matters. The author of this book accompanied one of the Bulgarian armies during the war against Turkey, and is consequently well qualified to speak with authority. But generals are no more communicative than Ministers, and do not like to take the outside world into their confidence, except when this suits their convenience. The main facts concerning military operations during the first war are, on the whole, well authenticated, but even here there still remains much to be learned. Could the great battle of Lule-Bourgas have ended in a more decisive result and brought the entire war to a stop within five weeks of its declaration? In the course of a recent controversy between the Chief of the Bulgarian Staff and General Radko Dimitrieff, the latter maintained that his plan had been to drive the entire Turkish Army towards the Istrandja mountain and force it to capitulate. This, however, pre-supposed the active co-operation of the first Bulgarian Army, which he failed to secure owing to the timidity of the Bulgarian General Staff. The latter was expecting a *sortie-en-masse* of the Adrianople garrison, and held General Kutincheff's army in reserve with the object of frustrating such an attempt on the part of Shukri Pasha. The author speaks of a second Bulgarian attack on the Chataldja lines while Adrianople was being stormed. What really happened on that occasion was in the nature of a masking movement, which degenerated into a sanguinary battle through the rashness of the commander of the First Bulgarian Army. The Bulgarian General Staff seriously contemplated forcing a passage through the Chataldja fortifications, and had brought all the heavy artillery from Adrianople as soon as that fortress had been captured, but the plan was abandoned owing to the determined opposition of Russia.

Colonel Rankin would have rendered his readers an inestimable service by elucidating the true military history of the war among the Allies, for that subject still remains shrouded in considerable mystery. This is especially true of the second period of the war, after the Bulgarians had succeeded in concentrating their dispersed forces. All through the latter half of July, 1913, stubborn fighting continued along the entire front, each side claiming victory. But beyond what appears to be an undisputed fact, that the advancing wave of the Greco-Servian armies had been stemmed, nothing definite is known. Such virgin soil might well have tempted an enterprising student like Colonel Rankin, and his labour there would have been richly rewarded. For reasons which he does not explain, he has neglected this splendid opportunity, and dismisses in half-a-dozen pages a topic which fully deserved as many chapters.

Having taken such pains to probe the Balkan problems to their bottom, and knowing all the influences that sway the Balkan peoples, Colonel Rankin was bound to be impressed by the utter futility of the settlement enacted at Bucharest and Constantinople. His opinion on this subject is that the new order of things in the Balkans is not destined to a long life. So impressed is he by that fact that he devotes a whole

* "The Inner History of the Balkan War." Lieut.-Colonel Rankin, F.R.G.S., Special Correspondent of *The Times*. (Published by Constable and ompany, Ltd. Price, 15s. net.)

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chapter of his instructive book to sketching a solution of the problem which, if neglected, might soon prove the source of fresh troubles. Whatever the practical value of his suggestion, most readers will agree that it does not lack originality. Colonel Rankin proposes nothing less than "the constitution of an Eastern Empire on the German model, with the Tsar of Bulgaria as its elected and its hereditary chief." He seems to overlook the all-important fact that, whereas the German Empire is reared on racial unity, in the Balkans it is the multiplicity of ethnic elements which is at the root of the whole trouble. A far simpler, if less ambitious, way out of the difficulty would be to take as a rough basis the principle of nationality, evolving out of it a system that would guarantee to the various races conditions for free development. Besides its other merits, which are too patent to require elaboration, this plan offers the additional advantage that, if carried out with statesmanlike moderation, it might result in the establishment of a lasting Balkan equilibrium.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. William Blackwood and Sons have issued "The Life and Times of Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt," by Mr. Arthur E. P. Weigall, formerly Inspector-General of Antiquities in Egypt. It is a sympathetic study of a very elusive character. The price is 16s. net.

"The Adventures of Hajji Baba of Ispahan," by James Morier, has been added by Messrs. Dent to their Everyman's Library. Never was there conceived a more delightful rogue than Hajji Baba, and "Everyman" will now be able, for the modest sum of one shilling, to enjoy to the full the rascalities of this diverting vagabond and very pleasant companion. Though the satire is merciless, Morier has given a true as well as a lively picture of Persian life as he knew it in the early years of the nineteenth century.

Messrs. Constable and Co. have published a book by Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie on "Amulets," being the first of a series dealing with various branches of Egyptian archæology based on the collection at University College. Some two hundred and seventy different kinds of amulets are described. It is issued at 21s. net.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Travel and Politics in Armenia. By Noel Buxton, M.P., and the Rev. Harold Buxton. (Smith, Elder, and Co. 5s. net.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE THRACIAN "PERSECUTIONS."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

DEAR SIR,—My correspondence, which you have kindly published, has brought forth some interesting statements by Mr. Field and Mr. Seed respecting the Turcophil organisations they respectively represent.

I would, however, point out to these gentlemen that the points of their differences of opinion are no concern of mine. Further, it is sufficiently obvious that both the Ottoman Association and the Anglo-Ottoman Society, by keeping alive and attempting to make capital of certain incidents of a very sordid nature and of very questionable authenticity, are doing considerable harm not only to their own cause but to the welfare of the Balkan peoples.

According to your correspondent Mr. Seed, his Association is to some extent composed of people financially interested in Turkey. It is quite intelligible that bondholders and others financially interested in Turkey should wish to do everything in their power to uphold Turkey. But I fail to see how they can hope to obtain this object so long as they unceasingly cause enmity between Turkey and her neighbours. Statements such as Mr. Field made in his letter in your issue of May 22, the publication of "Turkey in Agony," and the indictments against neighbouring countries as brought forth by the pro-Turk Press, can have no other result than to produce and maintain bad feeling amongst the nations concerned. Bad feeling leads on to war, and surely war is at the moment the last thing that anybody interested in Turkey can wish for. I hold my statements demonstrate the utterly illogical attitude of the pro-Turk party.

Your courteous correspondent, Mr. Arthur Field, in criticising my objection to the rancour and venom created by the pro-Turks, states that "I take the usual course of assuming that none but myself and those holding my own views have studied the past history of the subject." What exactly your correspondent means by this I do not understand. But, so far as Balkan matters are concerned, I never "assume" anything. I have read and heard too much obvious fiction on the subject.

I recently pointed out in your valuable columns how at one time recently the pro-Turks joined with Greeks in vilifying their neighbours. Now, not only are the Turcophils and Greeks at loggerheads, but it seems the pro-Turks have divided camps. Although modern tendencies are towards extremes as regards party politics, both by their methods and actions the Turcophils appear to be pressing these extremes almost to the point of absurdity.

I do not accept your correspondent's criticisms on my remarks about *The Review of Reviews* articles. To me these articles appealed from a purely Imperialistic standpoint, having more regard to the future than to past history. I do not know who inspired the articles referred to, but I conclude in his letter your correspondent refers to the late Mr. Stead as "The monomaniac on the subject of Turkish rule who ran *The Review of Reviews.*" But I may remind your correspondent with regret that Mr. Stead died long before the articles were published. Further, Mr. Stead was an Imperialist, and his views on foreign matters were considered by many to be very sound.

But if, in the articles referred to, there was any mention that past history proves that the Turks are absolutely incapable of governing, and consequently are a constant menace to the peace of Europe, I would heartily endorse these views.—Yours, etc.,

G. W. C. HOLLIST, M.R.C.S., etc.

Riseley Lodge, Maidenhead,
June 7, 1914.

CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I desire to express my regret that I, in common with Mr. Hollist, misunderstood "A Member of the Ottoman Association." He is certainly correct in saying that the British public as a whole was silent as to the atrocities committed in the Balkans. There is now a movement to declare those atrocities were "somewhat exaggerated." We must take up this matter elsewhere, as the photographic evidence of deliberate outrage is either a barefaced fraud or is full of indisputable proof of the asserted outrages.

Mr. Hollist, when he learns that he, like myself, misinterpreted "A Member's" letter, will see that his criticisms are without point. However, his general attitude of scepticism about the existence of any outrages committed by Christians on Moslems coincides with that of so many Englishmen that it must be countered on every possible occasion. We have before us at the moment not only documentary and photographic evidence of the atrocities during the war, referred to above, but details of current events—(1) In Macedonia; (2) in the new territory acquired by Montenegro; (3) in New Servia. If such events can occur in a state of peace, after the passions supposedly exclusive to wartime have subsided, they offer a further presumption of proof that the outrages circumstantially attributed to the Christians during the war are true.

These current events are briefly as follows:—(1) In the territory recently incorporated in Greece there is a systematic exercise of violence, injustice, and outrage, which has resulted in a vast exodus of Moslems, far larger than any exodus of Greeks from Thrace. It has been asserted by Christians that the cruelty and expropriation going on in Macedonia are a retort to the squeezing out of Greeks from Thrace. In the first place, such deeds have been going on continuously for several months; secondly, the exodus from Thrace has been stimulated by agents, who have told the Greek peasants to come to Macedonia, where they can get land and property for nothing; thirdly, the Greek immigrants into Macedonia, who have done most of the expropriation of the Moslems, have been drawn in from all parts, even from Russia, which is proof of a concerted Greek action. It is admitted that the exodus from Thrace has been chiefly—almost entirely, in fact—unaccompanied by violence. The forcing of the Moslems out of Macedonia has been, on the contrary, the result of regular and systematic violence. I hope to be allowed to give instances in your columns later. (2) In the new territory of Montenegro the Montenegrins are squeezing out, by a sustained boycott and in many cases by violence, the Moslems from their lands. Four thousand have already left, 4,500 are now in course of departing, and 3,000 more are preparing to leave. (3) Twenty thousand people of various races and religions have removed from Monastir and the blessing of Servian rule. Life is made intolerable for large numbers of the population under the new Christian régimes. The exodus from Servian and Montenegrin territory is small as compared with that from Greek territory (estimated at from 160,000 to over 200,000), though the mere fact of such an exodus proves that that in Macedonia is not a mere retort to any Turkish action elsewhere.

It is, in fact, impossible for the average Greek Christian to grant the elementary rights of humanity to Moslems, once they find themselves in a position to crush them. This is "liberation"! There was a large Moslem population in Greece at the time of its liberation. Where is that Moslem population? Its absolute exclusion from Greece, when compared with the Turkish admission and retention of a huge Greek population, is a telling comment on the liberality of the Greek Christian.

In conclusion, may I announce here that it is not my intention to waste your space upon any further discussion of the internal organisation of English Turcophil societies?—Yours, etc.,

ARTHUR FIELD,
Secretary of the Anglo-Ottoman Society.

158, Fleet Street, E.C.,
June.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. June.	1914. May		1332. Rejab	5674 Sivan
12	30	Friday	18	18
13	31	Saturday	19	19
	June			
14	1	Sunday	20	20
15	2	Monday	21	21
16	3	Tuesday	22	22
17	4	Wednesday	23	23
18	5	Thursday	24	24

To-day, Rejab 18, is the birthday of H.I.H. Jemal-ed-Din Effendi, nephew of the Heir Apparent to the Ottoman throne.

To-morrow will be the birthday of H.R.H. Duke of Parma, uncle of the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the accession to the throne of H.R.H. the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, nephew of the late Queen Amelia of Greece, the wife of the deposed King Otho.

Sunday will be the birthday of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes.

Sunday will be the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Dmitri of Russia, brother of her Majesty the Queen Dowager of the Hellenes.

Monday is the anniversary of the accession of H.I.M. the German Emperor, brother of the Queen of the Hellenes.

Monday is the anniversary of the accession of his Majesty the King of Servia.

Monday is the anniversary of the wedding, in 1905, of H.R.H. Princess Margaret of Connaught to the Crown Prince of Sweden, then Duke of Scania.

Monday, Rejab 21, is the birthday of H.I.H. Mehmed Salah-ed-Din Effendi, eldest son of the late Sultan Murad Khan, and third in order of succession to the Ottoman Throne.

Monday is also the birthday of his Imperial Highness's eldest grandson, H.I.H. Ali Vassib Effendi, the only son of H.I.H. Ahmed Nihad Effendi.

Tuesday is the birthday of Princess Jemilé Sultana, sister of the Sultan and widow of the late Damad Mahmud Jellal-ed-Din Pasha.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has taken up his residence in Yildiz Kiosk, the favourite palace of his predecessor.

Her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes arrived at Venice last week and left for Frankfort on Saturday evening.

It is expected that her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes will come on a private visit to England towards the end of this month, accompanied by some of the younger members of her family, and will spend three weeks at Eastbourne before going to Germany in connection with the courtship of the Crown Prince of Greece and Princess Elizabeth of Roumania.

His Majesty the King of Roumania has made arrangements to stay in Constantza for some time after the Russian Imperial visit, and will only go to Bucharest for the day on June 18 in order to open the Constituent Assembly.

His Majesty the Tsar of the Bulgarians has arrived at the castle of Muranyalja, where he is expected to stay for some time.

The Khedive is expected to arrive in Paris about the middle of this month, and will stay on the Continent till July 24. Afterwards he will visit the Sultan at Constantinople, where he will spend the month of Ramadan.

H.I.H. Yuzzuf Izz-ed-Din Effendi, the Ottoman Heir Apparent, has gone to Chanilija Kiosk for the summer.

It is reported in Bucharest that the Crown Prince of Roumania will shortly pay a visit to Constantinople.

Their Imperial Highnesses Abdur Rahim Effendi, fifth son of the ex-Sultan, Abdul Halim Effendi, nephew of the Sultan, and Osman Fuad Effendi, grandson of the late Sultan Murad Khan, left Constantinople on Tuesday last for Germany to undergo a course of military instruction.

Prince Christopher of Greece has arrived in London from Paris.

H.I.H. Adilé Sultana, daughter of H.I.H. Salah-ed-Din Effendi, the Sultan's nephew, was married last week to Moralizade Salah-ed-Din Ali Bey.

We learn with the liveliest satisfaction that the latest reports about the Earl of Cromer's health, which has lately given rise to considerable anxiety, are of a much more favourable nature, and that there are now reasonable hopes for a complete recovery.

The Times Cairo correspondent telegraphed on June 8 that he was asked to deny rumours that Sir Reginald Wingate, the Sirdar, is retiring owing to ill-health.

The garden party given at the British Embassy in Constantinople on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday was a brilliant affair. H.I.M. the Sultan was represented by Mehmed Tewfik Bey, First Chamberlain, H.I.H. Yussuf Izz-ed-Din by his Chamberlain, Major Hassan Bey.

H.E. the Russian Ambassador and Mme. de Giers, H.E. the Italian Ambassador, H.E. the French Ambassador and Mme. Bompard, H.E. the German Ambassador and the Baroness von Wagenheim were present, and all the other members of the Diplomatic Corps with their wives.

H.H. the Grand Vizier, Said Halim Pasha, also attended with the following members of the Cabinet:—Talaat Bey (Interior), Enver Pasha (War), Djemal Pasha (Marine), Djavid Bey (Finance), Suleiman Bustani (Commerce and Agriculture), Shukri Bey (Public Instruction), Ibrahim Bey (Justice), Oskan Effendi (Posts and Telegraphs).

There were also present Admiral Limpus and the British officers, Liman von Sanders Pasha, and a large number of senators and prominent officials.

A similar celebration of his Majesty's birthday was held at the British Legation, Tangier, where the British colony was invited to an At Home by H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Herbert E. White, and Mrs. White. Those present included, besides the members and staffs of the Legation and Consulate and the chief part of the colony, Mulai Abd el Aziz and Si Menebhi.

Mr. Barnham, H.B.M. Consul-General, held a reception in Smyrna on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday, at which H.E. the Vali of Aidin, Pertev Pasha, the commander of the Smyrna Army Corps, and the Consular Body were present.

Our Sofia correspondent informs us that on June 3, the birthday of his Majesty King George, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry, called at the British Legation in Sofia to express to the British Minister the congratulations of the Bulgarian Government. Mr. Dobrovitch conveyed the greeting on the part of his Majesty King Ferdinand.

H.E. the Marquis Pallavicini, Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to the Porte, has returned to Constantinople.

Mme. Gennadius, the wife of the Hellenic Minister in London, performed the ceremony of launching from the yard of Messrs. Cammell, Laird, Birkenhead, on Tuesday, the first of two steamers ordered by the National Steam Navigation Company of Greece for the passenger and emigrant service to the United States.

The Bulgarian Minister and Mme. M. J. Madjaroff and M. and Mme. Mincoff attended the Te Deum in commemoration of the name day of H.I.M. the Tsaritsa of Russia, at the Russian Church, Welbeck Street, at noon on Sunday.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes (June 7):—His Excellency the American Minister at Bucharest and Mrs. Vopicka gave a dinner, followed by a ball, on Saturday night, at which the Crown Prince and Princess of Roumania were present.

It is reported that the Roumanian Minister to the Austro-Hungarian Court, M. Edward Mavrocordat, will shortly resign his post in order to take up the duties of Secretary-General to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that M. Nanu, the present Secretary-General, will be appointed to the post thus left vacant.

WHERE TO STAY.

LAUSANNE-OUCHY (Switzerland).

SAVOY HOTEL.
Near the lake, with splendid park.

CECIL HOTEL.
In the town and 5 minutes from the station.

Two First-class Family Hotels.
High-class Cuisine. French Chef.
J. SUMSER, Manager-Proprietor.

Sofia (Bulgaria).
GRAND HOTEL BULGARIE
(opposite the Royal Palace).
First-class Hotel. Entirely renovated and beautifully situated in the centre of the city, near Post Office, Theatre, Museums, Banks, etc. Electric Light. Central heating. Baths. Garage. Telephone. Garden. French Restaurant. Good wines. Café. Foreign newspapers. Most frequented by English and American Visitors. Interpreter meets all trains. Rooms from 4 frs.

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Open all the Year round—
LIMASSOL (Olympus Hotel).
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PLATRES (Platres Hotel). 4,000 ft. from the sea level. Opens from May till Oct.
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Perfect Situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Also Excursion to Mount Troodos.
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All arrangements for Transport by Carriages, etc. are made by the above Firm.

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Mr. Hallett Johnson, the newly appointed secretary to the United States Embassy in Constantinople, leaves London to-day to take up his new duties.

Prince Antoine Bibescu, who has been appointed First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in London, a position he has held before, is expected to arrive during this week from St. Petersburg.

Denmark has established a legation in Constantinople; and the first Minister appointed to the post, M. Waendel, was received in solemn audience on June 1 by H.I.M. the Sultan.

The Times Cairo correspondent reports, under date June 8, that Sheikh Idris El Senussi, a brother of the head of the sect, has arrived at Alexandria, where he is staying as the Khedive's guest at the Ras-el-Tin Palace. The ostensible object of his journey is a pilgrimage to Medina, but it is believed not to be unconnected with the peace negotiations between the Senussi and Italy.

The Archimandrite Dionysus, Superior of the Monastery of Sinaia, who has recently been to Jerusalem in connection with the building of a Roumanian cathedral in that city, has returned to Bucharest.

Rear-Admiral Limpus, who has been promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral in the Turkish Navy, celebrated his fifty-first birthday on Sunday. He has been in Constantinople since April, 1912, and has recently, it is understood, accepted a renewal of his contract beyond the two years for which it was originally available.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to grant Major Percy Matthew Dove, the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Osmanieh, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the Khedive of Egypt, authorised by the Sultan.

The Khedive has approved of the nomination of Mr. Xydaki to be Hellenic Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Cairo.

H.E. Bekir Sami Bey, Vali of Beyrout, has been promoted Commander of the Legion of Honour by the President of the French Republic.

Abdul Vehab Bey, formerly Mutessarif of Dedeagatch, has been appointed Mutessarif of Mersina

Mr. Heer, the newly appointed Director-General of Forests in the Ottoman Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture, has taken up his duties.

Colonel Thomson has been appointed Military Governor of Durazzo.

General Sir John and Lady Maxwell entertained at dinner at 7, Grosvenor Place, on Tuesday evening Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, Lord and Lady Powerscourt, Lord and Lady Decies, the Earl of Cathcart, the Earl of Westmeath, Lord and Lady Weardale, General Sir Francis and Lady Lloyd, Mrs. Hope Vere, Mrs. and Miss Lowther, Mr. Arthur Portman, and Captain Joliff.

Lord and Lady Inchcape were present at the dance given by the Hon. Mrs. Hastings, at 5, Grosvenor Gardens, on last Friday night, for her daughter, Miss Margaret Hastings.

The following is the class-list of probationers for the Civil Service of Egypt and the Sudan for 1914.—Class 1.—E. G. Coryton, King's, Cambridge; J. A. Reid, Brasenose, Oxford; C. H. Thomson, Clare, Cambridge; T. M. Gent, Trinity, Oxford. Class 2.—R. O'Donoghue, T.C.D. and Cambridge. Class 3.—J. G. Monteath, Wadham, Oxford; P. C. B. Blair, King's, Cambridge; E. R. Burgess, Magdalen, Oxford.

Sir Launcelotte Gubbins, late Director-General, Army Medical Service, who has recently retired, served in the Egyptian War, 1882. At first attached to the base hospital, Cyprus, he was afterwards transferred to the Field Force and placed in medical charge 79th (Cameron) Highlanders at Cairo.

Colonel R. W. Ford, D.S.O., who has been promoted surgeon-general, vice Sir W. L. Gubbins, joined the Army Medical Serivice in 1881, and saw active service the following year in the Egyptian Expedition.

Major Cosmo Little, Lady Guendolen Little, and the Misses Chaplin have arrived at 37, Lowndes Square for the remainder of the season.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes (May 29):—Mrs. W. Bevan and children, and Mrs. Kerby left for England last mail.

Mr. A. L. C. Stuart, President of the District Court, Limassol, and Mrs. Stuart, and Mr. W. Smithers, of the Railway Department, have gone on leave.

Miss Ida Spencer, of Nicosia, was among the passengers for England this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Martindale and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were passengers by the Messageries s.s. "Karnak," which arrived at Marseilles on June 4.

Lieutenant J. O. Thurburn, Royal Horse Artillery, Lieutenant the Hon. T. P. P. Butler, Royal Horse Artillery, have been appointed for duty with the Egyptian Army.

Mr. Milne Cheetham, of the British Agency, Cairo, who is now on leave, and Mrs. Milne Cheetham are staying at 9, Upper Berkeley Street, for the season.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly in Egypt, between Mr. Adam Storer Wylie, of the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, eldest son of the late A. H. Mylie, M.D., of Oldham and South Brent, Devon, and Winifred Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. A. J. Harris and Mrs. Harris, of Llanishen, Glamorgan.

The marriage of Mr. Herbert St. George Peacock, Judge of the Sudan Courts, son of the late Right Hon. Sir Barnes Peacock and Lady Peacock, of 3, Buckingham Gate, with Marguerite, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Palmer, Guernsey, took place at St. Matthew's Church, Westminster, on Monday. The fully choral service was conducted by the Rev. W. T. Stratford, Vicar of Rillington, Yorks, assisted by the Rev. G. W. Hockley, and the bride, who was given away by her father, was followed by a small page, Master Peter Dudgeon, and four bridesmaids, Miss Joan Dudgeon, Miss Gordon-Canning, Miss Colquhoun Reade, and Miss Ogilvie Grant. The bride wore a robe of cream moire trimmed with diamanté, with a pink and white chiffon train draped with Limerick lace. Mr. Walter Peacock acted as best man to his brother, and the reception was afterwards held by Mrs. Palmer at the Hans Crescent Hotel. Later in the day Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Peacock left for North Berwick.

Archdeacon and Mrs. Algernon Ward left Port Said for London by the P. and O. s.s. "Mooltan" on June 1.

Captain G. A. D. Harvey has left the Royal Army Medical College, London, for service with the Egyptian Army.

We regret to announce the death of his All-Sacredness Mgr. Kyril, Metropolitan of Vidin in Bulgaria, who died on June 3.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

SAYER.—On June 1, at Pinecroft, Mortimer, Berkshire, the wife of Sydney Sayer, of Cairo, Egypt, of a son.

DEATH.

SMITH.—On June 7, at 94, West Hill, Sydenham, Emily, wife of Jabez Smith, late of Suez, Egypt, aged seventy-one.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

UPPER EGYPT.

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The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.
At foot of the Great Pyramids.

GRAND HOTEL, HELOUAN.
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FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1914.

ROUMANIA TO THE RESCUE.

The situation in Albania is precarious, but not yet hopeless. Although Prince William is believed to have contemplated abdication at one moment, the fatal step has not been taken, and there is reason to suppose that he has now been dissuaded from such a purpose. The report that the insurgents have been defeated lacks confirmation, but their position is clearly less favourable than it was. But even if the present storm were weathered and the revolutionary elements threatening Durazzo were scattered into the obscurity of private life, Prince William's task would still be full of difficulties, and for some time to come he would lack an efficient and reliable force to support his authority. It is not necessary to question the loyalty of the bulk of the Albanians in order to feel that a people of many heterogeneous elements which have not yet had time to acquire national cohesion can only provide an indifferent army. The Gendarmerie has proved a broken reed, and as far as the Dutch officers are concerned the Prince may with justice ask for someone to protect him from his protectors. There remains the employment of foreign troops, which has long been urged in the interests of the Albanian Government. But the Concert of Europe sees rocks ahead in the dispatch of an international force for general purposes in Albania, whether it comprise detachments from all the Powers or be restricted to Austria-Hungary and Italy. Feeling between these two countries on the subject of Albania is probably more bitter than it has been at any time, and it might require but little provocation in the present state of tension to bring about a collision between Italians and Austrians. The need of Albania, however, is insistent, and we believe that the best solution of the difficulty is to be found in the employment of Roumanian troops until the Albanian Army is ready to supplement the efforts of the Gendarmerie to establish law and order in the new State. By the use of Roumanian troops the objections to an international force would be overcome. The cost of the undertaking would have to be guaranteed by Italy and Austria-Hungary as the two most interested Powers. It was in their interests and in order to keep the peace between them that the European Concert agreed to their suggestion that an Albanian State should be created. The experiment so far has not been a conspicuous success, and if it can only be continued with the help of foreign bayonets it is right that the two Powers responsible for the Albanian tangle should bear the cost of straightening it out.

There is much to be said for entrusting the task of protecting Prince William and his Government to the Roumanians. The rôle of "policeman to the Balkans" is an honourable one, and Roumania has shown her peculiar fitness for it. Her resources, whether in men or in money, place her beyond the individual rivalry of the former Balkan Allies, and she has not been crippled by two exacting wars. Her intervention in the struggle between Greece and Servia and Bulgaria was opportune and decisive. She has since shown herself able to maintain the part of arbiter in the destinies of the Balkan States by bringing about peace between Turkey and Greece and by discountenancing any bellicose tendencies on the part of the unsuccessful combatants in the two wars. Roumania's position, therefore, as mentor in the Near East is tacitly accepted by all the States concerned, and the employment of some of her troops in Albania at the mandate of Europe could give umbrage to none of them. Such a step, indeed, could only be gratifying to all the Near Eastern Governments, inasmuch as it would be in keeping with the principle of "the Balkans for the Balkans," to which they all pay homage in spite of internal jealousies and animosities. For Greece and Servia the next best alternative to dividing Albanian territory between them is a peaceful and progressive Albania with which commercial relations can be usefully established. To the possible objection that Roumanian and Albanian territory do not march together, and that the employment of Roumanian troops overseas would be an unprecedented course for the country to adopt, it may be urged that the close relationship between the two Royal Houses makes the scheme particularly appropriate. A Roumanian Government, it is true, might consider that in assenting to the proposal it would be offering a handle to its political opponents. But the present Cabinet enjoys a substantial majority, and any argument advanced against the despatch of Roumanian troops to Albania might be countered by the prestige involved in acting as the mandatory of Europe and by the experience to be gained by the Army without expense to the Roumanian Government.

From the point of view of Europe the employment of Roumanian troops in Albania would relieve the Albanian question of many of its dangers. Adequate protection would be provided for Prince William and the Government, while the Roumanians would be free from any suspicion of intrigue or territorial designs. If the object of the Powers be to establish the new State as soon as possible as "a going concern," Roumanian troops as an instrument to this end offer many advantages over a joint army of occupation supplied by Italy and Austria-Hungary. They can also be relied upon to carry out their task more rapidly and efficiently than any army which the Albanians may succeed in holding together. The weakness of Albania has been brought out into clearer relief by the necessity of having to cope with a crisis at such an early stage in its existence. If Prince William resolves to remain on his throne and can rely upon Roumanian troops for any emergency, the task of organizing an Albanian army can be undertaken more deliberately and thoroughly. The spirit of nervousness and indecision would be eliminated from Albanian administration, and a brighter future might dawn for the country. The presence of foreign troops would not relieve Prince William of the cares of government, although they might hearten him for it. With the experience of the last few weeks behind him, the Mpret will at least have learned the mistakes to avoid—and they have almost been numerous enough to leave but one course open to him. He must govern his people directly, and not exclusively through the medium of Cabinet Ministers, gendarmerie officers, and foreign advisers. In view of the hostility shown by the Albanians to Turkish rule when it was exercised over them, the insurgent claim for the restoration of Turkish sovereignty need not be taken too seriously. Moslem opinion in the country has been offended, and the chaos at Durazzo encouraged the insurgents to pitch their demands high. They have shown little capacity for reasoned negotiations, and their ultimate discomfiture ought not to be long delayed. It would be a mistake, however, for the Powers to be satisfied with any makeshift settlement of the Albanian problem. If the Albanian State is to be set upon a firm foundation, ordered government must be rendered possible by the presence of a force sufficient to overawe revolutionary elements until the unsophisticated tribesmen have had an opportunity of appreciating the advantages of a system to which they have hitherto been strangers. The request for Roumanian troops would have to be made to the Roumanian Government by the Concert of Europe, either at the initiative of Prince William himself or of one of the Powers. If the greatest possible benefit is to be derived from the step it must be taken with the least delay.

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HEBREW IN PALESTINE.

Spread of the Language.

No observant person can travel in Palestine at the present day without realizing that something in the nature of a Jewish revival is in progress. The evidence is by no means confined to that of witnesses who may be suspected of finding what they are set out to find. So impartial and experienced a traveller as Mr. Phillips Price, whose observations were quoted in a recent issue of THE NEAR EAST, bears eloquent testimony to the significant movement of which he observed unmistakable symptoms. And among those symptoms none is more striking than the renewed vitality of the Hebrew language. Until quite recently—the prejudice, indeed, still lingers on in many quarters—Hebrew was regarded as a stereotyped vehicle of prayer, incapable of a natural development and not to be profaned by adaptation to the purposes of ordinary intercourse. That view is rapidly becoming obsolete. The last thirty years have seen the re-birth of Hebrew as a living tongue. It is to-day a normal medium of expression for tens of thousands of Palestinian Jews. The tram-ticket, the picture post-card, the shop-keeper's sign, all bear witness to its self-assertion—so much so, indeed, that, according to recent advices, which have, however, not yet been authoritatively confirmed, the Turkish authorities have decided to make it an offence to fix notices in Hebrew to street walls in the towns of Palestine. The growing generation in most of the Jewish agricultural colonies speaks Hebrew as naturally as an Englishman speaks English. There is a Hebrew Press. There is a Hebrew Academy. There are elementary, and (in such centres as Jaffa and Jerusalem) secondary schools in which Hebrew is the normal language of instruction. The Herzl Gymnasium at Jaffa, the largest of the higher grade schools, has 515 pupils and a revenue of 90,000 francs; and those who question the adaptability of Hebrew to the purposes of higher education are faced with the fact that the gymnasium is already able to give its pupils leaving-certificates which qualify them for matriculation at European Universities.

This phenomenon has been to some extent based on practical considerations. The increasing influx of Jews from very various parts of the world has urgently called for a medium of common intercourse. Such a medium Hebrew can most readily supply. It starts with the advantage of being in some form and in some degree familiar to nearly all; whereas the Yiddish of the 12,945 Russian Jews who landed in Palestine between 1905 and 1910 is utterly unintelligible to the 2,000 Jews from the Arabian Yemen who arrived during 1912, just as it has nothing in common with the Ladino or Judæo-Spanish of the older Sephardic settlements.

But there has been also, as need hardly be pointed out, an idealistic motive at work. It was felt by those who desired Palestine to become the seat of a genuinely Jewish way of life that this was achievable only on condition that the Jews asserted their common and distinct identity in a Hebrew culture on a Hebrew basis. Mere force of circumstances might in the long run have been sufficient to make Hebrew a casual lingua franca; but as has been the case with other contemporary movements of a similar kind—the development of the Albanian language is a case in point—little of value would have been accomplished but for the deliberate resolve of a few enthusiasts to sacrifice all other interests to the task of nursing the infant tongue into healthy life.

This ideal of a Hebrew culture, with its background of practical expediency, has won an increasing measure of support from the mass of the Jewish population; and it is to-day so firmly established that any attempt to check it must necessarily meet with passionate opposition.

This is the explanation of the acute form which the language question has suddenly assumed.

The origin of the controversy is worth recounting. Many of the Jewish educational establishments in Palestine are dependent for their existence on the Jews of the West. The French Alliance Israélite, the Anglo-Jewish Association, and the German Hilfsverein all maintain or subsidise schools of one kind or another. Between them they educate, according to the latest available statistics, 5,876 pupils at an annual cost of £22,148. Each of these bodies has shown a natural tendency to favour the language of the country to which its members belong. On the other hand, a certain number of independent schools standing outside the "European" system—especially the Herzl Gymnasium at Jaffa and the Hebrew Gymnasium at Jerusalem (both of them recent foundations)—have successfully excluded non-Hebrew influences from the beginning; and there has been of late a general tendency even in the "European" institutions already mentioned to recognize the claims of Hebrew more and more generously.

Up to the present the Jews of Palestine have, apart from one or two training colleges for teachers, possessed nothing of a higher grade than a secondary school. In 1908, however, a project was launched for the foundation at the rising port of Haifa of a Jewish Polytechnic. This was to be the crown of the educational system.

Large sums of money were collected from various sources—some from Russia, some from the United States, some from Germany. Of the estimated total of £95,000 not more than about £28,000 is said to have come from German contributors. The seat of the board of management, however, was Berlin, and its most influential members (though other interests were also represented) were the leaders of the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden. This body had hitherto been far from unsympathetic towards the recognition of Hebrew. It was, therefore, with profound surprise and acute disappointment that the Hebraists learnt in November last the decision of the board of management to prescribe as the main language of instruction, not Hebrew, but German. That decision at once became the object of bitter attack. The teachers and pupils at the Hilfsverein schools demonstrated their indignation by an organized strike. Rival schools on a purely Hebrew basis suddenly sprang up; and it was enthusiastically resolved to attack the Hilfsverein all along the line. Its policy was criticised on other than purely academic grounds. It was given a political significance, and regarded as an attempt to turn a Jewish institution to the purposes of German propaganda. The Hilfsverein replied by denouncing its critics as the tools of Russian policy, by whose anti-Teutonic bias they were animated. The controversy was keenly taken up by the German Press, and so firm was the attitude of the Hilfsverein leaders that they were suspected in some quarters of being bound by assurances given at an earlier stage to an exalted personage, whom they were not at liberty to disappoint.

At this stage the Zionist organization stepped in. It gave immediate assistance to the Hebrew schools which had been hastily established by the dissenting Hilfsverein teachers, and in the permanent maintenance of which side by side with its own schools the Hilfsverein has now acquiesced. It assumed the responsibility of supporting a new educational system on a genuinely Hebraic basis. It rallied and made articulate the large body of Jewish opinion which felt that the policy of the Technicum authorities was out of keeping with the spirit of the times. It soon became apparent that the Zionist organisation would not be left to fight single-handed. The Technicum had received very substantial subventions from other than German sources. The Russian and American trustees were not slow in expressing themselves, and so effectively did they intervene that at the end of February a compromise was reached, under which the claims of Hebrew as against German received ample recognition. Mathematics and natural science are to be taught in Hebrew from the first so far as text-books are available; all teachers are to qualify themselves to give instruction in Hebrew; and at the end of the first four years' course the curriculum is to be revised with a view to further Hebraisation.

The attempt to stem the Hebrew movement has thus produced precisely the reverse result. It has given it a stimulating impetus. It has enabled the Hebraists to realize the strength of their own position, and, again, it has made it clear that even though the conditions of Jewish life in Palestine do not at present admit of exclusive reliance upon Hebrew for every purpose, the Jews of Palestine know their own minds as to the direction in which they intend to move, and can no longer be successfully interfered with from without.

Thus the controversy, instructive as it is in itself, is but the first chapter of what will prove to be a story of absorbing interest. Nor is the next chapter likely to be long delayed. At the Zionist Congress held in Vienna last sum-

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

H.M. KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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mer a project was put forward for the foundation of a Hebrew University at Jerusalem. The suggestion was enthusiastically applauded. Some £15,000 (no more than a small beginning, it is true) was promised there and then; and committees were appointed in due course to formulate a working scheme. It seems clear that the present intention is to make the proposed University not only Jewish, but Hebrew. It is already being laid down that Hebrew is indispensable as the language of instruction. Here, too, as in the case of the Polytechnic, differences of opinion may arise; but the trend of local opinion in Palestine is unmistakable, and it is not unreasonable to expect that, with the establishment of a Hebrew University, a new and significant element will begin to enter into the common culture of the civilised world.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Okchilar Incident.

The gross insult offered to Mr. and Mrs. Musker by the Hellenic authorities at Okchilar (as reported by our Sofia correspondent in our last week's issue and in *The Times* of June 4) has naturally aroused a strong feeling of indignation in this country. Upon the whole, however, the comments in the Press have been marked by considerable restraint, which will, it is to be hoped, make it all the easier for the Greek Government to do its obvious duty in the matter. *The Pall Mall Gazette* says:—

The indignities . . . inflicted on an Englishman and his wife by Greek officials on the Bulgarian boundary call for the promptest intervention of British authority. Recent convulsions in the East have upset a good many formerly fixed ideas. It is essential that those of them which relate to the sanctity of British travellers should be re-established without delay.

The Globe "can very well understand that with the situation in the Balkans so delicate and perilous as it is our Foreign Office is very reluctant to stir up further trouble." Nevertheless, it considers that

If there be any truth at all in the story of outrageous insult inflicted upon Mr. and Mrs. Musker by Greek officials all other considerations must stand aside until redress has been obtained. . . . There must be adequate reparation, and condign punishment of the offenders. M. Venizelos will not, we trust, require to be reminded of the case of Don Pacifico.

The Newcastle Chronicle, after remarking that the case of Mr. and Mrs. Musker is not an isolated one, continues:—

Travellers in districts where the Greek official is master have complained of late of Hellenic arbitrariness and insolence. What is the matter? Is it that the Greeks, having been successful during the last war instead of submitting to ignominious defeats, as was the case in their previous conflict with the Turks, have lost their heads and fancy themselves lords of the world? Observers of Greek character—the modern Greek, of course—have said that it takes very little to depress him, but that, when elated, he is intolerable in his bombast and arrogance. However this may be, the experience of Mr. and Mrs. Musker appears to have been intensely disagreeable. . . . The authorities at Athens must certainly be requested to make an investigation, and to offer reparation should Mr. and Mrs. Musker's statements be proved.

And yet another note of warning comes from the West of England, *The Western Daily Press* observing:—

Some trivial excuse for the treatment meted out to the travellers has been put forward by the officials on the spot, but it is not considered to be at all satisfactory. . . . A blunder seems to have been committed through thoughtlessness, perhaps; and no doubt when the British Government brings the matter to the notice of the Government at Athens the *amende honorable* will be made. But it is urged that the case is one of some importance, having regard to the commercial relations subsisting between this country and the Hellenic kingdom. If British commercial travellers are to be wantonly persecuted, it will be difficult to maintain these important relationships.

Happily, the announcement made by the Athens correspondent of *The Times*, that a military officer of high rank has been sent to Okchilar by General Dimopoulos, to investigate the matter, seems to show that the Greek authorities intend to act correctly and promptly.

The Russian Move in Persia.

The Daily Graphic (June 5) has an interesting note on "The Russians in Persia," from which the following is an extract:—

We could understand some increase of military vigilance, and even an augmentation of the Russian army of occupation, if there were any evidence of an extension of anarchy; but we have M. Sazonoff's own testimony that "order and relative tranquillity have been restored," and, moreover, the new Russian intervention is not military at all. It has taken the form of a wide-reaching assumption of administrative functions. . . . What possible justification there can be for this outrageous invasion of Persian rights—not to speak of the guarantees of the Anglo-Russian Convention—is impossible to understand. It is true that by the Anglo-Russian Convention provision was made for intervention in the Customs Administration in certain circumstances and under certain safeguards, but in the present case it is not the Customs which are affected, and the circumstances contemplated by the Treaty have not arisen nor have the safeguards been observed. Some explanation is obviously needed, and when it comes we trust it will be studied by Sir Edward Grey with the seriousness it obviously demands.

The Powers and the Balkans.

In a leading article in *The Morning Post* (June 5), under the heading "A New Bone of Contention," it is urged that the best plan for the two interested Powers, Italy and Austria-Hungary, to adopt with regard to Albania is to let the Albanians fight it out among themselves; for any kind of intervention—by one Power singly or by two or more Powers jointly—would pose more problems than it would solve. In conclusion, the question is asked:—

Have the Powers done any good at all to the Balkan States by their interference? Servia and Greece, let alone, would have introduced some sort of order into Albania, if any was needed. If they had been left to their own policy they might have been able to agree with Bulgaria on the subject of Macedonia, and the second war might not have taken place. No doubt the statesmen did not foresee what was going to happen. But the gift of foresight is exceedingly rare, a fact from which the proper inference is that it is a mistake to enter into too elaborate plans for controlling the course of events. Accordingly we venture to hope that Sir Edward Grey will be slow to commit this country to new undertakings in regard to Albania and to any sort of partnership with Austria-Hungary and Italy in the attempt to make an Albanian Government out of nothing.

A Persian Policy.

A short note in *The Nation* (June 6) outlines a British policy in Persia. We quote below:—

Friendly observers, of course, are not agreed as to policy. But some of them hold that Northern Persia is gone to Russia, and that it is as well to reckon with that pretty well accomplished fact. What, then, is to happen to the centre and the south? There are two courses. We can go shares with Russia, advance our Indian border, infuriate native India, and spend millions of money on a new scientific frontier, and a great army to guard it. Or we can aim at a new Persia, with a capital shifted from Teheran (now almost a Russian city) to Ispahan, or better still to Shiraz, and at making this country secure in all the realities of national liberty, and yet signifying it as under our protection. In other words, we can constitute something like a second Afghanistan. Is not that the best issue? Would Russia oppose it? There is reason to suppose that she would not.

"Unruly Highlanders."

The Dundee Advertiser (May 28) has the following amusing comment on "Scotland and the Albanians":—

Prince William has discovered something more than the difficulties of ruling Albania during the short time he has been in his new kingdom. According to a letter he has caused to be written to an English antiquary, he has found out that the Albanians belong to the same family as the Scots, that they have the same clan organisation as existed here 500 years ago, and that they have also the "same unruly spirit as the ancient Gaelic clansmen, and the same virtues." This is all very interesting, but we remember that the same discoveries were made regarding the Cretans at the time they were particularly bothersome, and they were made the ground of a strong plea that Scottish kilted regiments should be sent to the island to inculcate into their Celtic relations a sense of better behaviour. We trust that Prince William has not the same idea in his mind, for the proposal is not to be entertained for a moment. If he is determined to continue trying what he can do to tame his "unruly" subjects, he must be content with his Italian and Austrian bluejackets to aid him in the task. Scotland is not to be drawn into such a hornets' nest, not even on the plea of intimate kinship.

Articles to Note.

"Days in Somaliland," by A. Hugh Fisher, in *The Academy* (June 6).

"Russia and Great Britain in Persia."—II., by Launcelot Lawton, in *The Academy* (June 6).

"Is a Crisis Approaching in Russia and Persia?" in *The Economist* (June 6).

"Oil Fuel in the Navy," in *The Morning Post* (June 6).

"La Mort de la Caravane," by Georges Ligonnière, in *Correspondance d'Orient* (June 1).

"England and Russia," in *The Manchester Guardian* (June 9).

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us that the Roumanian bacteriologist, Professor Babesh, has at last succeeded in discovering the bacillus of pellagra, the malady which makes such ravages amongst the peasantry in that country and also in Italy, where the staple food of the peasantry is maize meal. Professor Babesh gave an account of his discovery before the Roumanian Academy a few days ago.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	June 11..	97⅜—⅝ p.t.
Athens.....	June 8..	25·15 drs.
Bucharest.....	June 11..	25·41½—25·48½ lei.
Constantinople ..	June 11..	109⅛—110⅛ pi.
Sofia.....	June 8..	27·10—27·25 leva.
Teheran.....	June 10..	55·25 krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

So far as I can see, Dr. Paul Dvorkovitz, in his address to the Winchester House meeting of oil interests on Tuesday, seemed to be acting as a special pleader for people who are interested in maintaining the prices of petrol and other petroleum products. He represented the proposed agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company as being at once unduly costly to the taxpayer and also injurious to the development of other oilfields under the British flag. But surely the learned doctor has over-reached himself. If the Admiralty has driven a bad bargain, then undoubtedly the competition will not injure other interests. But I cannot see that the Admiralty has driven a bad bargain. A fortnight ago THE NEAR EAST was able to announce that the mere report of the proposed agreement had had the effect of bringing down the price of oil offered to the Admiralty from 75s. to 40s. per ton. Nor is Dr. Dvorkovitz correct in stating that the outlay contemplated is merely to secure a supply of 170,000 tons of refined oil. A second and larger pipe-line is to be laid, and as the supply at the wells, of which by far the greater part at present cannot be transported to the refinery, is almost inexhaustible, the amount refined will be very largely increased. The address rather strikes me as being the complaint of one who regrets the good old days of "monopoly prices" and grieves to learn that competition has already secured contracts for supplying fuel oil at a lower figure than that indicated above—and, as was pointed out at the company's meeting, this price is a remunerative one. It seems hard to the taxpayer that indignant gentlemen should abuse the Admiralty for trying to save a very considerable sum on every ton of oil—a commodity which the Admiralty will have to buy to the extent of many hundreds of thousands of tons per annum.

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I notice also that the "representative" meeting at which Dr. Dvorkovitz presided only mustered eleven votes—seven in favour and four against the resolution—and I hardly think this can be called representative of the oil industry, particularly in view of the fact that by far the larger portion of those present at the meeting declined to vote at all, and that no large interests were represented. Dr. Dvorkovitz is reported to have said that to secure 170,000 tons of fuel oil the Government were subsidising the company to the extent of £80,000 a year, but this is absolutely incorrect. The capital subscribed by the Government is for the purpose of building additional pipe-lines, refineries, etc., which will enable the company to deal with over a million tons of petroleum products. In *The Petroleum Review* of June 6, 1914, under the heading of "The British Government and the Petroleum Industry: A Study of Stubborn Facts," various statements are made which require examination. The assertion that the British taxpayer is paying for two-thirds of about 70 per cent. of the remaining profits of the company is incorrect. The writer presumably adds together 16 per cent. payable to the Persian Government, 12 per cent. of First Exploitation Company's profit, and 3 per cent. of Bakhtiari Oil Company's profits payable to the Persian shareholders, and 2 per cent. of Anglo-Persian profits payable to participating shareholders—a total of 33 per cent. These percentages have no connection one with the other. As a matter of fact, the total percentages payable to the Persian Government and the Persian shareholders amount to about 18 per cent. of the combined profits of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. and its producing companies.

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The reason that the Government is casting in its lot with one particular group is that it is the only British group possessing proved fields sufficient for the Admiralty's requirements. Any competition would be with foreign, and not with British, companies, and the creation of such competition, should it occur, would, of course, be beneficial to consumers generally, including the Admiralty. The "amazement and dismay" mentioned in the article to which I am calling attention is obviously confined to those who find their present monopoly threatened It is also quite inaccurate to state that a "free run" was given to the Burmah Oil Company in the selection of oilfields in Burmah, for, as a matter of fact, a large number of concessions are held by other British companies. The effect of protecting a home industry and the home public has been that the price of kerosene in India is cheaper than in any other part of the world. The Indian consumer has, in this respect, probably been saved from £800,000 to £1,000,000 per year for a number of years past. I may also point out that "no measure of protection" was given to any special oil company in India, but only to British producers as a whole. This is the policy which the present Government has adopted in the interests of British taxpayers in order to safeguard them from monopolists, and no one can reasonably question their wisdom in doing so.

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I notice that "Corsair," in his notes last week, referred to the influence of Greek remittances from the United States upon the course of the Hellenic exchange. According to the report of the U.S. Consul at Tripolis, over £775,000 was remitted to the bankers of Tripolis by Syrians resident abroad during 1913, and he quotes a statement on reasonable authority that the five Syrian ports profited by money sent from abroad to the extent of no less than £1,775,000 during the year ending with June, 1913. If the Greeks of the United States built up the exchange-value of the drachma in Athens, the Syrians, in the Consul's opinion, saved their native town from an epidemic of bankruptcies during the financial depression occasioned by the war.

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According to the figures of the new census which has just been taken, the population of Hellenic Macedonia amounted to 1,140,776, divided among five nomes: Salonika, 494,520; Kozani, 206,281; Florina, 133,003; Seres, 132,881; Drama, 174,091. Epirus has a population of 244,348, and the newly acquired islands 664,795, of which Crete contains 336,150, Mitylene 140,846, Chios 69,034, and Samos 53,229. A comparison with the last census in the case of the two islands which formerly enjoyed autonomy shows that the population of Crete has decreased by 7,851, which may partly be attributed to war losses, to the transfer of many Cretan gendarmes from the island to Salonika, and to the presence of some 2,500 Cretans in Epirus. Samos has lost 195 inhabitants since 1902.

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According to *The Times*, it is probable that the Russians will establish a Consular post-office in Teheran, thus following their own precedent in Tabriz, which, as has frequently been pointed out in THE NEAR EAST, becomes daily more Russian and less Persian. In view of the number of Russian post-offices in Turkey and China, it is surprising that such a step has not been taken long ago, as a Consular post-office in a foreign State is at once an imposing manifestation of national prestige and also a lucrative form of battening on a neighbour's weakness. I agree with the correspondent who deplores this fresh attack on Persia, but it is now "up" to the Persian postal authorities to improve their own service, as the Turks have done under the sharp adversity of foreign competition.

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I gather that those who estimated the resultant revenue from the new Sudan Tobacco duties as high as £E75,000 were unfortunately too optimistic. Official calculations show that in all not more than £E13,000 will be obtained from this source, which means that the Sudan Government expects that the new duties will increase its revenue only by £E10,000.

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Busreh has long been famous for its dates, and anyone who travels up the Shatt-el-Arab and sees the countless date palms that line the banks of the river will find it easy to believe the natives' boast that the district could supply "the whole world" with all the dates it requires. But apparently it cannot, or does not, in fact, supply even the Indian market's full requirements. At any rate, some three years ago the Director-General of Agriculture for the Punjab procured some date suckers from the Busreh district, and, importing with them an Arab gardener, set to work to experiment with their cultivation in Bahawalpur State. Last year, fruit from these suckers was forwarded to Busreh, and after examining it, experts are of opinion that the result of the experiment is a success, and that if Busreh methods of cultivation are followed more closely in future the development of the industry in the Punjab should be quite satisfactory. Thus, there seems to be a chance of Irak Arabi making some return for the benefits it has received from India in the past.

COMMENTATOR.

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Made with the Choicest Tobaccos.
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Factory at Choubra, Cairo.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 6.

Treasury Returns.

The Treasury receipts during the month of February (Old Style), 1914, have just been published in the usual monthly returns, and amounted to £T2,351,317, as compared with £T2,513,411 during the corresponding month of the previous year. If, for sake of careful comparison, deduction be made of certain receipts not figuring in the present returns, some of which from outlying districts have not yet been reported, although appearing in last year's total returns for that month, this decrease is reduced to £T87,295 for the remainder of the Empire during February, 1914. There is a considerable decrease in the receipts during the month under consideration from monopolies, particularly salt, and the share of the Public Debt in the profits of the Regie Company, amounting to £T130,000, as also in the war tax amounting to over £T300,000. Increases occur in all the other revenues, particularly in the Customs duties as well as under the general heading, "Various Revenues."

The actual total receipts reported for the fiscal year ended February, 1914, amount to £T29,169,048, and are in excess of the previous year by £T709,968, and if deduction be made of the items already referred to (which, while appearing in the returns of the previous year, do not find a place in the present returns), this surplus is further increased to £T821,959 for the remainder of the Empire during the fiscal year. The war tax and the subscription to the war fund during the fiscal year amounted to £T1,942,579, and were in excess of the previous year by £T113,470. The Customs receipts during February, 1914, were greater by £T109,236 than during the corresponding month of the previous year, the increase in the import duties alone amounting to £T103,238. During the fiscal year ended February, 1914, the duties on imported goods exceed those of the previous year by £T646,210, and, notwithstanding the loss of territory, represent an apparent increase of almost six million Turkish pounds in the imports during the year, as compared with the previous year. The total of imports of the fiscal year thus amount to over £T40,000,000, which is the greatest on record.

State of the Market.

The import market has taken a decided turn for the worse during the last week or two. An important failure is reported in the cotton goods trade, and others are expected to follow. Owing to the steady arrival of Manchester goods, the shipments of which had been held back since last season, the market is considerably overstocked. Sales are small and payments are coming in with the greatest difficulty. This state of affairs is, by some, put down to the boycott, which, notwithstanding the attitude of the Government, is still in existence; by others, to fears of yet another war in the near future. Howbeit, there is an undoubted feeling of uncertainty, and the consequences are now becoming evident. I understand that Manchester still holds large stocks waiting to be shipped here, and were it not for the firmness of the home market, local conditions would have been even worse than they are. It will evidently take time for the market to get back to normal conditions, and in the meantime not a little caution will be necessary in transactions with this country.

Foreign Specialists.

Mr. Hermann Weit, a functionary of the Austrian Department of Forests, who has been appointed Director General of Forests in the Ottoman Service, has arrived here and taken up his duties. The five French specialists who are to be attached to the Ministry of Mines and Forests are also expected to arrive shortly.

New Companies.

The promulgation of an Imperial Decree sanctioning the formation of an Ottoman Co-operative Society with a capital of £T30,000 is announced. The capital will be entirely Ottoman. The Sublime Porte has approved the statutes of the Ottoman Société Anonyme with a capital of £T440,000 to take over the Dolma-Bagtché Gas Works. It will be remembered that a group guaranteed by the Perier Bank undertook to refund the Prefecture the sum of £T42,000, at which figure it acquired the gas works from the Ministry of Finance, and to pay a premium of £T120,000 for the granting of the concession. It further undertook to supply 200 street lamps free of charge, to furnish gratis a million cubic metres of gas to the Imperial Palaces, and to pay to the Prefecture a bonus of 2 paras (one-tenth of a penny) per cubic metre on all gas it supplied to the public.

The establishment of a new bank is also announced under the title of "Banque Indo-Egyptienne." The capital is said to be £800,000, which will be furnished by Egyptian capitalists. The Bank is authorised to establish branches in the Provinces and abroad.

Posts and Telegraphs.

The receipts of this Department during the month of March of the present year, just published, show continued increases compared with the previous year, as follows:—

	1914. £T		1913. £T
Post Office	29,000	..	22,000
Telegraph Department	40,000	..	28,000

The increase in the Post Office Department amounts to over 30 per cent. and that of the Telegraph Department to almost 45 per cent.

THE TRADE OF KHORASSAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, April 24.

The English Consular report on the "Trade of Khorassan" for 1912-1913 contains food for thought. It makes the statement that "There are at present no openings in Khorassan for British trade," and also that during the past eight years "the trade with Russia has doubled." It explains that a long time and high expense are involved in order for trade to be carried on between this district and India and the United Kingdom, and a merchant trading with India or the United Kingdom can turn over his money only once in the year as against five or six times in the case of the merchants dealing with Russia. But apart from the geographical advantages of trade with Russia, the report says that it is a "very important fact that in the Caucasus, in Central Asia, and in Persia, Russia possesses a large market inhabited by Mohammedans who are, more or less, in the same scale of civilisation, and who all desire cheap and, generally speaking, similar articles." There is also a distinct difference between patterns suitable to the Persian market and the gaudier article which finds favour in Bokhara; but, when everything has been said, the market is practically one, and is extensive and quite worth catering for, whereas, from the British point of view, many articles cannot be specially made for a small, limited, and distant market.

The report speaks of the increase in furniture and indigo imported from Russia, and the "large increase in sugar," "but the largest relative increase is in thread (cotton)" used in the manufacture of local cloth. The staple import of tissues (cotton) shows a very heavy increase. There was a large export of grain to supplement the scanty crops of Transcaspia. Both silk and wool (raw) show a satisfactory increase."

It is a matter of common talk that Meshed will, in the near future, be connected with the Trans-Caspian Railway by a branch line.

ROUMANIAN TIMBER TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 27.

Interests of British Shipping.

A question much discussed in Danubian commercial circles, and which intimately concerns British shipping, is that of the increased cost of railway transport, for at least one-half of the timber exported from Galatz is carried in British bottoms. The cost of railway transport has been raised by 50 frs. per truck, and, also, the number of trucks with timber from Hungary allowed to pass the Pridese and Palanka frontiers has been limited to 40 and 20 respectively. These restrictions on a flourishing and profitable trade is said to be merely an attempt on the part of the Roumanian State Railways authorities to combat by illegitimate means the persistent complaints of the insufficiency of transport rolling stock.

The Trade via Galatz.

Since the timber trade in this district assumed such considerable proportions the export of timber from this country, as well as from Hungary and the Bukovina, has proceeded viâ Galatz. The harbour authorities have always encouraged this trade by all possible means, and the construction of a special dock for loading timber has even been proposed. Ten to fifteen years ago the trade had increased so much that up to 40,000 truck loads (400,000 tons) of timber were exported annually viâ Galatz, apart from the logs floated down by raft. Since then, however, owing to the various impediments put in the way of transport by the Roumanian State Railway authorities, this had been reduced to 12,700 trucks last year, while in 1911 it still amounted to 21,000 trucks.

Effect of Railway Regulations.

The bulk of the timber from the Bukovina has, in consequence, been diverted to Odessa, that from Galicia to Triest, and the major portion of that from Hungary to Fiume, as the geographical advantages of Galatz are now more than counter-balanced by the many difficulties of transport introduced on the Roumanian Railway system. The increase of transport charges will also have the effect of driving from Roumania to Hungary the timber orders for Servia and Bulgaria, for timber can now be sent more cheaply viâ Maroshevoz-Orsova, whereas it always used to be more advantageous to purchase in Roumania, because the water carriage enabled the Roumanian merchants to undersell the Hungarian. Moreover, the same policy is diverting practically all timber destined for Egypt or Great Britain to Odessa, Triest, and Fiume.

A Short-sighted Policy.

The measures introduced are the outcome of a most short-sighted policy, for the profits which can be made by this transport business are very great. In 1910 a single firm transporting timber from Bukovina and Hungary handled 8,000 trucks, or 80,000 tons, for which they paid to the Roumanian State Railways:—Dock rent at Galatz, 80,000 frs.; carting and moving timber, 28,000 lei; paid workmen loading, etc., 200,000 frs.; freight, about 30,000 frs. But instead of meeting the question of want of transport by legitimate means, a trade most profitable to the country is being rapidly killed by these arbitrary and short-sighted measures.

SERVIAN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

We regret that owing to extreme pressure on our space we are unable to publish the second portion of our special correspondent's article, "Servian Trade Opportunities," this week.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

COMMERCIAL & AGENCY CO. OF EGYPT, LTD., Alexandria & Cairo.

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The Bankruptcy Laws of Egypt.

The Procureur-General's Note.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

So much has been written of late on the subject of the Bankruptcy Laws in Egypt, and so many criticisms have been levelled at the system of "Concordat Preventif"—of arrangements with creditors—that the observations on the matter made by M. A. Eeman, the Procureur-General of the Mixed Courts, in his note on the work of 1913, attached to the Judicial Adviser's Report, acquire especial importance and interest.

M. Eeman declares that if, as is so often asserted, a failure is not only a bad affair for the creditors, but also extremely beneficial to the debtor. the fault lies not with the laws but with the dilatoriness with which the interested parties have recourse to them, and the manner in which they and the Courts apply them. And he proceeds to analyse the question very carefully. In the first place he quotes the President of the Commercial Court of Brussels, and asks with him whether merchants in Egypt are not themselves somewhat responsible for the losses they incur? Whether they are not too keen on doing business to inquire sufficiently as to the commercial morality and solvency of their clients? Whether they even remember that one bad debt can swallow up all the profit on ten good affairs, and that it is preferable not to sell at all rather than to deliver and receive either no payment or small instalments exacted after a long wait, and the expenditure of much money and pains? Such questions may well be asked in this country. I am afraid that many could not answer them satisfactorily, and therein reposes one of the reasons why the general position of affairs is to-day so unsatisfactory.

But, on the other hand, it is quite possible that however circumspect a trader may have been, circumstances may intervene and render insolvent the most firmly established client. In such an event the protesting of the bill is the first public indication, as a rule, of the tight position of that client. M. Eeman considers that at this juncture the Courts should intervene, and that the procedure adopted in Belgium should be introduced into Egypt. This procedure he describes as follows:—"The Court summons before it the traders whose names appear on the 'List of Protests.' It inquires into their financial position. If the trader is found to have been unfortunate he is advised at once to make an arrangement with his creditors, even sometimes to abandon a branch of business for which he may appear to have either no qualifications or insufficient capital. If, on the other hand, the Court considers that a debtor is really and by his own fault in a state of insolvency, it at once pronounces his bankruptcy."

Why, asks M. Eemen, should the Egyptian Courts not act in like manner, and why should there not be instituted a "List of Protests"? As he rightly says, the absence of publicity is at the bottom of the lack of commercial morality which allows a merchant, many a time quite a respected and respectable merchant, to let his signature be protested and continue trading and obtaining credit just as if nothing had happened. If this publicity existed we should no longer see creditors manœuvring each to get as much as he can out of his debtor, and the law intervening only at the last when the assets are practically nil. The law must be prompt and firm. Decisions in bankruptcy cases must "take account, not of the convenience of the petitioning creditor and the debtor, but of the interests of the whole body of creditors, whose protector is the Commercial Court."

Turning to the question of the "Concordats," M. Eeman refers to the abuse made of the terms "unfortunate and of good faith" with which the applications for the approval of these "arrangements" are supported. A debtor is not unfortunate if he has suffered no real misfortune, or if his critical position is but the result of the imprudent, callous manner in which he has traded. Neither is he of good faith if he knows, or ought to know, that he cannot meet his engagements and yet continues to trade. If, as so often happens, the debtor is not "unfortunate and of good faith," in the strict and proper sense of the terms, why do the creditors agree to the arrangement? After all, it is all in the hands of the creditors, since the debtor, in order to obtain approval by the Courts of his proposals, has to obtain the consent of the majority of his creditors, both as regards number and amount. As M. Eeman asks, "Is it reasonable or just to lay at the door of the law the unsatisfactory results of an imprudent acceptance (by the creditors), or of a, in many cases, guilty complacency of the interested parties themselves?" And, further, the approval of the Counts of the "Concordats" proposed should not be an empty formality—a mere confirmation of the decision taken by the creditors' meeting. There are many arrangements which are entirely inconsistent with the strict idea of what constitutes a debtor, who has been "unfortunate and of good faith." If the creditors have accepted such an arrangement that is no reason why the Court should approve it. Each arrangement should be looked into by the Courts and treated severely on its own merits. It may be that if the admission to the benefit of a concordat is made more difficult there will be more bankruptcies; but at the same time, they will be less disastrous, "and that will be a great thing; for it must be admitted that at the present time the liquidations of bankrupt estates produce very poor results."

With regard to these liquidations, too, M. Eeman thinks they could be effected in a much better manner. He does not consider that the receivers have sufficient time to deal properly with the administration of these bankruptcies and superintend the work of the liquidators. They have too many other duties to attend to. The position in regard to the liquidators is also unsatisfactory. After all they have a living to earn. They are no doubt fully qualified for their work, but "how can they make a profit if they do not correspondingly diminish what remains for the creditors?" It is only natural that they should want to make their profession as remunerative as possible. M. Eeman considers that instead of altering the present system of making, as has been suggested, the liquidators salaried servants of the Court, the Commercial Tribunal should exercise a close control over their administration of estates, and should reprimand or dismiss those whose zeal appears to be in direct proportion to the importance of the assets involved, and who are more intent in looking after their own fees; and that in taxing fees regard should be paid to the fact that they are being paid out of money due to the creditors. In fact, those fees should never exceed a certain percentage of the dividends paid to creditors.

M. Eeman closes his remarks with the following admonitory passage: "I spoke just now of severity. I should like to see a good deal more shown in the appreciation of the fact in matters of ordinary and fraudulent bankruptcy. I quite understand the compassion that may be felt for a trader who has lost everything, including often his honour, and who has to be sent to prison. But I should like some little thought to be given to the victims of that guilty trader, to the ruin that he may have caused, and to the necessity for protecting society and more especially the public credit, by the deterrent effect caused by the stern punishment of every breach of good faith of that morality, which are so indispensable in commercial matters."

All those who have been or are in any way connected with commercial affairs in Egypt will heartily endorse what M. Eeman has written. The community in general should take his words to heart, and the Courts and the officials will also do well to bear in mind his observations. In addition, it is to be hoped that as Sir Malcolm MacIlwraith said in his covering report, the suggestions made will receive attention, for they are certainly of a nature to merit every consideration.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 5.

The Share Market.

The market has shown a decidedly better tendency in spite of the apathy of London and Paris. Purely local shares have improved, whilst gilt-edged securities are in less demand. The Bill for the creation of Agricultural Co-operative Societies is about to be voted by the Legislative Assembly, and is expected to prove of very great benefit to the agricultural classes. Only a fear is sometimes expressed that if the Government does not reserve the right of controlling and dissolving them the new societies may become hotbeds of Nationalist agitation.

Zervudachi Assets.

The Sharbine estate, which belonged to the late George Zervudachi, is to be sold by auction shortly at the Alexandria Mixed Courts. This is the only important asset in Egypt belonging to this failure. The estate consists of nearly six thousand five hundred feddans of excellent agricultural land in the Gharbieh Province on the Damietta branch of the Nile. Another asset, consisting of 4,894 square pics of building land in the Kom-el-Dik quarter of Alexandria, is also to be disposed of at the Mixed Courts. The upset price is £E4,160.

Salt and Soda Co.

The Council of Ministers has decided to make a new contract with the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the sale of powder, which will give the company an annual amount of £E1,500 in order to cover its fixed expenses, plus a commission of twenty per cent. on the sales, with a reduction in the sale price of mining powder from P.T.8 to P.T.6 per kilogramme.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Avril, 1914, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

		£E.
Titres d'Etats et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		836,481
Titres divers		611,061
Comptes-Courants		410,626
Avances sur Marchandises		1,834,238
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,488,610
Avances sur d'autres garanties		691,473
Effets sur l'Etranger		963,436
Effets sur l'Egypte		467,196
Immeubles et mobilier		255,707
Placements à courte échéance		765,991
Comptes Banquiers		349,585
Gouvern. du Soudan		263,601
Encaisse:		
Especes:		
Or	£E.485,597	
Argent et nickel	£E.394,455	
	£E.880,052	
Billets de Banque	£E.386,293	1,267,345
Divers		86,009
		£E.10,281,359
		£E.
Capital		2,925,000
Réserve:—		
Statutaire		1,462,500
Fonds de Prévoyance		24,375
Comptes-Courants Dépôts et autres		2,810,597
Tribunaux Mixtes		1,677,739
Ministère des Finances		783,926
Ministère Compte spécial		40,718
Comptes Banquiers		174,407
Chèques et effets à payer		106,335
Divers		275,762
		£E.10,281,359

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.1,250,185
Titres	1,249,815
	£E.2,500,000
Billets émis	£E.2,500,000
	£E.2,500,000

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa. June 7.

The general rainfalls over the whole Southern Province have greatly improved the crop prospects. The same may be said of the Northern Caucasus, which feeds the increasingly important port of Novorossisk. In the Don country, too, the outlook is good, and a good season in the Azoff is confidently anticipated.

Sofia. June 6.

According to official reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture, the recent abundant rainfall throughout all parts of the country has greatly benefited the crops, and there is promise of an abundant harvest. In some parts of Southern Bulgaria, however, hail storms have done considerable damage to the crops.

A great increase in exports is noticeable lately at almost all the ports and frontier Customs stations. Between May 1 and May 15 (old style) grain and food stuffs exported from Burgas totalled £60,000; from Varna, grain to the value of £40,000; through Rustchuk, £16,000; through Dedeagatch, £26,000; and through the Tzaribrod Custom house, £16,000. This increase in exports has had a very favourable effect upon the country's money market.

Athens. June 2.

Telegraphic reports from Larissa to the Ministry of National Finance state that owing to the rainy weather last week throughout all the Thessaly district and the continuance of cold temperatures, the cereal crops, which were in danger, are now safe. The wheat harvest will start in about ten days from now. The barley harvest began last week.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 11.

Sugar.

The market has been quiet this week with little business passing at more or less steady prices. Good rains in the Continent and finer weather in Cuba have enabled America to put down quotations for raw sugar on their market, while receipts at all ports in Cuba being now fully up to expectations here caused an easier tendency in this market also. Beetroot crops are reported in very good condition at present, while Russian sugars are getting much nearer to Hamburg parity, so that there may be some offers during the summer months. Visible supplies, up to now, are 3,873,600 tons, against 3,715,310 tons last year; the whole of the excess of 158,290 tons calculated to exist in Europe. Prices for beet sugar have been slightly easier this week. Refined, English, Tate's cubes No. 1 is quoted 18s. 3d.; granulated German, 13s. 3d.; crushed Austrian, 13s. 7½d. f.o.b. Hamburg.

Coffee.

The supplies that were offered at public sales this week have met with a steady demand at full prices. Costa Rica low mid. to mid. sold 70s. 6d. to 79s.; East Indian low mid. to mid., 69s. to 73s. 6d.; Santos, 50s. to 56s.; Mocha, 88s. to 100s.; Colombian 65s. to 85s. The speculative market has been quiet. July sold 44s. to 44s. 1½d.; September, 44s. 10½d. to 45s.; and December, 46s. A cable from Santos last week reported market firm, and the stock 985,000 bags.

Currants.

Owing to reports of bad weather in Greece forward prices are inclined to harden, but as United Kingdom stocks are fairly sufficient there is no corresponding improvement here. There is, however, a steady consumptive demand for all qualities, prices remaining unchanged.

Sultanas.

The unfavourable weather reports which continue to be received from Smyrna have caused further activity and a renewed rise in prices here. The small stocks of natural fruit remaining show the greatest advance, but all qualities have participated. The existing steady market demand may be taken as an indication that distributors have only small stocks. The small late arrivals of Greek sultanas have sold freely. From Liverpool the market is reported also strong. Full prices are being demanded, which buyers pay reluctantly, although the merchants' attitude is apparently justified by the unfavourable reports of the growing crop.

Figs and Dates.

There is nothing particular to report regarding figs. Bags of naturals are quoted 29s. to 30s.

Prices of dates are still very low, demand is poor. Persians are quoted 7s. to 12s.

Gums.

There is only a moderate activity in the market, but prices are well maintained. Turkey sorts 36s. to 55s. per cwt. East India common to fine, 28s. to 32s.; Tragacanth, first, 380s. to 480s.; low to good sorts, 90s. to 130s.; Myrrh, good to fine, 96s. to 100s.; Sandrac, 57s. to 85s.

PERSIAN AND TURKEY PRODUCE.

In their May report just received, Messrs. Bowyer and Bartlett state:—

Asphaltum.—Egyptian.—No change to report, no enquiries whatever. Values remain unchanged at 80s. per cwt. Syrian character.—Small sales at unchanged rates. Gum Ammoniacum.—The demand is very restricted, with new arrivals increasing in stocks. Values remain about the same, viz.—Good pale free drop 70s., medium block 50s., and low seedy, 50s. Gum Assafoetida.—No change to report, the market remains at a standstill. Stocks of low grade are very heavy, but finer qualities are scarce and we might recommend a few consignments of really good quality. Gum Arabic.—Egyptian.—Since our last report there has been a rapid rise in prices, owing to speculation in producing markets. The price now asked for ordinary natural sorts is about 36s. per cwt. c.i.f., but buyers on this side are not prepared to pay anything like this figure. On the spot, there has been a good demand, and some large parcels have been disposed of at a fair advance in price. Persian Insoluble.—During the past month there has been an increased demand, and practically all the good qualities "Bushire Sorts" which we have held for a long time have now been placed at very full values. Gum Tragacanth.—Sales have been of a steady nature throughout the month, but chiefly in the Persian descriptions. Good white Baghdad is extremely scarce, and realising very extreme prices. The present stock is 10,068 pkgs. of all descriptions. Gum Mastic.—Quiet market, with very few sales. Value, 2s. 6d., 2s. 7d. per lb. Galls.—There is rather more enquiry and we have sold a fair quantity of blues on the spot at 46s. per cwt., and whites at 42s. per cwt. Greens are in plentiful supply, but there is absolutely no demand for the quality. Senna.—Alexandrian.—After the large business during the past few months our buyers appear to be somewhat satisfied. We cannot report any change in prices, except pods, which we think could be bought at rather under recent value.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending May 29:—Very little business has been effected this week; nevertheless, several buyers have been again on our market, but sellers do not show any wish to sell. The only sales we have to report are 14 cases about 11 per cent. to 11½ per cent. Carahissar at 15s. 6d. The arrivals are 4,649 cases, against 2,425 at same date last year.

Mr. H. H. McCARTHY has acquired from Mr. Joseph Mason the business of Shippers to India and the Far East, recently carried on at 26 and 27, Bush Lane, under the style of MASON, MACLAREN & CO., and will, as and from June 6th, 1914, remove same to 8, Bush Lane. Mr. JOSEPH MASON will continue to carry on business as Government Contractor, etc., at 26 and 27, Bush Lane, under the style of JOSEPH MASON & CO.

XANTHI TOBACCO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 6.

The Ministry of Finance has received several offers from foreign firms for the purchase of Xanthe tobacco, the prices of which are now a little higher than last year.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 1.

The far-famed Xanthi leaf, until the war exclusively grown in Turkish territory, is now apportioned to both Bulgaria and Greece. The actual district where this leaf is cultivated extends, roughly speaking, from Makri in the east to Kavalla in the west, and north across the Rhodope Mountains to the immediate valley beyond. The choicest leaf, however, and that which finds the greatest favour with British and American buyers, is grown in sheltered plots on the southern slopes of the Rhodope, immediately to the north of Xanthi and Gumuljina, and on both sides of the Greco-Bulgar frontier.

It is roughly estimated that 40 per cent. of the Xanthi leaf now put on the market will in future be grown in Greek Thrace, and 60 per cent. in Bulgarian Thrace. Accurate figures concerning the output in the Bulgarian section are not yet obtainable, and it is impossible to rely on pre-war figures, but the Director of the Statistical Department in Sofia estimates the Xanthi output at 2,000,000 okes, average crop, and the total output of tobacco for New Bulgaria at 6,000,000 okes (Old Bulgaria, in 1911, the latest statistics available, produced 106,473 quintals of tobacco). Xanthi experts, on the other hand, estimate the Xanthi leaf output in Bulgaria at 3,000,000 okes at an average price of PT. 25 per oke. Both authorities agree, however, that the cultivation of the leaf is susceptible of an enormous increase, both owing to the ever-growing demand abroad and the practicability of augmenting the area under cultivation, and they predict a doubling of the output within the next five years if no radical fiscal changes are introduced by the Government in the meantime.

Prior to the war, the Turkish Regie was established in Thrace, but their concession expired, and though it has been renewed in Greek Thrace in a modified form, it has not been renewed in Bulgarian Thrace. Under the old Regie system, there was no question of a monopoly as regards the purchase of the tobacco, which could be bought at best prices in the open market. The result was the establishing of a large number of merchants of different nationalities and the opening up, by big foreign importers, of buying and warehousing branches. The British firms thus interested in Xanthi were: the Commercial Company of Salonika, Limited; the Oriental Tobacco Company, Limited; the Export Leaf Tobacco Company (Orient), Limited; the Turkish Export Company, Limited; N. Meyer and Company, Limited; the Macedonian Tobacco Company, Limited; and Kiazim Emin and Company, Limited. Of these, the largest is the Export Leaf Tobacco Company, which supplies a lot of cheap tobacco, about 1,000,000 okes per annum to Germany; the Macedonian Tobacco Company, on the other hand, has withdrawn from Xanthi. To the list of the above British firms must be added the American Tobacco Company, one of the largest, if not the largest on the market, several other American firms and some six or seven German firms. It can roughly be estimated that these companies together annually bought tobacco in the Xanthi district to the value of £1,500,000—the figures for the American Tobacco Company being, I am told, 15,000,000 francs during the past three years.*

The creation of a buying monopoly, whether Bulgarian or foreign, would clash with the interests of the above firms, and with those of all merchants exploiting the Xanthi leaf. For the monopoly would be in a position to create and maintain a ficititous price without being at all interested in a strenuous development of the cultivation of the plant. An open market, keen competition, and State facilities to planters, would seem to be some of the essential requirements if the Xanthi tobacco trade is not to languish. As an offset, the banderole tax can be increased and

* Since writing the above a pamphlet has been placed at my disposal, arguing the pros and cons of the monopoly system. It is entitled "Monopole or Banderole," and is the report of a lecture given by the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who was one of the members of the Tobacco Commission.

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it would appear that a suggestion to that effect was submitted by the merchants of Xanthi to the Commission appointed to study the tobacco question in New Bulgaria and to suggest new tobacco regulations. Up to the time of writing these have not been drafted.

The claims of the merchants and planters can therefore be summarised as follows:—(1) An open purchasing market which will create a healthy competition; and (2) greater facilities to planters for cultivating the leaf in small, sheltered plots on the slopes of the hills; as an off-set, an increase in the banderole tax. It stands to reason that the regulations when finally drafted will have to apply to the whole of Bulgaria, and not only to the Xanthi district, but, nevertheless, as the Xanthi leaf is that most in request abroad, its claims are deserving of special consideration. Regarding the formation of a monopoly, whether State or private, it is not generally favoured in financial circles in Sofia where the banderole system is preferred.*

In conversation with some members of the Commission the other day, I was informed that the bulk of the population in the Xanthi district, and even farther north, was Turkish, quite at home under Bulgarian rule; it was feared, however, that the creation of a monopoly would drive these Turks away. They are a peaceful, law-abiding and tax-paying community, whose whole lives are spent in their tobacco plots, out of which, in a good year, they can clear a profit of about £36 per acre, as against a maximum of £3 per acre with any other crop. Further, I was informed that the best tobacco-growing land was worthless for any other cultivation, so that a decrease in the former would not enrich the country. This year, owing to uncertainty as to the Government's policy, there has been a decrease in the area under tobacco, so that the crop outlook is not so favourable as it might be.

The Government's attitude regarding the banderole versus monopoly systems is at present unknown. The vested interests—warehouses, etc.—are enormous and, in case of the creation of a monopoly, would demand compensation; thousands of natives of Thrace would be without employment; the cost of organising the administration would be high; and not less costly would be the advertising abroad of a new brand of tobacco or cigarette.

However, some decision will shortly have to be taken. A lot will depend on the issue of the pending loan negotiations in Berlin. Should they, contrary to all expectations, prove a failure, the monopoly system might eventually have to be exploited; should they succeed, the banderole system, with an increased tax, will in all probability be maintained.

The Egyptian market is now the object of pourparlers between the Bulgarian and the Egyptian Governments. At present the Greek tobacco can be imported into Egypt at 2 PT. less per oke than the Bulgarian tobacco, but how long this will last is still unknown, the Greco-Egyptian treaty of commerce expiring this autumn.† The Greek Government is endeavouring to have the treaty prolonged for another period of ten years, but whether successfully or not is still an open question. The Bulgarian Government, on the other hand, is negotiating for a treaty with Egypt, which will give Bulgarian tobacco the same favoured conditions as the Greek. I understand that the pourparlers are advancing satisfactorily. They will greatly depend, however, on the results of the pending Greco-Egyptian negotiations.

* Egypt, it may here be mentioned, is an importan purchaser of Thracian tobacco.

† The Commercial Convention, concluded in 1895, between Egypt and Greece expires on July 17 next, After that date Greek tobacco imported into Egypt will have to pay the general tariff rates, *i.e.*, £E0.270 per kilog. on leaf tobacco, and £E0.320 on stripped tobacco.—Ed.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 5.

Prices have risen as a result of the sharp recovery in American. But the effects of this recovery have not been very marked, and we have only maintained the rise with difficulty. The existence of a large stock, the increase of acreage, and the brilliant prospects of the crop tend to neutralise this rise, and do not encourage the speculator to buy; and as the rise was only a slight one the margin between Egyptian and American is quite negligible. To this fact it must be added that speculators are bearish in their tactics, that the trade has sold futures in order to cover its purchases in the interior, and that realisations have depressed the market. It is thought that the future of the article will be ruled by the American markets, or, to speak more accurately, by the weather conditions ruling in the States. Reports regarding the new crop are satisfactory, and the warmth of the last few days has resulted in the plants making real progress. So far there has been no sign of the cotton worm making its appearance this year. The spot market is fairly active, and exports are larger than they were in the corresponding period of last year. Cotton-seed has rallied slightly, owing to an increase in the demand.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday:—

Market quiet. July, 18 $\frac{8}{32}$, November, 18$\frac{3}{4}$. Exchange, three months' date, 96$\frac{1}{4}$.

	This week.	Same time. 1912-13.	Same time. 1911-12.
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	9,500	2,000	6,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,580,479	7,445,851	7,242,197
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	Nil	3,000	4,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	195,289	192,000	193,555
Shipments to Manchester	7,250	Nil.	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	211,826	196,452	216,436
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	11,750	7,500	10,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	402,176	374,171	356,912
Shipments to U.S. America	Nil.	2,750	2,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	75,948	119,265	106,841
Shipments to all parts	19,000	13,250	16,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	885,239	881,868	873,744
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,339,000	1,082,000	887,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to June 3, 1914.

	1913-14	1912-13.	1911-12.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	195,289	189,108	189,516
" Manchester	204,576	193,432	216,436
Total Shipments to Great Britain	399,865	385,540	405,952
Shipments to France and Spain	111,027	106,710	93,961
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	189,670	178,079	173,107
Shipments to Russia	67,419	62,424	62,437
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,098	805	919
Total Shipments to Continent	370,214	348,018	330,424
Shipments to U.S. America	75,948	116,416	104,456
Ditto to India and Japan	20,212	18,581	16,544
Total Shipments to all parts	866,239	868,555	857,376
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

June 1.—"City of Cambridge." June 5, "Tudor Prince," Manchester.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—Egyptian Spot: The moderate inquiry experienced over the holiday period continued during the earlier part of the week, when only small business was put through. To-day there was quite a revival in the demand, and a fair amount of cotton changed hands. The medium grades of Nubari and Sakellarides seem to have been in most request. In other qualities—with the exception of Joannovitch, which does not seem to be in favour at the moment—only a moderate business has been put through. Quotations for all qualities and grades are reduced 15 points. Estimated sale for five days, 1,600 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, June 10.

There has been no encouragement for sellers in the market during the past week, the tone throughout being very quiet. To some extent the lack of activity in yarn and cloth is due to the high prices in raw cotton and consequent dear rates in yarn and cloth. We are undoubtedly passing through a period when operators consider the best policy is to hold aloof and wait further developments. The weather reports from the American cotton belt are of a varied character. Manchester does not believe some of the exaggerated reports as to the damage to the growth. On the whole the crop in Egypt appears to be making fair progress. Manufacturers of piece goods have only been able to secure small orders. Advices from Egypt are no better and business has continued to drag. The outlets of the Levant have given retail support and many difficulties are encountered in arranging fresh transactions. India is not doing much at the moment, and considerable interest is being taken in the reports as to the monsoon which broke at Bombay at the beginning of this week. According to some statements, the position in China seems to be a little better, but we cannot report a larger offtake in cloth. Owing to the unseasonable weather now being experienced, the home trade is not doing so well as expected. In certain weaving towns arrangements are being made to stop looms or extend the usual holidays this summer. American yarns for home use have been generally firm in quotation, but when prices have been thoroughly tested, some irregularity in the position of producers has shown itself. Most of the buying has been of a hand to mouth character. On the whole, the demand seems to be rather better in wefts than in twists.

GRECO-AUSTRIAN COMMERCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 5.

A new treaty of commerce, chiefly bearing upon a reduction of the tariff rules on Greek figs and currants and on Austrian timber and cloths, also a treaty concerning navigation and a special convention regarding tobacco have just been concluded here between the Greek and Austrian Governments. The draft treaties have been initialled, and the definite signature will take place within a month.

RUSSO-PERSIAN POST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 7.

Pending the completion of the Julfa-Tabriz Railway, the Russian authorities are establishing a regular tri-weekly postal service by fast motor-cars between those places. The whole of the Russian and foreign mails for the Persian interior will be carried by that route. The Russian post office in Tabriz is to be furnished with a well-staffed collecting and distributing department.

The construction of the Julfa-Tabriz railway is being vigorously pushed forward, and the new line will, it is expected, be opened for traffic early next year.

COTTON CULTIVATION.

Four meetings of the International Congress of Tropical Agriculture (June 23-30) will be devoted to discussion of cotton cultivation, and at one of them Lord Kitchener has promised to preside. On June 23, the Earl of Derby, President of the British Cotton-Growing Association, will take the chair at a meeting at which Mr. J. A. Hutton will give an account of the work of this association, of which he is chairman. On June 29 there will be a discussion on the "Improvement of Cotton Cultivation," to which the experts of the Department of Agriculture in Egypt will contribute, while Prof. Todd, of Nottingham University, will discuss the labour question as it affects cotton cultivation in the U.S.A. and Egypt, and Mr. Arno Schmidt, of the International Federation of Cotton Spinners, will give an account of his recent tour in the cotton districts of India. It is at this meeting that Lord Kitchener has consented to take the chair.

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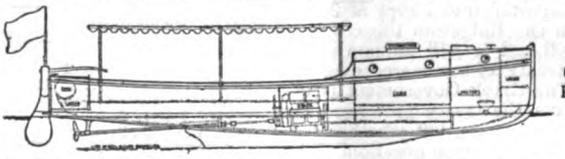
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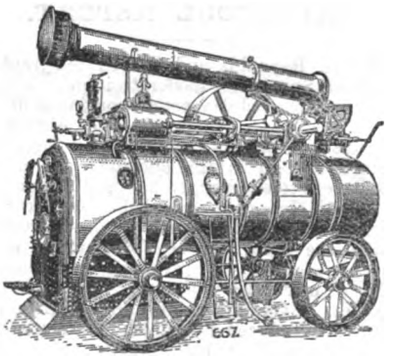
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Engineering Notes.

Electric Lighting Installations.

Many people imagine that electricity generated by a small independent plant is necessarily very expensive and unreliable. This is quite a mistaken notion, as by the introduction of the internal-combustion engine the cost of generating electricity is comparatively so small that a complete lighting installation may now be considered a sound investment rather than an expensive fad. In addition to providing light, electricity can, of course, be utilised for cooking and heating, for charging accumulators for motor-cars, or for light power work, such as pumping water, driving a lathe, ventilating fans in the houses, or light machines in barns, etc. The approximate cost of an electric light installation, with 50 to 100 16-c.p. lights, comprising engine, dynamo, tanks, pipes, shunt, regulator, accumulators, switchboard, and accumulator stands, may be from £60 to £120. Almost any existing outhouse, stable, or barn that is weather-tight can be adapted to serve as an engine-room, and can be partitioned off for the accommodation of accumulators. The only foundation to be provided is a concrete base for the engine and dynamo. The engines can be made to work with either petrol or paraffin, but for reasons of economy and convenience to users in the Near East we would strongly recommend paraffin as a fuel. The oil consumption may be taken at three-quarter to one pint per brake horse-power. Roumanian, Russian, or Baku oil is better than the American for the purpose. To charge the accumulators the engine would run on an average four to six hours a week (according to consumption of light), which would require about fifteen minutes' attention at starting, and while running one or two visits to see that all is in order.

The Re-modelling of Athens.

Some interesting details of the plans for remodelling Athens are given in the report of H.M. Consul at the Piræus, which was published on Tuesday. A new Union railway station is to form a fitting entrance to the city, which, as our readers are aware, will soon be in direct communication with Paris. "The small and squalid buildings which at present disfigure and obscure the Acropolis and magnificent ancient ruins of Athens are to be removed. It is then hoped that further excavations of the ruins may be taken in hand. A good road is to be made between Constitution Square and the Zappion Gardens to the Acropolis, and skirting the base of the ruins. It is a noticeable fact that the population of Athens has increased by about 50,000 during the past year. This increase is to some extent due to the number of rich Greeks returning to Athens. A great feature of the proposed improvements is to be the planning and laying out of parks and boulevards. Already considerable progress has been made in the planting of pines and cypresses on the hills surrounding the city. The extension of this work is to be continued. The improvements will include several areas to be devoted to small houses for the working population whose houses have been, or will be, removed."

Piræus Harbour Works.

The same consular report states that "the Harbour Board is studying the practical means of enlarging the port of the Piræus. At present vessels discharge in the stream, and passengers have to land in boats, with their baggage. It is proposed to build a new Custom House, moles, and jetty heads, and erect special appliances of a modern type for discharging cargoes at the quays. The submerged rock, which has been a source of danger to vessels in the harbour, has been at last removed; the quantity of rock removed amounted to 3,000 cubic metres, at a cost of £4,240. The depth of water on it is now 8.5 metres (27 ft. 10 ins.)." British contractors will doubtless be interested in the proposals indicated; and, since the Greeks are gifted with a nice discrimination in the way of choosing the best men to carry out works of this kind, we may reasonably expect that one or other of our leading firms that have had so much experience in this direction will be employed for the work.

Trebizond Port Works.

The following is an extract from a forthcoming report of H.M. Consul at Trebizond (Mr. H. E. Satow), published by *The Board of Trade Journal*:—"Nothing further has transpired as to the building of a port at Trebizond, for which surveys were carried out in 1912 by a British firm. The delay is probably due to the fact that the negotiations as to the construction of the various railways projected have been prolonged. Although a line from Trebizond to Erzeroum has been mentioned as forming part of the scheme, it seems doubtful whether, in view of the heavy cost, it will be built in the near future. On the other hand, the chances of a railway being built from Samsoun seem more favourable, in which case Trebizond will probably lose some of its trade with the interior, which would be diverted to the new route.

Roumanian and Servian Engineers.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes under date June 7:—Next week a party of eighty Servian engineers and architects will arrive at Bucharest. The Society of Roumanian Engineers, under the presidency of M. Saligny, are arranging a hearty reception for their Servian colleagues, whose stay in the capital will last for five days, during which the salt mines at Slanic, the petroleum districts of Campina and Datchevo, and various industrial centres will be visited, as well as Sinaia and Constantza.

On October 17, 18, and 19 a Congress of Engineers will be held in Bucharest, when the general interests of the fraternity in this country will be fully discussed. The Congress, the first of its kind in this country, will be under the presidency of Professor Saligny.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Webbing, Hides, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of 50,600 yards of webbing, 3,540 hides, and 35 pigskins, 3,900 yards of felt, and 55,900 yards of canvas. July 14.

Olive Oil.—Tenders are invited by the Economat Central, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for the supply of 7,390 okes and 272 dirhems of pure olive oil, necessary for Mecca and Medina. July 15.

Letter-Boxes.—Tenders are invited by the Postal Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of 600 cast-iron letter-boxes, similar to those employed in the rural service. June 20.

GREECE.

Dredger and Lighter.—Tenders are invited by the Harbour Board at the Piræus for the supply of a dredger and a lighter. July 14.

BULGARIA.

Creosote.—Tenders are invited by the Direction Générale des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat Bulgare for the supply and delivery of creosote of the upset value of £10,560. June 19.

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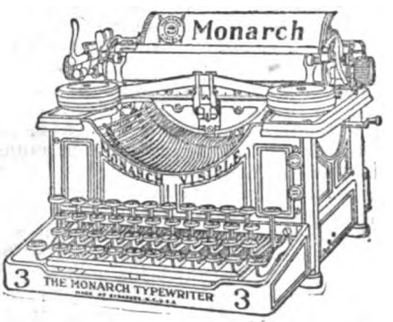

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Shipping Intelligence.

ROUMANIAN DANUBE NAVIGATION COMPANY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 6.

The new company for river navigation formed, as already announced, among the Roumanian banks with the title "Societata Anonima Romana de Navigatiune pe Dunare," or for short S.R.D., has been duly registered, and the other necessary formalities complied with.

The capital is 7,200,000 lei—5,200,000 in property and 2,000,000 in cash—as follows:—The Banca Romaneasca: Eleven lighters and one tug, value 1,123,000 lei; the Banca Agricola, the Banca Generala Romana Comertuliu of Craiova, the Berliner Kommerz und Diskontobank, twenty-eight lighters and four elevators; Banca Generala, 507,000 lei; Banca Comerciala, 258,500 lei; Banca Agricola, 569,000 lei; Kommerz und Diskontobank, 695,500 lei.

Besides this, the Banca Agricola brings in other lighters valued at 93,000 lei, and the Banca Comerciala, in similar fashion, brings in lighters valued at 444,000 lei. The firm Fratelli Bach also puts in thirteen lighters, value 1,143,000 lei, and Geo. Fernic four lighters, value 336,000 lei. The 2,000,000 cash is subscribed by Marmorosch Blanc and Co., Banca de Scont, Banca de Credit Roman, and Banca Comertuliu (Craiova) in equal proportions. If necessary the capital can be increased to fifteen millions. The board is composed of Messrs. Anghel Saligny, Vic. P. Stefanescu, Aristi Blanc, W. Dickin, Cr. Calinescu, N. Sgardelli, I. Savescu, Const. Neamtu, Josef Pincas, and Angelo Bach.

BLACK SEA FREIGHTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 7.

In the early part of the week there was a sudden and complete collapse of freights. From 8s. Rotterdam, 8s. 3d. Weser, and 8s. 6d. Hamburg, the rates fell, within a few days, to 6s. 6d. Rotterdam, 7s. Weser, and 7s. 3d. Hamburg (3d. less barley), and to-day even those reduced prices are scarcely obtainable. There is for the time being practically no demand for prompt tonnage. The previous and temporary rise in rates had attracted extra tonnage, and its arrival smashed the market. There are just now four Wilson liners in this port, and they take whatever the shippers offer, for the sake of despatch. These and three other British bottoms are loading in very small quantities at rates varying from 5s. 6d. to 6s. If, as would appear probable, there is to be a repetition of last season's superabundance of tonnage, then there is little or no prospect of an appreciable improvement in freights, even with the advent of the new harvest. At Nicolaieff business is at a complete standstill. Excepting some little cargo offering for Genoa at 7.50frs. there is nothing doing, and the scarcity of grain stocks is more marked than in any other Black Sea port. It is of extremely rare occurrence that the granaries in the Bug emporium are empty and the daily arrivals from the Hinterland so scant. Business at Kherson has quietened down in sympathy with other ports, the demand for tonnage has weakened and the grain arrivals from the upper reaches of the Dnieper are very small and precarious. A prompt steamer was berthed the other day for Hamburg at 7s., but she is loading in driblets. At Novorossisk there has been a little more demand during the week, but rates are unimproved at 6s. Rotterdam, 6s. 3d. Weser, and 6s. 6d. Hamburg. At Khorli-Skadovsk a steamer has been berthed for Rotterdam at 7s., completing the requirements of those two North Crimean and neighbouring ports until the new crop is harvested. The one steamer berthed at Theodosia last week had difficulty in completing in ten days, and in that port, also, there will be further business pending the new harvest.

BRAILA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Braila, June 6.

The freight market has been very dull this week, the only inquiry being for picked ports in the United Kingdom, which commanded 8s. to 8s.3d. from the Danube and 7s. 3d. from Sulina. The Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg berths were very quiet, the utmost obtainable being 7s., 7s 3d. and 7s. 9d. respectively from the Danube, and 6s. 3d., 6s. 6d. and 7s. from Sulina.

The Mediterranean market is inactive at 9 fr. Danube to West Italy, and 8.50 fr to the Adriatic or Marseilles.

Vessels can load up river down to 22ft. 3in., and can cross Sulina Bar drawing 23ft.

The "Romania Prima Societate Nationala de Navigatiune Maritima" have purchased from a local owner the s.s. "Ecaterini Mateoukis" for £39,000. The ship was built last year, and carries 5,600 tons.

H.-A. PERSIAN GULF LINE.

Yet another development of the Hamburg-Amerika Line was announced last Friday. The company's service to Arabia and the Persian Gulf, which has hitherto been only for freight, will now be extended by providing passenger accommodation. The "Christian X.," a motor ship which has been employed on the New York-Brazil line, will inaugurate the new service, starting on her first trip on the 27th inst., and several freight steamers already employed on the Gulf service are to be provided with cabins for passengers.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

The Financial Times reproduces from the annual report of the Suez Canal Company some interesting particulars of the tonnage and voyages recorded by the leading shipping companies using the canal. The record as regards the leading half-dozen companies is as follows:—

Names of Owners	Tonnage.	No. of Voyages.
Ellerman Lines	1,328,000	298
Peninsular & Oriental..	1,205,000	251
Alfred Holt and Co. ..	1,162,000	244
Hansa Line	1,037,000	256
Hamburg-Amerika	790,000	190
Norddeutscher Lloyd..	630,000	106

It will be observed, says *The Financial Times*, that the Ellerman Lines still retain pride of place both as regards tonnage and number of voyages, exceeding by a substantial margin their nearest competitor, the P. and O. It is also satisfactory to note that, as last year, the three leading companies are again British. In the case of every company there is an increase in tonnage as against the total of the previous year, that of the Ellerman Lines amounting to 86,000 tons and of the P. and O. to 73,000 tons, while the other companies also record substantial advances. The total tonnage of vessels passing through the canal during 1913 has risen to the huge figure of 20,034,000 tons.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Our Jerusalem correspondent telegraphs:—Three fatal cases of bubonic plague were reported from Jaffa last week. A strict quarantine has been imposed.

The French company, "Express de la Marmara," has arranged a regular service of steamers, leaving Constantinople every Thursday, and arriving at Dedeagatch next day.

According to *Al Moghreb al Aksa*, 2,737 Europeans landed at Casablanca during April. Of these 1,558 were French, 603 Spaniards, and 451 Italians.

The Mediterranean Fleet leaves Malta tomorrow for a summer cruise, visiting Corfu and Phalerum Bay. It is understood that a visit will also be paid to Smyrna, and that afterwards the Fleet will divide, the divisions visiting ports on the Syrian coasts, Cyprus, and Alexandria, returning to Malta at the end of July.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—Left Palermo for New York June 5. "Circassia."—Birkenhead/Bombay. Left Gibraltar June 7. "Elysia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left Port Said June 4. "Italia."—Left New York for Gibraltar June 6. "Massilia."—At Bombay May 28. "Olympia."—Liverpool/Bombay. Passed Perim June 3. "Perugia."—Left New York for Naples May 23.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Liverpool May 22. "Esneh."—At Liverpool May 26. "Hathor."—Alexandria/London. Passed Gibraltar June 7. "Karnak."—Liverpool/Constantinople. Left Malta June 6. "Meroe."—At Alexandria May 26. "Moeris."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria June 3. "Sebek."—Odessa/London. Left Malta May 30. "Siptah."—Liverpool/Batoum. Passed Gibraltar June 6.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Antwerp May 16. "Barnesmore."—At Antwerp June 4. "Cranmore."—At Galatz June 5. "Edenmore."—Left Salonica for Varna June 8. "Fenmore."—At Rotterdam. "Foylemore."—Left Ancona for Constantinople June 4. "Gorsemore."—Liverpool/Pirseus. Left Gibraltar June 6. "Heathmore."—Kustendje / Antwerp. At Galatz June 5. "Incemore."—Galatz/Antwerp. Left Malta June 6. "Kenmore."—At Galatz May 26. "Larchmore."—At Sulina June 7.

Ellerman Line.

"Alexandria."—At Liverpool April 23. "Asturian."—At Constantinople June 4. "Astrian."—Left Constantinople for Lisbon June 2. "Avon."—Swansea/Mediterranean. At Valencia June 3. "Bavarian."—Poti/Mostyn. Passed Holyhead June 7. "Bosnian."—Left Oran June 4. "Britannia."—At Alexandria June 2. "Castilian."—At Liverpool June 3. "City of Cambridge."—Left Malta for Liverpool June 4. "City of Oxford."—At Alexandria May 22. "Fabian."—At Naples June 4. "Lisbon."—At Constantinople May 29. "Malatian."—Left Naples for Liverpool June 6. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—At Cagliari June 8. "Caria."—At Swansea. "Carpathia."—New York/Mediterranean. At Trieste June 8. "Cypria."—At Fiume June 9. "Franconia."—At Boston June 3. "Ivernia."—Left Messina for Naples June 8. "Lycia."—Taganrog/Liverpool. Left Constantinople June 6. "Pennonia."—Palermo/New York. Left Lisbon June 8. "Pavia."—At Fiume June 4. "Phrygia."—At Gibraltar June 8. "Saxonia."—At New York June 3. "Tyria."—At Constantinople June 5. "Ultonia."—Left New York for Mediterranean June 2. "Veria."—At Constantinople June 7.

Prince Line.

"Corsican Prince."—At Manchester June 7. "Creole Prince."—Antwerp/Alexandria. Left Malta May 26. "Egyptian Prince."—At Alexandria May 23. "Italian Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria May 30. "Merchant Prince."—At Alexandria May 24. "Orange Prince."—Left London for Alexandria May 20. "Sailor Prince."—Left Syrian Coast for Novorossisk May 28. "Soldier Prince."—Left London for Alexandria May 31. "Stuart Prince."—At Kherson May 27. "Tudor Prince."—At Alexandria April 26. "Trojan Prince."—Left Syrian Coast for Liverpool May 27.

The British Syndicate (Messrs. Vickers, Barrow, and Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., Elswick), which is entrusted with the building of battleships and other war vessels for the Turkish Navy, has, it is understood, arranged with Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie, and Co., St. Peter's and Hebburn-on-Tyne, for that firm to build and engine six torpedo-boat destroyers for the Ottoman Fleet.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, July 1.

STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is June 23.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Wed., June 24	Thurs., June 25	Fri., June 26
Wed., July 8	Thurs., July 9	Fri., July 10

LONDON, June 11.

The failures of Messrs. Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co. and the Canadian Agency have received much more attention than they deserved. Both concerns have long been in trouble. The market, so far from being depressed by the news, has turned optimistic. This is mainly due to the belief that the troubles in Paris are over. Consequently, bears have been buying back and quotations have been hard all the week. The rise seems likely to continue. We must not expect any sort of boom, only a gradual appreciation of gilt-edged securities, consequent upon a continuance of cheap money.

Russian Loan.

The Russian loan has made its appearance and seems likely to be well received. The City of Perm is in the market for £370,000, and it is said that St. Petersburg desires to borrow £2,300,000. The Canadian loan, which it was at first rumoured had been over-subscribed, now turns out to have been a frost.

Internationals Steady.

Foreigners have been steady all the week. Bulgarian 4½ per cent. are 82½. Chinese are steadier also, on talk of a big loan being assured. There has been persistent buying of Egyptian Unified, both for Egyptian and London account, and the price leaves off 99½. Greek Fours are quoted 54. Hungarian Rentes are 82. Tintos are better at 69. Turkish Unified have hardened to 82½. It is now stated that the Bulgarian Loan has fallen through.

Rails Improve.

Home Rails are better. The tone of the whole market has improved. The Southern stocks have been bought on the statement that the Burr family have retired from the management of Kent Coal. There is very little business in Americans and no likelihood of any boom. Trade continues very bad. Traffics grow worse, and the only inspiriting news comes from the Southern States, where the wheat crop is admirable.

Rubber and Oil.

Prices are dull in the Rubber market. The Batavia Investments report was good, the Dutch estates held by this company having done so well that a 15 per cent. dividend can again be paid. Java Para figures are not good, and the shares seem worth selling. The Oil market has again been in a very excited condition. Very large blocks of Spies and North Caucasians have been sold. It is said that these sales have been made by insiders who possess the shares, and are carrying them over in the market. Therefore, they can hardly be said to be genuine bear sales. Shell report was magnificent, the position of the company being stronger than ever. It is rumoured that this company has acquired a concession of Eastern Pioneer. The Egyptian output is excellent, but in spite of this the market in the shares remains dull. Indeed, slight declines have taken place.

Mines Better.

Mining shares have generally improved. A few Kaffirs have been bought, the dividends already announced being on the whole encouraging. The Chartered Company propose to issue a circular intended to reassure their shareholders, but the market is very weak. Russian Mining report should be out in a few days, and the shares have hardened in consequence.

Egyptians More Active.

The Egyptian market has been much more active. Paris, after having held off for some weeks, is now again a buyer, and although Egypt herself is not buying heavily, London is doing her share. National Banks have been a good market at 14 7-16, and there have been a number of bargains in Agricultural Bank, the bulk of them having been done round about 4¾. Land Banks have been purchased by some Paris houses, and have been bid up to 6½. The deferred are quoted 40-45. Bank of Abyssinia remain at 5s. Delta Light Railway prefs. have been asked for at 8½, and some have changed hands at a fraction under that figure. Delta Lands are 8s. 9d. The demand for Behera has fallen off, and the shares are slightly weaker at 8⅞-9. Union Foncière were not affected by the report, and are still 1⅛. Aboukir Land have been sold down as low as 20s., but are now harder at 21s. The United Land figures in the report are about as good as anyone could have expected, but the shares remain at 1s. 9d. Sidi Salem are 5s. Egyptian Investment Trust are 35s. 6d. There has been quite a considerable business in Salt and Soda. Apparently there is a shortage of shares. They are quoted at 15s. New Egyptian have also been bought, and the price has hardened to 10s. 9d. Markets remain at 23s. 6d. Khedivial Mail are unchanged, the prefs. being 3¾ and the ordinary 10s. Daira Sanieh remain at 3s.

BULGARIAN LOAN.

According to a Sofia telegram received in Paris yesterday, the Bulgarian loan negotiations, which were broken off in Berlin earlier in the week, have been renewed on the intervention of Count Berchtold. This is regarded as indicating that the loan is of a political character, and that, should the negotiations with Berlin again fail, Bulgaria would probably find the necessary money on the French market.

BULGARIAN STATE TREASURY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, June 7.

The Ministry of Finance has published returns of the State Treasury receipts for the period January 1-April 1 of the current year, which show that the Treasury receipts from the various revenues amounted to 46,641,915 frs. for this year's Budget, as compared with 34,868,718 frs. for the previous year, an increase of 11,773,197 frs. Bearing in mind that the collection of taxes for the first three months of the year is usually not an easy matter, these figures are a good sign of the Bulgarian taxpayer's economic ability and the country's financial resources.

The Minister of Finance has introduced into the Chamber a Bill authorising considerable increases of the indirect taxes, and the Estimates for the present year have been made in accordance with the taxation proposed in this Bill. The proposed increases are as follows:—From 10 to 15 centimes per decalitre on native and foreign alcohol; from 40 to 60 frs. per 100 litres on foreign alcoholic drinks; and from 10 to 14 centimes per litre on native and foreign beer. Sugar and confectionery imported is to pay 60 frs. per 100 kilog., instead of 40 frs.; biscuits containing over 25 per cent. of sugar are to be taxed 50 frs., and those containing less than 25 per cent. of sugar 12 frs. 50 centimes per 100 kilog. The tax on petroleum and other mineral oils is to be raised from 5 frs. to 10 frs. per 100 kilogs.; coffee is to pay 85 frs. instead of 50 frs., and cocoa 30 frs. instead of 20 frs. per 100 kilog. Edible oils are to pay 20 frs. instead of 10 frs. per 100 kilog., but cocus oil destined for industrial purposes is exempt. Ether and oils used as a basis for perfumes, and similar products for toilet use, are to pay 300 frs. per 100 kilog. Alcohol for fuel is to pay 10 centimes per litre, and manufactured vinegar the same rate.

THE GREEK BUDGET.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that in the Chamber on Tuesday the Minister of Finance submitted the Budget for 1914. The ordinary expenditure amounts to 220,000,000 drachmai (about £8,800,000) and the ordinary revenue to 224,000,000 drachmai (about £8,960,000). The extraordinary expenditure for the fleet and the army, provision for refugees, public works, etc., amounts to 184,000,000 drachmai (£7,360,000), which will be covered by a loan concluded in France.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ALEXANDRIA WATER.—The directors recommend a dividend of 8s. 9d. per share, free of income-tax, for the half-year, payable June 15 (Coupon 51), making 12s. 9d. per share for the year, allocating £11,640 for depreciation and £16,500 to the municipality under the convention.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week 3,511 tons (last week 2,475 tons). Hurgada production last two weeks 181 and 194 tons.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.—Transfer register will be closed from June 17 to June 30 inclusive. An extraordinary general meeting will be held on Monday.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—Production for week ended 6th inst., 402 tons. No. 24 cleaning hard cork most of week; during cleaning, 8th inst., well made strong flow, blew out instruments.

BANQUE DE SALONIQUE.—The accounts for 1913 show a net profit of 1,266,322 francs, as compared with 866,980 francs in 1912. A dividend of 5 francs per share is announced. The capital of the company is to be raised from 20 million francs to 30 million francs in view of a fusion with the National Bank of Turkey.

BLACK SEA OILFIELDS.—Production of crude oil for week ending 6th inst., 19,556 poods (315 tons).

CAISSE HYPOTHECAIRE D'EGYPTE.—Payment of 9.60 francs on coupons dated June 15 at the Société Générale de Belgique and at the Banque de Bruxelles, etc.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for ten days ended May 20 amounted to £6,819, an increase of £370 on corresponding period of last year. Aggregate receipts from April 1, £37,534 (increase, £2,512).

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Receipts for week ended June 4 amounted to £795, a decrease of £62 on the corresponding period for last year. The aggregate to date is £25,437, a decrease of £1,480.

MINES DU LAURIUM.—The profits for 1912 are reported as 815,000 francs, which will allow of a dividend of 25 francs per share.

NEW EGYPTIAN.—Payment is announced of 5 per cent. (9d. per share) on Coupon No. 5.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Transfer books of the 4 per cent. First and 5 per cent. Second Debenture stocks will be closed from June 13 to June 30 inclusive.

Receipts for week ended June 6 amounted to £7,285, an increase of £1,865 over the corresponding period of last year.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—Receipts for April amounted to 712,389 drachmai, an increase of 9,547 drachmai on corresponding period of last year. Aggregate from January 1, 2,794,840 drachmai (increase 302,421 drachmai).

SOCIETE ANONYME D'IRRIGATION DE BALIANA.—Payment of 39 P.T. on Coupon No. 4, dated May 29, at the Crédit Lyonnais, Alexandria.

TRAMWAYS D'ALEXANDRIE.—The receipts for seven months, October, 1913, to April, 1914, amounted to 1,372,206 francs, an increase of 49,729 francs over the corresponding period in 1912-13.

LYNCH BROS., LTD.

A "private" company with the above title was registered May 30 by Messrs. Bristows, Cooke and Carpmael, 1, Copthall Buildings, E.C., with a capital of £60,000, in £1 shares (50,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference). The objects are: To take over the business of a merchant and commission agent, carried on by J. F. Lynch in London, Baghdad, Busreh, Mohammerah, and elsewhere in Turkish Arabia and Persia, as Lynch Brothers and Stephen Lynch and Co., and to carry on the same and the business of shipowners, shipbrokers, shipping agents, charterers of ships and vessels, etc. Mr. J. F. Lynch is permanent governing director.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 600,000.
Reserve - - - - - 660,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Constantinople Telephone.

The annual general meeting of the company was held at the company's office, Telephone House, Stamboul, Constantinople, on Thursday, the 4th inst., Mr. George Franklin, the president of the company, in the chair. The directors' report and accounts for the year ended December 31 last were unanimously adopted, and auditors were appointed for the current year. The prospects of the company continue to be very encouraging, orders having already been received for about 4,800 stations. It is expected that the sub exchanges will be opened, and all existing subscribers connected up within the next four months.

Suez Canal.

The general meeting of the shareholders of the Suez Canal Company was held in Paris on Monday. The president, M. Jonnart, gave an optimistic account of the company's prospects, which, he said, would be only slightly affected by the opening of the Panama Canal. Replying to the criticisms of some shareholders, M. Jonnart said that the fresh reduction of 50c. in the canal tolls was necessitated by the fact that those of the Panama Canal had been fixed at 1.25dol. He also justified the expenditure incurred in dredging and in improving the canal, in view of the tendency of shipping to increase in size. The report was read and adopted, and a dividend of 165fr. was declared. M. Cremer, a former Dutch Minister of Colonies, was elected a director in the place of M. Ruyssenaers, and the three retiring directors, M. Daubrée, Sir Thomas Sutherland and M. Verge, were re-elected.

United Egyptian Lands.

The report of the United Egyptian Lands, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last, to be presented at the meeting on June 11, states that with the approval of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., the area to be reclaimed has been reduced. At Kherba the reclamation of 167 feddans has been proceeded with and the levelling of 195 feddans has been completed. The whole of this part of the property is now ready for cultivation. The Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., has advanced the fourth instalment of £E5,000 of the additional loan so as to enable the company to proceed with the reclamation of its lands at Montaz. This year it is proposed to improve 438 feddans, which will leave only 656 feddans unreclaimed. The cotton crop amounted to 2,300 cantars. In September the plants suffered greatly from the attacks of the ordinary cotton worm and to a larger extent of the pink boll worm. But for these unforeseen circumstances the crop would have yielded a much larger figure. Land sales during the year have been fed 89.7k. 8s., of which fed 25.3k. 21s. sold at £E25 per feddan were unimproved lands; one plot of fed 2.23k. 14s. was sold at £E50 and the remainder, namely fed 61.3k. 21s., at prices varying from £E72 to £E80 per feddan. There have been taken back about 8¼ feddans sold in previous years. Rodah sales were sq. m. 2,347.45 at a total price of £E2,944.550 m. There has not been a great demand for these lands, but it is hoped that the "Rodah Kursaal," which is being built at the north end of the island and which will be opened shortly, will materially help the sales there. The profit and loss account shows a profit of £E476.828 m., which it is suggested should be carried to special reserve fund for depreciation of assets, so as to cover any part of the company's assets the realisation of which might present any difficulty in the future.

Banque Hypothecaire Egyptienne.

The ordinary general meeting was held at the company's offices on May 28. The accounts and directors' report show that the bank had advanced on mortgage, mostly on rural properties, the sum of £E380,000; and that the net profits amount to £E6,762, which with the sum of £E4,514 brought forward makes a total of £E11,000. After setting aside 5 per cent. for statutory reserve, it was decided to distribute a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent., and to carry forward £E6,063. It is satisfactory to note that the affairs of the company are carried on on a basis of solidarity, and that the securities held are all of a first-class order.

COMPANY MEETING.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., the Right Hon. Viscount Milner (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. F. Stevens) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The accounts show that the record of the company during the past year has been one of steady progress. The number and amount of our loans, and the extent and value of the property pledged to us as security for them, have again increased, and there is a corresponding increase in our profits and in the sum available for distribution after providing for debenture and other interest and for the dividend on the preferred shares. We are accordingly in a position to declare a dividend of 8 per cent. on our ordinary shares, as compared with 7 per cent. in the two preceding years, to add £17,500 to our reserve, as compared with £15,000 last year and £12,500 for the year before, and also to wipe out entirely the balance of the expenses of the preferred share issue. After further allocating the usual annual sum of £2,800 to the reduction of the item of discount and expenses of the debenture issues we carry forward £6,184. The only point in which the past year, perhaps, compares somewhat unfavourably with its predecessor is in respect of the amount of new business. A considerable amount of new business has indeed been entered into, but not so large an amount as in previous years. When I last addressed the shareholders I anticipated this reduced rate of expansion and explained the reason for it—namely, the difficulty of raising fresh capital on sufficiently favourable terms. That difficulty has now been removed by the intervention of the Agricultural Bank. This institution was confronted with a position exactly opposite to that of the Mortgage Company, for it had surplus capital seeking investment, while we had more opportunities of investment than we had capital with which to avail ourselves of them. By the association of interests between the two concerns which has now been effected, the surplus capital of the one has become available for developing the business of the other. You will see in our balance-sheet an item of £645,000 of temporary loans. The bulk of this item consists of advances made to us by the Agricultural Bank at a fixed rate of interest, and secured by debenture scrip of the Mortgage Company. The Agricultural Bank, having acquired almost the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Mortgage Company, is interested in extending the business of the latter, and is, at any rate for the immediate future, in a position to provide us with all the money we may need for fresh mortgages of a desirable character.

A fair amount of good business is at present offering, and the current year is likely to show a somewhat greater proportionate increase in the total amount of our loans than the year just concluded. There are two other items in the balance-sheet to which it may be desirable to refer—namely, "Sundry debtors and debit balances" and "Properties acquired through expropriation." The former stands at the high figure of £234,000, the bulk of which represents arrears in the payment of their instalments by mortgagors. As long as arrears are not of too long standing or allowed to accumulate unduly on any particular property there is little cause for disquietude on our part, and we are reluctant to proceed to expropriation. But this step is, of course, sometimes necessary, and when on the occasion of such a forced sale there is no adequate bid we may be obliged ourselves to become the purchaser. This explains the second of the two items in the balance-sheet to which I have just referred—namely, "Properties acquired through expropriation, £39,000." We have no desire permanently to retain these lands, but simply take them over until they can be sold on advantageous terms. We have established a regular system of inspection by which all such properties are from time to time brought under review and the original estimate of their value checked by periodic re-examination.

Turning to the financial position of Egypt generally, there is no material change to record since our last meeting. These are not boom times, but the essential prosperity of Egypt is unassailable, as long as she enjoys political tranquillity and possesses a Government which looks after agriculture and public works. These two fundamentals are assured under the present régime, and as long as that remains the case Egypt will pull through all right, even when she has luck rather against her. Last year, as you know, there was the worst flood on record, and agriculture necessarily suffered to some extent. But while the area under other crops, especially in Upper Egypt, was considerably reduced, the cotton area has been larger than ever and the crop the biggest but one ever known. That this should have been the case, in spite of an extraordinarily bad flood, is the strongest evidence of the immense value of the irrigation works carried out in the last twenty years. If, as seems reasonable to hope, the flood of the present year is a fair one and the price of cotton keeps up, the balance of agricultural prosperity will quickly be restored. I wish I could say that the general business of the country was brisk, but that is not the case. A number of new developments—oil on the Red Sea, cotton in the Sudan, as well as the extensive reclamation of land in the Northern Delta which ought to result from the present drainage works, etc.—must presently make their influence felt; but at the actual moment trade is still dull. The long and painful liquidation which followed the crisis of 1907 has not yet been followed by any period of fresh activity. Egyptian investments continue out of favour. They have had another heavy all-round drop since last year, and now stand, in my opinion, at a price which, in most cases, is decidedly below their intrinsic value. But, as far as our own company is concerned, the depressed condition of Egyptian trade, however regrettable, affords no special cause for anxiety. We have never experienced any other condition. While a turn in the tide may some day bring us added prosperity, there is no reason to fear that we shall have to work under more unfavourable conditions than these, in spite of which we have hitherto thriven in a quite unmistakable manner.

The Hon. Sidney Peel seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Coupon No. 1 of the Imperial Ottoman Government Five per Cent. Treasury Gold Bonds 1913, due on Saturday, will be paid on and after that date at the offices of Messrs. A. Rüffer and Sons, 39, Lombard Street, E.C.

CAISSE HYPOTHECAIRE D'EGYPTE

(Société anonyme).

Il est porté à la connaissance de MM. les obligataires de la Caisse hypothécaire d'Egypte que les coupons d'obligations à l'echéance du 15 juin 1914 sont payables, par fr. 9-60, aux établissements suivants:

EN BELGIQUE:

A Bruxelles:
A la Société Générale de Belgique;
A la Banque de Bruxelles;
A la succursale de la Banque de reports, de fonds publics et de dépôts;
A Anvers:
A la Banque d'Anvers;
A la Banque de reports, de fonds publics et de dépôts;

EN FRANCE:

A Paris:
A la Banque de l'Union parisienne;
A la Banque Adam;
A la Banque privée, industrielle, commerciale, coloniale;
A la Banque hollando-américaine, anciennement Ph.-L. von Hemert et Ce;
A la Banque de Bordeaux;
A la Société centrale des banques de province;
A Lyon: à la Banque privée, industrielle, commerciale, coloniale;
A Bordeaux: à la Banque de Bordeaux;
A Boulogne-sur-Mer: à la Banque Adam;
A Nancy: à la Banque Renauld;

EN SUISSE:

A Bâle: au Bankverein suisse;

EN EGYPTE:

Au Caire: au siége administratif de la Caisse hypothécaire d'Egypte.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT FIVE per CENT. TREASURY GOLD BONDS, 1913.

COUPON No. 1, due 13th June next, of the above Loan, will be PAID on that or any succeeding day (Saturdays excepted) at the offices of Messrs. A. Rüffer and Sons, 39, Lombard Street, E.C., between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock.

Coupons must be left five clear days for examination.

London, 10th June, 1914.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The preparations for the opening of a Faculty of Medicine in connection with the Belgrade University are so well advanced that it is believed that the Faculty will come into operation on September 14 of this year

The journey from Cairo to Alexandria in an automobile was made in 6½ hours on May 31 by Mr. Manhes.

Mr. Frank E. Gruchy, assistant superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company, is retiring on July 1, after having spent 41 years in Egypt.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has issued a circular (No. 49) on "Planting Fruit Trees," which gives valuable information on the subject of transplanting young fruit trees, either with soil attached or with naked roots.

The Government of Sofia has decided for the present not to re-establish the Bulgarian Legation in Cettinje, but will leave its interests to the care of the Austro-Hungarian Minister in that capital.

An exchange of Notes has passed between the United Kingdom and Greece, the text of which was issued [Cd. 7,361] on Wednesday, recording an agreement between the respective Governments relating to commercial travellers' samples

The Hestia announces the opening of a military flying school near Athens.

The importation of coal into Egypt from January 1 to May 28 amounted to 634,266 tons, as compared with 552,817 in the corresponding period of last year.

On May 26 Khartoum was visited by a "habub" which the local Press declares has hardly ever been surpassed for intensity.

An April report from the Berber Province states that the dom nut trade is developing remarkably, largely owing, no doubt, to the produce being cut up before export instead of being exported in bulk.

An attempt is being made by the Government of Egypt to build up native industries, says the U.S. Consul-General at Cairo. Silk weaving has been fostered at Damietta and elsewhere, and now the Government is endeavouring to develop carpet weaving. The industry was introduced at Beni-Suef three years ago, a year later at Abou Tig and Assiut, while at Nag Hamadi it is in its first year. At Beni-Suef a coarse carpet called Kelim is woven. The average price of all woollen carpets is 25s. to 36s. per yard. Formerly the colours were found to wash out, but now the wool is brought from Europe already dyed in fast colours.

Engineers, surveyors, and others who have to do mechanical drawings, and care for that finished appearance which can only be given to a plan or section by keeping the lines in it of an even thickness and securing a regular flow of ink, know well the difficulty of keeping their drawing pens clean and at the same time not varying the thickness of line. This is particularly the case in hot climates, where even the best ink will speedily cake on the pen, necessitating frequent loosening of the nibs. Those who have suffered from such aggravating experiences will be interested in a new patent "swivel-nib drawing-pen," invented and manufactured by Messrs. W. F. Stanley and Co., of 286, High Holborn, whose name alone is sufficient guarantee of its excellence. In this pen the nib is swivelled on a central screw, and when the pen is in use is held in position by a sliding ring; for cleaning it is only necessary to slide the ring back and turn the nib on its swivel; and by reversing the process the pen is at once ready to draw a line of the exact thickness of those drawn before the cleaning operation. Obviously this is a distinct improvement on the old hinged-nib form of pen.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. June 9.	Latest prices. June 10.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	103
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	82½	82
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	97	97
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99¼	97¼
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	85
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80
Greek 5 %, 1881	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	54	54
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	46	46
Do. 5 %, 1890	59	59
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	57
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	81	82
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	88	89½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	92
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95⅜	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	85½	85
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	42	82½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	71	71
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	72½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅜	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	79½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	82½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14½
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3¼
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6½
National Bank of Egypt	14½	14½
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8½
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	19	19
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	89
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	89
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2 7/16
Do. Do. Def.	—	¼
Béhéra Co.	9	9
Do. Pref.	—	4½
Building Lands of Egypt	—	1 1/16
Daira Sanieh	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	8/6	8/9
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/1½
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1¾
" Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9 5/16
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	10/6	10/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	—	1 5/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 17/32	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12¾
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	98
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1½
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/6	1 3/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	95⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	—	£197½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2 1/16
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	1 3/16	24/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	4/9	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	4
European Oilfields	6/-	6/-
Oilfields Finance Corporation	⅜	⅜
Red Sea Oilfields	—	1 1/16
Roumanian Consolidated	26/9	26/9
Shell Transport	5 3/16	5 5/32
Suez Oil	6/-	7/-

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. June 4.	Latest prices. June 11.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	622	614
Canal de Suez Shares	4946	5000
Do. do. Jouissance	4245	4245
Do. do. Founders	2222	2240
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	722	721
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	145	149
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	419	470
Do. do. rev. var.	267	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	—	445½
Do. do. do. Act.	203	204
Land Bank of Egypt	162	161
Mines Balia-Karaidin	477	488
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	—	145
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	50	506
Do. do. Ord.	40	40½
Do. do. Pref.	44	44
Tabacs Ottomans	454	454
Turkish Unified Con.	82.35	82.30
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	371	371

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	May 28.	June 4.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	385	350
Do. do. Priv.	300	200
Do. do. Cap.	145	175
Do. do. Div.	110	104.50
Anglo-Belgian Co.	10	9.675
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	117.50	116.50
Do. do. Div.	129.75	135
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	453.50	468.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	66	67
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	415	415.50
Do. Priv.	510	516.25
Do. Div.	126	139
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	40	41.875
Do. do. Fond.	72.50	75
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	61.25	61.25
Do. do. Div.	37.50	85.50
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1356
Do. do. Ord.	495	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	285	285
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	395	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	98	91
Do. do. Div.	95	98.75
Tramways du Caire Priv.	506.50	502.75
Do. do. Jouiss.	518.75	512.50
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	138	151
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	8.50	9.125

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.	May 29.	June 5.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.452	Fcs.452
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.461	Fcs.449.75
Do. do. Shares	£15 7 0	£15 7 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.40	£T.6 25
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.414.50	Fcs.413.50
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.165	Fcs.165
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.97	Fcs.94
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.93	Fcs.92
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34	Fcs.34.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4%	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.29.50	£T.29.25

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.	May 27.	June 3.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 97½	3 1/16
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12 1/16	12 1/16
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. 1/16	3/32
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 44⅜	46½
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 340	339
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 268⅜	268⅜
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs. 271¼	271¼
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance.	Fcs. 185	185
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/3	12/3
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler.	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2 1/32	2 1/32
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E. —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. 3/32	3/32
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ¼	¼
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2 7/16	2 7/16
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 18/4½	18/4½
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8⅜	8⅜
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4 7/16	4 7/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 100	93
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 80	78⅜
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E. —	—

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§†MALWA	11,500	June 26	July 3	Australia, India, China.
*SARDINIA	7,000	June 27	‡	Straits, China, Japan.
§CALEDONIA..	8,000	July 3	July 10	Bombay, Karachi.
*KHIVA	9,000	July 4	—	Colombo and Calcutta.
§†MOREA	11,500	July 10	July 17	Australia, India, China.
*NUBIA	6,000	July 11	‡	Straits, China, Japan.
§INDIA	8,000	July 17	July 24	Bombay, Karachi.
*SIMLA	6,000	July 18	—	Colombo, Calcutta.
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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

During the past week the tension between Greece and Turkey has reached an acute stage. The streams of Greek refugees reaching the coast towns of Asia Minor showed no signs of diminution, while the reports of Turkish excesses in the interior multiplied. The Greek Government found itself compelled to take vigorous action. Speaking in the Chamber, M. Venizelos described the situation as grave, and even very grave, and added that "if a stop were not put to the lamentable conditions the Hellenic Government would be forced not to content itself with joining in the lamentations of the unhappy refugees." A strongly worded Note was presented to the Porte, and Greek naval circles became active. But it is by no means inevitable that war should break out between the two countries. The Government organs in the Greek Press announced last Saturday the publication of a Royal Decree formally annexing the islands of Chios and Mytilene to Greece. But the news was premature, for the decree has not yet been promulgated. If such a step were taken, it would undoubtedly exasperate the Turks, but would not eliminate the reluctance which both Governments must have to an outbreak of hostilities.

While the Turkish reply to the Greek Note has been delayed, Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior, has been touring the affected parts of Asia Minor with a view to checking the persecution of the Greeks or reassuring the inhabitants. The Greek Government is no doubt prepared to learn that many of the reports which have reached it have been exaggerated. But there was probably good ground for the panic which set in among the Greeks, even if a large portion of the refugees have fled for no valid reasons. The circumstances in which this drama is being enacted are entirely foreign to Western conception. In the first place, there has been a steady stream of migration among the inhabitants of what was formerly European Turkey since their territory was apportioned between the Balkan States. Turks have left Greece and Bulgaria, Bulgars and Greeks have left Turkey, and persecution has not always been the cause. Many Moslems have changed their place of residence in preference to living under a Christian Government, while many Greeks and Bulgars have been impelled by patriotism, after the recent wars, to take up their abode in their own countries. It is not impossible that the menace of persecution has intensified these motives, and the migrants would often be anxious to qualify for sympathy and possibly material benefits by representing themselves as refugees and by dwelling on imaginary hardships. We shall hope to hear that the sufferings of the Greeks at the hands of the Turks in Asia Minor have been exaggerated; but the residue of truth in the reports will prevent any defence of the Porte's policy. As far as can be gathered, the persecution of the Greeks and their expulsion from their homes and villages was the first step in a definite plan to check Greek propaganda on the coast of Asia Minor; then the process quickly got out of hand, and systematic outrages became the order of the day. Both sides, unfortunately, have been playing with fire. There has been the boycott of Greeks in Turkey, while, notwithstanding the tension thus engendered, the Greeks decided to celebrate King Constantine's Name Day with ostentatious fervour, and to associate with it the memory of Constantine Palaeologus, the last Byzantine Emperor. The Turks replied by celebrating the anniversary of the capture of Constantinople. Both countries have acted unwisely, for if the two Governments could bring themselves to seek a peaceful relationship, it would be a simple matter to suppress all provocative acts on the part of their respective citizens.

The military intelligence at the disposal of Prince William of Albania has proved as defective as the political intelligence of his numerous advisers. Recent reports from Durazzo had all agreed in representing the insurgent forces outside the town as a dwindling menace. It was declared that there was no danger of an attack on the town, and the insurgents were said to be quarrelling among themselves, and returning in considerable

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numbers to their respective districts. But on June 15, the day before the date fixed for a combined forward movement against them, the insurgents made a determined attack on Durazzo, and for some hours, if the more voluminous correspondents are to be believed, the fate of the town was in the balance. In the end the attacking force was repulsed with losses that are supposed to have been heavy. The Durazzo garrison lost two killed and thirty-five wounded; but among the former, unfortunately, was Colonel Thomson, the Dutch commander of the gendarmerie. He was shot early in the morning. According to the testimony of *The Times* correspondent, an eye-witness of his death, he had been among the Malissori in their trenches, urging them to advance. He himself led the way, and some followed him, but they soon returned to the cover of the trenches, and there remained. Colonel Thomson, still in the open, was shot shortly afterwards.

On the death of Colonel Thomson, Prince William rode out to the advanced posts, and his action, repeated several times during the day, appears to have encouraged the garrison. The mountain guns at the disposal of the defenders gave them a marked advantage over the attacking force, and even when due allowance is made for the untrustworthy nature of the Malissori, it must be doubtful whether Durazzo was at any time in any real danger of being captured. Fortunately, the panic of a previous occasion was not repeated. The foreign warships in the harbour were asked to turn their guns on the insurgents, but, as the person of the Mpret did not appear to the commander to be in danger, they refused. News of the defeat of a Malissori force sent against the rebels has since been received, and a further attack on Durazzo is reported. If this news be true, it suggests that the losses of the insurgents in the first attack were not as heavy as they were stated to be.

It is too early to gauge the effect of Monday's fighting upon the already complicated situation in Albania. If the defeat of the insurgents is really as thorough as has been represented, and if Colonel Thomson's successor is able to undertake the combined movement which the late commander of the gendarmerie had planned, the whole insurrectionary movement may collapse. On the other hand, the later news is not reassuring. The one satisfactory feature is that the Mpret's bearing during the insurgents' attack seems to have impressed the garrison most favourably, and he may yet be able to take up the line of action which he ought to have adopted at the outset, the line that will bring him into direct touch with his subjects and will alone lay the foundation of a successful reign.

The sad death of Colonel Thomson will have eased the situation in Durazzo in one respect. It will be remembered that the Italian Government was pressing for his dismissal in consequence of his refusal to express regret for the action of a subordinate in arresting two Italian subjects on suspicion of treasonable dealings. The Commission of Inquiry into the incident found among the papers seized certain references in a document which lent colour to the charge, and for this reason Colonel Thomson held that the arrest was justified. With the latter's death the matter will have to be regarded as closed; but it will be hoped that both the Italian and the Albanian Governments will profit by the incident, the one to discourage intrigue on the part of its subjects, the other to keep its advisers well in hand.

The cordiality that marked the meeting between the Emperor Nicholas and King Carol of Roumania at Constantza last Sunday has given satisfaction not only to the Roumanians but also in circles outside Roumania. A simple programme had been arranged for the day's visit. The Russian Imperial Family arrived on the Tsar's yacht "Standart," escorted by Russian men-of-war, and on landing they were received by King Carol, Queen Elizabeth, and members of their family, including Prince Carol, who had travelled from Germany on purpose to be present. Divine service at the cathedral was attended, and luncheon was served in the Royal Pavilion. On the way to the cathedral King Carol gave the name of the Emperor Nicholas II. Regiment to the 5th Regiment of Red Hussars, whose fine appearance had elicited the Tsar's approval. At the luncheon the warmth of the toasts exchanged provided a subject for general comment, the Tsar's expression of the hope that nothing will trouble the pacific development of Roumania being regarded as an indication that the latter may count on Russian support in her efforts to insist upon the maintenance of peace, at least for the present, in the Near East.

The British Government's proposal to acquire capital in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to the amount of £2,200,000 for the purpose of maintaining an assured supply of oil fuel for the Navy has obtained the sanction of the House of Commons in regard to the money resolution introduced in Committee, and a Bill authorizing the project will shortly be submitted to Parliament. Perhaps the most significant feature of the debate was the manner in which the Foreign Secretary made light of the bearing that the investment of State funds should have on British foreign policy in Persia. "Even if the worst came to the worst," said Sir Edward Grey, "in the case of local disturbances the task of protecting those 150 miles of pipe line would not be so serious as was made out. Even if there were an emergency so great that it was necessary for the protection of the pipe lines to employ British troops it would not be such a very formidable operation." When it is remembered that for years the employment of British troops for the protection of British trade interests has been rejected—the troops now in the country being merely used as a consular guard—this sudden *volte face* in Sir Edward Grey's attitude can only be explained by the assumption that now that the Government itself has embarked upon a mercantile career in Persia it realises in *propria persona* where the commercial shoe pinches in that country. It is easy to preach at the Government for not having realised this before—on the evidence of others—but it is preferable to welcome its belated conversion, and prepare for the enhanced security which will benefit other British trade beside that which is expected to alleviate the taxpayer out of its profits.

The possibility of using a British airship for operations in Somaliland is under consideration, and two naval aeronauts have gone to Berbera to conduct investigations. In the circumstances it is natural that reticence should be observed regarding the details of the project. But the first question to be asked by those who have followed the recent course of events in Somaliland will be whether this new move by the British Government implies further activities on the part of the Mad Mullah, or whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who four months ago described the Mullah as an old man in an advanced stage of dropsy and physically immovable, is merely anxious to check his diagnosis by observations from an airship. The expedition can hardly fail to add to our knowledge, but whether in the domain of aeronautics or therapeutics only the event can prove.

The Government has introduced a Bill to alter the allocation of the £3,000,000 granted to the Sudan under last year's Loans Act. As the result of Lord Kitchener's personal inspection, it has been decided that more money than was originally intended could be devoted with advantage to the irrigation of the Gezireh Plain, while other projects could be postponed. The new Bill accordingly asks for authority for the expenditure of £2,000,000 on the Gezireh irrigation scheme, £200,000 on minor irrigation schemes, and £800,000 on railway extension. With the construction of a dam on the Blue Nile costing £1,400,000 and a canal costing £600,000, it is estimated that the area to be irrigated by these means will produce 10,000 tons of cotton annually, and that the result will be an increase of a quarter of a million pounds annually in the Sudan revenue.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 12.

The Greek Emigration.

Since the Œcumenical Patriarch, acting, it is generally believed, under pressure from the Holy Synod, decided to close the Greek schools and churches as a protest against the continuance of the anti-Greek boycott and the "forced emigration" of Greeks from Thrace and Asia Minor, the situation has changed for the worse. The Patriarch's decision was taken in consequence of the news that arrived here from various points on the Anatolian coast and from Samsun. At the latter place the Greeks who objected to housing Moslem refugees—and it is, of course, very difficult for Moslems and Christians, even if they are on good terms, to live *en famille* together under the same roof, for social reasons—made a "demonstration." It is quite impossible to say what happened because only the Greek account of the affair has been published; but the upshot of it was that the gendarmerie intervened, and one or more Greeks were killed. At the Dardanelles the refugees, encouraged by the local committee bosses, who are making a good thing out of the sale of cattle and sheep which they have bought dirt cheap from the Greeks who are quitting Thrace and Anatolia, entered the Greek villages, and in many cases beat and plundered the inhabitants, with the result that a general exodus began. The local Commandant of Gendarmerie intervened in one instance where bloodshed seemed inevitable, and ordered his men to fire upon the muhadjirs, who thereupon made off without waiting for a volley. He was shortly afterwards dismissed by telegraph—which certainly looks suspicious!

At Aivali and Edremid there seems to have been a good deal of ill-treatment of the Greeks. At one place in the Pergama region, Ayasmid by name, the muhadjirs and some local scamps plundered and threatened to kill the Greeks, but here, if report speaks truly, the troops intervened on the 8th instant and shot down some of the mob, with the result that quiet was quickly restored. On the coast opposite Chios the installation of a few refugees produced a regular panic among the Greeks, who fled to the islands, leaving all their property behind. In consequence of this a steamer bound for Syria, with Servian-Moslem (Bosniak) and Albanian refugees on board, was ordered to land her passengers at Tchesmé, which was done. In this region, in fact everywhere south of Aivali, no harm was done to any individuals.

Government and the Movement.

There is considerable difference of opinion among foreigners here as to the extent to which the Government is responsible for the anti-Greek movement that has created the general atmosphere of panic which now prevails. Some Europeans hold that the whole business has been engineered from on high. The majority, however, take the view that the authorities, while by no means averse to it at the outset and, indeed, anxious to strengthen the "Turkish garrison" in Thrace, for reasons which have already been set forth, were taken by surprise by the rapid southward extension of the agitation, and while not averse to the formation of strong settlements of Moslem colonists on the coast facing Chios and Mytilene, did not anticipate the rush for Greek villages which local politicians and wire-pullers would seem to have inspired. The attitude of the Vali of Smyrna and of the Minister of the Interior during the last week gives the impression that both these important members of the Government and of the party in power were obliged to modify their optimistic attitude rather suddenly. Rahmi Bey, so a well-informed correspondent tells me, was very anxious indeed on Monday last, and was actively engaged in taking precautionary measures. Talaat Bey suddenly left Constantinople for a tour in the country between the Dardanelles and Smyrna, after having a few days previously assured the world in general that nothing was really amiss. One cannot help doubting whether the young rulers of Turkey, strong-handed as they are, are quite as capable of controlling their subordinates and the masses as was Abdul Hamid. To give the devil his due, that sovereign had a most uncanny power over the Moslems of Turkey. He might order a massacre, he might give a hint that some element in the Empire needed "repressive treatment," but as soon as he felt that repression had gone too far and troublesome ambassadors made a fuss, or revolutionaries waxed too desperate, counter orders came, and were instantly obeyed. He could order what amounted to civil war on Monday and secure perfect peace—based perhaps on the emptiness of the land, —*solitudinem fecit pacem appellavit*—in a week's time. His successors have found that a movement based on national prejudices once set going cannot be easily kept under control. That seems to be the chief lesson of recent events.

The Boycott.

I regret to say that the anti-Greek boycott continues to exist in this part of Turkey, and has of late extended to foreign shipping. There have been cases of the boycotting of British ships at Bartin, Zunguldak, and in the Golden Horn itself. Consular protests have been temporarily successful, but as soon as the boycott terminates in one place it begins in another. The agent of the Messageries Maritimes at at least one port has informed the French Embassy that he will be obliged to advise that company to cease instructing its steamers to call if the boycott continues. It is to be hoped that those who direct the boycott will understand, or be forced to understand, that foreign capital and foreign political support will not be attracted to the Ottoman Empire by such means. The Near East has recently published in its correspondence columns letters from numerous British Turcophiles who demand that Great Britain should give Turkey more help than she is now inclined to do. Well, we have given Turkey some British officials and officers who do excellent work when they are allowed to do so, and have, to a large extent, improved affairs in the departments which they are helping to reform. But we do not, any more than any other nation, render aid to foreign Governments out of pure philanthropy, and these cases of the boycott of British shipping, coupled with the attitude of the authorities towards British companies, the publication, despite the severe Press Laws, of violently pan-Islamic articles in certain organs which cater for Indian and Egyptian readers, and the increase in the numbers of Turkish spies and *agents provocateurs* in Egypt, to which our Cairo correspondent has referred on more than one occasion, arouse the impression that the Turks have not yet mastered the meaning of the word "reciprocity," and that till they do so, British opinion will not, and cannot, second the efforts of Anglo-Ottoman Societies and Associations. For though we are emphatically a humanitarian people, we are also, on the whole, a business-like one.

The Moslems resident in London assembled at the Caxton Hall on the evening of June 12 to celebrate the fall of Constantinople. Ali Hikmet Nahid Bey, the Vice-President of the Islamic Society, was among the speakers. The Sphinx Society was represented in the celebration, which was simultaneous with a similar gathering in Constantinople itself, where the fall of the city into Moslem hands in 1453 is celebrated every year with great ceremony.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 11.

Lord Kitchener in the Provinces.

Lord Kitchener made a tour of certain parts of Lower Egypt last week, in order to see what progress had been made and the general state of the crops. The British Agent, who was accompanied by Mr. Ronald Graham, the Adviser to the Interior (whose contract, by-the-bye, has been renewed for two years), Major Fitzgerald, and Lord Colum Crichton Stuart, visited first of all Sharkia, where he inspected the schools at Zagazig and the land at Kanayat, which has resulted from the filling in of a large birket, 12 feddans in area, and the condition of which shows what benefits will accrue to the various communities as soon as the new law regulating the filling in of these swamps and pools comes into force. His Lordship afterwards proceeded to Mansura, the capital of the Dakahlia Province, and also visited Tanta and Damanhour, where he carried out similar inspections. The whole tour lasted two days, and the British Agent expressed his very great satisfaction at everything he saw, and at the rapid advance made with all the local improvements that have been undertaken. Yesterday he spent the morning in inaugurating the new branch-line which has been laid between Chohada and Menuf, and is expected to be of great benefit to the Menufia Province (by so many called the Garden of Egypt).

Apropos of the Khedive's recent tour through the Delta, his Highness ordered Hafez Bey Awad, the editor of *El Moayed*, to compile a complete history thereof. It appears that those who were honoured by a visit from their Sovereign have been requested to send their photographs and a remittance to cover the cost of manufacturing the blocks. A polemic has now arisen in the Nationalist Press in regard to the price at which this history is to be sold to the public, and the suggestion has been made that it should be distributed gratis. It would be interesting to know what amounts the notables are being asked to pay as a price of the printing of their photographs.

A Senussi Visitor.

On Friday last Sheikh Seyyid Idris Es-Senussi, grandson of the late head of the great sect, arrived in Alexandria. He was conveyed by special train from the terminus of the Mariut railway, and was met on arrival by the sub-governor of Alexandria. Seyyid Idris, who is staying at Ras-el-Tin Palace as the guest of the Khedive, has come from Jarabub, and is said to be on his way to the Hejaz, where he intends to make a pilgrimage. But there is a firm conviction that, notwithstanding the declaration made to the contrary in certain vernacular organs, his visit has some political object, and may not be unconnected with the difficulties between Italy and the Senussi sect.

The Secret Police.

Systematic attacks have been made of late from a certain quarter on the secret police. The force may at times appear to be unsuccessful in its efforts at tracing criminals, but it must be remembered that it works under peculiar difficulties, and that the activities of certain political agents are a great strain on its resources. Nevertheless, of late it has achieved some very signal successes; and that it is doing its duty is abundantly proved by the fact that the afore-mentioned attacks come from a quarter that has every reason to desire the removal of the present heads, whose activity and resourcefulness must ever be a great embarrassment to it.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly has at length passed the Wakfs Budget. The discussion has taken up three sittings, leaving out of account the time wasted over the debate on the legality of the creation of the Ministry. Little profit has been derived from the discussion, as the Assembly in the end agreed to leave the whole question in the hands of the Minister, who promised to bear in mind all the points made by the Committee. It is regrettable that the second day of the debate witnessed a most disgraceful scene between two of the delegates, who were only prevented from coming to blows by the timely intervention of their colleagues.

LORD KITCHENER'S REPORT.

Egyptian Press Opinion.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 3.

As might be expected, Lord Kitchener's report has bulked largely in the local Press during the past few days. Once again a certain amount of disappointment is expressed at the omission of any comments or remarks on events of recent occurrence. This *Le Phare d'Alexandrie* voices when it says:—

> We would like to have known why such great haste was shown in transforming the Wakfs Administration into a Ministry without taking the opinion of the Legislative Assembly. We would like to have had Lord Kitchener's opinion on the recent Ministerial crisis . . . the phases of which still remain wrapped in mystery. . . . Likewise in connection with the Khedive's triumphal tour through Lower Egypt.

With regard to these alleged omissions, it is only fair to say that the Ministerial crisis and the Khedive's tour took place after the report had been penned—the footnote giving the reconstituted Ministry was added whilst it was still in the press—and as for the Wakfs affair the recent statement made by the Prime Minister demonstrated sufficiently why no explanation was afforded by the British Agent. *The Phare* makes a more or less veiled attack on Lord Kitchener, but those who are aware of the relations which it maintains with a certain well-known native circle do not pay much attention thereto.

With this and one other notable exception, to which I shall refer later on, the European Press is distinctly favourable to the report. *The Egyptian Gazette* states—

> That it is "in entire agreement with the British Agent's remarks on the subject" of the development of representative government and of public health. It approves of the warning conveyed to the Legislative Assembly, and with regard to Lord Kitchener's statement anent the reform or abolition of the Capitulations, it has "reason to believe that the British Government has not yet referred this matter to the consideration of the Powers interested," whilst "it is difficult to see how any change can be made unless Great Britain gives some undertaking that the occupation of this country will be permanent."

L'Egypte points out that certain clever people have drawn erroneous conclusions from this same statement of the British Agent, and that the latter, whilst he says he hopes that a settlement will not be delayed much longer, does not forecast the immediate abolition of the Capitulations or the Mixed Courts. It concludes by saying:—

> In our opinion, Lord Kitchener's report, which on the whole betrays his optimism, appears to us to be optimistic for the Egyptian people. And we think we are right; in any case we are full of confidence.

It also approves of the warning given to the Assembly.

Les Nouvelles agrees with the last remarks quoted from *L'Egypte*. It draws attention to "Lord Kitchener's Liberalism, which has helped to draw this country towards reforms, the details of which may be open to discussion, but the general utility of which cannot be doubted." It underlines the British Agent's absolute frankness, and says that the essay on Egyptian representative government contained in his report merits close study.

The Egyptian Mail says:—

> The tone of the introduction . . . is optimistic, and should go far to reassure those sections of public opinion at home, as represented by *The Economist* and *The Manchester Guardian*, as to the sound financial position of the country and the efforts being made to foster the growth of representative institutions,

and it hopes that the British Agent's warning to the Legislative Assembly will be heeded.

La Bourse Egyptienne considers that the Assembly has fully justified Lord Kitchener's optimistic expectations, for it appears to regard the actions of the delegates as due to inexperience, and it expresses the hope that the Co-operative Syndicate Bill will be dealt with in a purely practical manner. This journal is amongst those who have jumped to the conclusion that the "Capitulations" question will be settled almost immediately.

The one exception amongst the European papers is *La Reforme*, which makes a determined attack on the Five Feddan Law, and uses the statistics contained in

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the report to prove its case. Its editor says that—

"Five years hence the Five Feddan Law will have produced its sure effect, but it will not be the one aimed at by Lord Kitchener," and in another article he says that "if the debts of the fellaheen are overwhelming, this is due to the action of the Five Feddan Law."

From quite an unexpected quarter comes a defender in the person of *Al Mahroussa*, usually an organ of somewhat extremist tendencies. It takes up the cudgels against *La Reforme*, and says in reply to the latter's question as to what will happen to the property of the small cultivators if in 1918, when the present loan deeds cannot be renewed any more, the creditors foreclose on it:—

If the Five Feddan Law had not been promulgated, would this property not have been lost? Would the fellah have increased his indebtedness or not? And this property, would it or would it not have become the property of the creditors? There is no doubt as to the reply to these questions, and the Five Feddan Law, even if its sole merit were the placing of a term on the increase of the indebtedness of the small fellah, would draw from this circumstance the amplest justification for its introduction.

Al Watan (Coptic) and *Al Ahali* (ex-Ministerial organ) both comment on Lord Kitchener's remarks anent the Legislative Assembly, and approve of the warning given, of which they hope the delegates will take the fullest note. *Al Ahali*, however, thinks that if one, two, or three deputies resort to extreme tactics, it is scarcely just to hold the entire Assembly responsible for this. It is of opinion that parties are necessary, but is certain that the moderate spirits will always succeed in overcoming the radicalism of a few isolated members.

The two Nationalist papers *Al Ahram* and *Al Afkar* both comment on Lord Kitchener's opening remarks, that tranquillity reigns in the country. Both affirm that it is to be inferred therefrom that the country was troubled and agitated before the present British Agent's advent, and whilst the first-named declares that the agitation was not national, but was due to a few individuals, the second affirms that the unrest was a pure fiction created by the late Premier, who thought to profit thereby by making out that he had saved the State by his efforts and exceptional measures.

Al Moayad publishes a series of articles wherein great satisfaction is expressed at the importance attached by the British Agent to the state of hygiene in the country. It criticises some of the administrative measures taken, and declares that the medical staff is inadequate, but it is of opinion that the system outlined by Lord Kitchener will attain the wished-for results, provided it is applied generally and simultaneously all over the country.

Several vernacular organs take up the question of the public security and Lord Kitchener's remarks on the subject. *Al Misr* (Coptic) lays particular stress on the fact that the British Agent throws all the responsibility on the shoulders of the Mudirs, and points out that Lord Kitchener very probably intends to appoint British inspectors in the Mudirias for the purpose of controlling the public security. It reminds its readers that Lord Cromer had a similar project in mind when he retired, and that Sir E. Gorst rejected the idea, preferring to give the Mudirs more authority; and it concludes, although the report is vague in its terms, that Lord Kitchener has decided to return to the first project.

One other comment merits quotation. It appears at the end of a long article published by *Al Bassir*, wherein Lord Cromer's report for 1906 is compared with the one just issued. It considers that conditions to-day are far more satisfactory taken all round, and it concludes with the following tribute:—"Lord Kitchener is a man of action, rather than a man of speech; after reflection he executes rapidly his projects. Many have criticised this rapidity, which is nevertheless justified by the economy in time which it effects. Al Lord does not cease his efforts to serve the country. Seeking to serve the interests of the fellah before those of the rich, and interesting himself in the agricultural, moral, and economic affairs of the country, Lord Kitchener merits the highest praise."

From the foregoing quotation it can be seen that Lord Kitchener's report has given general satisfaction. The one or two dissentient voices come from camps that are not entirely disinterested, and were expected to speak as they have spoken.

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

Interview with Boghos Pasha Nubar.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 3.

Boghos Pasha Nubar, who returned to Egypt in March after successful negotiations with the Powers and the Porte in connection with the Armenian question, is again leaving in a few days for Europe, where he will spend the summer. I had the pleasure of a conversation the other day with the President of the Armenian Delegation at his charming palace at Heliopolis, and he was good enough to explain the object of the agitation and to give me his views on the present situation.

The Armenians had been oppressed, outraged, and massacred for years. From a majority they had fallen to a minority, which laid them more than ever at the mercy of their non-Christian fellow Ottomans. Matters had gradually reached a point where they felt they could no longer endure in silence, and it was evident that unless reforms were introduced it would be impossible to avoid foreign intervention. Russia, urged by the large Armenian and Kurd population which lived within her frontiers adjacent to the scene of trouble, would have intervened, and European intervention would assuredly not have stopped there; for all the other Powers interested in the Eastern question could not be expected to remain inactive, and would certainly have scrambled for what they considered not unnaturally to be their rightful compensation for the extension by Russia of her sphere. In other words, troubles in Armenia would have entailed a general conflagration and the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire.

In reality, therefore, the granting of the demands of the Armenians was in the interest of Europe, which did not seriously want a war, and of Turkey, which would obviously be the loser by any intervention. It was certainly not under such circumstances in the interest of Armenians to provoke such intervention—though in sheer desperation they would undoubtedly have adopted such a course as a last resort; for they have no desire to become annexed to Russia, and, in fact, want to remain under the Ottoman flag, if they can only enjoy security and justice.

Nubar Pasha said that it was accordingly decided to appeal to the Powers who had been signatories to the Peace of Berlin. Since he was quite independent of the Turkish Government—he is, of course, domiciled in Egypt—and could also appear before Europe as a personally disinterested advocate, he was asked by the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin—whom one might term the Pope of the Armenian Church, and who, under the peculiar conditions existing in the Ottoman Empire, is the officially recognised head of the community and of Armenians all the world over—to accept the presidency of a delegation which should plead the cause of Armenia before the European Chancelleries.

His great difficulty had been to convince the Porte and the Powers—especially the Triple Alliance—that the people he represented did not ask for autonomy or anything that might be construed as leading to detachment from the Ottoman Empire, and that all they demanded was the introduction of reforms that would ensure to them justice and immunity from the attacks of their non-Christian fellow-subjects, from whom the local authorities afforded them no protection whatsoever.

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As soon as the fears of the Powers and the Porte on this score had been set at rest they began to realise that the demands of the Armenians merited consideration. The door was thus opened to negotiation, and as the result a definite and satisfactory agreement was arrived at in February last. The Powers took two months to prepare their list of candidates for the two Inspector-Generalships, but Nubar Pasha did not regard that period as unduly long, considering that the sphere of selection was confined to subjects of the minor Powers, whose experience of colonial administration was naturally limited—the nature of the administration to be introduced in Armenia is to be what one might call colonial—and that great care had to be taken to choose the very best men. Indeed, he thought that by comparison with the usual diplomatic procedure the work had been done very speedily, and that this showed that the Powers were impressed with the urgency and justice of the Armenian demands. Moreover, the Porte showed great alacrity in making its selection, and this he regarded as a favourable symptom.

Questioned as to the probability of success crowning their efforts, Nubar Pasha said that he had every hope that the terms of the agreement and the very wide powers given to the Inspectors-General, who will very soon proceed to take up their duties, would enable them to introduce a state of affairs that would satisfy the Armenians and at the same time conciliate the other elements of the six vilayets. Thus his fellow-countrymen would be enabled to devote to useful purposes and the benefit of the Empire the intelligence and the energy for which they are renowned, and in time the "Armenian Question" would vanish into oblivion.

He added that he could not help regarding the promptitude with which the recent Kurdish outrages were handled as an earnest of the eventual success of the arrangement made, and of the desire on the part of the present Ottoman Government to do all in its power to assist. Heretofore the local authorities had looked on impassively at, if they did not actually encourage, such attacks on Christians, and the action taken in this instance might be looked upon as an eloquent sign of the times, and as an indication that the Porte was becoming alive to its own interests.

Nubar Pasha told me that when the agreement was settled he resigned the presidency of the Delegation, but that the Catholicos had asked him, as he had conducted all the negotiations, to assist in settling any difficulties that might arise in the course of the introduction of the new régime. As the work of reform is about to be taken in hand Nubar Pasha is proceeding to Europe, where he will hold himself in readiness again to intervene with the Powers and the Porte, though he has every hope that the necessity will not arise.

Undoubtedly the Armenians owe a great debt of gratitude to their compatriot, who has neglected his own important affairs in order to plead their cause, and who has succeeded so strikingly in obtaining a hearing for them. In time, too, Europe and Turkey will also realise how much they owe to the son of Egypt's famous statesman; for the settlement of the "Armenian Question" will remove from the Eastern political arena a point of contact that has hitherto been pregnant with danger for the peace of Europe, and will postpone the day of the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, which so many regard as inevitable. Indeed, the settlement of the Armenian Question might quite possibly lead to a consolidation of the Ottoman Empire if the Porte would only learn its lesson therefrom, and apply the same principles in its dealings with its other dependencies, at the bottom of whose present agitation lies after all but a longing for justice, peace, and security.

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NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 14.

Anti-Greek Feeling.

Public opinion here has been violently agitated by the constant influx of refugees expelled from Greek Macedonia, by their state of destitution, and by the tales they tell of what they have suffered at the hands of the Greeks. Since the Name Day of King Constantine, when the Greeks here and in Varna hoisted their flag over their churches, this feeling has manifested itself in marked fashion; and at Varna, Shumla, and Stainmaka churches and schools have been seized by angry crowds.

Questioned in the Chamber about these demonstrations, the Prime Minister stated that the Government highly disapproves of excesses and violence against the Greeks, and added that rigorous measures were being taken for their repression. The agitation is apparently engineered by the Opposition, for at Varna the demonstration was headed by the Mayor, who is an opponent of the present Government. At Burgas the movement was led by the Kavass of the Russian Consulate, who was subsequently handed over by the Consul to the authorities, that his conduct might be investigated. The Greek Church here, which is the property of the Legation, has been restored. But a great crowd, mostly refugees, attacked the Greek shops here, and destroyed their contents. As the police were not strong enough to quell the disorder, cavalry and the fire brigade were summoned to assist, and, after arresting many of the rioters, cleared the streets. In consequence of these disturbances the Prefect of Police has ordered that all bars, cafés, theatres, and music halls shall close at eight o'clock, and that nobody is to be abroad in the streets after ten.

The officials of the three allied Liberal groups have addressed a circular letter to their party organisations in the provinces urging their supporters to offer vigorous opposition to the anti-Greek movement, which is due to the political opponents of the Government, who seek to use it as a lever to overthrow their rivals.

The Government has instructed the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to express its regret for the unfortunate events; to give assurances that it is taking steps to suppress the movement, and that it will seriously punish the culprits; and to request the Hellenic Government to adopt a more humane treatment of its Bulgar subjects in Macedonia, thus putting an end to the emigration that is the root cause of the trouble here.

Return of Mr. Toncheff.

Mr. Toncheff, the Minister of Finance, returned here yesterday from Berlin, although the agreement regarding the Loan has not yet been signed. He states that he has succeeded in securing for Bulgaria a loan of £20,000,000 on more favourable terms than either Greece or Servia was able to obtain. No monopoly of the tobacco export is to be granted; but the Minister added that it had been agreed in Berlin that the terms of the bargain should not be disclosed before the signing of the agreement. This, it is expected, will be accomplished here by next Wednesday, when a representative of the leading banks will arrive here bringing it for signature. The happy issue of the negotiations has had an immediate result, for yesterday the rate of exchange was down one point.

As the regular Budget for this year has not yet been considered by the Sobranje, one-twelfth (for the current month of June O.S.) has been voted, on the proposition of the Minister of Finance. During the month the Government will submit the new Loan for the guidance of the Chamber, and immediately afterwards the regular Budget for the current year will be introduced.

Bulgarian Mission to Persia.

The Prime Minister has informed the Cabinet that an invitation has been forwarded—through Berlin—by the Persian Government for Bulgaria to send a special mission to Persia for the Coronation of the young Shah, which will take place next month. The Cabinet decided that the invitation should be accepted.

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THE CONSTANTZA MEETING.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 13.

Does the solution of the Balkan imbroglio lie in Bucharest? Are Roumania's power, weight and influence to be the predominant factors in the peninsula which is slowly emerging from the effects of prolonged strife? The question is an interesting one, and one that concerns us more closely than might be judged by the unjustifiable silence of the British Press on an event of the first political importance, namely, the visit of the Tsar of Russia to the King of Roumania.

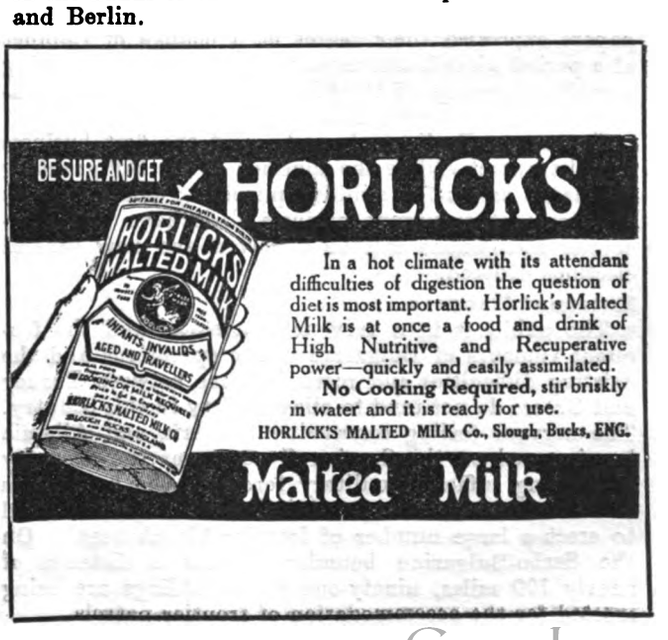
"I would rather be Cæsar here than the second man in Rome." Thus, graphically, can the position of Roumania in the Balkans be defined. A year ago the Roumanians expostulated when they were included among the Balkan States; to-day such a responsible organ as *Le Journal des Balkans* publishes a leading article defining the reasons why Roumania has become a Balkan State. The change is one that should not pass unperceived. Moreover, there is the Treaty of Bucharest, sponsored by Roumania under the auspices of the Powers. When Talaat Bey visited Bucharest he was officially assured that Roumania would not allow its terms to be violated. Statesmen here maintain emphatically that it is not a *lettre morte* as some fondly suppose, that it is very much alive, and that it will be kept alive, by force if necessary. The Powers, perhaps *faute de mieux*, agree, and thus, in a few words, we have the whole situation: Roumania is the one stable, reliable factor in the Balkan situation; possibly even Europe's mandate is in her possession.

The first overt sign of approval comes from Russia. If the Tsar disapproved of King Carol's policy he would not come to Constantza, and his Foreign Minister would not spend two days in the port and three at Bucharest. Shortly before the Balkan War the Tsar sent his Royal neighbour a field-marshal's baton, and the compliment was well deserved, and its recipient well pleased; for he is a soldier and a Hohenzollern who had done Russia yeoman service in the Russo-Turkish War. Austria was, of course, ill-pleased, but she kept her faith in her semi-ally, mainly because its ruler was a Hohenzollern and because a military convention united both countries (it was signed in 1896 for a period of 20 years; will it be renewed?). Then the Balkan War broke out—"it has cost Austria more than a hundred battles," I was told by a statesman a few days ago, and I have since seen the statement repeated by the Press. The timorous, halting policy of the Ballplatz, with now and again sudden flashes in the pan, quickly extinguished by the Wilhelmstrasse, has strengthened Eastern Europe in the belief, right or wrong, that the community of interests between the members of the Triple Alliance, more particularly as regards their actions in the Balkans, is even less pronounced than that between Great Britain and Russia—which is saying a good deal. The deductions are carried even further, and the scision is placed rather between Austria and Hungary than between Austria and Germany. Now, "Hungary is not a State, but a Government," and its Croats, its Serbs, its Roumans, and its Ruthenes are clamouring for the enjoyment of the rights and privileges of self-conscious nationality. Since the Balkan War this clamouring has become more pronounced, perhaps because Servia and Roumania have gained in strength, perhaps also because the Dual Monarchy itself is ageing. Be that as it may, we have the Servians of Servia and the Roumanians of Roumania unofficially supporting their respective nationalities in Hungary. Russia, on the other hand, views with favour these tendencies, not from any particularly humanitarian motive, but because Austria-Hungary is the enemy. "The Tsar's visit," I have been told, "may possibly strengthen our legitimate demands for reforms in Hungary in favour of our fellow-countrymen." In the meantime, there is no likelihood of a change in the Roumanian attitude (official, that is to say, for the people will have nothing to do with the Dual Monarchy) towards the Triple Alliance, but her hands will have been strengthened for the day when she demands justice for the Roumanians in Hungary.

These reflections on the general situation must be taken into consideration when referring to the Tsar's visit to Constantza. It is true that his Imperial Majesty is returning a visit paid him some long time ago by the King of Roumania; it is likewise true that shortly afterwards he is going to Kishineff, the capital of Bessarabia, to commemorate the centenary of the annexation of that province to the Russian Empire, and that this act, without some prior sweet drug, such as the Constantza visit, might have displeased the Roumanian people, as immense numbers of their kinsfolk live in those districts, some of which were actually part of Roumania until 1878. It is also quite possible that the object of the visit is merely in connection with the rumoured union between the two Ruling Houses, which union, we are assured, is devoid of ulterior political motives. On the other hand, however, Mr. Sazonoff remains three days longer in Roumania than his Imperial master, and the political situation is bound to be discussed. The Austrian Press is frankly nervous—this need hardly surprise us—and lectures Roumania on the dangers of the crooked path; while the German Emperor is to visit Bucharest in October to repair the damages suffered by the Triple Alliance in the Near East.

The fact is Roumanian prestige was never so high as it is now; the kingdom of the Lower Danube has reaped the advantages lost by Bulgaria as a result of the second war, and her diplomatists intend to make the best use of their opportunity. Her voice, in favour of Prince William of Wied and of the Treaty of London, has already been heard in the Austro-Italian squabble over Albania; and should Servia ever have to protest against an Austrian advance into that unfortunate country she will have Roumanian backing. Besides, will not the celebrated Vladisvostok-Adriatic line pass through Roumania, Servia, and Albania on its way to the sea—a circumstance not to be lost sight of in discussing the possibilities of friendlier relations between Russia and Roumania?

Last, but not least, at the gathering of Royalties and statesmen in Constantza to-morrow will be the question of a Greco-Turkish outbreak. Roumania's attitude will, in all probability, be defined by the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest, and on her firmness depends, more or less, the course of future developments. While she threatens Bulgaria, the latter can take no part in eventual hostilities, and cannot allow Turkish soldiery to cross her territory into Greek Thrace. The fate of the islands, moreover, hangs in the balance just now. Incidentally it is the aspect of the Balkan situation which interests us most directly, and any strengthening of the entente point of view (if such a point exist) by Roumanian adhesion will have an immediate effect, and will, moreover, convince the Triple Alliance that King Carol's kingdom is no longer to be regarded as a tool in the hands of those who mould the policies of Vienna and Berlin.



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SERVIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, June 14.

Parliamentary Crisis.

The Parliamentary crisis lasted two weeks, and in the end the same Radical Cabinet was reinstated without any immediate change in the composition of its members, another proof of the weight, authority, and penetrating diplomatic insight of the Prime Minister, Mr. Pashitch. The alliance of the three parliamentary groups in opposition and the action of the clique of dissatisfied army officers caused the Cabinet to resign; but no sooner did they succeed in overthrowing the Administration than there arose dissension among them as to who should reap the benefits.

Dissensions of Opposition.

The Samostalni group considered that they were more numerous than the Progressives or the Nationalists, and wished to form the new Cabinet of their own members only, whereas the Progressives and Nationalists maintained that the battle was won by the three allied groups, and that each party should be represented in the new Administration. As, however, the Samostalni group as well as each of the other opposition groups was separately inferior in numbers to the Ministerialist deputies, the King decided that the Radicals should reconstitute the Cabinet, dissolve the Parliament, and order new elections.

It is thought that the Prime Minister, Mr. Pashitch, who knows his people thoroughly, foresaw what would happen, and calculated on the increased prestige the incapacity of his opponents would give him.

Precedence of the Army.

There was, however, one difficult point he had to overcome. The point of precedence of the military over the civil authorities, which was actively supported by the Army Conspirators of 1903, had considerable weight with the King. Eventually a *modus operandi* was found by which the susceptibilities of the officers would be appeased, leaving the dignity of the civil authorities untouched. But it must not be supposed that the army officers were all of one accord. About 200 officers of the Belgrade garrison, having at their head General Bozho Jankovitch and General Mikailo Rashitch, director of the Military Academy, handed in an address to the Minister of War praying that it might be forwarded to the highest quarter, in which they declared that they were against officers taking part in politics, and consequently condemned the action of the Conspirators, and also protested against those officers acting in the name of the whole body of officers.

In this connection the *Balkan* publishes a letter from a colonel on the active list, which states: "The Government must develop its entire energy, and in no case allow any further interference of the Conspirators in State affairs."

New Armaments Credit.

At the time of the crisis the *Stampa* and other daily papers expressed their regret at a change of Cabinet at a period when it was urgent to pass the Bill granting a credit of nearly £5,000,000 for the renewal of armaments so much needed at such a critical time.

To-morrow Parliament meets, and the first business it will transact will be the adoption of the Bill granting this large credit for military purposes; and after this and some other urgent business shall have been concluded Parliament will be dissolved and new general elections ordered.

External Dangers.

The public is in a very nervous state, and the frequent rumours of Bulgarian war preparations and the existing difficulties and recriminations between Turkey and Greece do not tend to allay anxiety in this country. The nervous feeling concerning Bulgaria and Albania has imposed on the Servian Government the necessity of keeping sufficient military forces on the boundaries of those two countries, and it has been found useful to erect a large number of frontier blockhouses. On the Serbo-Bulgarian boundary, along a distance of nearly 190 miles, ninety-one such buildings are being erected for the accommodation of frontier patrols.

IMPRESSIONS OF SALONIKA.

(From An Occasional Correspondent.)

Salonika, June 11.

St. Constantine's Day.

As the 3rd inst. was the Name Day of the King, the usual full-dress service was held in St. Sophia in the morning. As we have so many occasions in our calendar for services of this description, it is, to say the least, somewhat thoughtless on the part of the authorities that they should order all shops to close until noon and stop the tram service along the quay at the busiest time of the day, to the great inconvenience of a vast number of people. Were there any real necessity for it it would be another matter; but there is not, and the trouble it causes could easily be avoided. When the King himself is here and attends these services that, of course, alters the situation; but it cannot be said it is necessary for the ordinary civil and military officials of the town to disregard so entirely the convenience of the general public.

"Liberty" in New Greece.

In most countries there would be a big outcry in the papers, but here it is very risky to venture on any protest against the powers that be; the editor of the local *Avanti* has just tried the experiment, but was arrested on Tuesday afternoon for daring to criticise the police orders to close the shops on this occasion of his Majesty's name-day. Besides, only last week we had a suggestive and startling illustration of the danger of criticism. A very well-known gentleman of this town, under Austrian protection, was talking to a friend in the tram, speaking not very favourably (he and his friend declare) of the tram administration which recently, by raising the first-class fares, has caused considerable dissatisfaction. However, the gentleman in question was criticising something when an officious fellow-passenger, partly, and imperfectly it is supposed, overhearing the conversation, interfered, stopped the tram at a police station, called the gendarmes, and gave him into custody for insulting the Hellenic Government. Naturally, the accused protested and objected to get down when ordered by the police, but was made to do so by force, was roughly hustled into the station, examined and cross-questioned, and eventually walked off to the Procureur.

A Question for the Consular Court?

Two versions are given of what followed. The official one says that the Austrian Consul, having been informed of what had taken place, went and demanded the prisoner's release, but was told by the Procureur and Governor-General that no interference could be tolerated in favour of the accused; that the fact of being a foreign subject was of no weight in the matter of the administration of the Greek laws; and that he would be tried before the competent tribunal. The Austrian version is, however, somewhat different, being to the effect that the Consul went and energetically protested against the arrest, its illegality, and the manner in which it had been carried out; that the authorities apologised, promised to inquire into the circumstances, and to punish the gendarmes if it were found they had exceeded their duty; and that the accused would certainly have no further trouble in the matter. Anyhow, he was set at liberty; but people are now asking one another whether we are all running the risk of being ignominiously hustled off under arrest on a charge, made by any irresponsible individual, of having criticised the Government; and what protection we can hope for if the high stand taken by the authorities, according to the official version of the incident, is what we have to reckon upon. Moreover, what is to be said of the much-vaunted Greek liberty if it is a crime or misdemeanour to criticise the Government or local administration?

Turkish Tolerance and Christian Charity.

Our tramways are worked under a concession to, and are the property of, a Belgian company; and before the occupation the drivers and conductors were mostly Turks, Greeks, Jews, etc.; in fact, the Turkish authorities left the management with a free hand to engage whatever suited them best. Until the line was electri-

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fied some four or five years ago there was no rule as to dress, but with the electric cars the men were smartened up in a more uniform manner, the fez being the general headgear. After the occupation the Greek employees ostentatiously discarded the fez and adorned themselves with caps of divers styles and patterns, according to their own individual fancy; but some few months ago peaked caps of a standard pattern, with the men's numbers on them in brass figures, were made compulsory for all except the Turks, who were allowed to retain the fez with their distinctive numbers thereon. Now, as the tram company is altogether a foreign concern, neither Governmental nor municipal, one would have imagined that if they were satisfied with the arrangement there was no call for interference; but our authorities evidently held different views, and accordingly they "invited" the tram management to intimate to those of its employees who wore the fez that they must adopt caps similar to those worn by the others. Of course, everyone knew what this "invitation" really meant, and it has had the anticipated result: the remaining Turkish employees, rather than discard their national headgear, have resigned, and are leaving here to escape the almost certain starvation their remaining would entail. Other Turks, hitherto engaged in municipal and other public work, teaching the duties to raw Greek colleagues, are in the same plight, and are being eliminated in the same manner; but what they really resent is that they are not sent off in a more straightforward manner. One of them told the writer he would far rather be ordered away and expelled than be squeezed out in so backhanded a fashion—but then it would be said the authorities are driving out the Turks, which is just what the former so stoutly repudiate.

THE EX-SHAH AND THE TSAR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 14.

A report has been current in the local Persian colony during the last few days to the effect that Mohammed Ali Shah has urgently requested the honour and favour of a brief audience of the Tsar on the occasion of his Majesty's passage through this city to Kishineff, but with what result is not known. I doubt very much whether there be any real foundation for this rumour, and merely repeat it for what it is worth and under strict reserve. It is not, of course, inherently improbable that the Royal Persian exile should desire the Imperial audience the occasion offers; but that it should be graciously vouchsafed, all the circumstances considered, is altogether improbable, even though the proposal take the simple form and shape of a distinguished guest desiring to thank his Imperial host *in propria persona* for the "hospitality" he "enjoys" in this country.

A DISCLAIMER.

We have been requested to give publicity to the following disclaimer made by the Sardar-i-Zafar regarding statements made by Mr. Abdulla in a letter headed "The Tide of Persian Affairs," published in The Near East on May 8:—

May 26, 1914.

I read with great surprise the baseless imputation made against me in a letter on the situation in Ispahan, published in the issue of May 8 of The Near East. The writer, who signs himself "Abdulla," asserts that I am the Russian candidate for the Ispahan Governorship, and accuses me of conspiracy against my brother, Samsam-es-Saltaneh!

He bases his statements on my presence in Ispahan. My only intention in going to that city, as everyone knows, was to bring my family with me to Teheran, and my arrival in Teheran with my family on May 25 proves the utter baselessness of the writer's imputations and leaves no need for me to indulge in further arguments.

I have proved my patriotism by continued upholding of the cause of the Constitution, and my sons have distinguished themselves in fighting against the reactionary forces. My attitude towards the two great neighbouring Powers has always been courteous, but my actions have not been, and will not be, dictated by any motive except patriotism.

Sardar-i-Zafar, Bakhtiary.

PERSIA AND HER "PROTECTORS."

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Tabriz, April 30.

The number of Russian immigrants in Northern Persia is estimated to be between 20,000 and 25,000, and the tide is now flowing towards Azerbaijan, instead of to the north-eastern borders of Persia in the neighbourhood of Turkestan, as it flowed formerly. The Nationalist *Raad* remarked, concerning this Russian flood "According to the Treaty of Turkmanchai, Russians have no such rights." Has *Raad* never heard the everyday Persian saying, "When force comes in at the door, right flies out through the roof"? According to the Treaty of Turkmanchai, Russians had not many rights; but they are enjoying them all to the full now!

Some twenty or twenty-five years ago the Russian colony in Urmia wished to buy a vacant plot of land for a church building scheme, but it was not sold to them. M. Pelrove, the Russian Consul-General in Tabriz at that time, made a special petition to Muzaffer-ed-Din, the Crown Prince, on the subject, and the following summer the Prince, visiting Urmia, bought the piece of land in his own name and presented it to the Russian colony. *Now* Russians and Russian subjects are buying not only single pieces of land, a house, a garden, a water-mill, or a caravanserai, but groups of villages and hundreds of square miles of land. A Russian subject in Urmia has rented from a Persian Princess fifteen villages. Another Russian subject has "rented" 200 villages on the Turco-Persian border on the most acceptable terms, to wit, that one-half of the total income of these 200 villages shall go to the real owner and the other half to the Russian subject for his services in protecting them against Kurdish and Turkish robbers and looters. Allowing the average income for each village to be 2,000 tomans, the total income will be 400,000 tomans, and the Russian (or the man under Russian protection) will in five years (which is the time limit) become a millionaire! Still another has rented eighteen villages, all on the same satisfactory terms of getting one-half of the total income. These villages are "rented" to Russians because the real owners, who are natives, are not able to protect their property year after year against the numerous bands of Kurdish, Turkish, and Persian robbers. Russian subjects are strong, are protected by their Consuls and by their omnipresent army, hence these native landowners are willing to share their income with the hated foreigner, provided that their property is protected by him.

Up to now the *maliat*, or land taxes, of these villages have been paid to the Shah (through the Belgians), but the Russian subjects owning, or "renting," the villages have been ordered—but by whom I cannot tell you—to turn the *maliat* of their villages over to the Russian Bank in Tabriz henceforth. And I am informed that the sum thus realised is to be used for maintaining the Russian troops in this province, which, up to date, has cost the Russian Government some 5,000,000 roubles.

Six Armenian merchants, who are Russian subjects, have bought the famous Jabba Khana bazaar from the Governor-General, Shuja-ed-Dowleh, for 18,000 tomans, and are building new magazines and bazaars on the most up-to-date lines. The ground floor will all be given up to shops, while above will be rooms and offices for (future) doctors and lawyers. The managers propose to cover the entire open space in the centre of this bazaar with a glass roof. To spend 100,000 tomans or more in converting this ruined university into a Persian Crystal Palace will be to give us another ray of that Russian sunshine to which I have referred more than once in previous letters.

News of a small skirmish comes from Kurdistan. Sardar-Mukril ordered Kerim Agha (Kurd chief) to come to Suj Bulak. The Agha refused to obey the order, on the ground that the "Sardar is an agent and tool of the Russian Consul." Thereupon 100 Persian cossacks were sent to arrest him. In the resulting fight Kerim Agha, his two sons, and his brother, Ibrahim Agha, were killed. Four cossacks were killed and three wounded, but the other Kurdish chiefs have been cowed by the incident.

I am informed that the Constitutionalists and Democrats of Tabriz have sent thousands of letters, all written by hand, to the Consuls (British, German, French, and Turkish), complaining that Shuja-ed-Dowleh thwarts their wish to send representatives to Teheran. The liberal elements seem delighted that the Germans are taking a hand in Persian affairs, and most of these letters have gone to the German Consul here. The Germans may be "dipping their hand in the mud of Azerbaijan"; but if so, it is only in their own interests—or to injure Russian interests. As for Shuja-ed-Dowleh, he is a mere figurehead—a scarecrow! Our powerful neighbours in the north are the true masters in this province. Constitution! Do not ask for the impossible, my friends!!

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NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, June 4.

There have been three fatal cases of bubonic plague at Jaffa, so that there is a strict quarantine against the port.

There has been a severe outbreak of typhus fever in the prison here. The patients have been isolated in a temporary hospital near the north-east corner of the walls. Of the Roman Catholic sisters who undertook the nursing no less than three died of the disease. The overcrowding and insanitary condition of this so-called hospital have been disgraceful.

Although there is a great demand for land along the route of the proposed new tramways, there is as yet no evidence of commencing construction. One report has it that the promoters have grave doubts as to the company ever being a paying concern, as the inhabitants of the city are so poor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

"ROUMANIA TO THE RESCUE."
Idealism and Materialism in Politics.

To the Editor of The Near East

Sir,—The excellent suggestion in last week's Near East, that Roumania should lend a hand in Albania, raises the interesting question of the relative force of idealism and materialism as a political motive. Roumania, you say, is in a good position to render Europe a real service, and by disinterested intervention might add to the leaves of the laurel crown which she has recently been wearing. She would gain prestige.

What else would she gain?

That is unfortunately the question that most Roumanians will ask themselves. For Roumanian and Balkan politicians profess themselves worshippers of the idol of *Realpolitik*. When Roumania brought peace to South-Eastern Europe and established the principle of "Balkan equilibrium"—rather an afterthought, this—she also acquired a rich and prosperous territory and gained the strategic frontier which she had long been known to desire. But in the Roumanian plan of things Adrianople was to remain Bulgarian. King Charles told the Sultan so, and M. Take Jonescu put forward as a *ballon d'essai* the idea that the Roumanian army then near Sofia should march south-east and ensure the possession of Adrianople to Bulgaria. The idea fell perfectly flat. There was nothing to be gained by it. And probably the idea of intervention in Albania will meet with a similar reception in Bucharest.

Not that the materialistic view is by any means confined to South-Eastern Europe. It has become fashionable for the all-powerful "man in the street" to care nothing about foreign politics, except when his own immediate interests are concerned. There is less enthusiasm in England now than formerly for liberty and nationality for the sake of the principle.

Yet men will still lay down their lives most readily, in the Balkans as elsewhere, when the ideal is combined with the practical. The first Balkan war was to the Bulgarians, the Greeks, and the Servians a real war of liberation, undertaken (together with the hope of acquiring territory) on behalf of oppressed kinsmen living under a foreign yoke. And it is not fair, and it is childish, to speak of the Balkan States (as many people do) as "nuisances," just because they seem likely, like every other nation, to achieve their destinies through bloodshed. Much remains to be done by each before it reaches its normal expansion. Their progress has been stayed 500 years by the heavy hand of the Osmanli. They have lost time to make up. Each one desires to improve its international status, and The Near East is heartily to be congratulated on its work in putting this aspect of the Near Eastern question forward and in sympathetically interpreting Balkan aspirations to the British public. In spite of excesses, in spite of meannesses, in spite of savagery, occasional hypocrisy and lapses into barbarism, each country of South-Eastern Europe is breathing daily a fuller, freer national life.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

London, June 16, 1914. A. L. Kennedy.

THE ISLANDS OF THE ÆGEAN.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Dr. Nakis, in your issue of June 5, surpasses all precedent even in Near East controversy in his wanton disdain of the most universally known and easily accessible facts.

To take one of his most palpably false statements: "I wish to inform you that Greece's naval supremacy is exclusively due to her excellent seamanship; the Turks possessed two more big warships than the 'Averoff.'" This curious sentence is devoid of truth. Turkey had, and still has, no ship as large as the "Averoff." Dr. Nakis has such an evident distaste for hard, cold facts that one feels some compunction in asking him to glance at a comparison between the "Averoff" and the largest Turkish vessel:—

"Averoff."—Displacement, 10,118 tons. Laid down, 1907; finished, 1911. Guns, 12 heavy, 18 light. Torpedo tubes, 3. Guns electrically controlled.

"Haireddin Barbarossa."—Displacement, 10,060 tons. Built, 1891. Guns, 6 heavy, 16 light. Torpedo tubes, 2. Guns controlled by hydraulic and hand gear.

Thus it will be evident that the "Averoff" had superiority in size, and enormous superiority in newness and equipment to anything the Turks possessed.

I have to thank Dr. Nakis, too, for other pieces of "information" which I know from personal experience to be inaccurate, and for a good deal of unworthy and scurrilous abuse of the Turks as a whole. He tells us that he has been in the East for forty years. One can only say that one would have expected him to be better informed.

He says: "Except the Jews dwelling in great towns and the strangers enjoying particular privilege, all the *other natives* of this country, including the Turks themselves, have a desperately bad opinion of Turkish rule." This statement again is untrue. Nearly everyone is agreed that the rule of Abdul Hamid was desperately bad. That was not the rule of the Turk: it was the tyranny of a selfish and unscrupulous criminal. Brave soldiers and single-hearted patriots like Shevket Pasha and Enver Pasha overthrew the reign of terror and won for Turkey her Constitution, which her least generous enemies—and I am sorry to see Dr. Nakis among them—either in the ignorance of bigotry or in cynical spitefulness make the target of their abuse. Never has a new and inexperienced Government had to struggle against so many crushing difficulties crowded into so short a space of time. Who that thinks but for a moment of the constant succession of disasters that have crowded on Turkey during the past four years could in fairness look for any progress to have been made in them? And yet progress has been made in many directions—in what particulars I am perfectly prepared to inform Dr. Nakis if he should be ignorant of them. Far from its being the case that everyone has a desperately bad opinion of Turkish rule, the general feeling and conviction in the country is that the Government is doing well under exceptionally great difficulties. As everywhere, there is, of course, no lack of grumblers. Who ever met an English farmer on a wet day at harvest time that didn't revile the Government?

If your correspondent had taken a little more trouble to understand the Turk's character he would not have charged him with hypocrisy. That is not one of his failings. The fact of the matter is that many people think that by virtue merely of travelling and seeing they will understand the Turk, but they will never do so until they try to see things for a moment from his point of view. The Pharisee never understood the Publican because he never tried to enter into his point of view.

Lastly, your correspondent wishes to know my grounds for supposing that the friends of Turkey in Europe are increasing. If he would study the growth and work of the Ottoman Association and the Anglo-Ottoman Society, the latter of which has extensive and extending membership on the Continent, he would, I think, be convinced of the truth of the assertion.—Yours, etc.,

Constantinople. Charles Mayo.

THE THRACIAN "PERSECUTIONS."

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Your correspondent Mr. Arthur Field, without any authority, couples my name with his own when he expresses his regret that he misunderstood the remarks made by "A Member of the Ottoman Association." I would point out to Mr. Field that had I wished to reply to the "Member's" letter in your issue of June 5 I could have done so, and, further, that I am quite capable of expressing my views without Mr. Field's assistance.

Of course, I do not accept Mr. Field's unwarranted assumption.

Your correspondent writes about "my general attitude of scepticism" about outrages. I cannot accept his description of my views. I have expressed these quite definitely, not only in your valuable columns, but also in the general Press and on the lecture platform. I think most people interested understand my views—for what they are worth—quite distinctly.

I admit the ultra-pro-Turk Press will not accept my correspondence. Of course it would be unpleasant for this section of the Press to have its fictions refuted. The public can form their own opinion of these pictures that will not bear the daylight of criticism.

As I have expressed the opinion, and still hold it, that the "atrocity" controversy should be dropped in the interests of all parties I will not further discuss your correspondent's remarks on this subject.

Now, as regards the present troubles in Macedonia, New Servia, and Montengro's new territory, to which your correspondent

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refers. In the first place, the various and varying accounts of racial or religious persecutions differ so largely that it is difficult to determine what is accurate. But assuming your correspondent's statements to be correct, surely, if he feels the matter so strongly, he should lay the matter strongly before the diplomatic authorities, or, if he can get no satisfaction in this direction, I venture to suggest his society should send out to the districts concerned some strong, impartial men to investigate the facts and accurately report them, and also use their personal influence to make peace. Further, your correspondent might start a relief fund for the sufferers he mentions, and the men sent out might administer the relief funds. If your correspondent will show some *practical* sympathy towards the people he states were ill-treated I am ready to do my utmost to support him, if he will accept my service, in the same manner as I have done hitherto where the Balkans are concerned.

It is hateful to think that the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula should be the victims of Stock Exchange speculators, armament manufacturers, and intriguers amongst the Powers. The recent wars abundantly show the presence of all these factors. History, past and present, shows there is no worse intriguer than the Turk.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

G. W. C. Hollist, M.R.C.S., etc.

Riseley Lodge, Maidenhead, June 16.

MIGRATION IN THE NEAR EAST.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—From reports continually coming to hand we know that at the present moment in the Near East the hapless peasantry of various nationalities are being subjected to lawless eviction, often accompanied by great brutality. We read of Greeks being compelled to leave Thrace and Asia Minor, while the Ottoman Association has in its possession ample evidence that Moslems are suffering the same fate in Macedonia. Here they have Bulgars for their fellow-sufferers, and in Bulgaria there are natural reprisals, and the Greeks are insulted, outraged, and driven out. Meanwhile, in the case of Turkey and Greece, at any rate, the respective Governments give assurances that the reports are either false or exaggerated, or, at any rate, that where the subject nationalities have real grievances the central authorities are desirous of putting an end to them.

We may fairly concede the probability of exaggeration in some of the reports, and there is no need to accuse the Governments concerned of the wilful folly of deliberately conniving at disorder, but none can look at the facts of the case without realising that, in view of the hideous racial antipathies which unfortunately exist—antipathies which are quite as strong between the different Christian races as between them and the Mohammedans—there seems little prospect that in the near future these different peoples will live peaceably side by side, and, therefore, their present migration to the territories governed by their respective States is ultimately the best thing that can happen. The pity of it is that this salutary process should be accompanied by violence and outrage, and especially that in such impoverished communities the destruction of both life and property should continue. I suggest, therefore, that the best thing which the friends of the various nationalities can do is to endeavour to induce the respective Governments to put their heads together and assist these wholesale migrations in an orderly and peaceful manner. In this way much needless suffering would be prevented and the probability of further warfare considerably lessened.

I would also make a special appeal to my phil-Hellenic friends at the present juncture. At the moment when they ought to be recovering from the effects of two wars, which have exhausted the treasuries of all concerned, and when each has got thousands of homeless refugees to support, maimed soldiers, and, alas! non-combatants also, to care for and old antagonisms to heal, these two Powers are wasting their resources on battleships. Undeniably the Greeks are the aggressors.

Instead of whining about the grievances of our respective clients, as though there were no grievances on the other side, let the friends of the various nationalities work together to remedy these mutual wrongs and try to get the Balkan Governments to do the same.—Yours faithfully,

William H. Seed, Secretary.

Ottoman Association, 44, Dover Street, London, W.,
June 12, 1914.

HEAT WAVE AT PORT SAID.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Port Said, June 6.

After an unusually cool spring, Port Said has been prostrated during the past week by a heat wave of considerable intensity. On Monday last the temperature rose to 106 degrees in the shade, which, combined with a depressing sky and moist-laden atmosphere, made the day the most unpleasant, if not actually the hottest, during the last ten years.

The weather during the rest of the week can best be described as a "hot hurricane." Squalls followed each other in rapid succession, the wind completely boxing the compass in a few hours. Everything tastes and smells of sand, while a goodly proportion of the sandy soil thrown up from the drainage trenches finds its way into office, shop, and house, to add to the general discomfort.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Trans-Persian Railway. June 11.

Colonel C. E. Yate asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the positive declaration contained in the correspondence in connection with the Russian Convention of 1907 respecting the special interests possessed by Great Britain in the Persian Gulf and the Russian acknowledgment of the same, he would give an assurance that in the negotiations regarding the Trans-Persian Railway there would be a stipulation that no line on a foreign gauge should run to the shores of the Persian Gulf, and that the line to the south of the Russian sphere should be constructed on an Indian and not a Russian gauge, so that British and Indian goods would have the same facilities for entering Persia in the south, without break of gauge, as Russian goods would have in the north.

Sir E. Grey replied that the question was still under discussion, and he could not add anything to the answer to a question on the subject which he answered some time ago. He hoped to be able to make a statement in due course when the discussions were further advanced. In reply to further interrogation, he added that the question of the gauge had been and would be carefully considered. He could say no more on that point at the present moment.

Britain and Greece. June 16.

Sir J. D. Rees asked what satisfaction had been obtained from the Greek Government for the treatment to which Mr. and Mrs. Musker were subjected recently at Okchilar, on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier.

Sir E. Grey: I am in communication with his Majesty's Legation at Athens on this subject, and have been informed that inquiries are being made by the Greek Government, but I am not yet in a position to make any definite statement.

Russian Post Office in Teheran.

Mr. Ponsonby asked the Foreign Secretary if he had any official information to the effect that a Russian post office was about to be established in Teheran.

Sir E. Grey: The answer is in the negative, though I understand that a postal official is to be employed at the Russian Legation to deal with the correspondence arriving there by the messenger service. I have heard that a post office has been established for this purpose at Tabriz.

British Troops in Persia.

Sir J. D. Rees asked whether the British Government or the British Indian Government had not sent troops to Shiraz, Bushire, and elsewhere when it desired to do so in Persia.

Sir E. Grey: Perhaps the hon. gentleman would give notice of that question.

Busreh Harbour Board. June 17.

Mr. George Lloyd asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether an international harbour board was about to be formed at Busreh, and whether he could say what the composition of that board was likely to be.

Mr. Acland: An Ottoman Commission is to be instituted to improve the conservancy of the Shatt-el-Arab. Full partiuclars of this Commission will be furnished in the papers, which I hope to lay at an early date.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

Mr. George Lloyd asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could state the final nature of the arrangements come to between the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company and the Porte in regard to the application made by the Italian Government for a railway from Adalia.

Mr. Acland stated that the arrangement is still forming the subject of negotiation.

The War Cloud in the Near East.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if, in view of the threatened renewal of hostilities by the Hellenic Government against Turkey, his Majesty's Government would consider the possibility of offering its friendly services to the two Governments concerned.

Mr. Acland: His Majesty's Government, in common with other Powers, will take advantage of any opportunity which may present itself to endeavour to preserve peace between Greece and Turkey, but, as a rule, friendly offices are only effective when desired by both parties to a dispute.

Mr. Herbert: Will the hon. gentleman consider what steps it would be necessary to take to protect our great commercial interests at Smyrna and also at the mouth of the Dardanelles, if, unfortunately, these friendly offices should not be accepted?

Mr. Acland: That is being considered.

Great Britain and Albania.

Mr. Fell asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether this country had any forces at present in Albania, and whether they were to take any part in the present commotion in that country.

To this Mr. Acland replied that there was a British detachment of the international force, whose duty it was to preserve order. It was not proposed to extend the scope of the duties so far as the British detachment was concerned.

Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Mr. Churchill informed Mr. Joynson-Hicks that the Burmah Oil Company had paid the dividend on the preference shares of the Anglo-Persian Company. They had advanced £144,848 6s. 11d. for this purpose.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GREECE OF TO-DAY.*

The bane of too many writers on the Balkans and Turkey is their inability to rid themselves of bitter antagonisms or ardent preferences. In most cases their loves and their hatreds are equally violent. This is very unsatisfactory to those who wish to form a balanced opinion on the many momentous questions that vex those regions, and the distressing confusion of assertion and counter-assertion provokes a distrustful impatience of so much prejudice and bias, and a hasty endorsement of the wise King's unqualified generalisation about the lack of human veracity. Miss Lucy Garnett, however, has a mind so happily constituted that she can write with equal fairness on "Turkey of the Ottomans" and on "Greece of the Hellenes." Her knowledge and competence are undeniable, and the publishers are fortunate in being able to add a book on modern Greece by such an authoritative writer to their useful Countries and People's Series.

South-Eastern Europe is one of the great melting pots of the world, and, moreover, one that continually simmers and only too often boils over. Miss Garnett describes the principal types of the heterogeneous population of modern Greece. As a rule, a certain type is special to a certain district, but in the larger towns and in the streets of Athens a great number of different types may be seen—

> The swarthy, black-eyed, Asiatic-looking peasant of Thessaly, the brown or fair-haired and blue-eyed Messenian or Arcadian, the long-headed Islander from Chios, and perhaps a further type seemingly akin to neither, with a skin of clear olive utterly different from that of either the Southern Spaniard or the Italian.

Everywhere, too, among the higher and lower classes of the population "a type of quite classical purity may be met with," though it is most common in the wilder parts of Greece.

Several chapters are devoted to a brief but lucid exposition of the system of government, the organisation of army, navy, and police, the monarchy, the system of education, and kindred topics. In the short space which could be allotted to the subject it was impossible to give more than a general outline of the structure, but a useful introduction to a more detailed study of Greek politics is provided. Two most remarkable characteristics of the Greek system of government are the antiquity of its foundation and the newness of the superstructure.

> The system of communal administration which the successive conquerors of the country found in operation was never seriously interfered with by them, even the Turks having refrained from interference with the municipal liberties of the subject nationalities. A considerable amount of administrative experience was, consequently, on the creation of the Hellenic kingdom, at the service of the new constitutional government.

The Greek Monarchy is in many ways unlike that of any other European State, and it—

> Has hitherto been regarded merely as a convenient political institution, calling for no particular display of loyalty, though the diplomatic advantages accruing to Greece from the connection of its dynasty with so many of the Royal Families of Europe has long been recognised by the nation.

It is shown, however, that this attitude of indifference is being changed for one of affectionate loyalty. Miss Garnett thus refers to the recent growth of monarchial sentiment:—

> The new political situation created by the successes of the Hellenic army under the leadership of King Constantine, who, born and bred in Greece, is the first Greek sovereign to profess the creed of the National Church, has excited in the Hellenic nation an extraordinary degree of loyalty, not only for their monarch individually, but also for the dynasty generally.

One of the most interesting chapters is on "Monks and Monasteries." Greek monasteries were once numerous and populous; they have now dwindled to twenty-four, with a population of less than 200 monks. A delightful description is given of the "great nucleus of monastic life in the Levant" throughout the Middle Ages and up to the present time—the monkish Republic on Mount Athos. As, however, the exclusion of womenkind is absolute not only from the Holy Mountain itself, but from the whole peninsula, Miss Garnett has made use of the notes of a friend. Here we enter an atmosphere alien to the bustling commercial spirit of modern Greece. The writer of the notes was hospitably entertained by the monks in several of the convents, and he also visited some of the most famous hermits.

The final chapter on the traits of the Greek national character, as revealed in Greek folk-poesy, is remarkably well done. It is based on the following theory:—"The characteristic traits of their mythical heroes may, indeed, not be commonly found among the Greek people; but the character of a man's heroic ideal, however far his own conduct may fall short of it, always affords some indication of his own character, or at least of its possibilities. So is it likewise in the case of a people." There is some cogency in the argument. The modern Greek does not in practice combine Christian chivalry with pagan fortitude. Some of his faults are obvious and irritating; some are excusable on historical grounds, for religious feuds and hereditary hatreds do not die easily or quickly. But he has great qualities—industry, adaptability, and, above all, patriotism. Miss Garnett quotes from several folk tales and historical ballads and legends, illustrating the virtues of courtesy, gratitude, truthfulness, honesty, magnanimity, and patriotism. With regard to these historical ballads and legends, "their most remarkable feature is the length and unbroken continuity of the traditional memories of national history to which they testify." This alone is a proof of unquenchable national spirit. As Miss Garnett eloquently concludes her book:—

> A passionate patriotism is indeed one of the leading characteristics of the Hellenic nation at large. And every true Hellene cherishes the idea of a New and Greater Greece, which at no far distant date will, it is hoped and believed, consolidate the now widely dispersed forces of Hellenism into a united and powerful State. . . . The forces of national character are usually but little studied by statesmen, and with the consequence that the elaborate schemes on which they plume themselves are constantly shattered to pieces by the forces they vainly despise. And such ignoring of the forces of national character has been shown to be especially inexcusable in the case of the Hellenes. For a nation whose mythical heroes are such as we have seen them to be, whose family life is so exceptionally strong and pure in its mutual ties, whose political memories are of such an unparalleled vigour, and whose patriotism is so intense, cannot be permanently crushed.

This is a shrewd and thoroughly deserved hit at the diplomatists who still believe that countries may be cut up as easily as Dutch cheeses. But some may think that Greek patriotism is a little too aggressive, and that the virtues of restraint and moderation need to be cultivated.

It is not possible now to do more than refer to many other aspects of modern Greece which have been ably handled in the book under review, such as "Rural Life and Pursuits," "Urban and Social Life," "Commerce

* "Greece of the Hellenes." Lucy M. J. Garnett. (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons.)

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and Natural Products," and the like. There is also an excellent chapter on "Classic Survivals." Within the compass of upwards of two hundred and fifty pages it would be difficult to say more or to say it better than Miss Garnett has done.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Constable and Co. are preparing for publication late in the autumn "The Sudan in Evolution," by Mr. Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S. It is described as a critical study of the economic, financial, and administrative conditions of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The author has recently returned to England from a prolonged sojourn in the Sudan, where he travelled last year for the purpose of making a close personal investigation into the conditions of the country and of its commercial, financial, and industrial future. The preface will be by Sir F. Reginald Wingate, the Governor-General of the Sudan. We understand, however, that Mr. Martin's book will be in no way "official," but will give an independent and frank exposition of the subject. The book will be comprehensive and expansive, and the lighter side of life and travel in the Sudan will not be neglected. The price will be only 10s. 6d. net.

The Trustees of the British Museum have issued a new volume of the Coptic Texts series, which contains narratives of ten Coptic martyrdoms, lives of great ascetics, two texts on asceticism, and a discourse on the Angel of Death. The MSS. were copied during the second half of the tenth century, and are of great value as portraying the religious life and beliefs of the monastic communities of Upper Egypt at their meridian. The book has been edited with English translations by Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge, of the British Museum, who, in his preface, says that the editing of the texts has been carried out by an arrangement with his colleague Dr. L. D. Barnett. The Director of the Museum, Sir F. Kenyon, has deciphered the Greek portions of the colophons.

The Cambridge University Press are publishing "The Press and Poetry of Modern Persia," by Professor E. G. Browne. Those of our readers who are interested in modern Persia will find a wealth of interesting material in this book. The price is 12s. net.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It is a pity that the Greeks, who are at present eagerly appealing for sympathy in Europe for their cousins in Turkey, should be so perverse in Macedonia. The very people who complain that their compatriots are being expelled from Turkey to make way for Moslems are penalizing Bulgars and Turks in Macedonia for not being Hellenes. The folk who deafen heaven with their prayers for King Constantine in Cyprus consider it "unimaginable audacity" on the part of Bulgarian Uniats to wish to pray for King Ferdinand at Yanitza. In these circumstances the friends of Greece find it hard to advocate her cause whole-heartedly—it is so difficult to present the Greeks as being only anxious to live and let live when so many of them are working hard to prove that they are wonderfully sensitive to anything which concerns themselves, and careless to the verge of brutality, which should not be the mark of a recent conqueror, of the susceptibilities of others. I notice that this failing in the national character is becoming known—and the effect is that Greek complaints of ill-treatment are viewed with a certain distrust as tending to be exaggerated and in need of pinches of salt before being accepted, while complaints against Greeks, possibly also inflated, are being more readily accepted by the public than was the case a year ago.

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In view of the tension which exists in Greco-Turkish relations and the feverish anxiety displayed in both countries in naval "futures" and the prospects of buying up other people's warships, it is interesting to learn that reports are current to the effect that the delivery of Ottoman Dreadnoughts from British yards is still in the dim future and is unlikely to take place in time for either vessel to participate in the expected hostilities. It would be a pity to expose a brand new and very expensive ship at once as a target for Greek shellfire—so perhaps the Turks will be able to draw some sort of comfort from the absence of their "big sticks," which will at least be kept nice and safe for them out of harm's way.

***

Times are indeed changing in Turkey. It is but a few years ago that any pictorial representation of the Sultan was forbidden, and one French almanack which annually published photographs of all reigning sovereigns used to insert an explanation instead of a portrait of the Padishah. Now one may buy a picture of H.I.M. Mohamed Reshad Khan on a £T2 stamp, the *Jeune Turc* publishes a portrait of his illustrious predecessor Mohamed the Conqueror, and pictures of the Sultan are being sent to Turkish regiments from the Seraskierate. The picture of the reigning sovereign has an immense official vogue in some parts of the Near East, and in Orthodox countries it enjoys a semi-sacred position in most households; but the features of Abdul Hamid Khan in his earlier days were not so well known to his subjects as are those of his brother—indeed, the only cheap lithograph of an Ottoman Khakan that I ever saw before the resurrection of the Constitution was one of Murad V., hanging in a little Turkish shop in Nicosia.

***

A correspondent tells me that there is, just at present, a considerable recrudescence of what diplomatists call "unrest" in the Ispahan district. My informant goes on to say that the gendarmerie show no particular activity in trying to cope with the bands of evilly-disposed persons who are responsible for the nuisance, and suggests that those who have Russian interests at heart are smiling gently as they see in this "band-activity" a pretext for further armed intervention should one be needed. It must always be remembered that Russian peacemaking is strangely like charity in being twice-blessed—as will readily be seen by those who consider to what the pacification of Azerbaijan has led.

***

I gather that the Italians, perhaps basing their activities on one of the interpretations of King Victor Emmanuel's motto "F.E.R.T.," have spent a good deal of time, trouble, and money on the restoration of some of the buildings of the Knights in Rhodes. Those who visited the island while it was under the Turks will remember that the Ottoman garrison inhabited the convent of the Order of the Hospital, and that the Grand Master's house was used as a prison. The Turks certainly did amazingly little damage to the remarkable buildings and fortifications erected by the Order and its Moslem slaves, but, on the other hand, they did little or nothing to repair the ravages of time and earthquakes. It may be that the Army of Occupation has felt itself in need of something to do—or perhaps it has been smartening up the island in view of a prolonged stay; but, in any case, no one can deny that in carrying out a careful restoration of hitherto neglected historical monuments the Italians have done much to reconcile *antikajis* and historians at least with their continued presence in the Dodekanese.

***

I notice that the Bulgarian Press of all shades of political opinion, in common with many speakers in the Sobranje, has reprobated the recent outbreaks against Greek residents in various parts of Bulgaria. The Greek may be an uneasy subject, and the Macedo-Bulgar refugees very full of unpleasant memories of their treatment by Greeks over the border, but the bullying of racial minorities is a thing which can lead to no good—even to the bully; and the commission of such acts only tends to damage the reputation of the country in which they occur. The Bulgarians, however, have very properly repaired the damage, dismissed the Chief of Police, and restored the legation chapel in Sofia to its proprietors, and it is to be hoped that they will not again imitate their neighbours in the treatment accorded to unpopular racial or religious minorities.

***

I see that the Bulgarians are perturbed because a French cinematograph film is to be prepared professing to illustrate the siege of Adrianople—in which they fear that numerous inaccuracies will be perpetrated and scant justice done to the Bulgarians. It is stated that arrangements have actually been made to show "Bulgarian soldiers" in the act of mutilating "Turkish women," and that actual villages are to be burnt in order to illustrate the horrors of war. I can sympathize with the Bulgarians. During the Boer war I used to see ridiculous French films representing "British defeats" by the dozen, with highly imaginative representations of British regiments being put to flight by a mere handful of *les braves Boërs*. Even now absurd Yankee films abound, pouring contempt and scorn on the British Army, and some picture-houses have the shameless impudence to show them over here.

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914.	1914.		1332.	5674
June.	June.		Rejab	Sivan
19	6	Friday	25	25
20	7	Saturday	26	26
21	8		27	27
22	9	Sunday	28	28
23	10	Monday	29	29
24	11	Tuesday	30	30
		Wednesday	Shaban	Tamuz
25	12	Thursday	1	1

To-morrow, Rejab 26, will be the anniversary of the wedding of H.I.H. Mediha Sultana, sister of the Sultan, to Senator Damad Ferid Pasha Bushati.

Monday, Rejab 28, is the birthday of H.I.H. Emine Sultana, the youngest daughter of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Khan, and sister of the Heir Apparent.

Tuesday is the birthday of Prince Henry XXXIX. of Reuss-Köstritz, nephew of the Queen of the Bulgarians.

Wednesday, Rejab 30, is the birthday of H.I.H. Nemika Sultana, daughter of the eldest son of the ex-Sultan and wife of Damad Kenan Bey.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George of Greece, who was formerly High Commissioner for Crete.

Our Port Said correspondent writes :—The birthday of his Majesty King George V. was celebrated in Port Said as a day of rejoicing for the small but patriotic British Colony. At an official reception given in the morning by Mr. Vice-Consul Chafy his Majesty was cordially toasted by all present, including the Governor of the Suez Canal District, Mohammed Heddaya Bey, and the foreign Consuls. The Union Jack flew from every English house in the town, and many British vessels in harbour "dressed ship" for the occasion, a particularly fine display of bunting being made by the P. and O. mail boat "Osiris," which arrived from Brindisi early in the morning. After the official reception the Acting Consul-General received the members of the British community, who pledged his Majesty's health with marked enthusiasm.

The same day was observed by the Greek Colony as the Name Day of King Constantine, it being the Festival of the King's patron saint. Mass was said in the morning at the Greek Orthodox Church, at which the Greek Consul and officials and members of the Greek community attended. The Consul afterwards gave a reception to the colony, at which several patriotic speeches were made, and the celebrations were pleasantly concluded by a "soirée de gala" at the Theatre Eldorado.

On Wednesday Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, H.B.M. Agent and Consul-General in Cairo, celebrates his birthday.

Queen Alexandra, the Empress Marie Féodorovna of Russia, and Prince Christopher of Greece witnessed the performance of "Otello" at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, last Friday evening.

His Majesty the King of Montenegro has left Cettinje for Venice, accompanied by T.R.H. Prince Peter and Princess Vera.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Montenegro is acting as Regent during his father's absence.

Her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, with several members of her family, will arrive at Eastbourne next Friday for a stay of several weeks as last year, and it is expected that her Majesty will, towards the end of her visit, be joined by King Constantine. Their Majesties' third son, Prince Paul, is at Eastbourne College.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught and Prince Christopher of Greece were present at the performance of "Madama Butterfly" at the Royal Opera at Covent Garden, on Thursday night last week.

H.R.H. Prince Carol of Roumania arrived at Constantza from Berlin for the Tsar's visit.

H.H. the Turkish Ambassador and H.E. the Servian Minister called at the Foreign Office on Monday, and were received by Sir Edward Grey.

H.H. the Turkish Ambassador and H.E. the Servian Minister were among the guests at a dinner given by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the Embassy in Belgrave Square on last Friday evening, which was honoured by the presence of H.R.H. Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Mishu left town early this week for a short visit to Germany.

Mr. Passaroff, Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires in Vienna, has been appointed Minister in Athens.

Mr. Ratcho Kosseff, who was at one time Secretary-General of the Ministry of Commerce in Sofia, has been appointed to the Secretaryship-General of the Foreign Office, of which Mr. Hadjimisheff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in Athens before the war, has been temporarily in charge.

It is thought possible that Mr. Hadjimisheff may go to Vienna as Bulgarian Minister. Meanwhile, Mr. N. Stancioff has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires, Vienna, vice Mr. Passaroff.

His Excellency M. Michel Majaroff, the Bulgarian Minister, and Mme. Majaroff have returned to the Legation from the country.

Mr. Serafimoff, at present a Deputy in the Sobranje, has been appointed Bulgarian Consul-General at Adrianople, vice Mr. Nedcoff, transferred to Salonika.

Mr. Mincoff, Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation, handed to Dr. G. W. C. Hollist on Tuesday evening the Red Cross Medal for services rendered by him during the recent fighting in the Balkans.

F. Orkhan Bey, the secretary to the Turkish Embassy in London, leaves London next week for the Turkish Embassy in St. Petersburg, where he has been appointed.

Mr. Gourinescu is acting as Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia during the absence of the Minister, Mr. Derussi.

Atta Bey of Mosul, has been appointed President of the Court of Appeal at Bitlis.

Mr. Voislav M. Petrovitch, of the Servian Legation, has left London for Belgrade on short leave.

The Sheikh Seyyid Idris es Sennussi left Alexandria last Sunday *en route* for Mecca by way of Port Said and Haifa.

The President of the French Republic has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Legion of Honour on Djavid Bey.

Jellal Nury Bey, the Turkish historian and writer, has returned to Constantinople from the United States.

Prince Antoine Bibescu, the newly appointed First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London from St. Petersburg on Monday.

Our Odessa Correspondent writes (June 14):—This city has arrayed herself in gala attire for to-morrow's reception of the Tsar, Tsaritsa, Cesarevitch, and the Imperial princesses, who arrive early in the forenoon by the Imperial yacht "Standart" from Constanza. On alighting at the port pavilion their Majesties will receive the homage of the local civil, military, and ecclesiastical dignitaries, and various deputations who will present the customary bread and salt and loyal addresses. Other deputations and the foreign Consular Corps will subsequently be received by his Majesty in the Imperial pavilion at the railway terminus. A brief but ceremonious visit will be made to the cathedral, after which a review of the garrison troops will be held in the summer camp outside the city. The Imperial party will, about 7 p.m., entrain for Kishineff, where on Tuesday the Tsar will unveil the memorial to Alexander I. From the Bessarabian capital, it is understood, the Imperial Court will proceed northward by rail direct for Tsarskoe Selo.

Sir Mark and Lady Sykes have arrived at the Hotel Lotti, Paris.

Borton Pasha, the Egyptian Postmaster-General, left Port Said early last week for Europe on leave. He will attend the International Postal Congress at Madrid in November.

Mme. Gennadius and the Countess of Bessborough, are among the ladies who are taking an active interest in the concert to be held at the Ritz Hotel on Friday, June 26, in aid of Miss Plows-Day's Mercédès work.

WHERE TO STAY.

LAUSANNE-OUCHY (Switzerland).

SAVOY HOTEL.
Near the lake, with splendid park.

CECIL HOTEL.
In the town and 5 minutes from the station.

Two First-class Family Hotels.
High-class Cuisine. French Chef.
J. SUMSER, Manager-Proprietor.

Sofia (Bulgaria).
GRAND HOTEL BULGARIE
(opposite the Royal Palace).
First-class Hotel. Entirely renovated and beautifully situated in the centre of the city, near Post Office, Theatre, Museums, Banks, etc. Electric Light. Central heating. Baths. Garage. Telephone. Garden. French Restaurant. Good wines. Café. Foreign newspapers. Most frequented by English and American Visitors. Interpreter meets all trains. Rooms from 4 frs.

Cyprus.
THE CYPRUS HOTEL CO.
Open all the Year round—
LIMASSOL (Olympus Hotel).
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For Summer Seasons—
PLATRES (Platres Hotel). 4,000 ft. from the sea level. Opens from May till Oct.
TROODOS (Olympus Hotel). 6,000 ft. from the level of the sea. Opens from May till Oct.
Perfect Situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Also Excursion to Mount Troodos.
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NAJEM HOURY, Limassol, Cyprus
(*Proprietor of the Army and Navy Stores*).
Head Office: Najem Houry Stores, Limassol, Cyprus.
Branches: Polymedia, Troodos, Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca, and Platres.
All arrangements for Transport by Carriages, etc. are made by the above Firm.

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Mr. H. M. Bowden Smith, of the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, has arrived in England on leave.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. Horace L. A. Hood, who has been appointed Naval Secretary to the First Lord of the Admiralty, was mentioned in despatches for service with the gunboats employed on the Nile during the operations in the Sudan in 1898. He was present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, and received the medal and promotion to commander, in addition to the Fourth Class of the Order of the Mejidieh. Since then Rear-Admiral Hood has occupied several important commands, and was in charge of the naval brigade which stormed the Somali Mahdi's stronghold in 1904, his excellent work there being rewarded with the D.S.O.

Colonel H. G. Frith, who has been appointed to the command of the Lancashire Fusilier Brigade, was for ten years (1885-1895) employed with the Egyptian Army, during which time he saw service in the Sudan in 1885-86, including the action at Giniss, and again in 1889. For his services on these occasions he had the medal and clasp, the bronze star, and the Fourth Class of the Order of Mejidieh.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Peake, C.M.G., who had such a distinguished career with the Egyptian Army, has taken up the appointment of Assistant Adjutant-General at the War Office.

Sir Gaston Maspero, the retiring Director General of the Antiquities Department, has issued a denial of the statement made by the French newspaper the *Cri de Paris* that his resignation is due to a dispute with Lord Kitchener. Sir Gaston alleges that he has always had excellent relations with Lord Kitchener, and that he recently received through him a letter from Sir Edward Grey expressing his keen regret at his resignation and thanking him for his services to Egypt.

The annual dinner of past and present members of his Majesty's Consular Service will take place at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, on Wednesday, July 8. Sir Cecil Hertslet, Consul-General for Belgium, will preside. Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will be the guest of the evening, and Sir William Tyrrell, of the Foreign Office, has also accepted an invitation to be present.

Mr. Ahmad Shafeek, L.R.C.P., Lond., Cairo, and St. Thomas's Hospital, has been admitted Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Mr. A. P. Bolland, Commercial Secretary at the Sudan Agency, was to have left Egypt on Thursday last week for London in order to be present at the International Rubber and Cotton Trades Exhibition to be held in Agricultural Hall, London, at the end of this month, and at which Mr. Bolland is in charge of the exhibits sent by the Sudan Government.

The Khedive has conferred the Third Class of the Order of the Mejidieh on Kaimakam Black Bey, of the Sudan Medical Department, on the occasion of his retirement on pension.

H.H. the Khedive has conferred the honorary rank of Lewa upon Miralai Palmer Bey, Financial Secretary at the War Office, and the rank of Temporary Lewa on Miralai Wilson Bey, of the Sudan Government. The rank of Lewa gives the bearer the title of Pasha.

The marriage arranged between W. M. MacLachlan, of Suakin, Sudan, eldest son of the late Mr. W. H. MacLachlan and Mrs. MacLachlan, of West Dulwich and Kingsgate, Thanet, and May Caroline, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Carpenter, of Worcester Park, Surrey, and Bratton, Clovelly, Devonshire, will take place quietly on June 23, at the Parish Church, Laleham-on-Thames.

Mr. Orme Clark, an English barrister who is to act as adviser to the Ministry of Justice, has arrived in Constantinople.

General Francis Hastings, C.B., late Royal Artillery, who served in the Crimea, and was present at the siege and fall of Sevastopol, entered his ninetieth year last Wednesday.

Captain Arthur Montagu McMurdo, D.S.O., F.R.G.S., of Ranger Lodge, Glandyfi, Cardiganshire, late of the Yorks and Lancs Regiment, formerly Director of the Egyptian Slavery Department and Secretary of the Egyptian Agricultural Society, youngest son of the late General Sir H. McMurdo, and a grandson of the late Sir Charles Napier, left unsettled property of the gross value of £4,394.

Mr. Adolphe Abraham Green, of Alexandria, who died at Trieste on May 25, aged sixty-five, leaves a fortune which is estimated at £E400,000. He was the builder of the synagogue in the Moharrem Bey quarter of Alexandria.

Our Belgrade correspondent informs us that the following diplomatic changes have taken place:—

Mr. M. Ristitch, formerly Minister at Bucharest, is transferred in the same capacity to Rome; Dr. M. Gavrilovitch, formerly Minister at Cettinje, is transferred in the same capacity to Bucharest, Mr. D. Jankovitch, Chief Secretary of the King's Household, is appointed Minister at Berlin; Mr. L. Mihailovitch, Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinje, is promoted to the post of Minister at Cettinje. A Servian legation is to be established in Albania, and it is proposed to nominate as Servian Representative Mr. Panta Gavrilovitch, now Diplomatic Agent at Durazzo.

A meeting of the Persia Committee was held on the 10th inst. at the House of Commons. Lord Lamington, President of the Committee, was in the chair, and there were also present Mr. J. Dillon, M.P., Mr. T. E. Harvey, M.P., Mr. Philip Morrell, M.P., Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., Sir J. F. L. Rolleston, M.P., Professor E. G. Browne, Mr. G. P. Gooch, Mr. Holford Knight, Mr. C. J. O'Donnel, Mr. M. Phillips Price, Mr. G. D. Turner, and Mr. Frederick Whelen. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this Committee strongly protests against the reported collection and appropriation of Customs by Russian Agents in the Province of Azerbaijan in North Persia, as a grave breach of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, and calls on his Majesty's Government to make representations to that effect."

We regret to announce that Mr. Bennet Burleigh, the famous War Correspondent, died at Bexhill on Wednesday. Since 1882, when his long association with *The Daily Telegraph* began, he has represented that journal as War Correspondent in most of the wars that have been fought in every part of the world. After his return from the late Balkan Campaign his health broke down, and he never completely recovered afterwards.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

DEMETRIADI.—On June 14, at Little Mynthurst Farm, Charlwood, Surrey, the wife of S. C. Demetriadi, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

WODEHOUSE-TYRRELL.—On June 10, at St. Jude's, South Kensington, by the Rev. Prebendary Eardley-Wilmot and the Rev. F. Evans, vicar of Lynchmere, Sussex, Clarence John d'Everton Berkeley, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Berkeley Wodehouse, of Larnaca, Cyprus, and Penlonallaw, Rhayader, Wales, to Gladys Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tyrrell, of Penwith, Shottermill, Surrey.

GILLIAT-SMITH—SKERRETT.—On June 10, at San Camillo, Rome, by his Eminence Cardinal Gasquet, Guy Basil Gilliat-Smith, his Majesty's Consular Service, younger son of Mr. Gilliat-Smith, Rome, to Kathleen, only daughter of the late Charles Percival Skerrett, of Finavara, Co. Clare.

DEATH.

NORRIS.—On June 7, of heart failure, near Accra, Cyril Aubrey Norris, assistant engineer, Gold Coast Railway Extensions, late of Assouan, Egypt; Lagos, West Africa; and Lewes, Sussex.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.
At foot of the Great Pyramids.

GRAND HOTEL, HELOUAN.
Excellent Family Hotel, adjoining Golf Links.

HOTEL DES BAINS, HELOUAN.
Opposite Sulphur Baths Establishment.

HOTEL CASINO, SAN STEFANO.
Near Alexandria. Favourite Bathing Resort.

CAIRO.

HELIOPOLIS PALACE HOTEL.
The most luxurious and comfortable Hotel in the world.
Connected with the centre of Cairo by the Electric Metropolitan (10 minutes' journey).
Altitude, 40 metres above the Nile valley.
Splendid view over Cairo.
GOLF, POLO, CRICKET. HIPPODROME in vicinity of Hotel.
Under the same management—
HELIOPOLIS HOUSE,
A first-class Family Hotel, with moderate terms.

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Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*. French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 50 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
Proprietor and Manager—AUG. van HILLEGOM.

Alexandria.

CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.
Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.
Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.
Patronised by the Elite.
Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. Full Pension P.T. 80 per day.
G. AQUILINA, *Proprietor.*
(Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

ZWEISIMMEN (SWITZERLAND).

HOTEL KRONE & KURHAUS
A GOOD FAMILY HOTEL.
Newly Renovated and Enlarged.
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Pension from Frcs. 6.
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Orchestra. Large Gardens.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1914.

THE ÆGEAN CRISIS.

The peace which not many months ago was ratified between Turkey and Greece without conviction has since been maintained without enthusiasm. It was one thing for Turkey to yield to the logic of events when it was driven home with the united forces at the Allies' disposal; it was another thing for the Committee of Union and Progress to find itself at loggerheads with Greece alone and to be compelled to accept peace more or less on her terms. That peace has never been kept in spirit, any more than the Balkan States have conformed with the provisions of the Berlin Treaty in regard to the equal rights of religious or national minorities. Almost before the ink on the treaties which brought the two Balkan wars to a close was dry the various countries had with one accord set about to rid themselves of their neighbours' nationals. Greece and Servia expelled Bulgars, Bulgaria expelled Turks, Turkey expelled Greeks from their respective territories. The earlier victims were the Bulgarians, but their protests passed more or less unheeded, as Europe was wearied of the subject of Balkan excesses, and had abandoned the attempt to adjudicate between charges and counter charges. When the Turks began the systematic expulsion of Greeks from Eastern Thrace, Greece found the process less to her liking than when she was herself merely expelling Bulgars from her own territory. She began to protest loudly against the action of the Turkish authorities, but the stream of refugees had already reached formidable proportions when the Porte found itself compelled to listen to the Greek complaints and an investigation of the state of affairs in Thrace was undertaken. The marked success of the policy had turned the heads of the Turkish authorities. Military exigencies had prompted the expulsion of Greeks from their European frontiers; racial antipathy alone stirred them up to extend the system to Asia Minor. While regrets were being expressed and amends promised for the "misunderstandings" in Thrace, compulsory emigration became the *mot d'ordre* along the Asiatic coast, and the policy was carried out with even greater vigour than in Europe. Not only was the prestige of Greece affected, but a serious drain was placed upon her resources by having to make provision for thousands of refugees. As representations to the Porte produced little effect, the Greek Government felt obliged to adopt more radical measures.

Apart from the immediate problem presented by the refugees, Turco-Greek relations had necessarily undergone steady deterioration owing to the fact that the fate of the Ægean Islands was still left an open question. Both countries have made strenuous efforts to increase their naval strength, as much with a view to the settlement of that question as with an eye to future eventualities. But Greece, while possessing the advantage in naval programmes, has been outpaced by her rival in the acquisition of large ships. In a few months' time Turkey is due to receive two new battleships, while all attempts on the part of Greece to purchase similar vessels ready-made have failed. If war is to be inevitable, Greece sees it to be to her interests that it should not be delayed. The Government has, therefore, addressed an emphatic Note to Turkey, and has plainly hinted that it does not shrink from the contemplation of war in defence of Greek rights in Asia Minor. Until the Turkish reply to the Note has been given there is no need for undue pessimism. Public feeling in Greece has been roused to fever pitch by the reports of the extent to which the expulsion of Greeks has been carried out, and of the sufferings inflicted upon the refugees. Mr. Venizelos, the Prime Minister, has only just succeeded in weathering the political storm which his policy in regard to Epirus created, and it would be impossible for him to present other than a resolute front to the Turkish persecution of Greeks. But it is not easy to foresee the practical effects of a declaration of war between the two countries. The Greek navy is not likely to be in a position to force the passage of the Dardanelles, and the Greek army will not be anxious for a campaign in Asia Minor. Greece has already occupied all the Ægean Islands which Italy failed to seize, and even if a bombardment of the Asiatic coast were a practical proposition more damage would be done to Greek and foreign property than to Turkish. A blockade of the coast and the Straits might be enforced, but a condition of stalemate would ensue, which would again be more prejudicial to foreign than to Ottoman interests. But while the Greek forces might be unable to engage the Turkish army or navy, the Greek population of Asia Minor would be at the mercy of the Turks, and a more serious state of affairs would arise than the one which the Greeks are now anxious to remedy.

Our faith in Greek statesmanship under the direction of Mr. Venizelos is, therefore, strong enough to warrant the belief that a way will be found out of the present difficulty without a resort to hostilities. Turkey, for her part, can have little desire to provoke a conflict at this stage, least of all over a question in which officially or unofficially she has acted in an unjustifiable manner. The strategic reasons that rendered a purely Turkish population on the Thracian frontier desirable have no counterpart in the case of Asia Minor, and the Porte, having admitted the error of its ways in Thrace, cannot hope to adduce sufficient justification of the persecutions in Asia Minor to defend a resort to war. A conciliatory reply from the Turkish Government will enable "face" to be saved on each side. Some small indemnity for damage to individual property might be paid with good grace by Turkey; but in the light of Bulgarian experiences in Macedonia Greece cannot press her claims for redress too far home, while the possibility of the extent of the actual damage done having been exaggerated must not be overlooked. Europe, with the experience of the Balkan wars behind her, will maintain in future a far more dispassionate attitude on the subject of Turkish sins and excesses. No one will attempt to justify, either on moral, political, or economic grounds, the policy which the Porte has adopted in Thrace and Asia Minor. On the other hand, it will not be forgotten that Greece, in a hardly less aggressive form, had previously introduced exactly the same policy in her new possessions in Macedonia. Before the outbreak of the first Balkan War few people would have instituted comparisons between the ethics of the Balkan States and those of Moslem Turkey. But the former by their actions have challenged these comparisons, and do not always emerge favourably from them. Greece, therefore, in any further quarrel with Turkey may expect the ring to be kept for her, but cannot count on the same measure of sympathy as would have been hers if the Bulgars had not been able to complain of Greek persecution in Macedonia. Now that each Government in the Near East has pursued to excess this policy of compulsory emigration of their neighbours' nationals, we may hope that it will have become sufficiently discredited to be abandoned once and for all. The interests of no country will be served by the outbreak of hostilities between Greece and Turkey, and if the two Governments fail to find of their own accord a way of escape out of their present *impasse* their efforts should be supplemented without delay by the good offices of one or more of the Great Powers.

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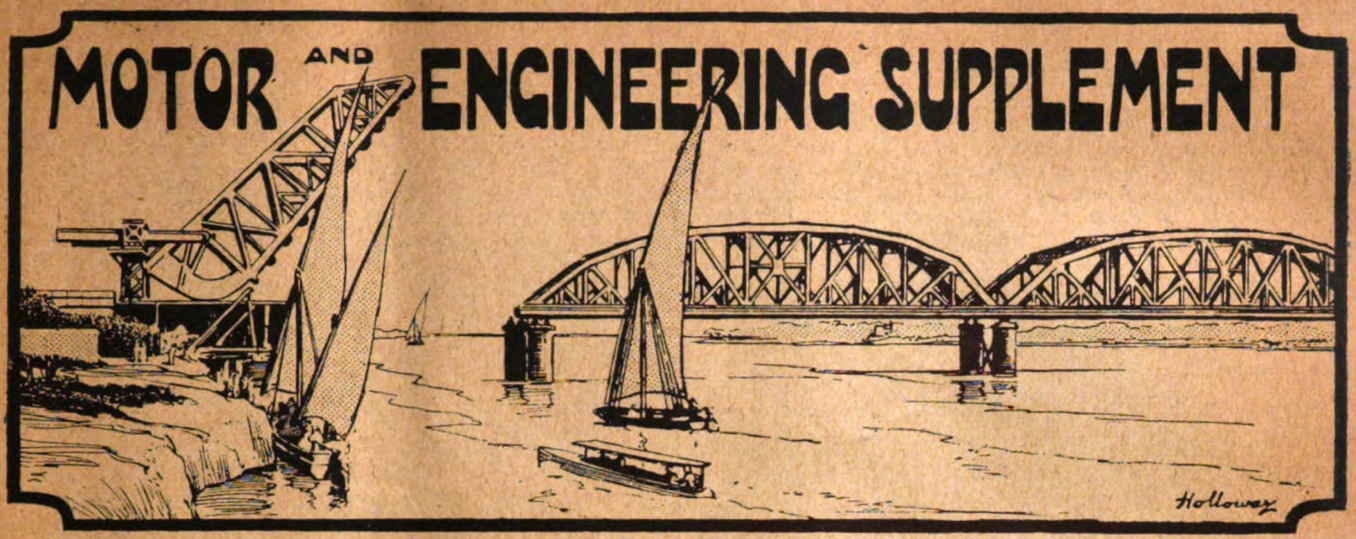

ENGINEERING IN THE NEAR EAST.

IN an article in a former Engineering Supplement (October 10, 1913) we directed the attention of our readers to British superiority in engineering, and made comparison between the American type of locomotive and the British type, with regard more especially to the inferiority of the former in economy of fuel and in wearing qualities.

The question has been asked, "Why, then, have British railways bought and used American locomotives?" The answer to this question is easy. These American locomotives were acquired because the railways buying them had to provide for an unforeseen increase in the demand for transport, and their existing rolling stock was found to be insufficient to cope with the suddenly inflated requirements.

This occurred at a period when all the British locomotive factories were full of orders, for Britain and for other countries, and were consequently unable to guarantee the speedy delivery stipulated by the buyers of new locomotives. Certain manufacturers of locomotives in the United States, by reason of their standardised system and their comparatively extensive plant, were enabled to promise sufficiently quick delivery, and consequently the railway companies, in their urgent need, were constrained to content themselves with these products, imperfect as they knew them to be.

A Bridge of Boats near the Turco-Persian Frontier.

Where are those makeshift locomotives now? While they have had only a very short period of usefulness, it is not an unknown incident for a British-built locomotive that has been working in the Near East for thirty years to be rejuvenated by the fitting of a new boiler, the engineer-in-charge finding that the old "motion" has plenty of life left in it yet.

The superior quality of British work does not come by chance. Its character is the outcome of many years of development, of sustained effort guided by experience. The British machine is designed and constructed to do its work well, and to continue doing it for a long time, to be economical in upkeep and easy to repair. Theory pure and simple, the theory of the Technical College, does not enter too largely into its design, because its makers have practice and experience to guide them—the bases upon which theories are founded.

Excellence in material and workmanship cannot be achieved without care and expense. British work is therefore not always cheap in first cost; and shortsighted users sometimes prefer its lower-priced rivals on account of the smaller initial expenditure of capital. But in the long run the British work, designed and built to last, is the cheaper, and is all the time more satisfactory to those who use it for industrial and profit-earning purposes.

Following the restoration of peace, industrial activity has naturally revived in the Near East; and it behoves the British manufacturer and contractor to be on the alert in order to secure such good orders as are to be obtained. Our Continental rivals are not neglecting the opportunity; and our readers will gather from the pages of this Supplement many indications of their activity in various directions. We try to perform our part in the fight for the trade of the Near East by giving publicity, but this has to be aided and supplemented by the efforts of the British manufacturer to make it as easy as compatible with good business for the user to buy and to get delivery of the machinery he requires.

It should not be impossible for the proprietors of a number of interests, various and not conflicting, to combine for the purpose of creating a joint representation in each country of the Near East. This representation would serve to disseminate particular and accurate information regarding the goods dealt with, and would collect information about the buyers and their needs. Deferred payments are often suggested, and sometimes have to be accepted, or the business declined. This representation would facilitate decision on the subject of credit or no credit, and when credit was given, would be able to help in financing, being domiciled in the country.

The British manufacturer and contractor would do well to give Egypt a large share of his attention. The development of the resources of that country has progressed under good government, and a great opportunity arises for British enterprise; especially, perhaps, in the direction of pumps for irrigation, gas and steam engines, and motor transport. Egypt now possesses good roads, suitable for motor vehicles, and the makers of cars, vans, and cycles should therefore secure good business. In motor construction, as in other branches of engineering, the British maker is in the forefront for quality and endurance; and the establishment of business relations, agencies, credits, etc., is easier in Egypt than in some other parts of the Near East. This journal will always be pleased to furnish information to manufacturers desirous of opening business relations with any country.

Roumania is worthy of close attention. The country continues to make rapid progress, affording attractive opportunities to the engineer. As the mineral wealth of the nation is realised the needful funds for engineering enterprise may be more readily forthcoming than they are at present.

Servia and Bulgaria have always been good buyers of industrial and agricultural machinery and implements, and now that peace has been established, and every effort is being made by their respective Governments for the development of the productive resources of their old and new territories, there will be a considerable demand for all kinds of machinery, especially those for agricultural purposes. In both these countries the highest opinion is entertained of British engines and machinery, and manu-

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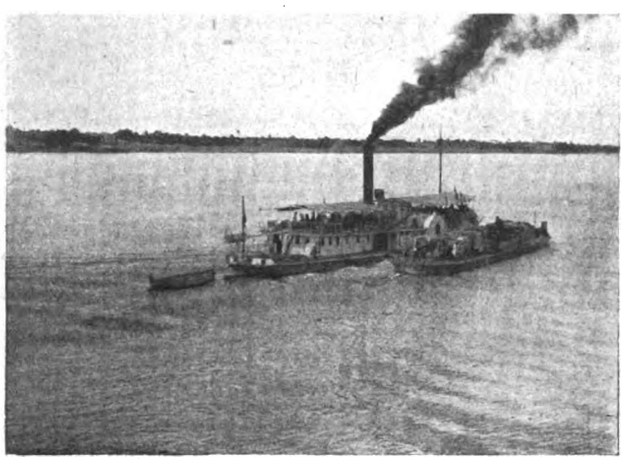
facturers of these should act promptly. The erroneous idea that in these, as in other countries of the Near East, long credits are required must not stay the efforts of British manufacturers to secure orders in these two agricultural countries. All the world loves a little credit, or the semblance of being trusted; but, as we have pointed out in our Engineering columns, while credit is more or less demanded by buyers of dry goods, etc., the *real* buyers of industrial and agricultural machinery, who in the Near East are usually landowners or men of some means, pay cash, or give ample security for any credit that may be accorded to them. Can one imagine that, in view of the present cutting down of prices, the foreign manufacturer is capable of risking, or can afford to sell on credit, more readily than the British? Another factor to be considered is the existence of co-operation. For instance, in Servia the agricultural co-operative system has been in operation for some years now, and some time ago there were over 300 co-operative agricultural societies which help agriculturists, their members, in buying what machinery, etc., may be required for their estates or small-holdings. Continental firms avail themselves of these societies; and where such societies do not exist the moneylender or capitalist of the district is ready to help, on very reasonable terms, the countryman in buying what he wants. We repeat here what we have often said before: Let British manufacturers approach, directly, the *real* buyers and users of machinery, and they will see the results. Possibly they will realise that they are as safe as in this country. The actual engineering requirements of the different countries with which THE NEAR EAST concerns itself are described in some detail in the following pages. We may therefore conclude this introductory note by mentioning only a few outstanding features which the manufacturer desiring to enter the market would do well to bear in mind.



A Steamer of the Turkish Fleet en route to Baghdad.

Steam engines are still preferred in some districts of Servia, Bulgaria, and Roumania, and even in Egypt, but as a rule oil engines have a marked preference, especially tractors for ploughs, etc., and for driving threshing machines, flour mills, pumps, frame saws, etc.

Water wheels and turbines, also mining machinery and contractors' portable railways, stone-breakers, etc., are at present needed in Macedonia and Thrace (Greece and Bulgaria). Windmills for pumping water for irrigation and for cattle are required in Bulgaria and Roumania. It is advisable that manufacturers answering inquiries should bear in mind that often, if not always, buyers themselves do not know exactly what to order, although they know what they want, and some extra pains in answering, with full particulars as to the size, capabilities, etc., of each machine, often bring the order home.

MOTOR-BOATS IN BULGARIA.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes:—

There are not more than two or three motor-boats at present in the Black Sea ports of Varna and Burgas, but there are excellent prospects in this line of business as regards Bulgaria's new ports of Dedeagatch and Porto Lagos in the Ægean, where motor-boats could be utilised to great advantage. Probably a most profitable business could be built up there if some British company were sufficiently enterprising to obtain a concession from the Bulgarian Government for establishing a factory here. The freedom from customs dues alone would be an adequate compensation for the capital so employed. Bulgaria is weary of Continental States after the great disaster she suffered, and the prevailing tendency is to turn towards England, with whom there is a desire to establish close commercial and political relations. It is up to the commercial community of England to notice this favourable moment for commencing business in Bulgaria.

"THE NEAR EAST" AND ENGINEERING.

The "Engineering Notes" which are one of the regular features of THE NEAR EAST aim at giving in readable form information that shall be of interest to both users and makers of agricultural and factory machinery, of engines of every description, of motor-cars, motor-launches, pumps, electrical fittings, etc., etc. They report also engineering works undertaken or likely to be undertaken in the countries with which THE NEAR EAST concerns itself, and under the heading of "Tenders Invited" particulars are given of contracts open in those countries which are likely to attract British firms.

Amongst the subjects dealt with in its columns this year the following may be mentioned:—"Bridges and Roads in Epirus" (January 3), "Cairo-Khartoum Air Service" (March 6), "Baghdad Electric Lighting" (April 17), "Diarbekir Copper Mines" (May 1), "Prospecting in N. Persia" (May 15), "Pumps in Egypt" (April 24), "Sun Power in Egypt" (April 10), "Egyptian Ploughs in India" (March 13), "Agricultural Implements in Asia Minor" (March 6), "Motor Cycles in Egypt" (April 24), "Motor-Cars in S. Greece" (May 8), "Motor-Boats in Bulgaria" (April 24), "Sudan Irrigation Works" (May 1), "Mex Pumping Station" (May 1), "Ispahan Telephone" (May 8), and "Egypt Wireless Station" (May 15).

The foregoing list of titles, taken at random, will serve to give an idea of the variety of topics dealt with in the "Engineering Notes." In addition to these regular notes, special articles on engineering topics appear frequently as occasion offers. For instance, we may mention "The Oil Fields of Mesopotamia," which appeared in the issues of March 20 and March 27, and gave what may fairly be described as the first authoritative account of the subject published in this country. Other recent articles include: "Cyprus Government Railway" (May 22), "Lebanon Telephones" (May 1), "Communications in Servia" (May 22), "Greek Railway Extension" (March 27), "The Ports of Cyprus" (April 3), "Oil Engines in Mesopotamia" (April 24), and "Servian Railway Construction" (May 22). "British Enterprise in Mesopotamia," a description of the irrigation works upon the Euphrates (January 30), and "Great Britain and Persia: The New Oil Contract," giving particulars of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's works and the Admiralty contract (May 29), were special illustrated supplements of much interest.

OPENINGS FOR MACHINERY IN GREECE.

The following information is from the report by H.M. Consul for the Piræus (Mr. W. J. Norcop) on the trade of that district in 1913, quoted in the *Board of Trade Journal:* The agricultural districts in Macedonia, Epirus, and the Islands offer openings for a good trade in machinery, flour mills, oil mills, and gas motors for working small plants, as well as in electric tramways and motor-omnibuses for carrying mails and passengers in districts where there are no railways, etc. The business that can be done in Greece is very important and of great value, and United Kingdom engineers and firms should do their utmost to secure at least part of these orders. Goods should be brought direct to the buyer's notice by advertisements, and by efficient representatives, who could explain the working of the machines and help buyers to obtain what is suited to their needs. Credit may be given against security to bonâ-fide agriculturists or proprietors of industrial establishments. United Kingdom machinery, implements, and all kinds of goods and articles have always received a marked preference in Greece; but the better methods adopted by foreign competitors, who have a thorough knowledge of trade conditions in Greece, tend to diminish the opportunities of United Kingdom firms.

Ismailabad Bridge, on Teheran-Kum Road, when in course of construction.

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THE RAILWAYS OF BULGARIA.

EXISTING AND PROJECTED LINES.

PART I.—EXISTING LINES.

(By a Correspondent.)

THE development of the Bulgarian railways affords one of the most striking examples of the wonderful progress made by the country during the last forty years, both from the commercial and industrial point of view. When the Treaty of Berlin was signed, the two provinces of Bulgaria proper and Eastern Roumelia, which were welded later into the modern kingdom, contained only two railways which were not connected in any way with each other. These two lines linked up Rustchuk with Varna (length, about 125 miles; constructed by an English company and opened November, 1860) and Belovo with Yamboli via Seimen. This line, which was known as the "Chemin de Fer Oriental en Roumélie Orientale," had been made and opened at different times in sections, as this table will show:—

Table A.—Eastern Roumelian Railway, 199 Miles.

	Length.	Date of Opening.
A.—Scobolevo-Seimen to the frontier...	60 miles	Dec., 1872
B.—Philippopolis-Scobolevo	35 miles	June, 1873
C.—Tatar Pazardjik-Philippopolis	22 miles	March, 1873
D.—Bolovo-T. Pazardjik	16 miles	May, 1873
E.—Tirnovo-Seimen-Yamboli.....	66 miles	Oct., 1874

With independence secured, the Bulgarian Government at once paid the closest attention to the construction of railways, and as a preliminary step submitted a Bill sanctioning State control of all railways and means of communication, which was passed by the Sobranje and became law in 1885. Certain obligations, however, imposed on the country by the Treaty of Berlin had first to be met, and in the same year the Government began to construct the line from the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier, which runs from Tsaribrod to Sofia and on eastwards, and now forms a section of the great European highway to Constantinople. The Tsaribrod-Sofia portion (about 100 miles) was opened in June 1888, and cost in all £702,532. At the same time the Bulgarian Government leased from Turkey the line running from Vakarel to Belovo and from the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer Orientaux the following section from Belovo to Sarambey. Further Treaty obligations had already necessitated the purchase of the Rustchuk-Varna line, and this had been taken over in 1886 at the cost of £2,062,328. These rented sections were finally bought outright in 1909 by the Bulgarian Government, after the recognition of the independence of the kingdom by the Powers, at a cost of £1,684,476.

During this intervening period Bulgaria has busied herself with her own development, as the table appended will show:—

Table B.—Bulgarian State Lines, 788 Miles.

Lines already constructed.	Length in miles.	Date of opening.	Cost.
1. Yamboli—Burgas	46	May, 1890	£452,544
2. Sofia—Pernik and Pernik Mines	21	Dec., 1893	£232,672
3. Shumla—Kaspitchan	15	June, 1895	£104,120
4. Pernik—Radomir	10	Feb., 1897	£39,520
5. Sofia—Roman	45	Feb., 1897	£1,124,588
6. Gebedse—Devnja	5	Nov., 1898	£11,404
7. Roman—Plevna	50	July, 1899	£1,150,076
8. Yassen—Somovit	21	Sept., 1899	£29,352
9. Plevna—Shumla	150	Oct., 1899	—
10. Tchirpan—Nova Zagora...	50	Sept., 1900	£304,216
11. Rustchuk—Tirnovo	80	Oct., 1900	£548,556
12. Sliven—Zimnitza	16	May, 1907	£46,504
13. Radomir—Kustendil	34	July, 1909	£150,800
14. Levski—Sistova	30	Aug., 1909	£168,688
15. Tirnovo—Platchkovtzi ...	30	July, 1910	£585,796
Platchkovtzi-Boroushtitza	14		
16. Stara Zagora-Boroushtitza	35	Aug., 1911	£469,600
17. Philippopolis—Tchirpan ...	36	Oct., 1910	£261,080
18. Devna—Dobritch	11	Dec., 1911	£109,520
19. Tzarevalivada—Gabrovo ...	11	Dec., 1911	£109,520
20. Mezdra — Vratza — Lom Palanka	78	1913	—

It will be seen from these figures that Bulgaria has spared no efforts and has already spent £12,732,600 to develop her means of communication as quickly as possible. Neither strategic nor economic interests have been neglected in the general plan of construction. The central circle Sofia-Plevna-Tirnovo-Stara-Zagora-Sofia (which only requires the linking up of a few miles to be completed) opens up the heart of the country. The line which at present ends just beyond Kustendil may have a great future if the bitterness and ill-feeling bred by the war between the Allies can be mitigated by time and some arrangement made with Greece and Servia. Unfortunately, this line, if continued, will traverse the very country which was the subject of dispute, and it is much to be feared that the two allied nations will strain every nerve towards the isolation of Bulgaria, rather than give the least aid when commercial interests are at stake. If this is so, Bulgaria must console herself with the reflection that the line brought through the Deve Bair pass will still be of the utmost value in case of mobilisation.

Further east the main route to the Orient runs through Philippopolis, which commands the approach to Turkey. Varna and Burgas are two useful trade outlets on the Black Sea, as Rustchuk, Sistova, and Somovit are on the Danube. These two latter towns will be most important when the uncompleted lines are opened up, and, doubtless, Bulgaria will pay especial attention to that region in the hope of compensating in some degree for the loss of that valuable Silistria district. The hitherto neglected north-western corner will also benefit by the new lines.

Bulgarian State Railways.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenses.	Profits.
	£	£	£
1896	171,868	162,068	9,800
1905	446,836	294,884	151,952
1908	572,732	493,268	79,464
1909	793,208	554,944	238,264
1910	904,548	590,008	314,540
1911	1,104,244	694,692	409,552

PART II.—THE PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTION.

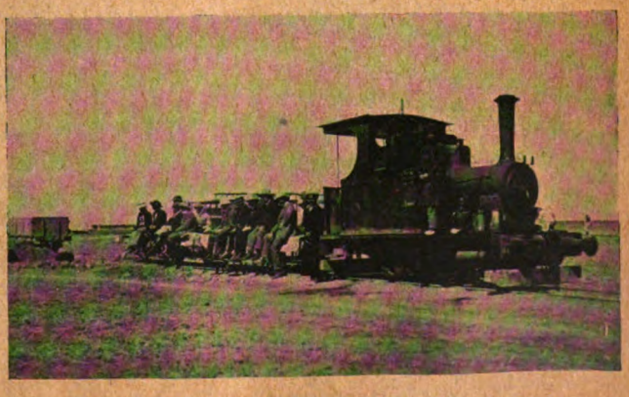
(By Our Special Correspondent in the Balkans.)

The following details concerning present and future plans are based on information kindly placed at my disposal by the chief of the Bulgarian Railway Construction Department. Many of the projects mentioned therein date from before the war, more particularly those amplifying the northern system; others, again, are the result of the change in the map of Bulgaria. The constructions interrupted by the war are four in number, totalling approximately 140 km., and are now building. They are:—

Table D.—Lines Now Under Construction, 87 Miles.

	Length in Miles.	Estimated Cost.
(α) Drazinia-Vidin	53	About £330,000
(β) Ferdinand-Berkovitza	15	,, £93,400
(γ) Kazanlik-Tulovo.....	10	—
(δ) Somovit-Nikopoli	—	—

It is expected that these lines will have been completed by the end of the year. The total length of the Bulgarian State Railway system in exploitation will then be 2,298 km., exclusive of 196.7 km. of the Jonction Salonique-Constantinople across Bulgarian Thrace, and 6.1 km. of the Orient Railway between the old and new Turco-Bulgarian frontiers. The fate of these lines is still doubtful, but the following report has reached me:—The Orient Railway Company is negotiating with the Jonction Salonique-Constantinople for the purchase of the line, with a view, doubtless, to repeat



The First Locomotive in Southern Persia.

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the financial operation so profitable in connection with the Servian Orient system. In competent Sofia circles there is no immediate desire to acquire the Bulgarian section of the line. The matter will be discussed in Paris when the conference—which I understand has again been postponed till October—finally meets. The value of the section in question can be roughly estimated at from £6,000—£8,000 per kilometre. At present traffic on this line, which was primarily strategic, is nil.

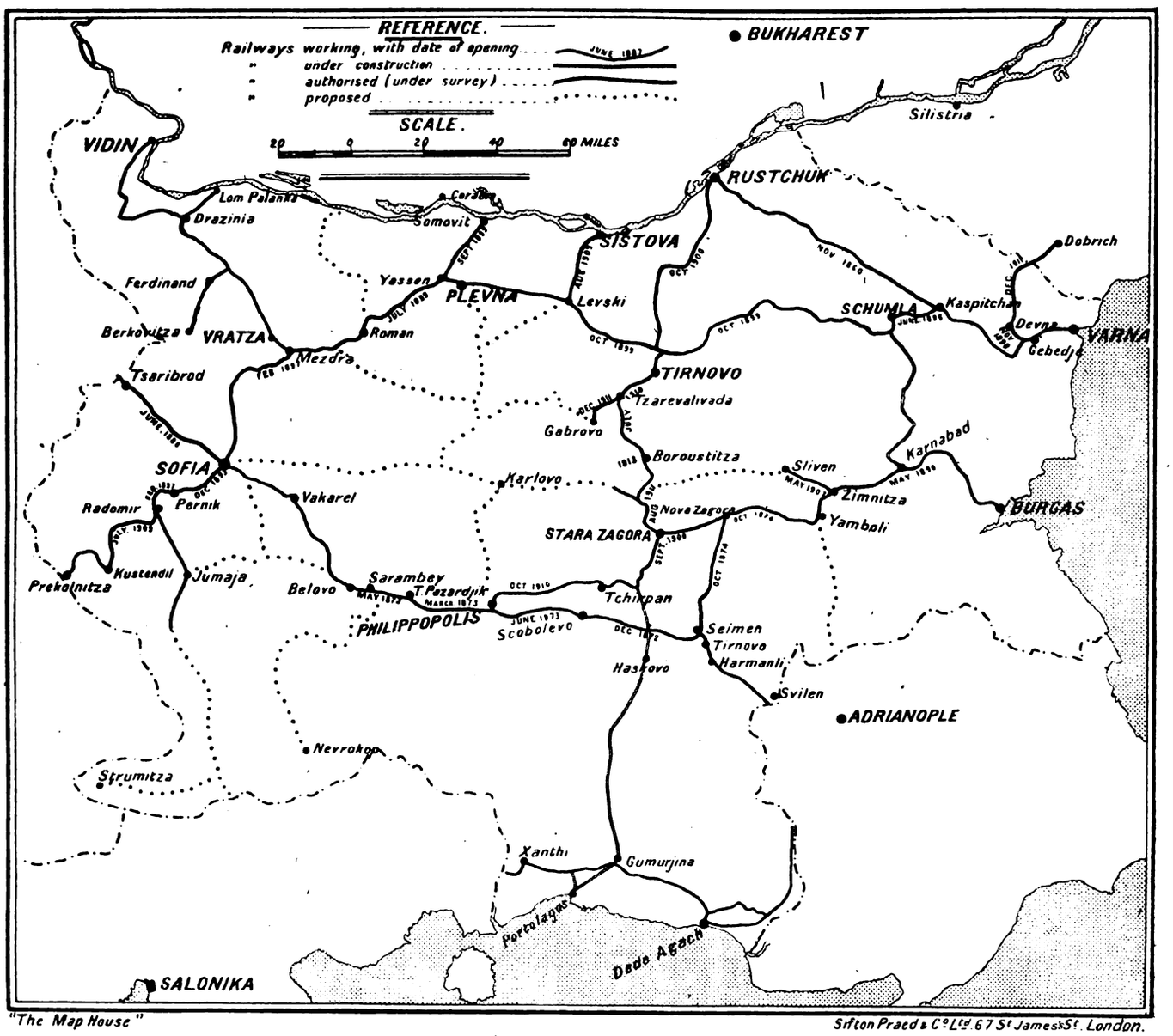
The total length of lines to be constructed is expected to be at least 1,140 miles, and the expenditure necessitated thereby is estimated as being approximately £9,320,000. It may here be stated that the usual procedure followed in Bulgaria in the matter of railway construction is by the publication of an open tender, the work generally going to the lowest bidder. Government payments are regular, in instalments. Practically all the rails here are of British make, but the rolling stock, as a rule, goes to Continental firms. Of the lines to be built, that linking up [I.] Portolagos with the main line will doubtless be appropriated by the group taking up the new Bulgarian loan. The remaining lines are open to offers, and any big British firm of contractors willing to make one would not only find a welcome here, but would be able to do a profitable piece of work. Apart from the Portolagos line, two lines are to be begun as soon as possible—namely, the prolongation of the [II.] Radomir line to Jumaja, and the [III.] third trans-Balkan line from Shumla to Karnabad. The remaining lines will have to wait until a railway loan has been obtained, but the majority of them will be in exploitation by 1920. At any rate, we should not lose sight of the possibilities offered to British firms in connection with railway construction in Bulgaria.

The line which will link up Bucharest and Sofia over a railway bridge across the Danube belongs to neither of the categories analysed below, considering that its construction will depend on the result of the negotiations between the two countries. The Bulgaro-Roumanian project meets with greater difficulties owing to the fact that the Bulgarian bank of the Danube, generally speaking, is higher than the Roumanian, and can therefore command the northern approach. Aware of their strategic inferiority on these grounds, the Roumanians have disapproved of all schemes excepting one—namely, the construction of the bridge near the mouth of the Isker River, one of the Bulgarian tributaries of the Danube. But even so, there are differences of opinion between the two countries, the Roumanians wishing to build the bridge to the east of the mouth and the Bulgarians to the west. If the former site is chosen, the Bulgarian approach will have to be constructed across a marsh, necessitating a costly viaduct; in the case of the alternative, the Bulgarian position will command the bridge. Should the Isker site, as seems now probable, be eventually determined upon, the Bulgarians will have to build a 70 km. line along the lower Isker valley, starting from Kumakova, where the Sofia-Rustchuk line leaves the Isker.

TABLE E.—LINES AUTHORISED AND UNDER SURVEY, 233 MILES.

	Length in Miles.	Estimated Cost.
[I.] Michaelovo-Krumovo-Portolagos (Generally called "Haskovo-Portolagos Line.")	123 ...	About £1,400,000
[II.] Radomir-Dupnitza-Jumaja	40 ...	—
[III.] Shumla-Karnabad	70 ...	—

[I.] This is the most important of the immediate lines, as it will constitute the shortest line between the Danube (Rustchuk) and the Ægean Sea (Portolagos). It will cut Bulgaria in two halves from north to south, and be the making of the new port. The line to be constructed will start at the station Michaelovo, on the Stara-Zagora-Philippopolis section of the Balkan line, follow the course of a river in a southerly direction to the Maritza, which it will cross on a bridge near Krumovo. The same direction will be maintained as far as Gumurjina, on the Salonika-Constantinople line. Three watersheds will have to be crossed, the most important being the Rhodope. Between



"The Map House" Sifton Praed & Co Ltd. 67 St James's St. London.

THE RAILWAYS OF BULGARIA.

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Haskovo and Gumurjina two big tunnels will be necessary, one of 1,700 metres and the other of 2,800 metres. From Gumurjina the line will follow the course of the Karaja Su to Portolagos, which will also be linked up with Jalumlik, on the line between Xanthé and Gumurjina. Both the harbour at Portolagos and the line are to be completed by 1917. Two large bridges will have to be built—one across the Maritza and the other across the Arda.

[II.] The Radomir-Dupnitza-Jumaja line is the first immediate section of a (L) line intending eventually to link up Strumitza with Sofia. From Dupnitza it will follow the course of the Dzermoeno River, one of the affluents of the Struma, to its union with the latter, and then follow the Struma valley to Jumaja, later on to the Greek frontier; a branch line will eventually run up the Strumitza valley to Strumitza. The total length of the line when completed will be approximately 200 km.

[III.] The third of the trans-Balkan lines is the first section of a north-and-south line between the Roumanian and Turkish frontiers, eventually between Silistria and Adrianople; its immediate value will be the shortening by rail of the distance between Varna and Burgas and between Burgas and the Danube. The other sections of this line will be:—(A) Jamboli to the Turkish frontier along the course of the Tunja River (60 km.); and (B) from Kaspitchan northwards to the Roumanian frontier (approximately 60 km.).

TABLE F.—PROPOSED LINES OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE (790 MILES).

A.—Jamboli—Tunja Valley—Turkish frontier.
B.—Kaspitchan—Dobruja frontier.
C.—Sofia—Kaslovo—Sliven.
D.—Plevna—Karlovo—Philippopolis.
E,—Sevlijevo—Trojan—Roman.
F.—Sevlijevo—Lovetch.
G.—Lovetch—Osem Valley Link,
H.—Bjela Slatina—Rahovo Branch.
I.—Sofia—Samakov—Dupnitza.
J.—Samakov—Kostenetz.
K.—Sarambey—Nevrokop.
L.—Jumaja—Strumitza.

The Sofia-Sliven line (C) is a pre-war project, which it is hoped will be realised shortly. It will skirt the southern slopes of the Balkan Mountains, and give railway communication to Pirdop, Klisura, Karlovo, and Kaofer, and bring Kazanlik, Sliven Karnabad, and Burgas nearer to Sofia. At Karlovo the line is to be crossed by (D) a fourth trans-Balkan north-and-south line from Plevna, via Lovetch and Trojan, to Philippopolis. Trojan, on the other hand, is to be linked up (E) with Roman, on the Sofia-Plevna line, and ultimately also with Sevlijevo. As this district, between Lovetch, Sevlijevo, and Gabrovo, is the Manchester of Bulgaria, it is intended to link up the three towns mentioned by rail. This line (F) ought to be a paying proposition. Further, Sevlijevo is ultimately to be connected by a branch line [a] along the valley of the Roshitza River with the Plevna-Varna line, and (G) Lovetch with the same line along the valley of the Osem River (43 km.). [b] from Roman, mentioned above, a branch line is in course of time to follow the Rebres River, a tributary of the Isker, to Novacin, and then turn to the south-east via Orhanje to Etropole (57 km.).

Apart from the Isker Valley project referred to elsewhere, there is another project (H) for linking up Rahovo on the Danube with the Sofia-Plevna line. It will in the main follow the course of the Skit River, and pass through Bjela Slatina.

At present Samokov, to the south-east of Sofia, has no railway line. It is, however, to be made the centre of three lines (I), one to the north along the Isker to Sofia, a second to the west, partly along the Dzermoeno, to Dupniza, and a third (J) to the east, along the Maritza, to link up with the Sofia-Philippopolis line at Kostenetz.

Some time before the war it had been decided to construct a line (K) from Sarambey, on the Sofia-Philippopolis line, to the old Turco-Bulgarian frontier. This project is now to be prolonged across the watershed into and along the Mesta Valley, as far as Nevrokop, near the Greek frontier. The total length will be about 135 km.

The following are, with their respective lengths, the minor branch lines, which it is intended to construct:—

TABLE G.—PROPOSED LINES OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE (194? MILES).

(These are not indicated on the annexed map.)

[a].—Sevlijevo—Roshitza Valley Link	27
[b].—Roman—Orhanje—Etropole	35
[c].—Panaginrishte—Tatar Pararjik—Pestera	38
[d].—Philippopolis—Stanimaka	7
[e].—Kozarevetz—Elena	20
[f].—Eskijumaja—Osmanpazar	20
[g].—Preslav—Verbitza	21
[h].—Zimnitza—Kotel	31

THE MOTOR-CAR INDUSTRY IN BULGARIA.

(BY OUR SOFIA CORRESPONDENT.)

MOTOR-CARS were first introduced into Bulgaria in 1905, when a luxurious 40-h.p. Mercédès was purchased for the royal household. At the end of the year's trial on the rough roads of the country the car proved quite satisfactory, and in 1906 two landaulettes of the same make, of 45 and 35 h.p., respectively, were procured. Three years later a luggage car was added of 35 h.p., capable of carrying a ton, also a landaulette of 25 h.p. and a Fiat landaulette of 14 h.p. Next year an Itala car of 70 h.p. was ordered (this car being covered in) and also a Mercédès 65 h.p. In 1911 an 18-h.p. covered-in Fiat was obtained, together with two 14-h.p. Mercédès, and an 18-h.p. car from the Graf and Stilt Vienna factory. The following year was notable for the purchase of a superbly equipped 90-h.p. Mercédès, capable of climbing the most mountainous roads in the country, a 36-h.p. Daimler, an 18-h.p. Mercédès, and a 35-h.p. Mercédès, the latter car being purchased for the Crown Prince Boris. Last year a 45-h.p. car was ordered from the Knight Zagd-Wagen factory, a 35-h.p. Mercédès omnibus, seating 12 persons, a 21-h.p. sporting car of Mercédès make, and a Mercédès luggage car of 35-h.p.; while this year the Queen has ordered two Mercédès cars. All these cars are housed in magnificent buildings, replete with all the necessary repairing equipment.

As a natural result of the introduction of motor-cars into the royal household motor-cars were also introduced into various part of the country, and their use spread so rapidly that when Bulgaria mobilised against Turkey in 1912 no fewer than 76 cars (including those belonging to soldiers) were obtained from private persons in the capital alone.

Motor-cars have been considerably utilised in establishing communications with towns which are out of touch with the railways, as, for instance:—

(i) In Southern Bulgaria. Philippopolis—Stanimuka; Philippopolis—Carlovo; Philippopolis—Kazinlik (the famous Valley of the Roses) and thence to Shipka Pass; Rakovsky—Haskovo; Tatar Pozareljik—Panagurishe; Tatar Pozareljik—Peshtera; Tanbolj—Kazilagatch; and from Burgas to the Burgas Hot Springs.

(ii) In Western Bulgaria. Sofia—Samokov; Sofia—Banki; Sofia—Orhanie; Randomir—Dubnitza; Dubnitza—Kustendil; Dubnitza—Gornia Djoumaya; Widin—Lom; Widin—Berkovitza; Vratza—Berkovitza; and Ferdinand—Berkovitza.

(iii) In Northern Bulgaria. Orhanie—Mezdra; Orehovo—Tcherven; Greg—Teteven; Pleven—Lovitch; Gabrovo—Sivlievo; and Eski-Djoumaya—Osman Pazar.

As the hills are very severe in this country, the gradient being sometimes as much as 1 in 12½, motor-cars, to be of any use, must be of from 20 to 30-h.p. Motor-cars with higher horse-power are, however, rare. At the mobilisation referred to the motor-cars forming the service between the above towns were all requisitioned, and, together with those gathered at Sofia, were found to number 148.

The cars mentioned above have been furnished by the following firms:—(i) British: Humber, Napier, Wolseley, Rex, Simplex, Belsize, and Commercial Car Company; (ii) American: Flanders, Ford, and Overland; (iii) German: Benz, Mercédès, Neckarsulm, Brennaber, Sperber, Nag, Fafner, Colibri, Dixi, Horch, Manesmann, Daag, and Opel; (iv) Austrian: Daimler-Mercédès, and Laurin and Clement; (v) French: Clement-Bayard, D.F.P., Berlier, Dietrich, and Schneider; (vi) Italian: Fiat, Diatlo, and Itala.

All the branches here of these companies were left by the war with practically no stock, owing to the Government requisition, but this deficit has now been made good.

The Customs House statistics give Germany as the greatest importer of motor-cars, and then comes Austria, Italy, and America, with England at the bottom of the list. The German and Austrian firms, however, trade in credit and easy terms of payment, and, in consequence, have an enormous advantage over their competitors. The present year has witnessed an influx into Sofia of several new firms, chiefly German, for the supply of motor-cars.

The Direction of Posts here is asking for motor-cars for the transport of the mails in the country, but in this and other departments of the State it is unlikely that the existing need will be quickly satisfied.

PROPOSED ELECTRIC TRAMWAY IN TRIPOLIS.

A communication from the Belgian Consulate-General at Smyrna states that a group of capitalists at Tripolis, in Syria, has put forward a request to the authorities for a concession for an electric tramway service in the town. The length of the line would be six kilometres.

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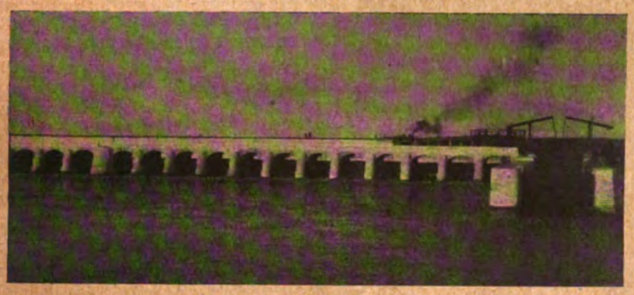
OPENINGS FOR ENGINEERS IN ASIATIC TURKEY.

THERE are many who think that the loss of the European provinces to Turkey means the economic crippling of the Ottoman Empire, and that Turkey has been driven back into a strip of land in Asia. Yet Asiatic Turkey covers 1,800,000 square kilometres, an area three times larger than France, with a population of 17 to 18 millions. The most important part of this territory is what is known as Asia Minor, with Syria in the south and Mesopotamia in the east. This region alone will be sufficient, when systematically developed, to bring immense wealth and power to Turkey. Asia Minor, with a population of about 10,000,000, offers almost boundless possibilities of development; and there can be no reasonable doubt that in the near future the



[Photo by courtesy of Messrs. T. S. Blockey & Co.
The Hindieh Barrage.

demand for machinery of many descriptions, already considerable, will increase by leaps and bounds.

The prosperity and prospects of the coastal region, with Smyrna as the principal seat of commerce and industry, are generally known and recognised. But the potentialities of Syria are not generally recognised, by the British manufacturer at least. These wealthy provinces, which "concern" every greedy Western Power—not excluding America—have a population of over three and a-half millions, and contain some of the largest towns of the Ottoman Empire—Damascus (350,000 inhabitants), Aleppo (210,000), and Beyrout (150,000) and many others—where commerce and industry are advancing steadily. The carrying out of the promised reforms will turn Syria into one of the richest provinces, if not the richest, of the Ottoman Empire.

Agricultural Requirements.

In the interior of Syria there is an increasing opening for agricultural machinery and implements. The more important farmers, no longer content with their surface-scratching, native-made ploughs, are now casting them aside for British or American light ploughs. The English plough, when made to suit the soil, is highly esteemed. It should be borne in mind by makers that the whole of Syria, with very little exception, consists of stony, cloggy soil, very uneven, and has only weak, inferior cattle for ploughing purposes. Ploughing by steam and oil tractors has already been introduced with success, but at present the unsettled condition of Eastern affairs and the scarcity of skilled machanics prevent landowners from adopting very freely these expensive methods of cultivation. Reaping machines are in good demand, and the only fault found with the English-made machines is that most of them are not constructed to meet the requirements of the stony and hilly districts so frequent in those parts. This, of course, may be the buyer's fault, through not understanding clearly what he is ordering, or omitting to state the nature of the soil on which he works. Threshing machines are also in good demand; these, however, should always be provided with a straw cutting and bruising apparatus. Oil and wine presses for use throughout Aleppo are being supplied by German and Austrian firms. If British makers paid more attention to the kind and size of these oil presses that are required throughout the Near East, they would find a great market for their production. We have often described in these columns the press most suitable for the olive oil districts of the East. Oil engines, flour mills, pumps, cotton spinning plants, windmills, silk and cotton looms, etc., are also in demand throughout Syria.

"THE NEAR EAST"
publishes each week a page of
ENGINEERING NOTES,
which should be read regularly by all who wish to keep in touch with business openings in the Near East.

MOTOR VEHICLES IN SMYRNA.

(By Our Smyrna Correspondent.)

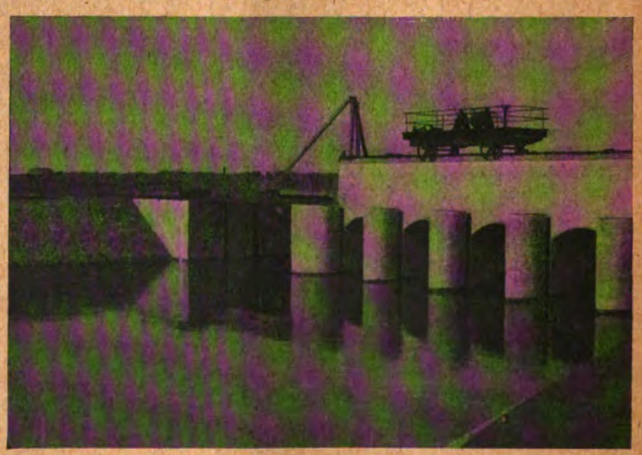
IN most cities the municipality has the right to control and supervise the means of transport of passengers within its limits, both as to the nature of the method of transport and as to the cost thereof to the public. The Smyrna Municipality may have this right, but it does not apparently exercise it—unless, perhaps, to oblige the coachmen to wear a fez and a blue coat with metal buttons. No! unfortunately, Smyrna passenger transport is ruled by a foreign company running an obsolete one-horse tram that would look more in place in a museum than in actual use. The moment one attempts to modernise vehicular traffic and institute a motor-car service for passengers in the public streets, the archaic influence of the crawl-along-as-you-please tram company puts its veto on it, and Smyrna goes on as usual with its worst-in-the-world tram service. This city of 400,000 inhabitants therefore remains without any passenger service or transport motor service, but attempts have been made to run a motor-car with passengers from Smyrna to Vourla. During the quarantine periods such a service is remunerative, as passengers are then landed at the latter point.

There is no doubt that a properly organised company running a dozen or so of motor taxi-cabs in the city would do well, and such a service must perforce soon come, as a city like Smyrna cannot remain much longer a generation behind the times. In all, it is questionable if there are more than twenty motor-cars in the whole province of Aidin, with a population of over a million inhabitants!

Cars for Military Transport.

Previous to the recent Balkan War, Asia Minor, with special reference to the province of Aidin, was used by the Constantinople Central Government merely as a recruiting ground. The loss of Turkey's European territory has changed the military authorities' distribution of troops considerably, and now an Army Corps is stationed in this province. The lack of means of transport at the outbreak of the last war was one of the principal factors in Turkey's defeat. The army which mobilises most rapidly will be able to gain a decisive advantage. In this province there are two great trunk lines—the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway Company and the Smyrna to Cassaba and Afion-Kara-Hissar Company. Both are single-lined companies, and in time of war their rolling-stock is inadequate to transport quickly the troops from the interior. In the event of another outbreak, there is no doubt that the shores of the Aidin province, and possibly Smyrna itself, would be seriously attacked. At present a large number of troops are stationed at the town of Aidin, some eighty to ninety miles from Smyrna. There are no roads connecting the two towns, and only the railway can be utilised. A mobilisation in the case of a sudden attack on these shores should be a matter of hours, and not days and weeks, as happened during the last war. On the receipt of the whole of the proceeds of the loan from France, a certain portion should be laid out on making good military roads, along which motor vehicles could bring down troops, war stores, guns, etc., in the shortest of time.

Let us look at what motor vehicles the Government authorities have in the province. The Governor has one car and the Military Commandant has another. That about completes the list! There is plenty of scope for a number more, as over 30,000 troops are stationed permanently here, and tens of thousands of recruits and reserves would come from the interior when war broke out. Given good roads, the transport of these troops could be effected very speedily by motor vehicles, but until these roads are made little use can be made of military motor-cars, vans, or lorries.



[Photo by courtesy of Messrs. T. S. Blockey & Co.
Regulator at Head of Hilla Canal.

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ROAD MAKING & MOTOR TRANSPORT IN PERSIA

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PERSIA.

NOW that the political situation in Northern Persia is comparatively settled and security to life and property has become assured, the time appears to have arrived for the introduction of motor transport for goods and passengers along the roads leading to the capital. Motor transport must, we believe, for the present be confined to the North, for there only do we find roads suitable for this class of traffic, and the country freed from the pest of brigandage. A transport service to operate on the Resht-Teheran road has already been under the consideration of Russian and Persian commercial interests, and we understand that it has been definitely decided to proceed with the establishment of a regular service of light motor vehicles, to be followed, as experience may dictate, by a heavier type of vehicle adapted for goods traffic.

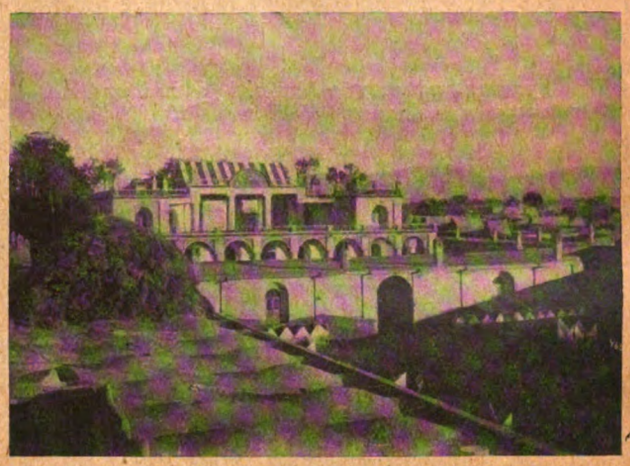
The road between Enzeli, the well-known port on the Caspian, passing through Resht and Kazvin to Teheran, carries, for its length, a greater proportion of merchandise than any road in Persia, whilst the passenger traffic is constant and assured. This is natural, for it is the main channel of communication between the Caspian and the capital for Russian goods. It has been improved out of all knowledge of recent years and is kept in a fair state of repair by Russian engineers who, in so far as road building is concerned, having a well-earned reputation. This road was aligned for the special purpose of conversion, when the opportunity arises, into a railway track, and attention has been paid to its gradients, though work still remains to be done in this respect.

A Characteristic Road in Persia.

The character of the road varies greatly in different sections. The first section, between Enzeli and the foothills, passes over a swampy region subject to a heavy rainfall, where construction has been difficult and maintenance is expensive. Thence, it enters the Elbourg mountains, which divide the coast region from the great plateau of Persia, debouching on the Kazvin Plain at the city of that name, and so on to Teheran at the level of the plateau. Its course through the mountains is tortuous and the gradients are somewhat exacting. The surface is fair and suitable for motor traffic, though at times it suffers from wash-outs in its mountain course, and for several months of the year snow at times lies deep, both on the higher levels and on the plateau. During periods of severe weather motor traffic would be seriously impeded, if not totally interrupted.

Traction by Lorries.

Traction by lorries will probably have to wait until experience has been gained with the lighter classes of motor vehicles. It is very questionable, indeed, whether under present conditions heavy lorries could be profitably worked. South of Teheran the roads have been taken in hand by the Persian Transport Company—one of the Lynch enterprises—a company which holds a concession for the construction of roads extending in one direction to Ispahan viâ Kum and Kashan, in another viâ Sultanabad and Burujird to Mohammerah on the Persian Gulf. Owing to the unrest from which Persia has been suffering of recent years, roads have been constructed only as far as Kum, on the Ispahan road, and to Sultanabad, on the Mohammerah road. The road from Teheran to Kum is well laid with numerous bridges and is suitable for motor traffic. There are no gradients of any consequence, the ravines and rivers are well bridged, and the surface is for a greater part of the year satisfactory. The branch to Sultanabad is said to require



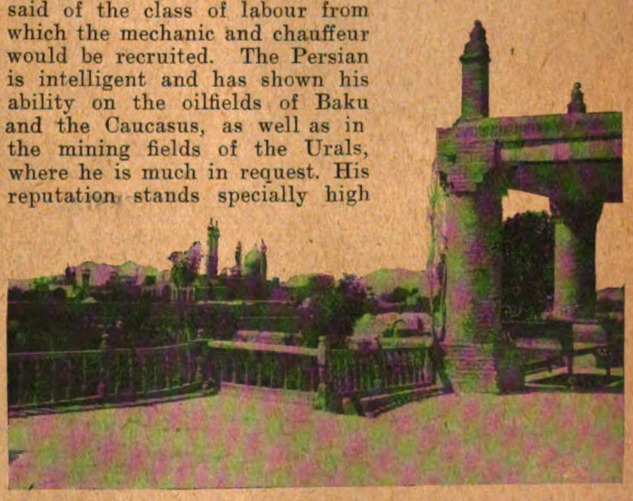
A Caravanserai at Kazvin.

some surface improvement, but we have not passed over it and can only speak from hearsay. It could certainly, however, readily be made good for motor traffic.

The town of Kum, 92 miles from Teheran, may be taken as the most southerly point to which a regular service might at present be extended. The Persian Transport Company have been granted an extension of seven years to complete their roads, and will probably turn their attention in the first instance to the construction of the Kum-Kashan-Ispahan prolongation. A line of mountains separates Kashan from Ispahan, where road-making will not be easy, though exceptional difficulties are not to be expected, as horse-drawn vehicles traverse this section regularly. Ispahan should, in the not too distant future, be brought within a five days' motor journey from the Caspian.

The Type of Car Required.

Regarding the type of car suitable for use under the special conditions of Persia—with its extremes of heat and cold, its dryness of atmosphere, the difficulty of obtaining supplies of fuel and components, the inexperienced quality of the raw human material for artisan labour—very careful consideration is necessary. The lighter and cheaper type of car, such as is turned out by the thousand from the workshops of America, has not proved a success so far in Persia, and it would appear that where economy, combined with efficiency, is a *sine quâ non*, we must pin our faith to the type of colonial car manufactured by well-known firms in Great Britain. Before describing in some detail the special type we have in mind, something should be said of the class of labour from which the mechanic and chauffeur would be recruited. The Persian is intelligent and has shown his ability on the oilfields of Baku and the Caucasus, as well as in the mining fields of the Urals, where he is much in request. His reputation stands specially high



The Guest House at Kum, with the Great Mosque in the distance.

where the trained man is required, but trained subordinate engineers and mechanics are attracted abroad.

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They are few and far between in Persia and would prove expensive. They would in any case require European supervision.

Returning to the type of car, we suggest a 16-20 h.p., 4-cylinder poppet valved car, to seat four persons and a chauffeur, with baggage, for the open body or landaulette. The following remarks will also apply generally for a heavier car for passenger traffic of the char-a-banc type, with greater engine power:—

The chassis should be short between the axles. The framework of the car should be of exceptional strength, while attention should be paid to springing and shock absorbers. It should be of high clearance, with the radiators and tanks as for tropical climates. The gearing should be low, since speed is of secondary importance. The wheels should be of solid steel.

A Possible Solution of the Tyre Difficulty.

The tyres are not easy to deal with, as heat and sun will cause rapid deterioration, and replacements cannot be

A Bridge on the Resht-Teheran Road.

readily effected owing to the distance from the manufacturing centres in Europe, to which it is necessary to have recourse; moreover climatic conditions preclude the storage of large reserves. A way out may be found in solid tyres for both the 16-20 h.p. car and the heavier char-a-banc class. Solid tyres have proved invaluable in Europe for passenger traffic, and the difficulty of adapting the chassis for the purpose has been solved successfully.

A solid tyre for tropical work has been already manufactured by such well-known firms as the Dunlop and, we believe, the Prowodnik companies, and should certainly be given a trial for comparison with the pneumatic tyre on cars of similar type working under equal conditions.

Spare parts should be liberally provided, as for some years to come only running repairs will be readily taken in hand on the spot.

There should be no difficulty about fuel with the Baku oilfields near at hand. Paraffin would be the ideal fuel, but in the absence of a carburetter efficient and reliable at all times petrol must continue to be supplied.

We are of the opinion that, as regards methods of transport, Persia is on the eve of a revolutionary change. The Trans-Persian Railway, uniting the Caucasus with the Persian Gulf, will not be long delayed, and it would seem that a practical working arrangement with British groups will greatly facilitate the furthering of this scheme. Railways from the direction of the Karun River, northward, are also under discussion. Meantime, awaiting the materialisation of these far-reaching undertakings, there appears, undoubtedly, to be a good opening for motor transport along the routes to which attention is now drawn in this article.

DEMAND FOR MOTOR CARS IN PERSIA.

The *Chamber of Commerce Journal* says:—There should be a demand before long in Persia for motor-cars and motor trucks, as the Government contemplates a road-building scheme and has already decided to improve those roads (if such they can be called) connecting the principal cities, and for this purpose engineers are being brought from Belgium. Enzeli, the principal port of Persia on the Caspian Sea, is already connected with Teheran by an excellent road, 240 miles in length, which passes through Kazvin, built and kept in repair by a Russian company to whom the Persian Government granted a concession. The road to Meshed from Teheran can be negotiated by a motor-car, likewise the road to Shiraz, *viâ* Ispahan; these roads, however, are only caravan trails and wagon tracks, with steep ascents and sharp turns. There are in Persia some dozen motor-cars and two motor trucks of various makes—Mercedes, Napier, Spa, Martini, Benz, Mannesmann, Peugeot, Brasier, and one American machine, a Ford.

RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS IN SYRIA.

(By Our Beyrout Correspondent.)

As soon as France secured England's official declaration of disinterestedness in Syria she set diligently to work to complete the economic conquest of this land. At one time the Syrian question formed the pivot of French policy regarding Turkey, and apparently the successful conclusion of the famous loan negotiations, of which the issues were so great for Turkey, hinged upon the Syrian concessions.

It is not generally realised how far-reaching are the consequences of the concessions obtained by France in Syria; but the extent of these concessions may be gauged from the fact that the important railway and harbour enterprises are to be undertaken practically at the expense of the Turkish Government; and in view of the chronic impecuniosity of the latter, it is not illogical to conclude that the enterprises in question will ultimately revert to France. The harbours at Jaffa, Haifa, and Tripolis are to be constructed with French money, but for account and at the expense of Turkey, while the Rayak-Lydda railway, being kilometrically guaranteed by the latter, leaves the whole financial onus of the enterprise on the Turk, at least while the country is in its undeveloped condition.

The plans of the Haifa harbour were drawn up and completed some time ago, and it is now announced that the work of construction will be taken in hand about the beginning of July. The Jaffa harbour works are also said to be imminent. As regards the Tripolis harbour, however, a new factor has cropped up, which is more than likely to prevent its materialising, at least in the near future. A section of the population of Beyrout, helped—and possibly inspired—by important foreign financial concerns, such as the leading banks in this city and the French Railway Company and Port Company, has lately been agitating for the construction of a broad-gauge railway between Beyrout and Tripolis; and the movement culminated lately in the departure to Constantinople of a delegation, ostensibly representing the Chamber of Commerce, to make representations to the Government and try to obtain a concession for such a line, with a kilometric guarantee attached, as without this guarantee the scheme would have a poor chance of being taken up.

In other circumstances it would have been sheer folly to expect the Turkish Government, already groaning under such burdens, to consent to the guarantee of such a line, but, as things happen to be, the reverse is the case. The estimate of the cost of the Tripolis harbour is about forty million francs. Now, in spite of the impetus that the Tripolis-Homs railway has imparted to the trade of that port, the movement is still far from warranting such an outlay; and it may be affirmed, without much fear of contradiction, that, even taking into account future developments, the trade of Tripolis will not fully warrant the outlay; for the existence of Beyrout and Haifa to the south and of Alexandretta to the north interposes limitations to the growth of the trade of Tripolis. Therefore, to avoid the onerous obligation of paying interest on the forty million francs or thereabouts that France is going to advance on the harbour works at Tripolis, with but little hope of covering a small part of this interest by harbour dues, the Turkish Government may quite probably welcome the idea of exchanging the Tripolis harbour concession for that of the standard gauge line between Tripolis and Beyrout, even with a kilometric guarantee. Indeed, once Tripolis is condemned to a stationary position the preeminence of Beyrout as a trade centre will be assured, and the receipts of the line may safely be expected to cover the guarantee in the not distant future.

It has always been argued that instead of going against natural influences and trying to displace an important centre like Beyrout by building a harbour at Tripolis, it would be much more rational to link this centre with the standard gauge railway systems in Northern Syria by the easiest and least expensive route. As the initial mistake of building a narrow cog-wheel line between Beyrout and Damascus cannot be retrieved save by the additional heavy expenditure involved in the Hammana tunnel, it seems now more logical to build a broad line between Beyrout and Tripolis, of which the cost would be at any rate much less than that of the harbour at Tripolis. This line would not encounter any very great engineering difficulties. Indeed, the existing narrow line between Beyrout and Ma'ameltein, and the sixteen kilometres extension that is being constructed further on to Jubeil, about half-way to Tripolis, help to solve part of the difficulty, as it may be transformed into a broad line.

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AUTOMOBILISM IN GREECE.

THE USE OF THE MOTOR-CAR IN WAR.

(BY OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ATHENS.)

MOTORS were unknown in Greece until 1901, when the first small motor vehicle, a Clement-Bayard of about 4 h.p., was imported by Mr. Christomanos for his own personal use. Some time afterwards the second car followed, imported by Mr. Condogiannakis, also for private use; and towards the end of 1903 the third car came into the country—a small two-cylinder German—for the then Crown Prince Constantine. The next arrivals were an American (Olds Mobile) for Professor Theofanopoulo; a four-cylinder car of English make, which was presented by the Tsar to Prince Andrew; and, in 1906, another four-cylinder for King George. Thereafter the importation of motor-cars grew steadily, and as far as it is possible to ascertain, the number of cars, for private use and for hire, imported up to 1912 was about eighty-five.

Shortly before the Balkan War a good many cars and motor vehicles were imported by the Greek Government for the use of the Army. For use during the war the Government also took over sixty-seven of the privately owned cars that were then in the country—all that were approved as suitable for Army use. Of these, it may be of interest to note, seven were destroyed, while the remaining sixty were returned to their owners at the close of the (second) war.

Increase in Car Imports.

During the wars and since the coming of peace a good many cars have been brought into the country, for private use or for purposes of hiring out; and, judging by the very generally expressed desire to own a car, it is safe to predict that we shall see the importation go up by leaps and bounds as soon as the heavy import duties are reduced and manufacturers arrange easy terms of payment. This view is borne out by comparing the number of motor vehicles in the country in 1912 with the numbers to-day, which, as closely as can be ascertained, are as follows:—

Motor-cabs and cars in private use	82
,, employed for hiring purposes	85
,, owned by the Royal Family	10
,, ,, ,, Red Cross	8
Motor fire engine (English make)	1
Tank carts (4—5 tons capacity each)	3
Lorries, owned by private firms	5
,, ,, Government, for Army use	100

Of the above vehicles:—

About	40	are of a maximum	horse-power	up to	15
,,	35	,, ,,	,,	,,	18
,,	70	,, ,,	,,	,,	24
,,	30	,, ,,	,,	,,	35
,,	30	,, ,,	,,	,,	40
,,	5	,, ,,	,,	,,	45

The motor lorries employed in the Army service are of about 2-ton capacity and capable of travelling at about 40 kilometres an hour; and those owned by private firms are of about the same capacity and speed.

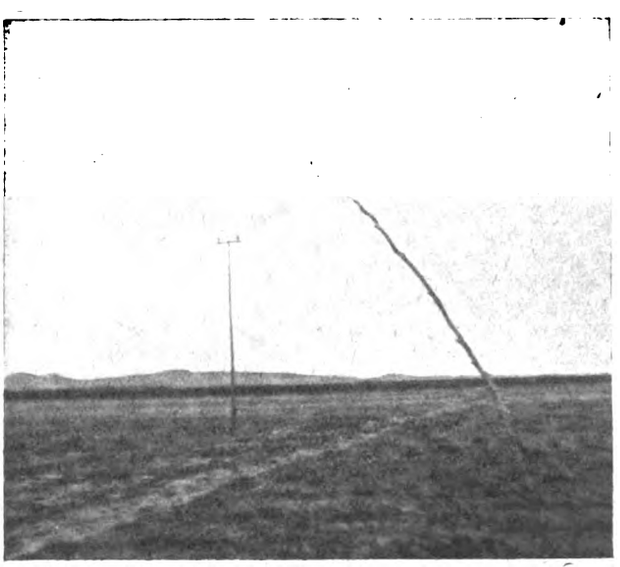
Easy-Payment System.

Most of the well-known makes of cars are now represented in the country, but so far none of them has secured a commanding lead in public favour. Those which appear to have gained most ground are in the order stated:—The Ford, Renault, Bleriot, Picard, Fiat, Mercedes, Dietrich, and Overland. It is too early yet to say which of these will eventually become the most popular, or whether a newcomer may not capture the first place. With regard to Government orders, a great many points will have to be considered before final preference is given to this or that make. As to private purchasers, things are rather different; the average buyer will consider, next to material and workmanship, the question of price and the terms of payment; and there can be no doubt that the granting of easy terms will play a very large part in the securing of orders, especially from buyers who wish to place the cars on hire. I am informed that several French and American firms are showing the greatest readiness to do business on the "easy payment" system, viz., by accepting 20 per cent. of the price down, and the remainder by monthly instalments of about 200 francs. Other makers who wish to obtain a footing in this market are sending one or two cars on consignment; but it is remarkable that while Continental and American makers are contending for the market British manufacturers show no signs of activity whatsoever.

Motor-cars have been, and still continue to be, regarded in Greece as very great luxuries. The heavy import duty on cars—ranging from 800 francs up to 4,200 francs, according to horse-power, capacity, etc., of the car—and petrol combine to make the possession of a car an impossibility for all but the richest. For the reason given, the hiring of a motor-car for short runs in towns is out of the question for most people, 15 francs being about the lowest fare!

According to the new tariff now before Parliament, the import duties on motors in general will be considerably reduced. Lorries will pay from 7 francs to 15 francs per cwt., the total duty not exceeding 275 francs (£11). Passenger cars will also pay from 7 francs to 15 francs per cwt., the maximum duty not exceeding 300 francs (£12). Ordinary motor-cabs up to 600 kilos, 20 to 40 francs per cwt.; over 600 kilos, 25 to 50 francs per 100 kilos on their total weight. Under this tariff, it is estimated, the import duty will be reduced to about one quarter of what is now paid. Petrol will also benefit under the tariff.

Up to the present motors have so far been of little or no service in the way of public communications as far as Old Greece is concerned, partly owing to expense and partly to bad roads with steep gradients. In New Greece, however, where other means of communication are at present lacking, motors have rendered, and still render, valuable service both to the Army and to the public. For instance, in Epirus the transport of ammunition and provisions from Preveza to Janina and thence all along the frontier is carried on by motors, which also carry the mails. There are also four private motors which run between Preveza and Janina, so that, whereas passengers had previously to travel in a (so-called) carriage for twenty-four hours to get from one of these points to the other, they can now do the journey in from three and a-half to four hours. The same tale is true of Macedonia, where motors maintain regular communication between Salonika and the interior.



The Old and the New: Persian Government's Telegraph Line (right) and Anglo-Persian Oil Company's Telephone Line (left).

The Lesson of the War.

The most important and valuable service that the motor-car has rendered to Greece, however, was during the two wars in 1912 and 1913. Then, in view of the rapid advance of the Greek troops across country lacking railway communications, the provisioning of the troops and the supply of ammunition would have been almost impossible but for the use of motors; and the transport of the wounded would also have been a much more difficult matter. It is generally recognised that although motors had never been employed before in the Army, the organisation was so good that things went without a hitch. Perhaps the most surprising feature of this business was that though all the chauffeurs employed were quite new to the work—the great majority of them knew nothing whatever about motors, and were taught to handle their machines for the occasion—no serious accidents were reported. For repairs there was a depot on each side, in Epirus and in Macedonia. Now there is a permanent repair shop at Janina, another at Salonika, and one, well-equipped, in Athens. The Greek Government, appreciating the valuable services rendered to the Army in both the Balkan and the Greco-Bulgarian wars, has decided to raise and equip a complete battalion of expert chauffeurs with 400 lorries, etc.

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ENGINEERING ENTERPRISE IN ROUMANIA.

PREFERENCE SHOWN FOR BRITISH ENGINEERS.

BY OUR BUCHAREST CORRESPONDENT.

ENGINEERING opportunities in this country are so many and varied that it is a matter of some difficulty to specify them. For one thing, foreign engineers are preferred to those who have attained their knowledge locally, since their experience is naturally so much more extensive. British engineers are appreciated above all others, especially in the petroleum industry, where even in American companies Englishmen are employed.

The formalities that have to be gone through before an engineer can practise in this country are very simple. He must have a knowledge of the language and must furnish certificates from an engineering institution. Little further is required. The term engineer in this country generally carries with it the word contractor, and, as a matter of fact, it is the custom of an engineer not only to prepare plans for enterprises, but also to give estimates for them and carry them to completion. In consequence, engineering is more profitable here than in most countries.

Photo: C. Barters.

"Sefinas" transporting Material for Baghdad Railway.

Building Schemes.

The vast amount of building that is going on here at present opens a wide field to foreign enterprise. Practically every day some new undertaking is announced, which a timely tender by a man on the spot might secure. The Government itself has all kinds of work in view, particularly in the Dobruja, where, as already mentioned in THE NEAR EAST, a number of barracks and other military works are to be constructed. The contracts for these works will be given by public tender, and will prove highly remunerative undertakings. Much road-making and railway construction will also be undertaken in the Dobruja.

The above remarks apply also to Roumania proper, where the construction of several railway lines is under consideration. New bridges will also be built, notably the proposed structure across the Danube, connecting Roumania with Servia. Roumania is to construct this bridge, but Servia is sharing in the expense. As in the case of the Czernevoda Bridge, the undertaking will be given to a syndicate. Then there is the proposed bridge connecting Bulgaria with Roumania, though in this case the negotiations are rather at a deadlock, due to a difference of opinion as to a suitable site. There can be no doubt, however, that an agreement will soon be arrived at, when the construction of the bridge will be quickly proceeded with by this country. A third bridge is to be constructed at Harsova, to act as another connecting link with the Dobruja. The Roumanian State Railways have charge of this undertaking, which will doubtless be placed in the hands of some firm.

In Bucharest itself, a large central railway station is shortly to be constructed, also a new town hall and various Government offices; while in other towns there is much to be done in the way of electric lighting, tramways, and waterworks. The following extract from one of to-day's papers will better illustrate my meaning:—"H.M. the King has signed the decree approving the result of the adjudication for the construction of a new palace of justice at Tarqu-Jin. The work will be executed by Mr. D. C. Atanasiu, and will cost 521,662 lei." Putting the margin on this piece of work as low as 3.7 per cent. one has a profit of about £600. The engineer, it might be noted, is of Greek nationality.

An Opening for Capitalists.

While on the subject of construction, I must point out the great opening in Bucharest for capitalists who are prepared to erect dwelling houses suitable for middle-class clerks and minor Government officials. The last three decades have witnessed such an advance in every way in Roumania that living has come to cost double what it did. A great influx to the towns has taken place, with the result that house rents have reached an impossible figure. In this year's Budget, grants are made towards the house rent of Government employees in order partially to allay the pressure. A company on the lines of English building societies should certainly obtain handsome profits in this direction, especially if the rents were arranged with a view to the house becoming the tenant's property at the end of a number of years.

Other openings for engineering enterprise are to be found in the ceaseless demand for factories to produce articles formerly obtained abroad. Almost every week some new factory is being erected, as can be seen at a glance in the commercial journals.

Electricity is also being widely introduced, while artificial irrigation is now being studied with a view to attempting to bring into cultivation the large tracts of hitherto uncultivated land.

MOTOR CARS AND BOATS.

NO attempt has been made so far either by our own manufacturers or by those of other countries to introduce motor-boats into Roumania. Yet there is a large market for motor-boats along the whole course of the Danube, not only at the great ports of Sulina, Galatz, etc., but also at the various river stations where grain is collected for transport. Merchants and their representatives, for instance, wishing to visit steamers or lighters would find these craft of the utmost use. At present they are compelled to go to these vessels, which always lie on the far side of the river when not actually at the quays, in a row-boat. Motor-boats would also be in great demand for sport and pleasure. Above all, the Government, if the advantages of motor-boats were properly put before it, would doubtless order several for police work at the river ports and at Constantza, as well as for the use of Government officials. The thefts from steamers and lighters that occur yearly during the loading season are a cause of intense annoyance to the harbour authorities. So far all the measures put into force have failed to prevent these thefts, which occur almost nightly at Braila, Galatz, and other ports, and the authorities are quite at a loss to deal with the question. The motor-boat is the obvious solution. Its rapidity would permit the overhauling of any suspicious craft, and would ensure the adequate patrolling of the ports during the night hours.

Method of Doing Business.

Firms constructing these craft desirous of securing business in Roumania should first despatch an agent to study the question on the spot and to get in touch with the Government authorities at Bucharest and with the heads of the principal steamship and export firms at the ports, so as to determine the most suitable type of boat. In this way a few orders would be obtained, and after they had been carried out business would begin to flow in. It would be necessary, of course, to engage a reliable agent, and this would fall to the lot of the representative while engaged in the preliminary work.

Steam lorries are already on the market in Roumania, and some months ago, as mentioned in THE NEAR EAST at the time, the Ministry of War invited all agents possessing these vehicles to participate in a competition, when a large number of lorries were purchased by the Government. The utility of steam lorries was proved during the occupation of Bulgaria, and there can be no doubt that in the future more will be ordered. Other Government departments make use of steam lorries, as well as factories in various parts of the country. For the manufacturer of steam lorries the market is in nowise filled, but to compete with the types already on the market it will be necessary to show the advantages a type possesses over those in use. The best way of coming into this market would be to employ a garage company, or failing that, an agricultural machinery agent.

What has been said of the prospects for steam lorries applies equally to motor-cars. But here for British manufacturers there enters the vexed question of credit. French and German houses give uniformly long credit to the garage companies here, who sell on commission. British firms must do the same or else open their own garages, as selling through catalogues is quite out of the question. There is much business to be done, as the market is by no means overstocked. There is a good opening also for cars of better quality on hire, as the few taxis and other cars plying for hire here are avoided on account of the exorbitant charges.

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RAILLESS ELECTRIC TRACTION.

AMONGST the many factors contributing towards development in the Near East, few are more important than the increased attention being devoted to improved transport facilities. In much of the territory, indeed, these facilities are terribly overdue, and future development of the many important industries and of the districts and cities which are potential large centres of industry are altogether dependent upon cheap and rapid transport of the workers as well as the carriage of produce and goods by some economical and satisfactory means of transport.

The latest method of dealing with the problem is by means of "railless electric traction," which is already operating so satisfactorily in Great Britain and abroad as to fully justify the claims of its advocates as to reliability and cheapness of operation. This system is already known in that part of the world, the R.E.T. Construction Co., Limited, of London and Leeds, having agencies throughout India and in the Near East. The vehicles are driven by electric motors deriving their power by trolley poles from overhead wires in a similar manner to ordinary tramcars, but without any rails.

Among the outstanding advantages of the "R.E.T." system are:—Its extreme adaptability and flexibility, its low cost of installation (which is less than one-fifth of the average cost of British tramways), and the rapidity with which it can be constructed. The cars can be steered through other traffic and past obstructions and under low bridges with the same facility as any ordinary road vehicle. Passenger and goods vehicles can be operated simultaneously on the same traction line, and in the event of one car being delayed the rest of the service is not disorganised or delayed.

The company has made a special study of goods transport by railless traction, and has designed some useful vehicles for carrying general merchandise and produce. These range from 5-ton covered wagons to a freight train with a combined capacity of twenty tons.

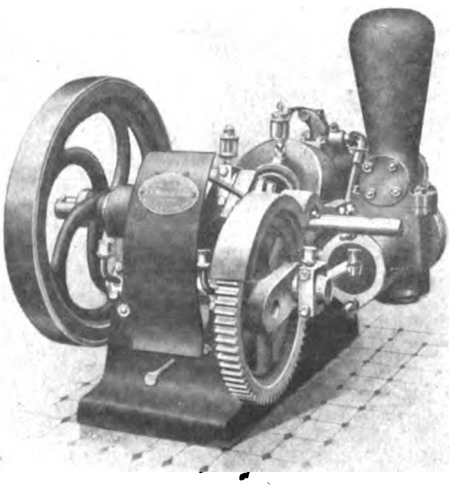
Passenger cars on this system are either single or double decked, and carry from sixteen to forty-eight passengers, according to requirements, and one or two trailers may be attached to the cars, thus increasing the capacity of the system to handle a large volume of traffic. Two trolley wires are necessary, as there is no rail for the return of the current. The power consumption is remarkably low, being about 0.14 of a unit per ton mile.

The "R.E.T." system, it may be pointed out, uses overhead equipment of standard tramway type, and the cars are able to travel at full speed on any portion and from side to side of the roadway without side pressure on the trolley wires. Complete freedom for crossings, junctions, and interrunning with tramcars are important points in favour of the system, as this also enables the vehicles to carry passengers and merchandise over tramway routes without altering the tramway wires and obviates change of cars. The motors employed are attached to the frame of the chassis, and their weight is consequently entirely spring-suspended from the axle. Each of the rear wheels is independently driven and the necessity for differential gearing obviated.

The "R.E.T." system, which is entirely of British invention and manufacture, though new, is a proved form of road transport, which is specially suited to foreign countries. For the Near East in particular it offers advantages over and above the transport facilities it affords, as the construction of "R.E.T." lines between towns and from towns into agricultural districts will also enable farmers and others along the routes to obtain cheap light and power, as well as ensuring their produce and merchandise speedily reaching their markets.

"WHEATLEY" OIL ENGINE AND PUMP.

The "Wheatley" oil engine and pump is undoubtedly a mechanical combination which will be found very useful in the Near East, where durability, simplicity of construc-



tion, easy management, and adaptability to a variety of work are most essential for the success of an engine or any other class of machinery. To the "Wheatley" engine is attached a single-acting horizontal ram pump, which can be used for water supply of mansions, country houses, farms, villages, and for draining quarries, mines, etc. It can also be used for other purposes, by having a sliding pinion fitted to disconnect the pump gearing, and thus employing it for driving an electric light plant, barn or dairy machinery, agricultural flour mills, etc. Pumping with the "Wheatley" oil engine combination, it is claimed, does not exceed one penny per thousand gallons, pumped to a height of 120 ft., which is, of course, extremely cheap. All the main parts of the pump are made of gunmetal, the cylinder has gunmetal liner and piston, also gunmetal valves and seats. The "Wheatley" engine is run on ordinary paraffin or kerosene oil, but can also be supplied to work on gas or petrol at same price.

"R.E.T." Car passing heavily-laden vehicle on off side. (This shows the long reach of the "R.E.T." Trolley.)

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ENGINEERING PROJECTS IN EGYPT.

HUGE DRAINAGE SCHEME.—LARGE DEMAND FOR PUMPS.

(BY OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the past year there has been considerable industrial activity in Egypt, and a proof of this has been afforded by the Customs statistics, which in this respect showed an increase of over £E1,000,000 as compared with the importations of the preceding year. Especially has this activity been noticeable amongst the importers of irrigation and agricultural machinery, of centrifugal pumps, and of motor pumps of the smaller sizes. Of course, in a country like Egypt the bulk of the work that interests the engineering world is done by the Government. It may therefore be useful if we give some details of what has been done so far and of what it is proposed to undertake in the near future in this respect.

The most important enterprise is undoubtedly the Delta drainage scheme, on which about £E2,500,000 is to be expended, and which is destined not only to free what is very rightly termed the cotton field of Egypt from its present comparatively water-logged state, but also to enable the reclamation of a vast area, which is taken up at present by the lakes and marshes, to be effected. The work on this scheme is being confined to the Behera and Gharbia districts, the latter of which is the more important. In this section a huge pumping station is to be set up at Baltim, on Lake Borollos, for the purpose of pumping the drainage water out of the drains into the sea. This station will consist of large centrifugal pumps, half of which will be driven by steam engines and half by Diesel engines. This arrangement would at first sight not appear to be in accordance with sound engineering, but when it is explained that half the station only will be required during eleven months of the year it will be readily understood that it affords the Government a safeguard against any shortage in supply in the oil or coal markets. The order for this machinery has been placed with a Swiss firm, at a price about £E4,000 less than the lowest English tender.

Mex Pumping Installation.

With regard to the Behera section, the pumping station will be set up at Mex, near Alexandria. The order for the pumps has been given to the Humphrey Pump and Power Company, and the installation will at first consist of ten Humphrey pumps, to be increased to eighteen when the other irrigation work is completed. It is claimed that these pumps are simpler and more efficient than ordinary centrifugal pumps, and experience will show whether this claim is justified. This station will be called upon to cope with a volume of 7,200,000 cubic metres of water per day, and each pump is designed to lift 450,000 cubic metres of water per diem.

Serious competitors for the Diesel engines of the smaller sizes are what is known as the semi-Diesel engines. The Egyptian Government has recently placed an order for seven pumping sets ranging from 14 to 50 h.p., and, driven by these engines, the result will be watched with much interest. The semi-Diesel engines, although consuming 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. more fuel than the Diesel engine, costs only half the price; the attendance can be of the cheapest nature; and in addition it is understood that the repair bill is very small. A large future should therefore await the semi-Diesel engine up to 150 h.p. in Egypt. Another competitor for the Diesel engine is the semi-fixed high superheat engine made by such well-known firms as Garrett, Marshall, Robey, etc. It is understood that these makers are prepared to guarantee a coal consumption not exceeding 1.6 lb. per t.h.p. per hour. In fact, many of these engines have been introduced into Egypt, and to all accounts they are giving the utmost satisfaction.

'Tis an ill-wind that blows nobody any good, and the phenomenally low Nile of last year, whilst it may have caused many an anxious moment to the financial and irrigation authorities of the country, has certainly benefited the suppliers of pumps and motors of the smaller sizes. These have been required for pumping from the artesian wells which the cultivators have sunk all over the country, especially in Upper Egypt, in order to tap the subterranean water. The boom in this category of machinery seems now to be over, as the fellaheen appear to have sufficient to carry them over to the next flood; but if expectations as to its size are not realised a further demand will most certainly arise.

Increased Orders for Rolling Stock.

The purchase by the Egyptian Government of the Heluan and Mariut Railway lines has naturally led to an increase in the orders for rolling stock. Recently the State Railways asked for tenders for some locomotives. The result of the adjudication is certainly worthy of notice. The lowest English tender was £E3,760 per engine, whilst that submitted by a well-known German firm was £E3,100 per engine. This difference in price is, to say the least of it, surprising, and one naturally is curious to know how it has come about. It is stated that English makers are so busy that they do not care for further orders, but this condition of affairs could scarcely justify such a very large difference in price. What makes this discrepancy more extraordinary is that the engines in question are not to German design, but that they are to the English specification and design of the engineer of the State Railways. In this connection it is further worthy of note that on some engines recently delivered in this country, the prices of the tenders for which bore almost the same proportion as those mentioned above, all the fittings were English and were bought in England!

To the layman these facts must appear extraordinary, and certainly such a difference in price on the same articles seems to indicate that there is something mysteriously wrong somewhere. A very large order for coaches and wagons was recently placed by the State Railways in Austria and Belgium. This is understood to have been a repeat order, and for this reason no English firms were asked to tender. One often hears the remark in this country amongst the natives that, notwithstanding that Great Britain is predominant in Egypt, and that the officials responsible for the placing of orders are English, most of the large orders go to foreign firms.

Forthcoming Public Works.

With regard to projects in the near future, mention might be made of the Assuan power scheme, which, it is understood, is being seriously considered. Details at the present moment are not available to the public, but we may expect some definite views in the coming autumn. It is understood that the project is a very extensive one, and that although the authorities are quite clear in their minds as to what they want, the details of the various sections which it will comprise require the most careful study, as, of course, the question of initial expense and future upkeep plays a very important part in the matter.

There are also several large pumping stations in prospect, one for a large estate near Cairo and several for Upper Egypt. And further, there are the dams on the Blue and White Niles, which are to be taken in hand almost immediately. As readers of THE NEAR EAST may remember, a commission visited the Sudan last winter with the object of choosing the sites for these two great works, the first of which is to turn the country immediately to the south of Khartoum into a cotton field and granary, and the second of which is to save Egypt from a repetition of the experience which she is now going through to provide water for a more extended area, and to guard her against all future eventualities. It is as yet early in the day to give any details, and full particulars will not be available until after the return from England at the end of the summer of Mr. L. N. Cooper, who, under the direction of Mr. Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, will be in charge of the Blue Nile scheme.

Main Drainage System for Alexandria.

Tenders will shortly be called for by the Alexandria Municipality for the construction of a system of main drainage for that city. The specification has not yet been published, but it will be within the next few weeks. It is understood that it is proposed in this case to use centrifugal pumps driven by electrical motors installed in various pumping stations at different points in the city, the pumps for pumping the raw sewage being of the stereophageous type. The current will, as far as is known at present, be supplied by the Tramway Company. This is quite a different system to that adopted in Cairo, which, as your engineering readers are no doubt aware, is on the Shone system of compressed air ejectors.

In mentioning Cairo we may say that the drainage work is now well advanced. The main collector is completed, and the machinery is now being installed at Kafr-el-Gamous. It is hoped that within the next two or three months the drainage of Zeitoun and Abbassia will be diverted into the new sewers, for which temporary pumping machinery is being installed. The remainder of the city will follow in due course.

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THE MOTOR-CAR IN THE NILE VALLEY.

REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

(BY A CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

TWO years ago Egypt was almost as roadless as Albania is to-day. There were a few roads round Cairo; one could always motor to the Pyramids along a road with a first-rate macadamised surface. There was, too, the road to Heliopolis, another to Zeitoun, and it was quite possible, though not pleasant, to motor out to Meadi. Alexandria was worse off, for except the streets in the town and the road to Ramleh, which, thanks to the Municipality, was always in atrocious condition, there was nothing fit for a car.

It was perhaps surprising, or it would have been surprising anywhere else but in Egypt, that under such conditions motor-cars should have any vogue at all. Yet there was, even at that time, a good demand for them in Cairo, and there were always plenty to be seen about the streets of Alexandria.

The last two years have witnessed remarkable changes in Egypt in many respects, but in none more than in the matter of roads. Lord Kitchener saw at once the need for better means of communication in the provinces, and he had not been six months in the country before work was being pushed on to make the road between Cairo and Alexandria passable. Then a special Government Department was created exclusively to look after the roads, with the result that to-day there are some hundreds of kilometres of good roads in the Delta, along which it is possible to motor in comparative comfort, while every year the department is increasing the scope of its activities. It is unfortunate that the fall in the revenue has not enabled the Government to grant as much to the Roads Department for the coming year as it would have done under more favourable conditions. However, the £E16,000 which has been allocated to the construction and keeping in repair of the main roads in the provinces will enable some progress to be made. It might be explained that the roads are not macadamised, except occasionally in the proximity of the big towns, but are made of earth, which is rolled down to form a hard surface. It is not a method which is calculated to stand heavy traffic, but anyone who has not motored over roads of this kind would be surprised how good they often are, speeds of 30-40 miles per hour being quite possible.

Officials Provided with Cars.

The Government has not been slow to see the advantages its officials enjoy in being able to get about by motor instead of riding the old-fashioned way. Only a few weeks ago the Minister of the Interior decided to allow all the mudirs of the Delta provinces a motor-car each. The Irrigation officials have also for some time been using motor-cars in the course of their work, and the inspectors now do their *murur* by motor-bicycle whenever and wherever it is possible. And not only officials are utilising the motor-car and motor-bicycle in the provinces. The country notables are also taking them up, and it is already getting the fashion for the *fellah* Bey and Pasha to have his car; they will soon be as essential for them as they are now for the Beys and *bashawat* of Cairo and Alexandria.

This activity in road-making in the provinces has been reflected both in Cairo and Alexandria, where the mileage of good roads is increasing by leaps and bounds. The Cairene now can motor to Heluan along a charming road that runs for nearly twenty miles by the side of the Nile; the road to the Barrage is now macadamised for a great part of the distance, and Alexandrines will soon be able to make delightful motor excursions to Abukir, whilst they can now motor many miles along the banks of the picturesque Mahmudia Canal on a road that has been lately macadamised.

A Growing Demand for Motors.

It is obvious from all this that there is a growing market for motors in Egypt, and also a market with widely varying requirements. Cairo and Alexandria will continue to demand a car for town work, pure and simple. Most of the best makes of English and French cars are used for this purpose, though it is rare to see anything over 20 h.p. Amongst the native Egyptians and with the foreign community the limousine is the most popular type. This suits the requirements of the harem better than any other; the Pasha, too, generally prefers a closed car of this kind.

There are also the English officials and business people in Cairo and Alexandria, most of whom have their car. With them an open car is generally preferred, running usually to about 12-16 h.p. For this type the demand is perhaps greatest. It is certainly the most serviceable all-round car one can have in Egypt, for it can be used not only in the two large towns, but also practically anywhere in the provinces. This, too, is the kind of car purchased by the Government for official purposes. The Napier, 16 h.p., colonial model, has proved itself a most useful car of this type, as also have the Wolseley, Arrol-Johnston, and Siddeley. This type of car, the 12-16-20 touring model, is also that which the country notable will prefer. The closed limousine car is too heavy for country work, while the cabriolet and the landaulette, both of which are fairly popular in Cairo, are also heavy and hardly sufficiently light or simple for country districts.

Then, again, there is a strong demand for the small two-seater car. The number of bachelors in Egypt is proportionately high amongst the European communities, and an unmarried man, as a rule, prefers a two-seater car, which is lighter, easier to garage, and more economical. Of this kind there are some Singers, a few Humbers, many Fords, and a multitude of other makes on the streets of Cairo and Alexandria. The Fords, indeed, are proving a very popular car, and one sees all the three types put on the market by this enterprising firm everywhere.

The Coming of the Motor Cycle.

Last, but not least, comes the motor-bicycle. Nowhere has its conquest been more complete than in Egypt. The present writer three winters ago was one of the first persons in Cairo to ride a motor-bicycle. Now there are over 400 in the capital alone, whilst all over the provinces they are in use, and are proving themselves invaluable. They can often go

Convicts building the New Heluan Road.

where a car cannot. Inspectors of Irrigation use them all over Lower Egypt and up as far as Minia, and they find that a daily tour of inspection of sixty or seventy miles is relatively easy. Of the makes used there are again many, but the most popular appear to be the Douglas and the Motorêve, a Swiss machine, which is, or was, cheaper than the British-made article. The Irrigation Department appear mainly to use these two makes, though they have also purchased a good many Enfields, which are giving entire satisfaction. The Rudge-Whitworth, the Triumph, and the Indian are other machines which are in favour to a less extent. The motor-cycle that is to succeed in Egypt does not require to be more than 3 h.p., but it must have two speeds, and it is essential that it should be extremely strong.

On the whole, it cannot be said that British makes of car have not at present their fair share of the Egyptian trade. As I have said, the motor manufacturer who wishes to push his cars in this country should turn out a strong and light touring car, ranging from 12 to 20 h.p. The car of this kind suitable for the home market, with very little alteration, such as the strengthening of springs, a specially large and airy hood, and sprung rather higher from the ground than an English touring model, should do very well.

MOTOR-CRAFT FOR THE SUDAN.

THE NEAR EAST has consistently advocated the employment of motor craft on the waters of the Upper Nile, and it is interesting to note that in his annual report on the affairs of the Sudan for 1913 (Cd. 7,358) Lord Kitchener writes:—"Mention may here be made of the discovery of a channel between the Jur and Lol Rivers. The opening up of this waterway and the clearing of the Bahr el Ghazal are desirable whenever funds are available . . . the penetration into new districts of the Sudan has emphasised the need for light-draught handy vessels for use on the smaller tributaries of the Nile, and it is proposed to make a trial with a lightly built stern-wheeler to be driven by crude oil motor."

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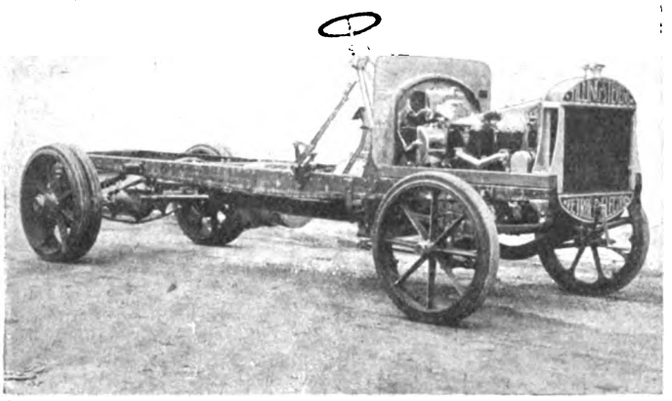
PETROL-ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

In our issue for May 22 we drew attention to a communication from our Special Correspondent in the Balkans stating that a motor-'bus service for post, passenger, and freight traffic was shortly to be introduced between Veles and Monastir. At the time that communication was written it was understood that the order for the cars had not been placed, and in view of the many excellent types of vehicles now manufactured in Great Britain, it is very much to be hoped that the contract has come to this country. A type of 'bus well fitted to meet the requirements of the Servian concession referred to is that of the "Tilling-Stevens" petrol-electric vehicle, which, during the last three or four years, has made so much substantial headway not only in Great Britain but abroad. The manufacturers, Messrs. W. A. Stevens, of London and Maidstone, have agencies in many foreign countries, and are now appointing representatives in the Near East. In this type of 'bus the weak features in a gear-driven car, namely the clutch and gear box, are eliminated by the substitution of a flexible electrical transmission between the engine and driving wheels. The final drive is effected by an electric motor, driving, by means of a cardan shaft, the worm gear on the back axle. The electrical supply for the motor, instead of being provided by a battery as in the ordinary electric vehicle, is supplied by a specially constructed dynamo, directly coupled to the petrol engine, which is the mechanical source of power. Under the system of electric transmission employed, it is impossible for the driver to "jerk" the 'bus, and the over all commercial efficiency running in normal omnibus service has been found to be 79 per cent., being 90 per cent. on the motor and 88 per cent. on the generator. A four-cylinder engine is installed with a bore of 121 mm. and a stroke of 140 mm. No clutch is employed. The dynamo is driven off the flywheel by means of a flexible coupling, and the drive from the electric motor to back axle is by means of a propeller shaft fitted with flexible joints at each end.



Front View of 40 h.p. Chassis.

The whole electric transmission arrangements have been designed to ensure the greatest possible simplicity of construction. The generator, which is capable of an output of from 1 to 30 kilowatts, at a speed varying from 350 to 1,400 r.p.m. at a voltage varying from 0 to 300, is designed with a falling characteristic, so that any increase in the demand for current when the engine is fully loaded is accompanied by a corresponding reduction in voltage. The output in kilowatts at any speed is proportional to the power exerted by the engine, but the volts and ampères may vary over a large range according to the gradient, speed, or degree of acceleration required. The ampères required by the series wound motor are nearly proportional to the torque on the cardan-shaft, and the speed of the motor is to a less degree proportional to the voltage of supply. It thus follows that when the vehicle is running on the level road the demand for ampères will be small, but on gradients it will considerably increase, with a corresponding decrease in voltage, resulting in a slower speed with increased torque; this change takes place automatically.

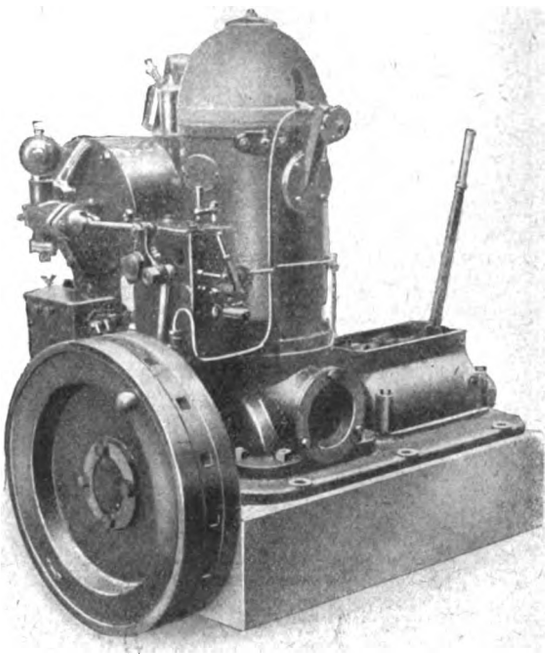
On level roads and ordinary gradients the whole of the control is effected by the gas throttle pedal operated by the right foot of the driver. On stiff gradients the shunt resistance has to be employed to allow of increased engine speed.

The system is equally applicable for omnibuses, char-a-bancs, delivery vans, lorries, and tramcars. Special vehicles are supplied for military purposes.

THE NAT OIL ENGINE.

The importance of the Near East as a market for the motor-boat has been frequently urged in this journal. It is satisfactory, therefore, to note that British manufacturers of this class of craft, more particularly, perhaps, makers of suitable types of prime movers for such vessels, are giving very much increased attention to the exploitation of this territory, where their Continental competitors have already made headway.

We illustrate below a type of engine very suitable, either as prime mover or auxiliary, for practically every class of pleasure or commercial craft likely to be employed for Near Eastern service; also for stationary purposes. Known as the Nat hot-bulb oil engine, it is manufactured by the Torbinia Engineering Co., of London and Lowestoft. It is of the semi-Diesel type, working on the two-cycle system with a moderate speed of 350-450 r.p.m., and is made in sizes from 7 h.p. up to 90 h.p., in one, two, three, and four-cylinder types. Any grade of common paraffin or residual oils from a petroleum base with a specific gravity up to .900 is suitable for running in these engines. Fuel consumption varies from .5 to .7 pint per b.h.p. per hour, according to the size of the engine, and these figures have been worked out from actual installations.



Whilst comparing most favourably in design, method of manufacture, and materials used with the best engines of similar types, the Nat engine has two outstanding features of considerable importance to Near Eastern users—the entire absence of water injection so necessary with most other engines of the semi-Diesel type, and the new infinitely variable stroke governor.

The satisfactory running and power developed by the Nat engine without a water injection is accounted for by the special design of fuel sprayer nozzle which, in conjunction with the special design of cylinder head and hot-bulb, breaks up the fuel so that the vaporising and ignition is perfect, giving off full power with a perfectly clean exhaust. The cooling of the cylinder head is arranged for by an improved design of water-cooled head and the great disadvantage of having to carry fresh water on board for engine purposes is done away with.

Many advantages attach to the infinitely variable stoke Governor fitted to the Nat engine, as, whether running light for any length of time or under full load, the same satisfactory and sweet running is obtained. There is no cut-out of the fuel supply, the length of the fuel pump being automatically and instantly shortened or lengthened according to the varying of the load. It is claimed that this new governor is really a combination of all the good points to be found in both the "hit and miss" and "centrifugal" types, with the elimination of undesirable features.

For powers over 90 h.p. the Torbinia Company manufacture a special type working on the Diesel principle, but more simple in construction and working than a full Diesel type engine. Hot-bulbs are entirely eliminated, the engine working with air-blast injection and compression sufficiently high to cause ignition when the fuel is injected.

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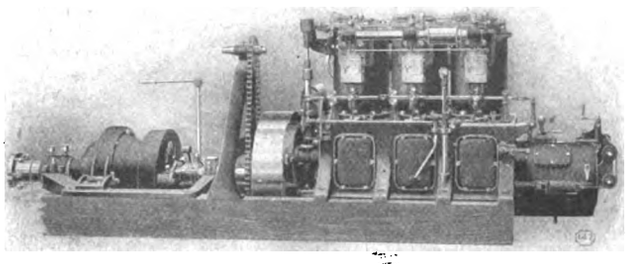
THE "GARDNER" MARINE OIL ENGINE.

THE steady increase in the popularity of the motor-boat during the last three or four years has been one of the interesting stages of the development of the marine motor generally. This popularity is more noticeable in the Near East, where Governments are equipping harbour and Custom-house authorities with motor-craft of all sizes for ordinary and special service; while private concerns and individuals are adopting them for commercial and trade use, or for pleasure. It is satisfactory to note that British engines are making more headway in those regions than any other of foreign construction. Some appreciable and important points which are always considered by such buyers in selecting an engine are extreme simplicity, good material and finish, economy of fuel consumption, and easy management—i.e., not requiring very skilled mechanics to attend to it. These good points, as well as other equally, and perhaps more, important, are the principal characteristics of the "Gardner" marine oil engine. The makers, Messrs. Norris, Henty, and Gardners, Limited, of 87, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., whose extensive works, the Barton Hall Engine Works, are at Patricroft, near Manchester, are the constructors also of a variety of types of engines for oil, gas, or spirit as fuel. Their marine engines are designed on the two-cycle high-compression system, with crank-case scavenging. The four-cylinder engines are reversible, so that there is no necessity for a reversing gear between the engine and propeller shaft. The starting and reversing are effected by compressed air, which is furnished by an air compressor built in with the engine. Both operations are effected as quickly and with the same ease as for a steam engine. If the engine be running at, say, full speed ahead and it be required to reverse, a hand lever cuts off the fuel supply by putting out of action the fuel pump. A hand wheel then alters the angular position of the cam shaft, putting in the required position for reverse running. A second lever then puts into action the compressed air valves; the engine then commences to run astern. The whole operation, from full speed ahead to full speed astern, is a matter of only a few seconds.

A feature of the "Gardner" engine is the method of governing. This operates by varying the stroke of the fuel pump. The fuel is injected into the combustion chamber by accurate cam-driven pumps, one to each cylinder. The stroke of the fuel pumps is controlled by a special, variable speed, centrifugal governor, so that the fuel charge is varied according to the load of the engine. This prevents racing when the propeller leaves the water during heavy pitching. A special device on the governor permits of a great variation of speed of the engine.

The Slow Speed "Gardner" marine engine is a type that will be found very suitable for service in the Near East, for



Gardner Petroleum Engine.

it is particularly suitable for commercial craft, fishing boats, etc., and is built for either spirit or refined petroleum, thereby allowing quick starting, easy manipulation, and working economy. It is compact in design, yet substantial and simple. For general purposes and in nearly all localities ordinary refined petroleum (commonly known as paraffin lamp oil or kerosene) is the most serviceable fuel, as it is cheap, safe to use, and obtainable in almost any part of the world.

It is a significant fact that "Gardner" marine engines have proved equally suitable for every type of craft. Yachts, fishing boats, auxiliaries, pinnaces, cutters, dinghies, barges, cargo boats, traders, passengers, and mail packets' vedette boats, etc.; and this speaks much for the progress that has been made by British engineers in that line of modern engineering.

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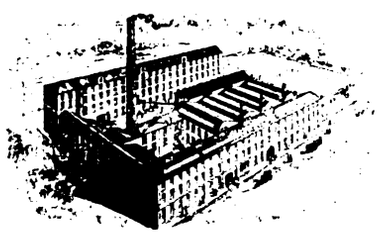

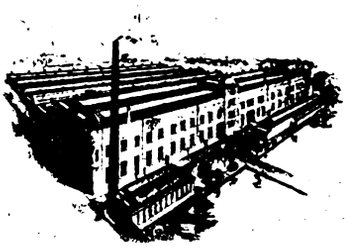

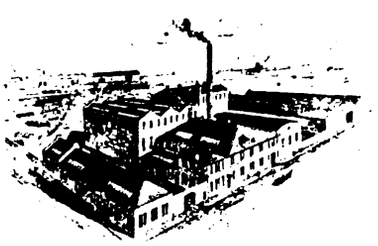

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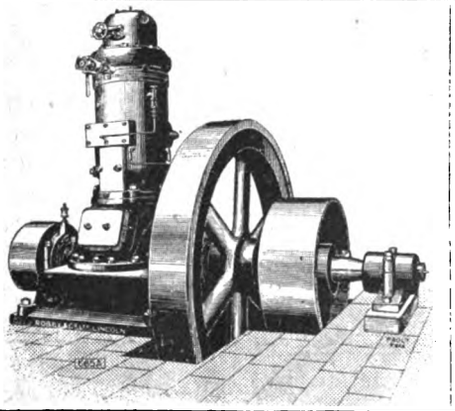

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RIVER HARNESSERS.

The Ipswich firm of engineers, Messrs. Ransomes and Rapier, Limited, deserve the title of "River Harnessers" if any firm ever did so. As sole makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices with Stokes' Patent Improvements, they have taken an active part in dam, weir, and lock construction throughout the world. The Egyptian Government, having fixed upon the site at Assuan for the great dam, instructed their engineers to consider the appliances available for controlling the water. After examining all the apparatus in use on the Continent, it was finally reported to the Government that the "Stoney" system of sluices

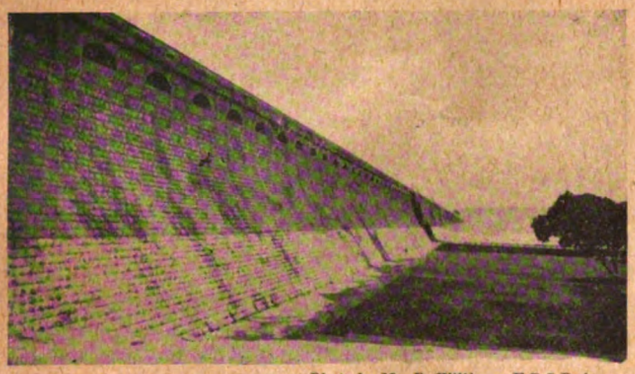


Photo by Mr. R. Williams, F.R.I.B.A.

The Heightened Assuan Dam: Sluices Delivering Water.

was the only one which could deal with the problems presented at Assuan, with the result that it was finally introduced in the gigantic Nile Dam. The firm was likewise under contract with the Egyptian Government for the supply of the sluices for the Esna Barrage, and the success of both these constructions would be proof sufficient, if it were at all needed, of the superior stability and general excellence of the firm's world-known appliances for harnessing the waters of the earth to do man's bidding.

The business carried on by Messrs. Ransomes and Rapier, Limited, was established in 1868 at the Waterside Works, Ipswich. In 1897 the present company was formed, and has still further improved its reputation for supplying plant of the best design, workmanship, and materials, and for carrying out their contracts in the best interests of their customers, irrespective of cost to themselves.

Although the company manufactures various classes of work—such as every kind of crane, railway plant, and permanent way accessories, turntables, traversers, hydraulic buffer stops, water cranes and tanks, swing bridges, capstans, etc.—it has devoted a great deal of attention to the subject of water control, and especially to the manufacture of the Stoney Sluice with the Stokes' Patent Improvements, of which it is the sole maker.

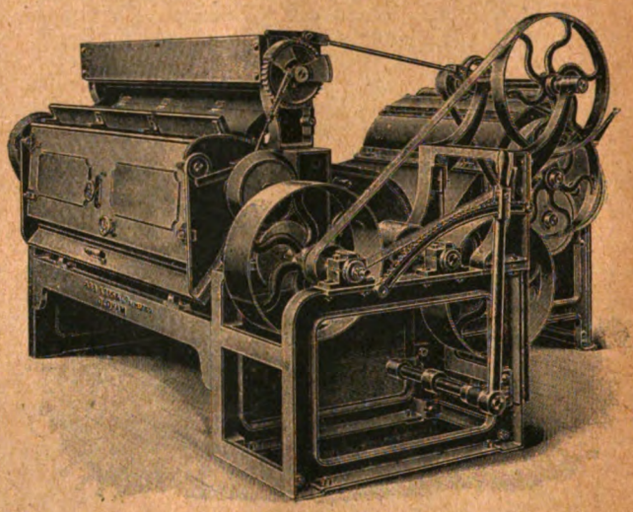
SCOTCH ENGINEERS IN THE NEAR EAST

During recent years Scotch engineering firms, with that nomadic instinct which is characteristic of the hardy men of the North, have figured largely in connection with railway and constructional works in the Near East, and one of the principal firms in this respect is Messrs. P. and W. MacLellan, Limited, who control the Clutha Works, Glasgow, and whose showrooms and offices are situated in Trongate, in the same city. Only quite recently this firm, which specialises in the construction of railway wagons, bridges, jetties, lock gates, sluices, and constructional ironwork, completed a large order for Messrs. Sir John Jackson, Ltd., in connection with that firm's huge irrigation contract in Mesopotamia, Messrs. MacLellans supplying the regulator and lock gates, lift bridges, winches, etc. Previous to this they supplied similar material for the great Assiout Dam on the River Nile, and they have also executed large orders for Messrs. S. Pearson and Sons, Ltd., in connection with that firm's wharves at Puerto, Mexico, and many other large works in the East bear the hall-mark of P. and W. MacLellan. Besides the class of work mentioned, the firm execute a vast amount of steel railway wagon contracts for both the Indian and Colonial Governments, and many of India's finest bridges have come from their works at Glasgow, and only a very short time ago they completed the manufacture of the large travelling gantries which were employed in connection with the erection of the Sara Bridge, over the River Ganges. Contractors and others in the Near East would do well, when requesting information concerning any of the material mentioned above, to communicate through the office of this journal or direct to Messrs. P. and W. MacLellan's offices, Trongate, Glasgow, Scotland, at the same time kindly mentioning THE NEAR EAST.

THE ASA LEES COTTON GINS.

Among British firms of machinery makers who enjoy a world-wide reputation, Messrs. Asa Lees and Co., of the Soho Works, Oldham, occupy a prominent position as makers of all kinds of machinery for preparing, combing, spinning, and doubling cotton, wool, worsted, etc. Cotton-seed linters and gins are among their best-known specialities. Their Macarthy Gin, which is illustrated on page 233, is universally known, more particularly on account of its strong framework and accurate fitting. It can be made either single or double action, the difference consisting in applying to the double-action machine two moving knives, both of which reciprocate at an equal speed, but which are so arranged as to rise and fall alternately. The production of the gin is thus greatly increased without increasing the speed of the crank-shaft, which gives two strokes of the knives for each revolution. Another feature of the Macarthy Gin is that it is self-feeding, all that is required being to place the seed cotton on the feed-table. The leather roller is kept well supplied by means of the pusher board, which has a reciprocal motion.

Another well-known machine made by Messrs. Asa Lees is their Improved Saw Gin. The framework is made entirely of iron, which makes the machine more durable than that with a wooden framework. It is also less liable to take fire, and can be more accurately adjusted. Moreover, all attached surfaces being planed or milled, the parts are interchangeable. A strong feature in favour of the saw gin is that the saw shaft, brush, and condenser cage can be easily removed without disturbing the framework; the necessary adjustments to alter the speed and closeness of the ginning and the separation of the motes can be easily made without stopping the machine. All the power gins



Improved Cotton-seed Linter.

are supplied with fast and loose pulleys, and can be driven from above or below.

The Asa Lees Cotton-seed Linters for oil mills are likewise made entirely of iron, and offer the same advantages as the machine described in the foregoing paragraph. The advantage of an all-iron framework, especially in a warm climate like that obtaining in the Near East, where wood is apt to warp, with the resultant loss of accurate adjustment, need not be insisted upon. The facility with which the 106 saws, which are separated by cast-iron distance blocks, can be taken off and replaced by others if necessary, is a distinct advantage that will not be lost sight of by prospective purchasers of linters in the Near East.

DEMAND FOR SAFES IN SERVIA.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—Iron safes are being sold in Servia to a very considerable extent, and although British-made safes enjoy universally the highest repute, the trade done in Servia in this article is almost entirely restricted to German manufactures. Even the Servian Finance Minister, who has just ordered forty-eight large safes, has placed the order in Germany.

*** When communicating with Advertisers, Readers will greatly oblige by mentioning

"THE NEAR EAST."

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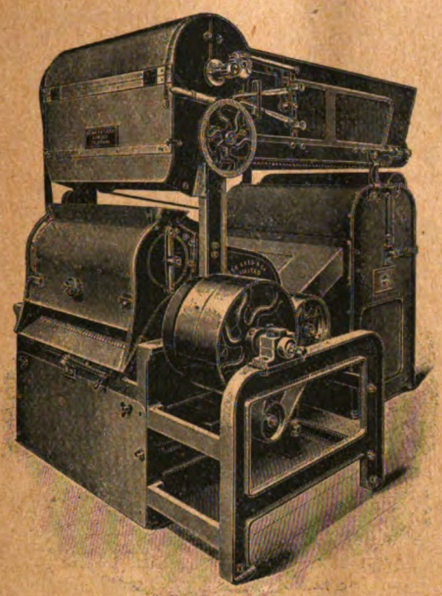
LTD.,

Soho Works, Oldham, England.

Telegraphic Address: "ASA, OLDHAM."
Codes Used: "A1," "A B C," "ATLANTIC."



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MAKERS OF

GINNING MACHINERY

For all classes of Cotton.

MACARTHY ROLLER GINS

For Hand or Power.

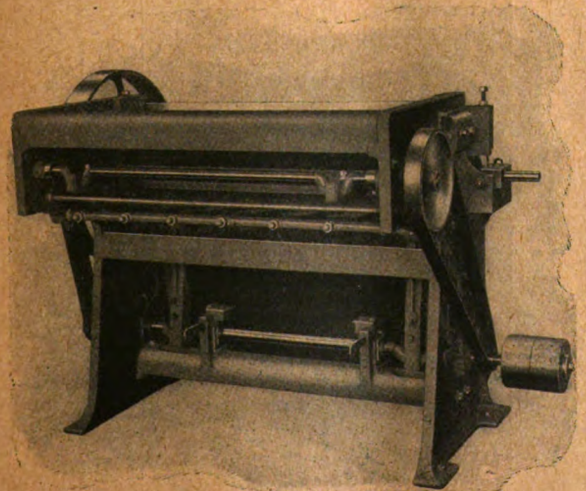
IMPROVED SAW GINS

For Hand or Power.
16, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, or 70 Saws each.
FRAMING MADE ENTIRELY OF IRON.
Also Saw Gins in Complete Batteries with Pneumatic Elevators

COTTON SEED LINTERS

For Oil Mills. **With Iron Framing.**

Also Makers of all kinds of Machinery for Preparing, Combing, Spinning and Doubling Cotton, Wool, Worsted, Etc.



Single-Action Macarthy Cotton Gin.

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OUR WORKS occupy three distinct Sites, and consist of

IRON WORKS where Steam, Gas, and Oil Engines, Portable and Traction Engines, Road Rollers, Winding Engines, Pumps, Corn Mills, Sugar Cane Mills, etc., are made.

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THESE THREE WORKS COVER OVER 50 ACRES AND EMPLOY 5,300 MEN

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3,000 STEAM, GAS and OIL ENGINES.
1,300 BOILERS.
1,200 PUMPS.
1,400 THRESHING MACHINES, Etc.

Agencies throughout the Near East.

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OIL IN EGYPT.

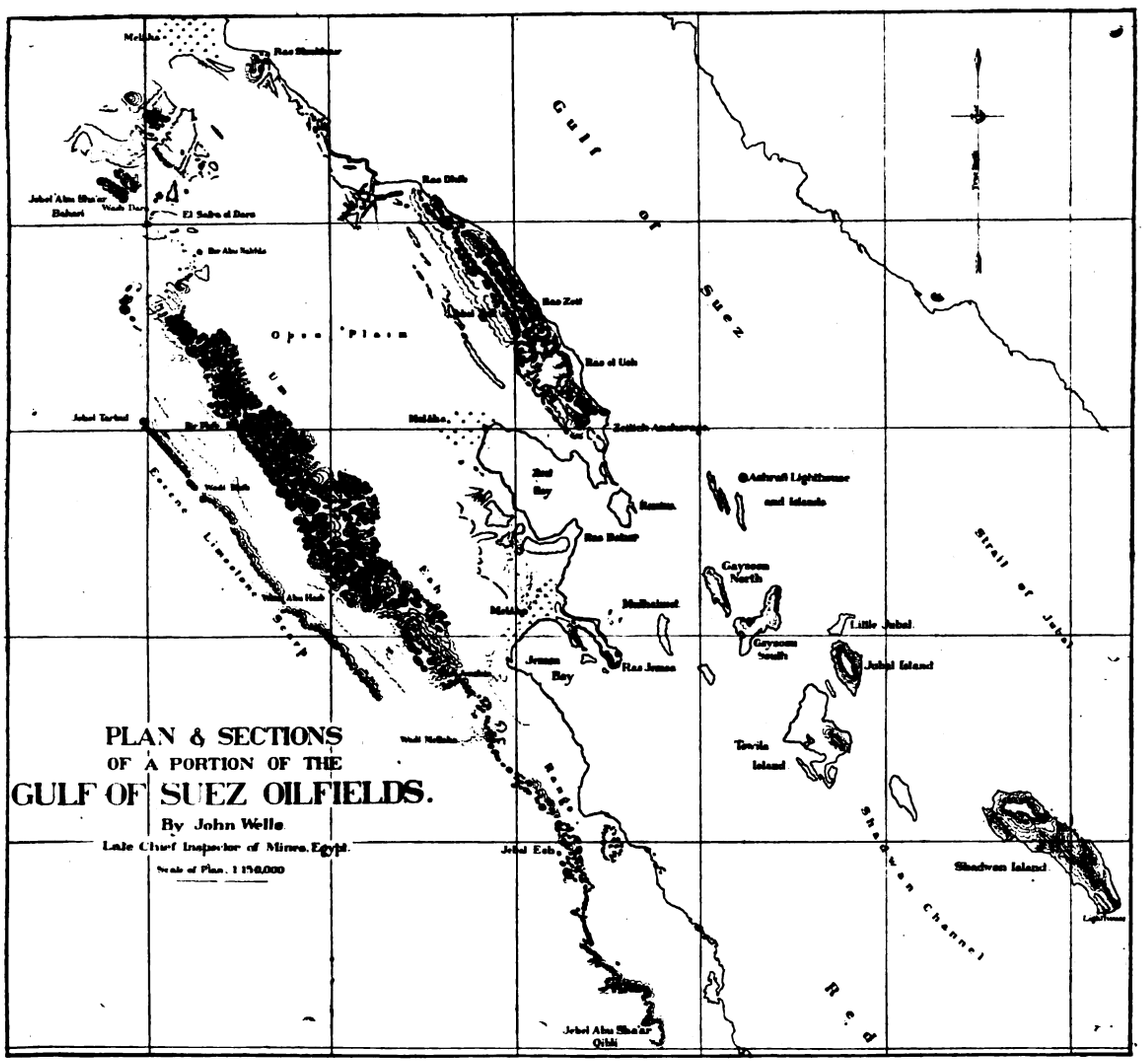
By JOHN WELLS,
late Chief Inspector of Mines in Egypt.

RECENT events in the development of the oil industry in Egypt have given results of no mean order; in fact, a successful issue of very considerable importance has been attained. Less than ten years ago the suggestion of oil existing in commercial quantity in Egypt was scoffed at, even by men well in the front rank of the profession. However, in those days it was fashionable in Egypt to condemn the supposition that the land could contain mineral wealth; even serious-minded officials smiled and murmured that it was impossible. To-day the old order has departed, disbelievers have been partially converted, and the minerals are beginning to blow their own trumpets. Fuel, whether for power, heating, or lighting, is a very important factor in the general scheme of things Egyptian, *vide* the returns of yearly imports of coal and oil. Despite the importance of its agricultural wealth, Egypt, as well as the Sudan, is largely dependent upon an extraneous supply of fuel, and a cessation of supplies on account of external warfare, whether industrial or military, is daily becoming of greater and more serious moment as the population increases and larger land areas come under irrigation. Not only is power required for industrial purposes generally, heating and lighting, but also for lifting water from the rivers and canals, more important still for the drainage of low-lying areas in the Delta. Thus, it will be seen that an adequate fuel supply stands between the State and disaster, and, consequently, it must be admitted that an internal source of fuel is a matter of the very highest importance.

Egypt is dependent upon supplies of fuel from abroad, and we may consider briefly the value of even a small internal production. Roughly, every ½ lb. of oil is equivalent to one horse-power hour. 100 tons (2,000 lbs. each) production per day is equivalent to 16,666 h.p. per hour throughout the 24 hours. With fuel at 50s. per ton, the monetary value is £10 5s. 6d. per hour, or £246 12s. per day, and £90,009 per year, from which it may be deduced that the fuel cost of 1 h.p. per year would be £5 4s. The cost of a horse-power year in different parts of the civilised world from power station varies from £1 to £15 per horse-power, according to the means available for its generation, distribution, etc. In Egypt, with its many small power units, it is safe to assume that a horse-power year under present conditions is costing at least £12, *i.e.*, double the figure given with oil at 50s. per ton. If we assume that out of Egypt's total fuel imports the value of the essential or necessary fuel for power and light is £960,000 approximately, we arrive at the fact that an oil output of 1,000 tons per day would suffice. If, however, we put the "State" owned fuel into power stations (with the fuel produced at cost only to the State) and bring our horse-power year down to £6, then 500 tons per day of production satisfies the power requirements of the country, *i.e.*, an output of 500 tons per day, 3,500 per week, 182,000 tons per year —not a colossal output for an oilfield, and well within the potentialities of the Egyptian field, if we may accept recent events on the headland of Jemsa.

As to the past, present, and future of oil in Egypt, certain facts and figures stand out prominently, viz.:—At the beginning of the present decade the geology and stratigraphy of the Egyptian oilfield was but little understood. Indeed, that which is at present known concerning these two was not even surmised, and would be to-day unknown had it not been for the drill. Egypt was then supposed to possess but 2,000 metres of sedimentary rocks younger than and including the Cretaceous; now, 4,000 metres are recognised, of Cretaceous, Eocene, Miocene, Pliocene, and recent ages, and, in addition to the above, between 1,000 and 2,000 metres of the carboniferous formation are exposed.

At the beginning of the decade the small outcrops were



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considered merely as matters of academic interest, and as indications of fuel oil only in small quantities, generated in the raised tertiary beaches. The writer of these notes did not agree with these assertions, and was much struck by the indisputable fact that oil in the outcrops, in lieu of being a heavy tarry product, was so full of light constituents that it would burn in an ordinary kerosene lamp, indicating its origin from a considerable depth and well sealed reservoirs. Moreover, the idea of its origin in the raised beaches not only appeared to be ridiculous in itself, but the occurrence of oil in rocks from early Cretaceous down to those of quite recent times gave the lie direct to any such hypothesis.

Correlation of data obtained by drilling, coupled with extensive surface surveys, has provided a general key to the stratigraphy, yielding data which is not only indisputable but indicates a series of circumstances and conditions not only comparable but in parallel with those existing in most of the oilfields of the world.

For comparisons and parallels it will serve to take a cursory run over a world-wide area and in perspective to cover Galicia, Roumania, Baku, Caucasia as a whole, Persia and Burma, thence returning up the Red Sea past the Fersan Islands, with a side journey into Mesopotamia, again into the Gulf of Suez, through the canal into the Mediterranean, surveying in turn Algeria, Tunis, Spain, Italy, portions of Turkey, the Greek Archipelago, and so back into Egypt. As a result of this rapid survey we are immediately struck with certain facts, not only indisputable as to their verity, but world-wide in their application :—

(*a*) The occurrence of oil in every place mentioned, in rocks of widely different ages from early Cretaceous down to comparatively recent times.

(*b*) A certain similarity in the conditions of deposition of formations possessing collectively a thickness approaching 20,000 ft., viz. : deep and shallow seas, lagoon stages, estuarine conditions, desert areas, and among them luxuriant circumstances of land and marine flora and fauna, buried deeply or exposed according to subsequent movements of the earth's crust.

(*c*) The development of great producing oilfields not only in areas greatly plicated and disturbed, but equally so in those areas that have not been subjected to great tectonic movements.

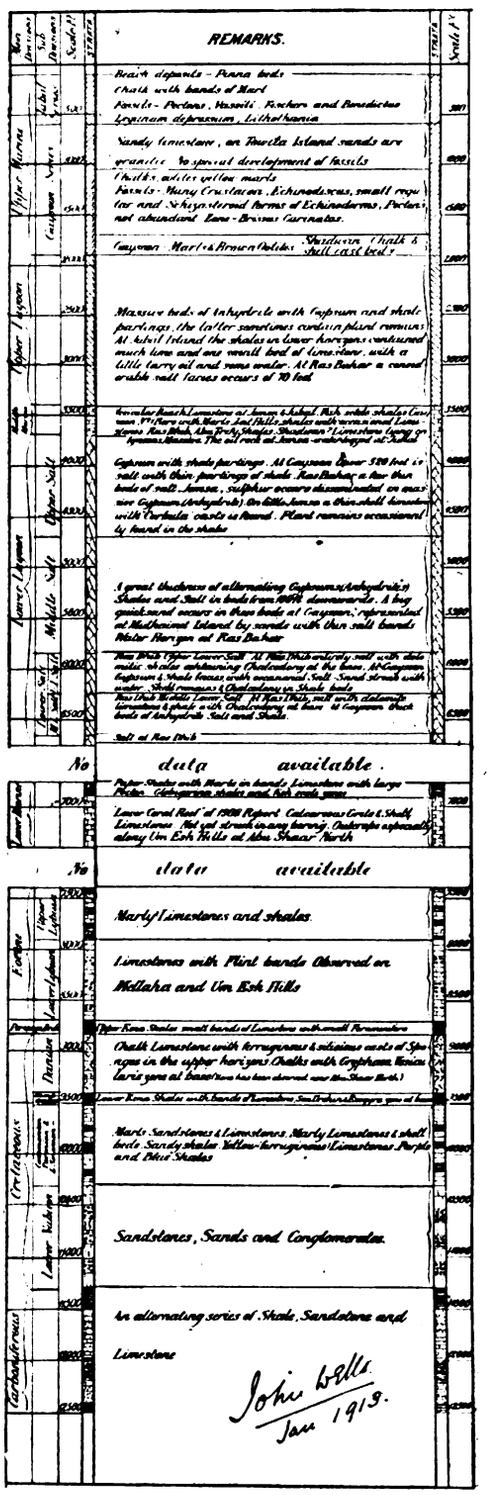
(*d*) The origin of petroleum in these various formations is a matter of everlasting amenities among the scientists. Thus in one field vast accumulation of marine organism presuppose the origin of the petroleum in the rocks or reservoirs ; others, again, hold to the theory of derivation from the flora in the formations, as for example in Burma, wherein it has been noted that in some areas lignite develops and no oil is found, and in others oil is found, but no coal or lignite.

In Egypt, and more particularly in the Gulf of Suez, we find a parallelism with every known field mentioned, viz. : 12,000 to 15,000 ft. of sedimentaries from early Cretaceous to recent. Here we find great beds of phosphate rock, remnants of the denizens of warm, shallow seas, in other formations considerable seams of carbonaceous matter, more especially in the middle Cretaceous ; further in the Eocene and Miocene times we find deeper sea circumstances with great quantities of diminutive organisms of the formanifera type. Finally, in this great thickness of deposits we have a normal variation in physical circumstances, some hard, some soft, porous or close-grained and impermeable, bending, folded, faulted, or resting more or less horizontal, providing conditions and circumstances similar to other fields alike both for the generation and retention or collection of the petroleum. Thus are we able to draw a comparison between Egypt and other well-known fields which is not only favourable but very encouraging for the future.

At the present time there is production at two points, viz. : Jemsa and Hurgada, both of which are drawn from beds of the Middle Marine (see stratigraphical chart), the exact age of which has not yet been determined. At Jemsa much has been said in regard to water in the wells, but oil and water are almost invariable constituents in a porous rock that has been subjected to undulation, the two separating under gravity. At Jemsa circumstances are not quite normal, and the water question is not generally understood. The reservoir rock at Jemsa is a beach deposit, laid down more particularly on a shore line on the eastern slope of an older plication or fold. To the eastward or sea side of the fold there is a fault—one of the main N. and S. series common to the structural development of the Gulf. Thus we have an unconformability on one side of the oil area and a fault on the other ; and, further, we have oil in a formation laid down in water and waterlogged before the oil ever entered therein. The reservoir rock itself has not only been subjected to plication and movement since it was deposited, but is also extraordinarily variable in porosity and thickness ; hence the variation not only in yield of the different wells, but also in their life. These conditions naturally tend to make production variable and uncertain, but do not seriously affect the value of the field. A great or small area may exist of this old beach deposit, which, however, can only be proved by drilling. Water there will be in every well sunk, which will sooner or later master the well. This, however, does not seriously affect the commercial value of this shallow field, but it does affect its useful life. Where circumstances are favourable, large wells will be obtained of short life on a big flow, followed by a continuance of lesser production more or less extended. Other wells, again, will yield smaller amounts for longer periods.

A study of the formations above and below this middle marine, including at least 3,000 ft. on each side, indicates nothing in their contents to account for the petroleum having its origin within them. Therefore we are forced to the conclusion that the oil of the middle Marine is by

THE STRATIGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.



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migration along fault lines and unconformabilities in the deposition of the strata of the various eras; and, further, as the oil cannot have come from above, it must have come up from still older formations below.

It is probable, on the data now available, that extensions of the shallow field will be found by exploration with the drill at other points, even a considerable distance from Jemsa, but the future potentiality of oil in Egypt lies in the deeper horizons of the lower Marine, or possibly in rocks still lower. At Jemsa the lower Marine should be found at 2,750 to 3,000 ft., and at several other points at depths varying from 2,900 to 4,000 ft., well within the limits of economic drilling with modern machinery and appliances.

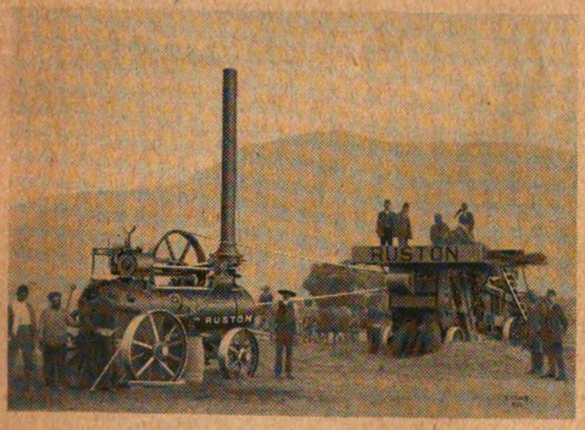
Until the deeper areas have been tested by the drill, the full potentialities of the Egyptian field will remain unknown; but, generally speaking, the prospects are so encouraging for a successful issue that there is little fear but that success will attend the efforts of the adventurers, whether represented by the State, private or public companies.

A good deal has been said from time to time concerning the excessive cost of drilling and the difficulties of the economic situation in regard to supplies and water. No doubt, during the pioneer stages there was room for the statements, but now the pioneering stage is to some extent past history, these difficulties are not likely to recur.

The cost of deep drilling will compare very favourably with some of the older fields, and will never be so high as in some parts of Russia and Galicia. In fact, with modern machinery and modern methods, holes of 3,000 to 4,000 ft. should not exceed £6,000 to £9,000, though the initial borings will be very much higher; even these should be completed at from £4 to £5 per foot. The climate is good all the year round, communication with the civilised world is easy, and the fields lie alongside one of the great highways of the world. Year by year the fuel requirements of Egypt and the Sudan will increase, and there is little doubt that if her oilfields are developed, there will be for many years to come a steadily growing production.

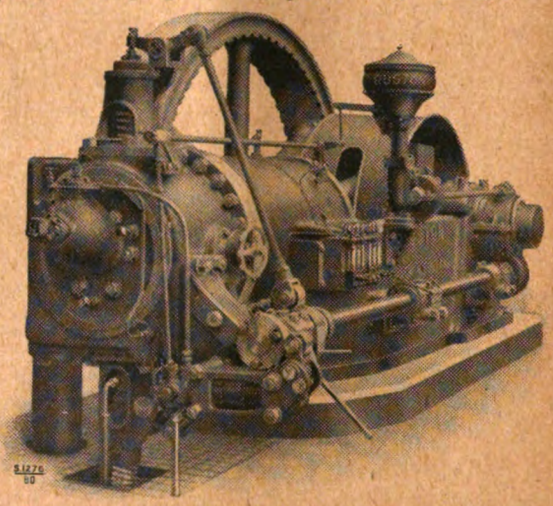
RUSTON, PROCTOR AND CO., LTD.

The well-known firm of Ruston, Proctor and Co., Ltd., Lincoln, are probably the largest suppliers of agricultural and industrial machinery to the Near East, and therefore a few particulars about their works and manufactures will be of interest to our readers. The works are situated at Lincoln, England, and occupy an area of over fifty acres and provide constant employment for an army of 5,200 men. Naturally, with works of this extent, the annual output is enormous, averaging 1,400 thrashing machines, straw presses, chaff cutters, elevators, etc.; 3,000 steam, gas, and oil engines, 1,300 boilers, 1,200 pumps, and a large number of corn-grinding mills, sugar cane mills, and miscellaneous machinery.



A Thrashing Scene in Turkey, with Ruston Portable Steam Engine and Ruston Thrashing Machine.

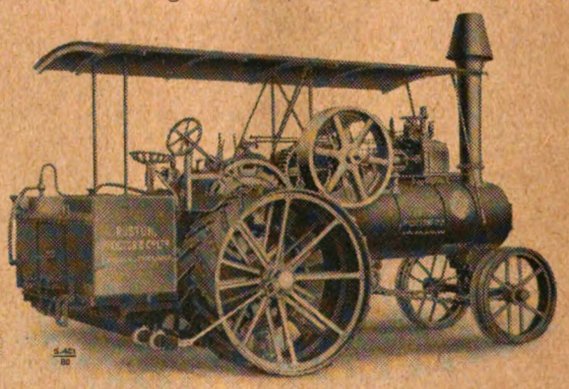
The firm is represented in the leading centres of trade in the Near East by first-class agents, and this, together with the firm's policy of sending out their experts to study the actual conditions, enables them to supply the most suitable type of machine for the particular requirements of the different countries. Thus, the type of thrashing machine sent out to Eastern countries is fitted with a bruising apparatus which chops all the short straw and cavings, and renders them into very fine fodder for cattle and horses. This apparatus can be supplied as part of the thrasher or as a separate machine. Further, a patent self-feeding device can be supplied, which, apart from reducing the number of accidents which have frequently occurred with the open type of feeder, enables the sheaves to be fed in a more regular manner, thus increasing the output. The Ruston portable steam engines for driving thrashing and similar machines are too well known to need much mention. The Ruston traction engines delivered to the Near East are giving full satisfaction. This class of engine has in late years been adopted for ploughing by direct traction, and has proved a perfect success in Asia Minor. Corn-grinding mills, both power and cattle driven, are supplied in large quantities, particularly in Egypt.



A Ruston "C.C." Crude Oil Engine.

Great progress has been made in Asia Minor, the Balkan States, Syria, and Egypt with the Ruston "complete combustion" crude oil engine, no other engine for working on crude and residual oils having been so successful. Since this engine was brought out, about four years ago, its success has been phenomenal, and it is generally admitted to be the most economical and reliable of its type, and the most suitable for these markets. Throughout the whole of the Near East there are large numbers of these engines driving electric lighting and pumping stations and ordinary industrial works.

Owing to the difficulty in these countries of obtaining anthracite and other imported fuel, there is a very restricted market for the ordinary suction gas plant, but the introduction of the suction gas producer, which can work continuously on wood refuse, bark, olive refuse from oil mills, rice husks, cotton pods, cocoanut husks and shells, and other waste materials, presents the matter in quite a new phase and is being welcomed in the East, where wood or olive refuse can be obtained at a very low cost. The Ruston "wood refuse" suction gas producer is one of the best known of this type, and has been proved to be a most simple and reliable plant, producing good clean gas without requiring constant attention or frequent shut-downs for cleaning. In fact, the cleaning of the outlet



A Ruston Steam Ploughing Engine.

pipes is performed by a patented arrangement while the plant is working, and the generator itself only requires cleaning after long periods of running.

Other manufactures of this firm that are largely imported by the Near Eastern countries are centrifugal pumps, fixed steam engines, steam boilers, traction engines, and road rollers. Ruston centrifugal pumps are very largely used in Egypt, a special type for low lifts being introduced for irrigation work. Mention should also be made of the Ruston steam excavators, as Ruston, Proctor and Co., Ltd., are now the largest makers of these machines in Europe.

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SEMI-DIESEL VERTICAL TYPE.

STATIONARY ENGINES

with One, Two, or Four Cylinders,

:: from **5** to **500** B.H.P. ::

— FOR —

FACTORY DRIVING, ELECTRIC LIGHTING, etc.

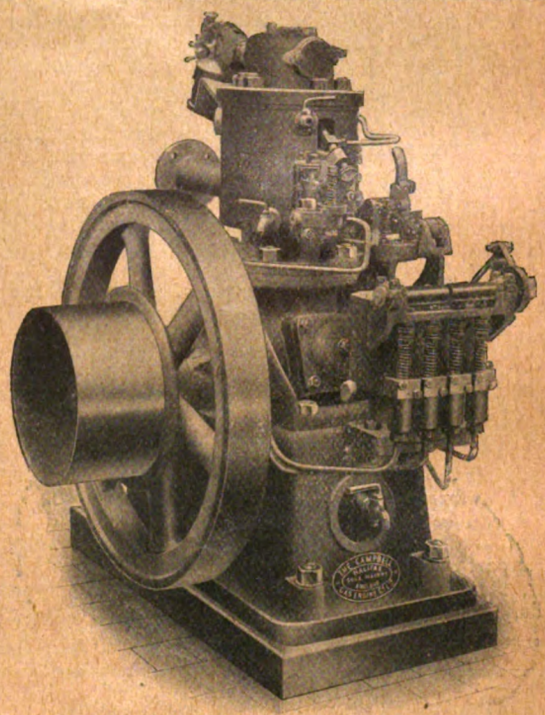
These Engines work with Crude, Semi-refined or Refined Oil.

Consumption of Crude Oil per B.H.P. per hour, **285** to **360** grammes (**·63** to **·8**lb.), according to size of Engine.

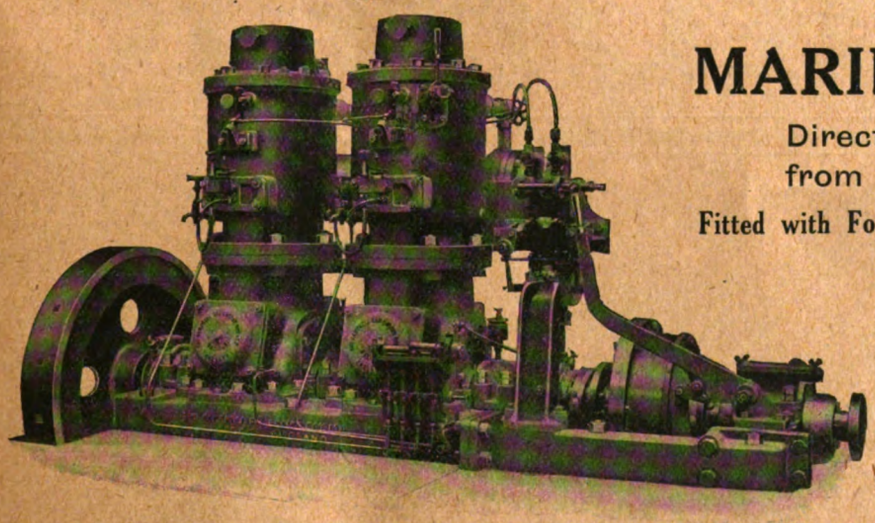
They are of extremely simple design, occupy the minimum of space, and do not require skilled attention.

The Heating Lamp is NOT in use while Engine is at work.

Material and workmanship are of the highest class throughout.



STATIONARY ENGINE—10 B.H.P



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from **5** to **500** B.H.P.

Fitted with Forced Lubrication to Cylinders and all enclosed Bearings.

LARGE SIZES REVERSE BY COMPRESSED AIR.

These Engines are suitable for all kinds of Commercial Vessels on sea or river.

Full power or auxiliary.

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WATER FILTRATION.

As practically all waters required for drinking purposes require filtration (and often chemical treatment) before they are safe and fit for human consumption, the provision of a reliable and economical filtration plant is a matter of vital importance to the health and wellbeing of every community. A system that is extensively used in England and many other countries on account of its great efficiency and economy is that of the Candy Filter Company, who supply mechanical filter plants (gravity and pressure) of the very latest type, and which are greatly in advance of any other kind of filter; they enable polluted, doubtful, or unsatisfactory supplies to be converted into waters that are not only perfectly safe, but bright, sparkling, and of the greatest palatability.

Fig. 1.

The great value of Candy Patent filters has been proved over and over again, and that eminent scientific authority, the Royal Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, has on three occasions awarded medals for Candy filters and filtering medium.

By means of their different types of filters and apparatus the Candy Filter Company are able to deal with waters from all sources and to render them fit for whatever purpose, whether for a public supply or for manufacturing or other purposes. Large or small volumes of water are treated with equal success, the cost of Candy filters ranging from £100 upwards, according to the quantity of water to be filtered. All kinds of impurities can be removed, and the absolute destruction of the B. Coli, Cholera Vibrio, and Bacillus Typhosus ensured. Thus waters can be rendered *safe against waterborne disease.*

The fact that amongst many other places such well known and important towns in England as Harrogate, Hastings, Torquay, Reading, Truro, Cowes (Isle of Wight), Tunbridge Wells, Newport (Mon.), Cardiff, etc., employ Candy filters in preference to all other methods of dealing with their water supplies clearly demonstrates the practical value of the Candy filter. This is additionally confirmed by their adoption by the English, Colonial, and Foreign Governments. Candy filters have been shipped to Australia, South Africa, the Malay States, Nigeria, China, Japan, South America, and many other parts of the world. Their adoption in the Near East by those having charge of water supplies would no doubt result in a diminution of the death rate, and also have a markedly beneficial result on the health of the community in general.

Fig. 2 shows a battery of Candy filters in course of erection in South America for purifying five million gallons of water daily. Fig. 1 illustrates a filter suitable for plantations, factories, estates, hotels, and institutions.

We understand that the Candy Filter Company, of 5, Westminster Palace Gardens, Victoria Street, London, will be glad (free of charge) to render every assistance to engineers and others in the Near East who are considering the question of improving public or private water supplies, and they would also be pleased to hear from firms or gentlemen of influence who are prepared to act as agents.

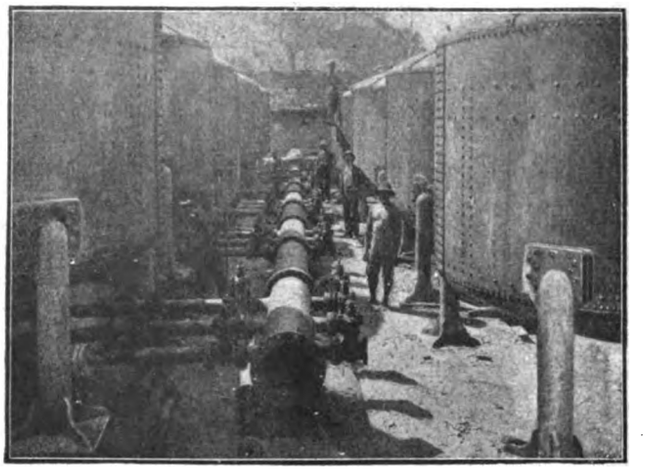

Fig. 2.

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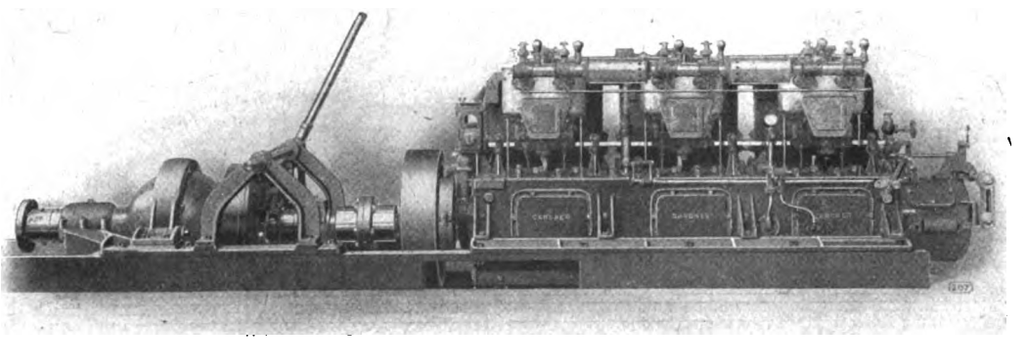
MARINE ENGINES for All Fuels.



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90 B.H.P. at 600 R.P.M., as used for fast Government Boats.

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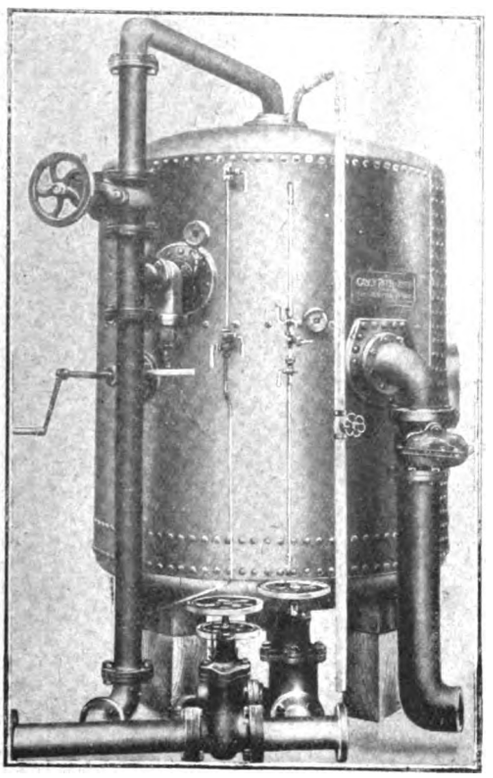
CANDY PATENT FILTERS



BEST FOR PURIFYING WATER SUPPLIES.

Adopted by large and important Towns and Cities, by many Corporations, Councils and Water Companies, etc., etc.;

BY THE

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT,

AND BY

Colonial and Foreign Governments.

THE HIGHEST AWARDS OF THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO CANDY WATER FILTERS

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Full Illustrated Particulars, Reports and Estimates will be gladly furnished, free of charge, by

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NOTE.—Agencies can be granted for a few Countries in the Near East, not yet represented.

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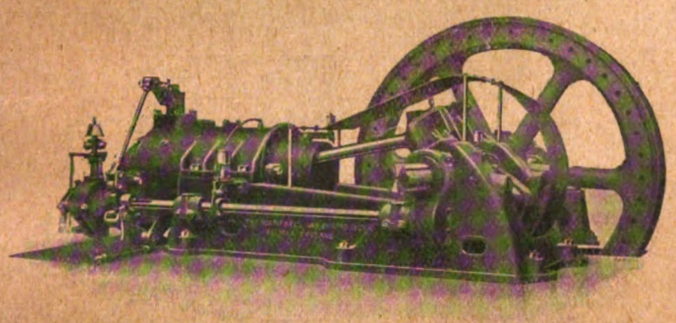
MESSRS. CAMPBELL'S OIL ENGINES.

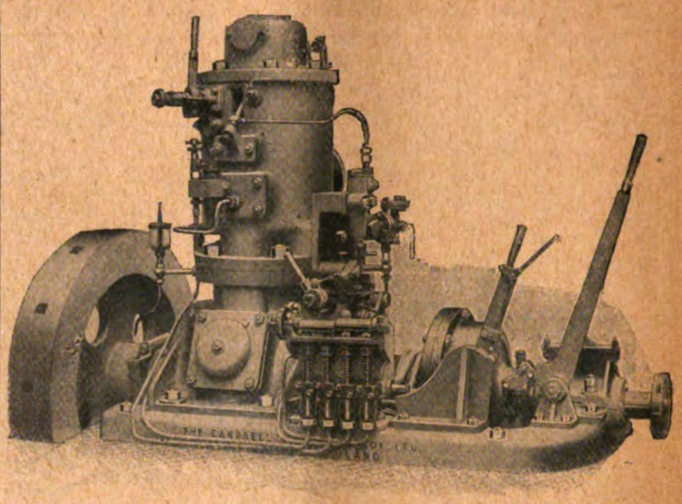
Not so very many years ago oil as a power fuel was practically unknown, yet to-day it is used in such great quantities that some doubts are already entertained as to whether the world's oil supply will be equal to the increasing demand. To the utilisation of oil for power purposes, however, we owe the remarkable progress in oil-engine construction which is still being made. There are now several types of such engines, which will run, economically, on crude oil, and some of the latest and best are undoubtedly those designed and constructed by the Campbell Gas Engine Company, Limited, of Halifax, England. Their "Campbell" high-compression oil engine for working with crude or residual petroleum is the outcome of more than thirty years' experience in the design and building of internal-combustion engines. A design which is very largely used is the horizontal type with one, two, three, and four cylinders in a range of powers from 7½ to 400 b.h.p. This engine works with practically any kind of fuel oil, such as is used in a Diesel engine, and with an average consumption varying from .5 lb. per b.h.p. per hour in an engine of 60 or



High-compression Oil Engine of 70 b.h.p.

70 b.h.p. in one cylinder to .65 lb. in a small engine of 7 or 10 b.h.p. This approaches very closely to the economy of the Diesel engine.

Some of the great advantages possessed by this type of engine are that there is no water injection used in the cylinder under any conditions; no heating lamp is required



Single-Cylinder Direct Reversible Marine Engine.

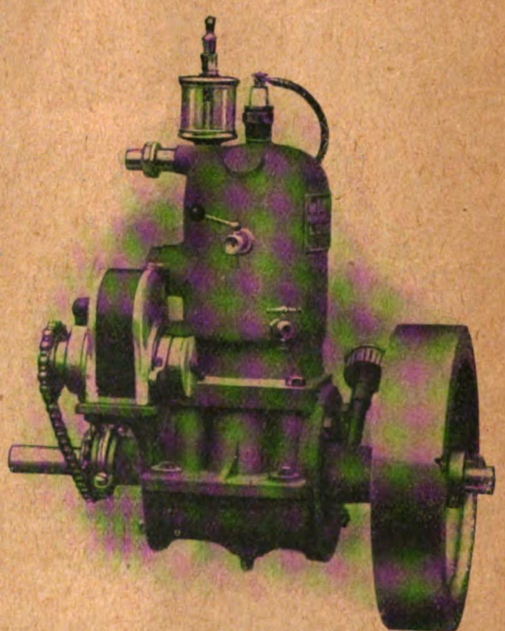
while the engine is working, whether without load or under any conditions of load. The engine will run light for as long as required without the use of the lamp, which is only required for a few minutes previous to starting for the preliminary heating of the vaporiser. Even this is unnecessary, as the firm has recently introduced a modification which enables the engine to be started up on benzine or kerosine, absolutely without the use of a heating lamp; that is to say, that the engine can be started up immediately from a perfectly cold state, and can be immediately turned over on to crude oil. This is a great advantage and brings the high-compression engine practically on to a level with the Diesel engine as regards general convenience. An engine of this design with two cylinders is illustrated in one of Messrs. Campbell's advertisements, on page 237.

A number of these engines have been supplied by the firm for working the boring and baling rigs in the oilfields at Baku, and for other industrial purposes in

"DAY" VALVELESS MOTORS

Are in **successful** use throughout the **entire world,** and are famous for their **Great Simplicity** (they have no valves, and only three working parts), **Smooth Running, Reliability,** and **Good Workmanship.**

There are many other Two-stroke Motors on the market, mostly American, and all **imitations of ours,** but the only **original** one is the **"DAY,"** and that is made by ourselves with the **best** of **British Labour** and **Material** throughout.



If you want the BEST, don't be put off with IMITATIONS, but

Insist on having a "DAY."

The Illustration shows one of our small **Marine Type** Motors, but we make them for all sorts of **Land Work** as well, for direct-coupled **Electric Lighting Sets, Pumping,** etc., etc.
Standard sizes from **2½** H.P. to **30** H.P.

Write for Prices and Particulars, and for Agencies where not represented—

DAY MOTOR CO., Ltd., Putney, London.

Telephone. Putney, 891. Cable Address: "KERROMOTOR, LONDON." Codes used: A.B.C. (5th Edition), Western Union.

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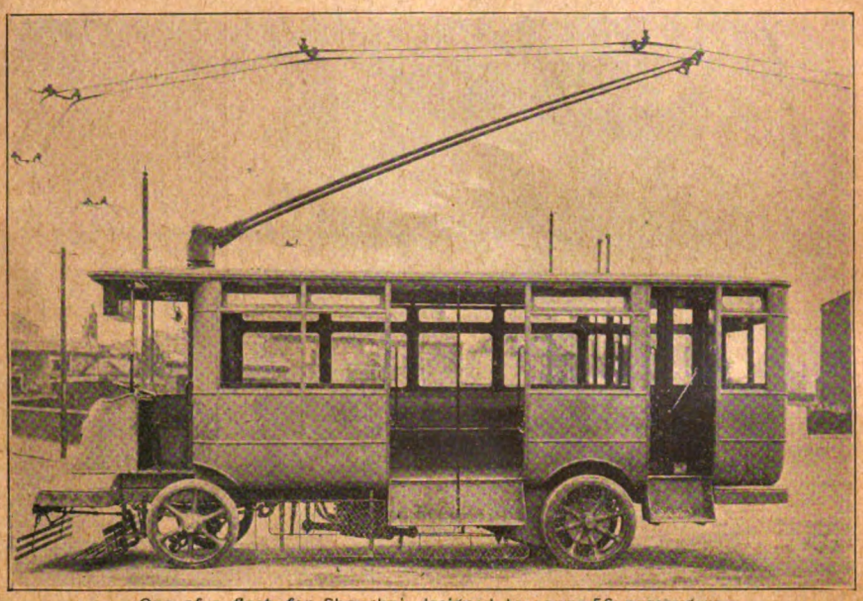
RAILLESS ELECTRIC TRACTION

THE CHEAPEST AND MOST RELIABLE FORM OF ROAD TRANSPORT.
NO RAILS. RUNS ON ORDINARY ROADS.

For carriage of passengers, goods, minerals, grain and farm produce.

The Cars can be steered freely all over the road.

Passenger cars, freight wagons, etc., specially designed for all parts of the World.



One of a fleet for Shanghai, designed to carry 56 passengers.

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IMPERIAL GAS, OIL AND SPIRIT ENGINES

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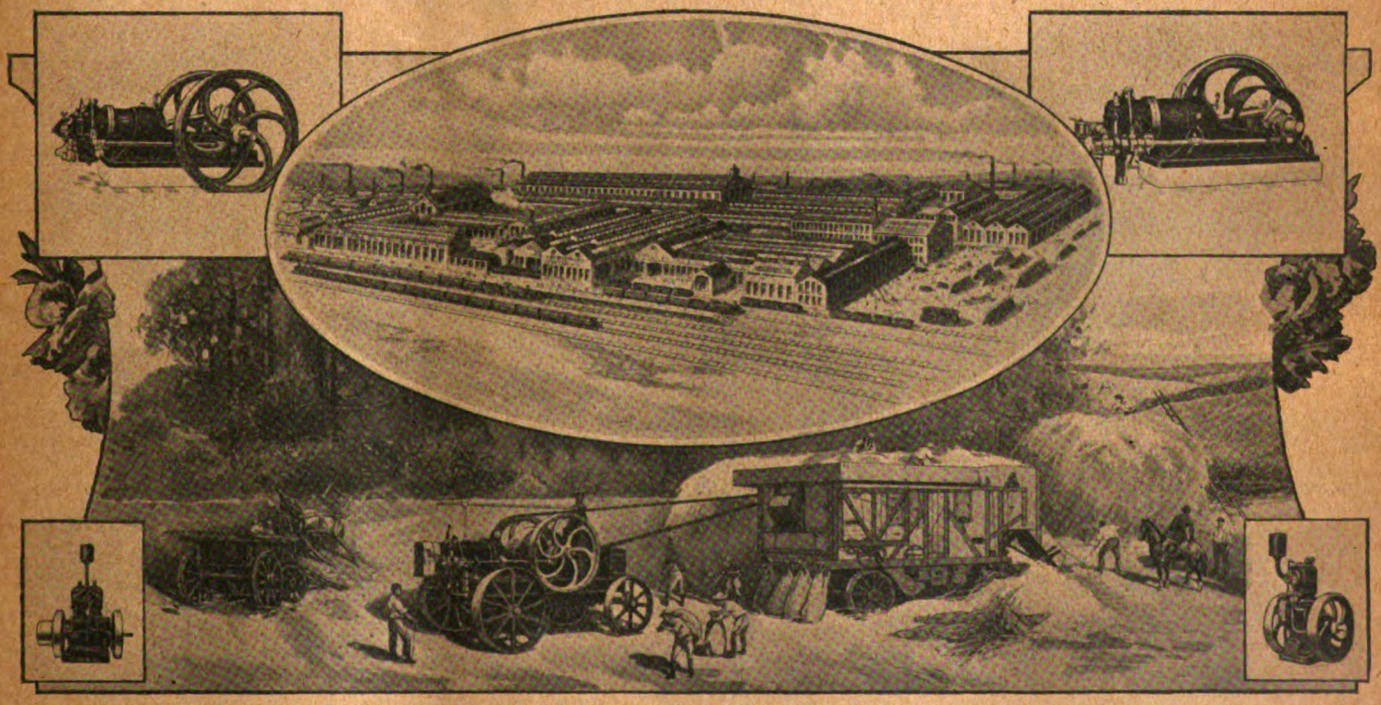

Write to-day for latest catalogues.
KEIGHLEY GAS & OIL ENGINE CO., LTD., IMPERIAL WORKS, KEIGHLEY.

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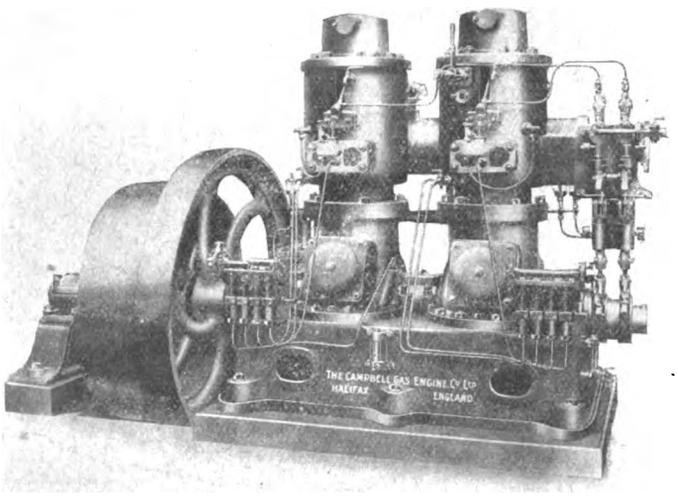
Russia and the neighbouring European countries. They have also supplied a number to India and the Far East.

Another type of this firm's engine, which is now being



Two-Cylinder Direct Reversible Engine for land use.

largely installed, principally for marine work and also to a considerable extent as a stationary land engine, is the vertical two-cycle engine. This type is of very simple design, and for marine work an improved direct reversible attachment is added which does away with the use of gear-boxes and other similar devices for changing the direction of rotation of the propeller. These engines are built from 5 to about 500 b.h.p. in a range of standard sizes, with one, two, and four cylinders. A single-cylinder engine of this design is illustrated on page 252.

The two-cycle engine is particularly well adapted for coupling direct to dynamos, owing to the comparatively high speed of rotation, and a further advantage is that it occupies a very small floor space.

The gas producers of the Campbell Engine Company are well known in the East, several of them working with rice husks, cotton seed, olive husks, and similar vegetable fuels.

Their gas engines are recognised as of the highest class, embodying all the modern improvements to ensure efficiency, durability, and simplicity, characteristics which are highly appreciated in the East, and are most essential for the success of that class of engine.

THE "DAY" MOTOR.

The "Day" Motor, being the original of the two-stroke valveless type, is one of the best known motors on the market. It is a well tried invention, for it has stood the severest test of all, that of time. It was invented and brought out by Mr. Day some twenty years ago, and it is used now in all parts of the world, giving every satisfaction for its simplicity, durability and efficiency. It is made by the Day Motor Co. (Ltd.), of Putney, London, where the firm's well-equipped works are at present fully employed in turning out motors for all parts.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of this motor is its extreme simplicity, for it has no cans, valves, or complications of any kind; indeed, the makers claim that it has only three essential moving working parts, viz., the piston, connecting rod, and crank shaft with its attached fly-wheel. It would seem difficult to design a successful motor on simpler lines than these.

We understand that a "Day" engine was recently selected by the British Government for permanent exhibition at the Science Museum, South Kensington, as representative of the two-stroke valveless type, and that others have been supplied to the L.C.C. and other provincial authorities for their educational establishments, so that it would seem Mr. Day's claim to be the originator of the two-stroke valveless system is well founded.

That this type of engine is coming more and more into use is pretty obvious, and THE NEAR EAST, where motors are in much demand, should prove a good field for such a simple and reliable motor.

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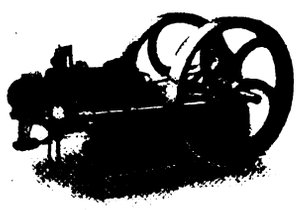
Oil Engines.

SPECIAL ELECTRIC LIGHTING and PUMPING SETS.



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EXPORTERS of all classes of **MACHINERY** for Spinning and Weaving cotton, wool, worsted, flax, hemp and jute, including looms of latest types and for all purposes.

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MACHINES for making wire healds—latest types.

PATTERN CUTTING MACHINES. OIL TESTING MACHINES.

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PORTABLE TACHOMETERS for instantly and accurately testing speeds of machinery, power plant, motors, dynamos, spindles—all sizes, all ranges, all prices.

TRANSMISSION DYNAMOMETERS, for positively weighing power transmitted in driving textile machinery, etc.

EXPORTATEURS de tous genres de machines pour la filature et le tissage de coton, laine, laine peignée, le lin, le chanvre, la jute, etc, y inclus les Métiers à tisser des dernières modèles et pour tous besoins. Machines à faire les tubes en papier. Machines à faire les navettes. Machines à faire les lisses métalliques, modèles les plus perfectionnés. Devis et tous renseignements sur demande.

Machines à couper les échantillons. Balances pour échantilloner les fils, aussi tous genres de machines pour épreuver les fils et les tissus. Machines à essayer l'huile.

Tachymètre portatif en toutes grandeurs, de toutes espèces et à tous prix: pour la vérification exacte et instantanée de la vitesse des machines, des dynamos, des moteurs, des transmissions, et de broches de filature.

Tachymètres et Tachographes types fixes, pour vérifier et enrégistrer sur un rouleau de papier toutes les susdites vitesses.

Dynamomètre à transmission, pour peser avec précision la force motrice transmise dans la commande de machines de filature.

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HAS AWARDED THE

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VERTICAL FILING CABINETS

to The SHANNON Ltd., for Shannon Vertical Filing Cabinets, containing over **2,000** file drawers—solely on merit, **first-class material, easy running of drawers,** facility of handling the documents for quick reference.

A large repeat order for over **300 CARD INDEX CABINETS** was also awarded to The SHANNON Ltd. by the Egyptian Government.

The severe competition to which their test was subjected has again proved the superiority in quality, durability, and efficiency of Shannon Manufactures, and we can safely recommend ——————

Shannon Cabinets for Use in the Near East

We will gladly suggest suitably arranged Systems for the safe keeping of CORRESPONDENCE and all kinds of RECORDS.

A SHANNON CABINET IN TRANSIT FOR SAKKARA

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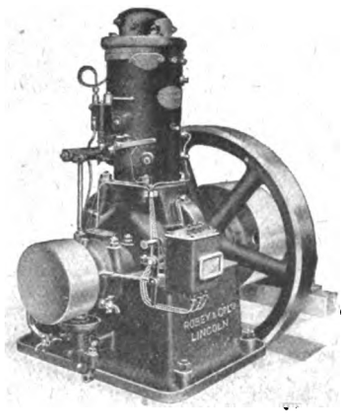
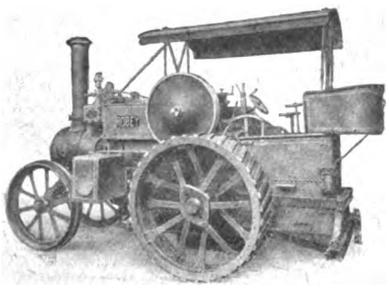
ROBEY AND COMPANY.

The well-known firm of Messrs. Robey and Co., Limited, of Lincoln, who have been established upwards of half a century, have attained an excellent reputation in the Near East, as elsewhere, for their manufactures, which are very diversified in their character. Originally commencing as manufacturers of agricultural machinery, while maintaining their interest in this direction they have extended the field of their operations and are now even better known as manufacturers of prime movers of all descriptions, pumping plants, etc. We illustrate below a new type of portable engine which they have introduced, and which has a circular firebox, special large firegrate for burning logs of wood, which is specially suitable for countries where coal is difficult to obtain as fuel. In addition, they are also manufacturing in considerable numbers a compound semi-portable engine, fitted with a superheater, which is meeting with a very large demand, particularly in Egypt, for irrigation purposes.

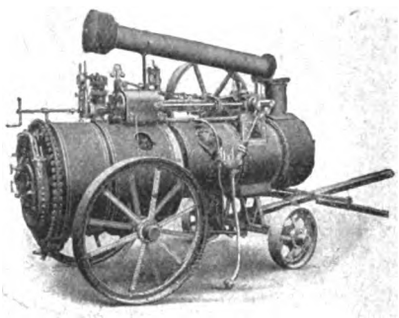
The illustration opposite represents one of their crude-oil engines, which is on the well-known semi-Diesel principle, and which they manufacture both on the portable and stationary types, the latter being made in sizes from 6 to 200 b.h.p., with single and multiple cylinders. A great feature of this engine is the very low fuel consumption, which ranges from .55 pints per b.h.p. per hour in the large sizes up to .60 in smaller sizes.

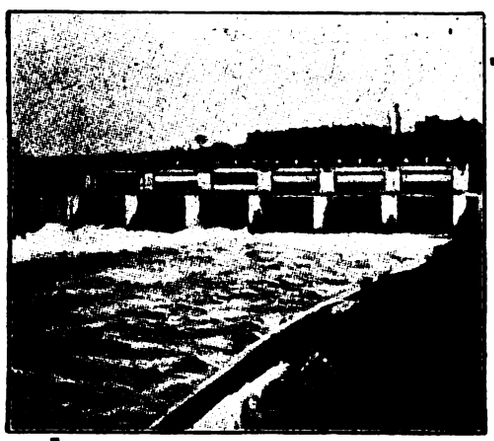




The third illustration represents their compound tractor, which is a replica of their well-known traction engines. There is no need to enlarge on the various purposes to which this neat little motor can be applied, as it is used in all parts of the world both for threshing, ploughing, tree-pulling, sawing, etc. This particular illustration shows an engine which has been shipped to Rhodesia for ploughing land for tobacco plantations, and it has given great satisfaction by the ease with which it pulls the ploughs; it is capable of pulling a five-furrow plough with the greatest of ease. On one day's work with native labour it ploughed thirteen acres of virgin land to a depth of 7 inches in ten hours.

In view of the large extension that is being given to road-making in the Near East, it is interesting to note that Messrs. Robey and Co. manufacture steam-rollers constructed both with single and compound cylinders and in sizes from six to sixteen tons. They are designed with the same attention to details as the firm's traction-engines, and every consideration has been paid to securing efficiency and economy in working combined with the utmost reliability. Details of construction will be forwarded to any persons interested, but the following special points may be noted here: — All the working parts are so arranged as to be within easy reach of the driver, and all levers controlling the engine are placed so that one man can drive and steer. The clutch gear is so arranged that two speeds cannot possibly be in gear at one time. They can readily be converted into traction-engines.





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Span of each Gate, 32 ft. 10 in. Depth of each Sluice, 28 ft. Lift, 16 ft. 6 in.

RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd.

Sole Makers of the

"Stoney Control Sluices,"

with STOKES' PATENT IMPROVEMENTS.

The "Free-Roller" or "Stoney Sluice" is absolutely reliable and simple; the cost of upkeep is exceedingly small, and it will operate with certainty, whenever required, against any head for which it is designed.

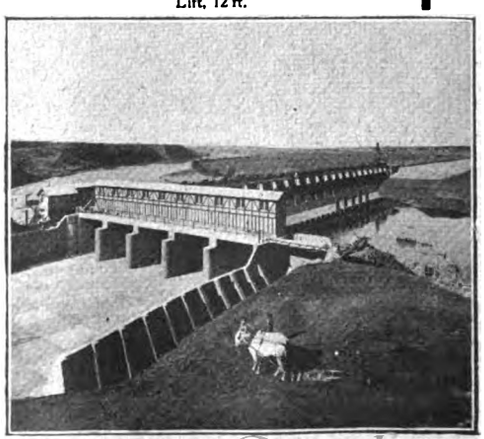
It can be so protected as to ensure successful operation under ice conditions, in cold situations.

By its use the original régime of a river can, in times of flood, be restored in a few minutes.

Over 1,000 Sluices already installed.

THE "STONEY" SLUICE is in successful operation in most parts of the World.

BASSANO DAM, ALBERTA, CANADA.
24 Main Sluices, 11 ft. deep; Span, 27 ft.; Lift, 14 ft.
5 Canal Head Sluices, 14 ft. deep; Span, 20 ft.; Lift, 12 ft.



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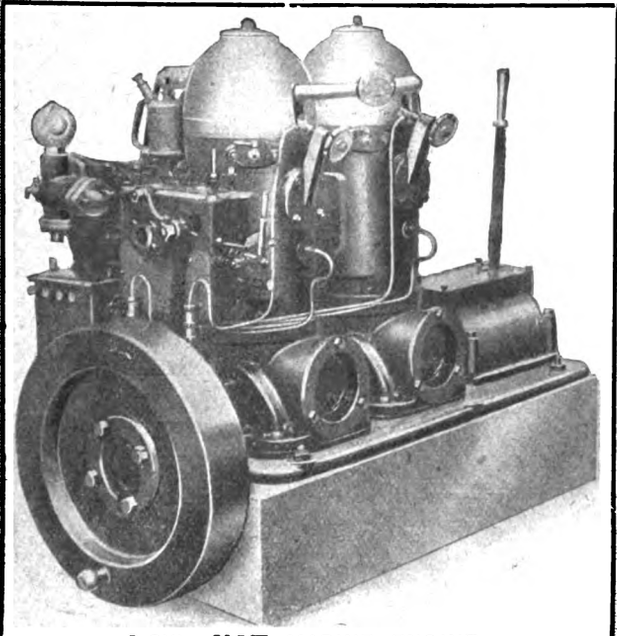

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EASY STARTING
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20	1	PANATECHOR	169 1 0
20	2	PANATAX	168 0 0
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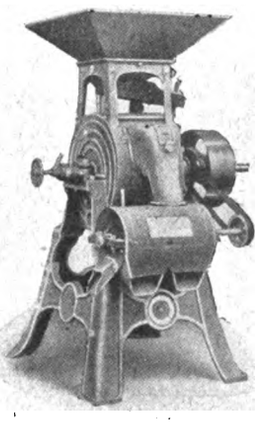
'India' Vertical Stone Mill with Dresser.



THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SMALL COMBINED FLOUR MILL.

THIS Mill can be fitted with either Composition or French Burr Stones. The Sifter is of the Rotary Brush Type and is the most efficient Sifter made, and can be easily dismounted when not required.

The mill itself will grind wheat and all kinds of cereals to a fine meal, and with the Sifter attached good quality white flour can be made.

They are made in various sizes, and where a small mill for grinding and flour making is required this has proved to be an ideal mill.

A. R. TATTERSALL & CO.,
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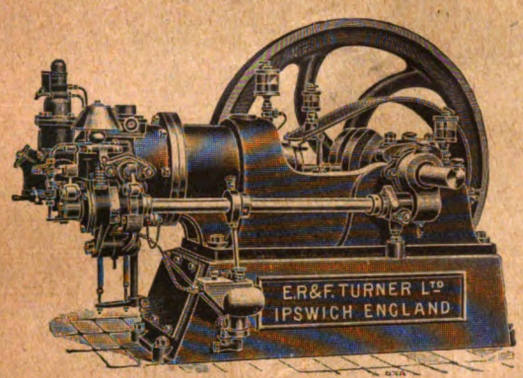
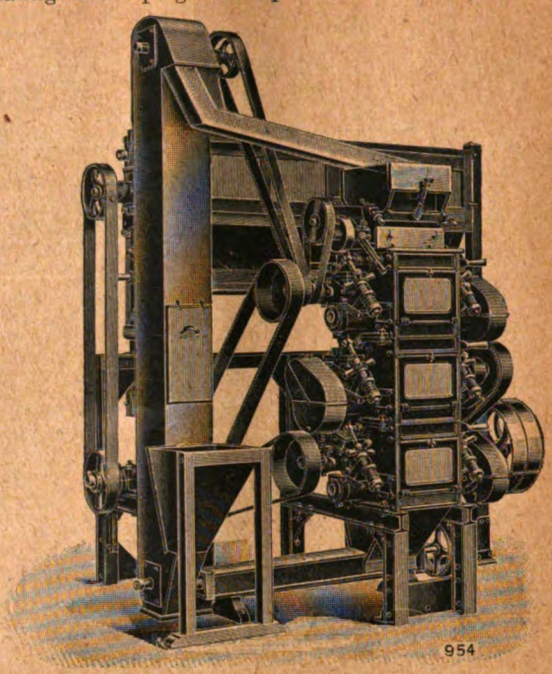
E. R. & F. TURNER, LTD.

We illustrate below a new type of horizontal oil engine recently introduced by the well-known firm of engine-builders, Messrs. E. R. and F. Turner, Limited, Ipswich (England). This engine is specially designed to meet a demand which exists in the Near East for a motor capable of burning either ordinary paraffin or kerosene, or when required crude or residual oils. We understand that the new Turner's engine, which is called the "C. R." model, is capable of burning nearly every kind of oil, and with the greatest possible economy. The engine works on the 4-cycle principle, having automatic hot-bulb ignition, with an improved method of injection by a new spraying device under pressure. Complete combustion of the heaviest types of oils



is by this means absolutely assured, and this is accomplished with a minimum of detailed parts, simplicity being one of the strong points of this engine.

Messrs. E. R. and F. Turner, Limited, are equally well known for the great range and variety of grain milling machinery which they manufacture, and their name for these specialities is well known throughout the Eastern markets. We understand that they are meeting an increasing demand for a small and simple roller mill plant, to come within the means of small millers who are at present using millstones. To suit this demand, Messrs. Turner are supplying in considerable numbers their new "Simplex" self-contained roller mill plant, as illustrated below. The plant consists of a series of three pairs of chilled iron rolls, with separating or scalping sieves placed after each pair. The



material passes from the rolls, after having the bran extracted, to be further treated in a dressing apparatus working with internal centrifugal beaters, which acts not only as a flour dresser, but as a cleaner of the bran. From this plant can be produced one, two, or even three grades of flour of excellent quality, and it is claimed that the "Simplex" will save from 30 to 50 per cent. of power for a given quantity of wheat treated, as compared with millstones, to say nothing of the enormous saving in maintenance. The "Simplex" entirely avoids the very serious drawback of millstones, namely, the constant delays and expense in re-dressing the grinding faces of the stones.

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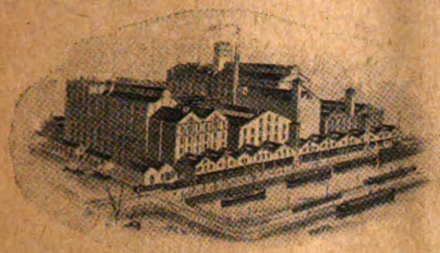
FLOUR MILLING MACHINERY.



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from 1 sack up to 150 sacks per hour.

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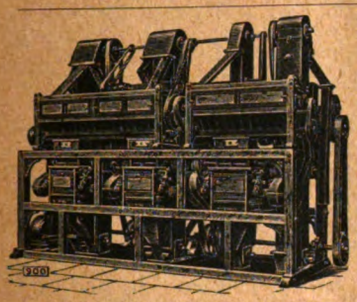

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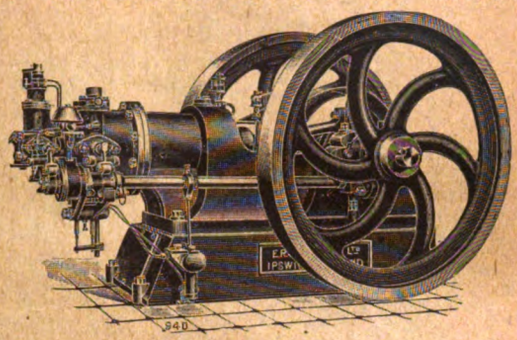

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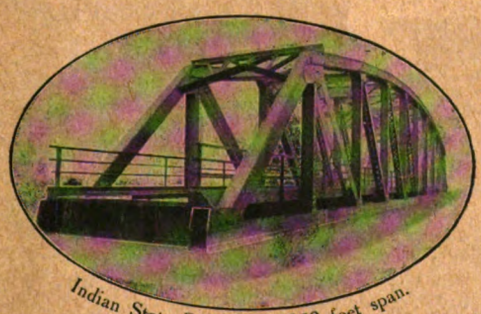

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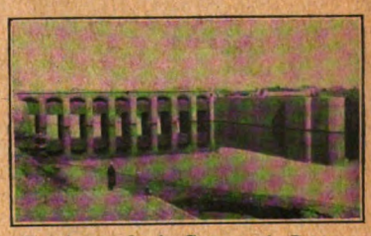

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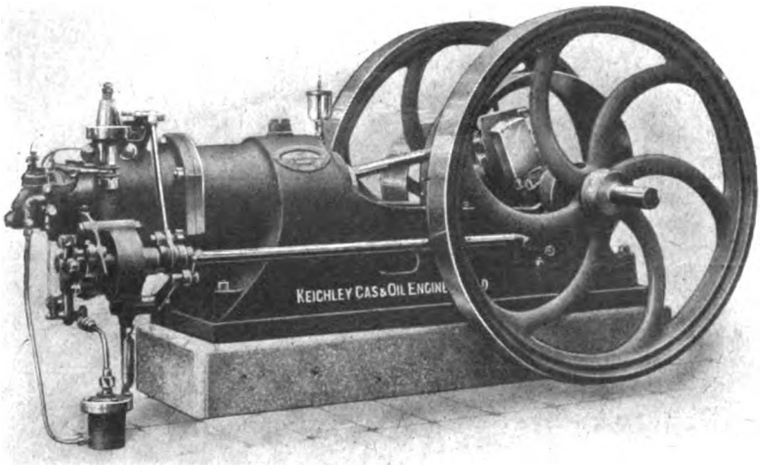
THE "IMPERIAL" ENGINES.

The Keighley Gas and Oil Engine Co., Limited, of the Imperial Works, Keighley, are makers of the now universally known "Imperial" Gas, Oil, and Spirit Engines. The company make three kinds of single-cylinder gas engines—namely, the "ordinary," "industrial," and "electric light" type. The first-named is intended for general work. The crankshaft is made long



enough to take the company's standard pulley at either end. The industrial type is fitted with a heavy flywheel and an extended crank to take a pulley between the flywheel and the outer bearing which is on the side of the engine opposite the valve gearing, and is suitable for use when a higher speed is required. The electric light pattern is designed to meet the requirements of electric lighting, for driving spinning and weaving plants, and for any other kind of work where a special degree of steady running is essential. Perhaps the best known engine put on the market by the firm is the "G.D.E." to "G.G.E." gas engine, in four sizes, for giving from 9½ to 19½ b.h.p. on town gas. These form part of a series of sixteen sizes of single-cylinder horizontal gas engines for electric lighting, varying from 2 up to 108 b.h.p.

One or two points may be noticed with regard to the Keighley Gas and Oil Company's gas engines generally. The cylinder breech end is fitted with a specially constructed removable liner; the crankshaft is forged solid of the best Siemens-Martin acid open-hearth steel, and runs in long adjustable bearings with a continuous ring lubricating system; whilst the speed is regulated by means of a high-speed centrifugal governor driven by special cut spiral gear wheels and working on the hit-and-miss principle.

The company's oil and spirit engines are as well know as their gas engines described above. A delightful, compact engine is the "Portable Spirit Engine," made in all sizes from 2 to 30 b.h.p., the larger size being built similar in design to the company's "Portable Oil Engines." The carburettor is of the vertical type, and consists mainly of two brass castings joined together at the centre, which enable the branches to be set at any angle. Dispensing with troublesome floats, this carburettor is very simple, there being only one central adjustment.

For agricultural purposes the Keighley Gas and Oil Engine Company has designed, at the request of those interested in the use of small power as an improvement on other engines, and for similar purposes, a 4 b.h.p. Vertical Spirit Engine, illustrated herewith. This engine is specially suitable to those small power users who require simple, reliable, and durable means for driving farm machinery, etc., such as that used for milling, crushing, churning, grinding, pumping, cream separators, sheep shearing machines, saw mills, lighting installations, and for any purpose requiring reliable economic power. The time and labour-saving benefits of a small engine such as that portrayed need no emphasising. The price, moreover, is such as to place the engine within reach of thousands of agriculturists.

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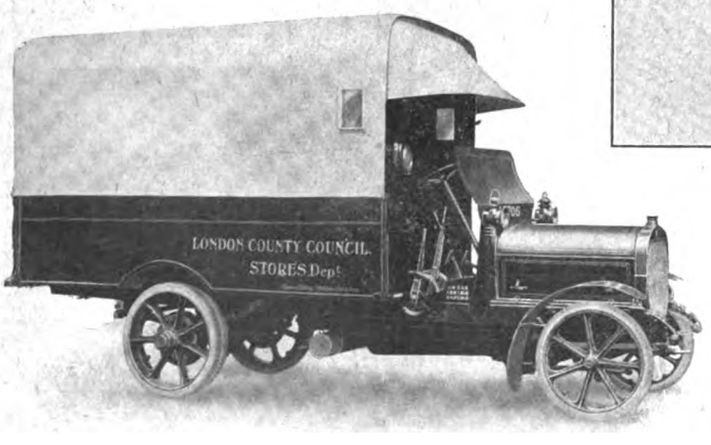
For full particulars of the "TILLING" 1 and 2 ton gear driven, and the "TILLING STEVENS" 2½ to 4 ton Petrol Electric Vehicles, fitted with bodies to suit every requirement, apply as above.



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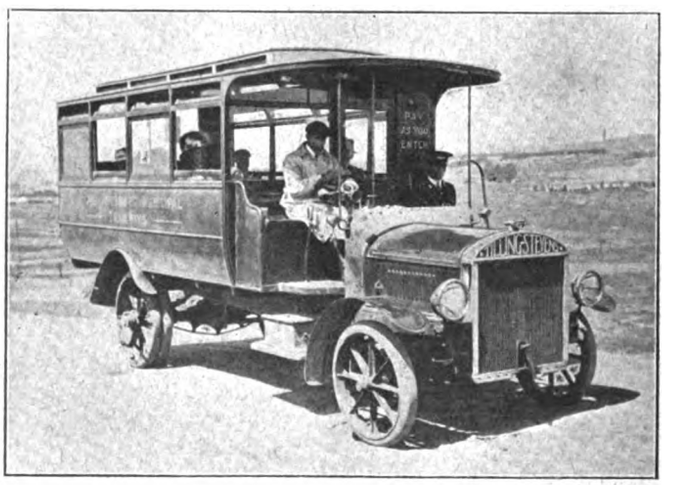

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No Compressor.
No Water Injection.
Uses Any Liquid Fuel.

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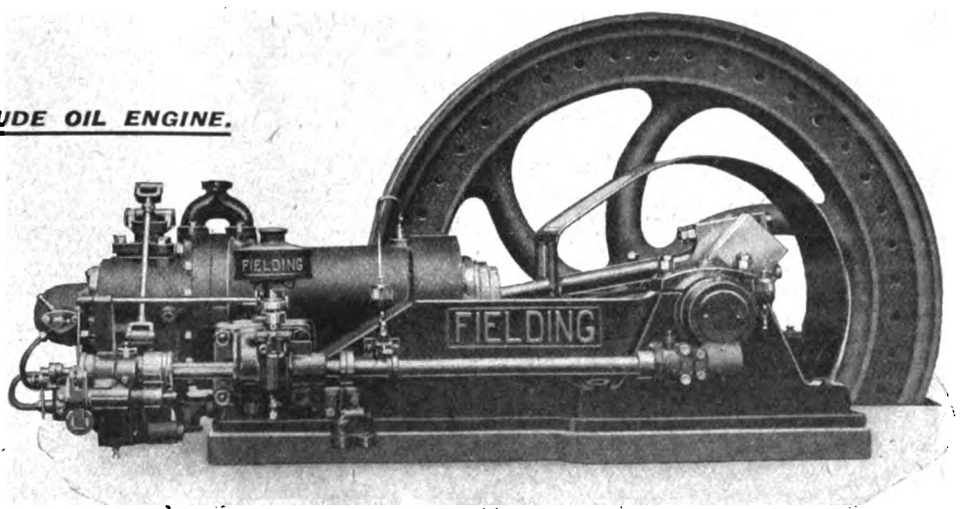
Positive Starting.

PINT PER B.H.P. PER HOUR.

OUR CRUDE OIL ENGINE.



45 B H.P. WORKING LOAD.

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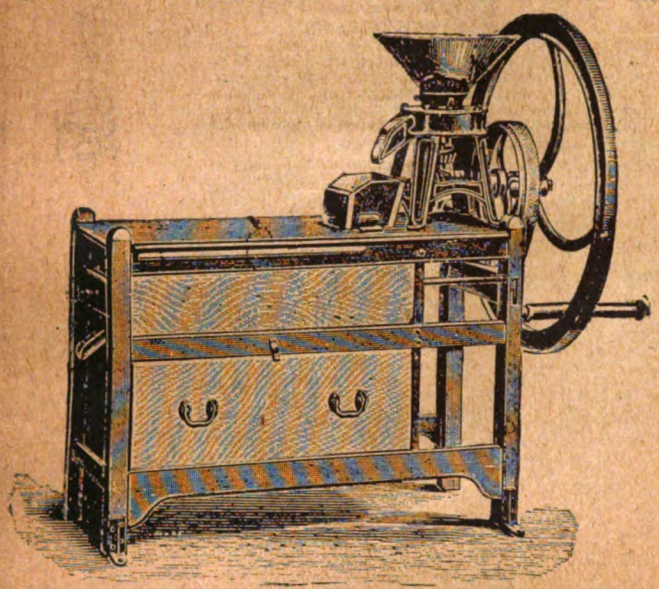
A HANDY FLOUR MILL.

Those who have lived for any length of time in rural districts of the Near East must have noticed that the great desideratum in most villages is the flour mill, the mill by which peasants or farmers can grind their corn whenever it is wanted. There are large agricultural districts containing a number of villages or farms which have to send their corn to be ground to a great distance, where a water or wind-mill of a native and archaic construction is working day and night to cope with the continuous arrival of loads. The peasants in numbers have often to remain in and about the



mill for days and nights together waiting for their turn to grind. Thus, besides the loss of time of men and animals, the fields are deprived of their services very often at an important time of the season. Messrs. A. R. Tattersall and Co., of 75, Mark Lane, London, E.C., are manufacturers of grinding mills which for efficiency, portability, and price are most suitable for the Near East. Their "Emigrant" flour mill, particularly, with flour dressers, which has been designed to meet the requirements of farmers, settlers, and others, will be found very useful for producing flour as Oriental peasants want it for domestic use. The mill is fixed on a flour-dressing machine, which makes four separations—flour, middlings, pollen, and bran. The price of the "Emigrant" mill, with or without the dressing machine, is really very reasonable, and within the means of the average farming Oriental peasant. Another type of Messrs. Tattersall's grinding mills, "The Premier," is also very useful, and is designed for driving with a two or three-horse gear, or can be fitted with a pulley to be driven by a small engine. The larger size of this mill can be supplied on a low frame and mounted on travelling carriage for easy transport, an arrangement which will appeal to farmers and peasant who during and after harvest will be glad of the services of a mill in the fields and in the village alternately.

J. SMITH HARGREAVES AND CO.

Of all the useful textile household articles required in the Near East towels are of great importance, and those of British manufacture have an undoubted preference. It is well known that this preference has often been taken advantage of by foreign manufacturers, who often place in the Eastern markets imitations of such articles. There are, however, British firms, whose goods are so well known throughout the Near East that such imitations do not affect them. The firm of Messrs. J. Smith Hargreaves and Co., Limited, of 11, Fountain Street, Manchester, is one of these. They have been trading with the Near East for about fourteen years, and their Turkish honeycomb and fancy towels, also their terry cloth, bath gowns, etc., and especially their well-known brand of "World-Wide" towels are appreciated in every household. Messrs. J. Smith Hargreaves and Co. are contractors to the Admiralty and the leading steamship companies. The success of the firm, and the popularity of their goods in the Eastern markets, may well be attributed to their system of trading there. They come into personal contact with their customers and make a particular study of their regular and new customers' requirements, a thoughtfulness highly appreciated by Eastern traders. At present a representative of the firm of Messrs. J. Smith Hargreaves and Co., Mr. D. Varbetian, is on a tour in the Near East for that purpose.

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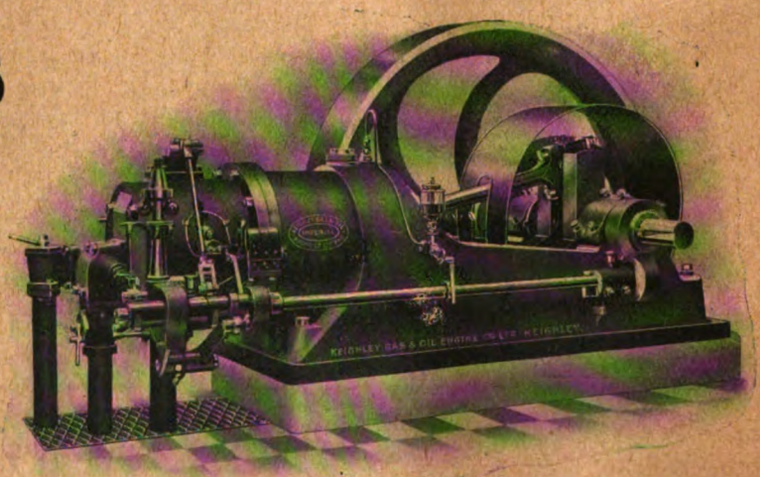

Photo of 50 B.H.P. IMPERIAL Gas Engine.

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The ONE Packing for ALL Purposes

No matter how trying or how exceptional your conditions are, be they highest pressures or superheat, acids, oils or ammonia, we guarantee Klinger's Stuffing-Box Packing to keep your glands tight and your rods as smooth as glass, or return your money. It lasts ten times as long as other packings, so users say, and is ten times as easy to handle.

Get a trial supply and see how highly resilient the material is; note how ingenious its construction; test and prove for yourself its unique packing qualities. You will be surprised to see how well the old engine runs; how smooth and polished the rods get, and how long it lasts. Then after a three months' trial figure up what it is saving you: this will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Klinger's Packing is the cheapest.

"MONEY-BACK-IF-NOT-SATISFIED."

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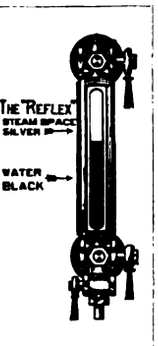

It safeguards your boilers against damage and protects your employees from injury. With it you can see at a glance whether the gauge is full, half-full, or empty.

WATER BLACK
STEAM SPACE SILVERY

The Klinger Gauge will not burst, no matter how high the pressure or how fluctuating the temperature. It can be fitted to existing boiler mountings and requires no protector. Every Klinger Gauge is tested to over 500 lbs. steam pressure before leaving our works.

The complete pattern Klinger Gauge is supplied with

KLINGER COCKS,

which, by the aid of an ingenious device, enables engineers to repack the cocks whilst on the boiler.

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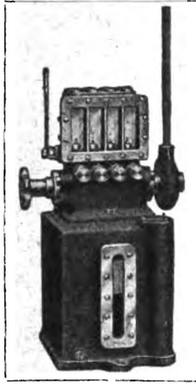

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The Klinger Oil Pump

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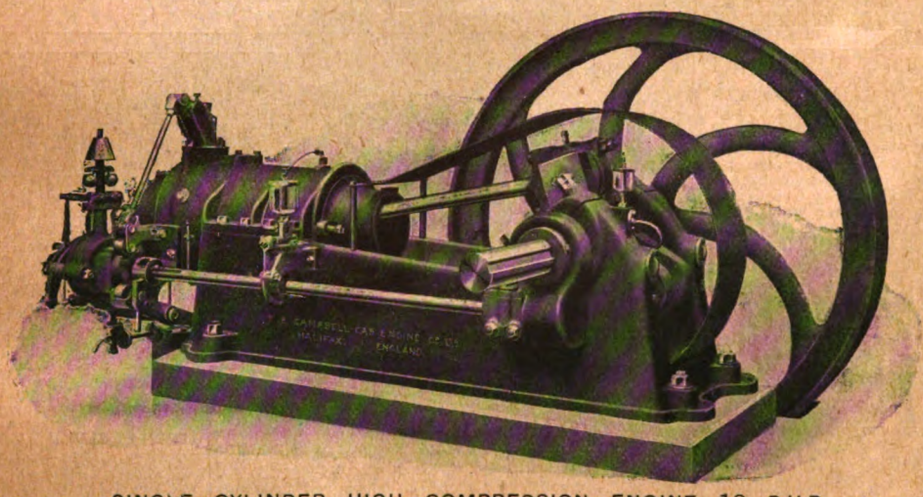
CRUDE-OIL ENGINES
HIGH COMPRESSION TYPE.



SINGLE CYLINDER HIGH COMPRESSION ENGINE—18 B.H.P.

SINGLE CYLINDER ENGINES,
from 7¾ to 100 B.H.P.
— FOR —
Driving Factories, Electric Lighting and Power Plants, Pumping, Oil Baling, etc.

First-class Material and Workmanship throughout.

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TWO, THREE, and FOUR CYLINDER ENGINES,
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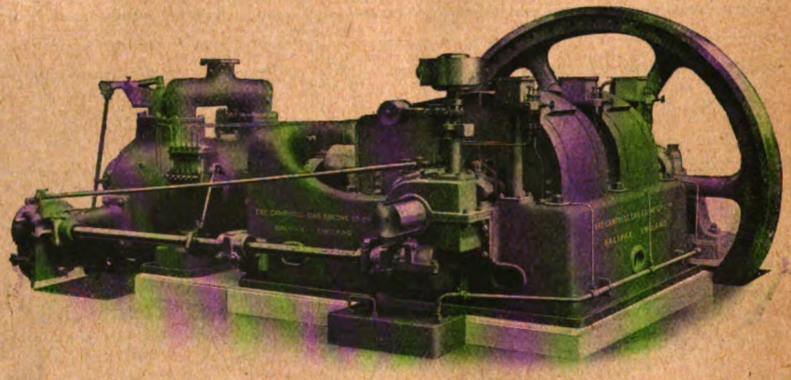
— FOR —
Spinning, Weaving, Alternator driving, and all purposes requiring very regular turning.

Fitted with Forced Lubrication and Automatic Starting by Compressed Air.



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N.B.—These Engines work successfully on any kind of Crude or Residual Petroleum used in a Diesel Engine, and the consumption is only 230 grammes (·5 lb.) to 270 grammes (·6 lb.) per brake H.P. per hour, according to size of Engine.

WATER INJECTION IS NOT USED UNDER ANY CONDITIONS.
THE HEATING LAMP IS NEVER REQUIRED WHILE RUNNING.
A SPECIALLY SKILLED ENGINE-DRIVER IS NOT NECESSARY.

CAN BE ARRANGED TO START FROM COLD STATE WITHOUT LAMP.

Complete Pumping Installations for Water Supply, Irrigation, etc.

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HALIFAX, ENGLAND.

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JERUSALEM WATER SUPPLY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, April 29.

There is a great deal of anxiety here over the scantiness of the past season's rainfall. Although an unusually heavy rainfall late in the season has recently occurred, yet the total rainfall for the whole season is only about 18 ins., which is 8 ins. below the mean annual rainfall for the last fifty years. The cisterns are far from full, and people are wondering how they will manage to get through the coming half-year of practical rainlessness.

The problem of the water supply of this city has always been a difficult one, and at times becomes acute. At one period—three millenniums or more ago—the spring known as the Virgin's Fountain, or, in Arabic, *'Ain Umm ed deraj*, from which a little stream then flowed down the Kedron Valley, was enough for the needs of the inhabitants. But after the Hebrew Monarchy was established it became necessary to supplement the supply by means of rain-filled cisterns. In the reign of King Hezekiah the waters of the spring—then called Gihon—were further economised by the construction of the famous Siloam Tunnel, which conducted them to a reservoir within the city walls (see II. Kings, xx, 20); the overflow was used, as it is to-day, to irrigate the "King's gardens" in the Kedron Valley. In the days of Herod the Great and during the Roman period works of increasing magnitude were undertaken for the supply of the greatly extended city. The chief of these was the Low Level Aqueduct, which brought water from four springs in a valley to the south of Bethlehem, where the three great reservoirs—now known as Solomon's Pools—were constructed to regulate and supplement the supply. A further southern extension of this aqueduct was made, possibly by Pontius Pilate, to the springs at El 'Arrûb, in a valley some 300 ft. higher than Jerusalem. Although El 'Arrûb is only thirteen miles south of Jerusalem in a direct line, the winding ruined aqueduct is nearly forty miles long. By means of these great works the city at the time of Christ must have had a plentiful supply of exceedingly good water; nevertheless, a second great system of aqueducts at a higher level was made a century and a-half later. Whereas the earlier aqueduct brought water into the city at the level of the Temple platform, this High Level Aqueduct conducted water in at the level of the present Jaffa Gate; it does not, however, seem to have lasted long. The Low Level Aqueduct, on the other hand, has survived in great part to the present day, and even in modern times has been repeatedly repaired; the section, thirteen miles long, from Solomon's Pools to Jerusalem, was in use even so recently as the German Emperor's visit.

A dozen years ago, after an attempt to patch matters up for a time by the temporary expedient of bringing water in tanks by train from Bettîr, the municipal authorities decided to make a new effort on more modern lines to bring spring water to the city, and for this purpose laid some eight miles of 4-in. iron pipes from the springs at Solomon's Pools. The pipes lie mostly on the surface, crossing hill and vale, but at one point two miles south of the city an ancient tunnel in the course of the old Low Level Aqueduct has been converted into an underground reservoir. From this water is taken by iron pipes to the Haram and also to a disused roadside fountain near the Birket-es-Sultan. At these two places water is still to be obtained at certain hours of the day, but in quantities entirely inadequate for the needs of the population.

The question of a more efficient supply has long been before the municipal authorities, and various inquiries have been made with respect to possible sources. The two likely sites are the old Roman springs in the Wady el 'Arrûb and the fine desert spring 'Ain Farah. That the former springs were once plentiful is proved by the very existence of the Roman aqueduct; but the quantity of water available here is now much reduced, largely, probably, on account of the destruction of trees and bushes over the catchment area. Indeed, a marked diminution in the springs has actually been observed since 1865, when the late Sir Charles Wilson surveyed this district in connection with a proposal made by Baroness Burdett-Coutts to restore the ancient aqueducts. This generous offer, by the way, fell through on account of the Turkish authorities making it a condition that they should themselves administer the funds. It is probable that much might still be done to increase the yield of these springs by improving the catchment area. The outstanding advantage of this source of water supply lies in its height above Jerusalem. A well-arranged aqueduct from here could supply the city by force of gravity alone.

'Ain Farah is nearly seven miles due north-east of Jerusalem at the head of the Wady Kelt, but lies quite 2,000 ft. below it. Very much pumping would be needed; and in a country where there is no native source of fuel—neither coal nor petroleum—this is a very serious consideration. Although this scheme seems to find the most favour with the promoters of the proposed waterworks, it is difficult to see how it can ever be a paying concern. The 'Arrûb waterworks would be more expensive perhaps in construction, but they would be far cheaper, if properly carried out, in upkeep. Whichever plan is followed, an efficient sewerage system must be constructed at the same time, as without means of carrying off the used water the insanitary condition of the city would only be increased. Fortunately, there are few cities of the same size with greater natural advantages—given an increased water supply—for an efficient drainage system.

IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 3.

Irrigation schemes in Bulgaria are of more interest to British engineers and contracting firms than most of the railway projects in that country. The Haskovo-Portolagos line is perhaps the solitary exception, but then its construction will in all probability depend on the success or failure of the loan which is being negotiated. The irrigation works, on the other hand, are a big undertaking, for aiding in the construction of which no engineers or contractors can compare with the British.

The Bulgarian irrigation schemes are, roughly speaking, two in number—in Old Bulgaria, Valley of the Maritza, and in New Bulgaria, in the Xanthi district. Regarding the latter, plans have not been drawn up, but the matter is occupying the attention of the irrigation section of the Agricultural Department, and a commission is to proceed to the new territories shortly to study conditions; a credit is to be opened to that effect, and eventually something like £600,000 are to be spent in augmenting the productiveness of New Bulgaria, especially the tobacco-growing slopes of the southern Rhodopes.

Though the above scheme must not be lost sight of by British contracting firms, of more immediate interest are the projects for the irrigation of the Maritza Valley. These date from the days when Mr. Gennadieff was Minister of Agriculture, to whose insight in matters pertaining to agricultural development the country owes a decided debt of gratitude. Thanks to a conversation I had with him last week, and to the information placed at my disposal by Mr. Angeloff, the engineer in charge of the irrigation section, I am able to give the following details concerning the Maritza schemes. It is unnecessary for me to insist on the opportunities offered to British firms in connection with these works (sluices, etc.). It is true that the loan for their realisation has not yet formed the subject of conversations with financial groups, but it is bound to come, and *now* is the time to get in touch with the responsible authorities.

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The elaboration of the schemes for irrigating the Maritza Valley is practically complete. They are two in number, the first dealing with the Maritza and its tributaries, the second with the Tunja River. Concerning the latter, likewise a tributary of the Maritza, but joining it beyond the Bulgarian frontier at Adrianople, the intention is to divert its waters from their normal course between Jamboli and the Turkish frontier, and to lead them westwards in the direction of Nova Zagora, with a view to watering the fertile plains between the latter and the Maritza. This project is still in its infancy, and provision for its realisation is not included in the following estimates. However, the work will not be a very expensive one, and the prospects for an increase in the productiveness of the plain are, I am told, a guarantee that the investment will be amply justified. It is calculated—and this applies to all projected irrigation works in Bulgaria—that the interest on the capital invested would be from 20 to 25 p.c. per annum, in the case of Xanthi even 27 p.c., on a par with the best paying irrigation investments in India. The system to be adopted as regards the distribution of water is that obtaining in India, which has been taken as the model to be pursued in Bulgaria rather than that in vogue in Italy. In the latter country the water is sold by the Government at so much a cubic metre to the landowner; in Bulgaria the land within the irrigation sphere pays so much per annum for its water, and the system has been found to work well in the districts already irrigated. These are already important, but, of course, on nothing like the scale to which they are to be developed, the reclamation area in the Maritza Valley amounting to about 1,500,000 decars (10 decars equalling 1 hectare).

The total cost of the Maritza scheme as it has been planned will be roughly £2,000,000. The following sums have already been devoted to canals in the first section: £20,000 in 1908; £60,000 in 1912 (owing to the war this sum was held over, but it has since been expended), and £52,000 are to be allotted in this year's budget. Moreover, there is a demand for an immediate extraordinary credit of from £200,000-£240,000 to be obtained by way of a loan from the Agricultural Bank, and to be refunded out of the irrigation loan of £2,000,000, which it is proposed to arrange.

The works proper are: the correction of the Maritza and some of its tributaries; the regularisation of the flow (barrages, reservoirs, and sluices); the correction and remodelling of the old Turkish canals; the construction of new canals.

There are three distinct sections: the Upper Maritza, from a point to the west of Tatar Pazarjik to the latter town; the Topolnitza basin, and the Lower Maritza. The first two are the most immediate projects, and will redeem 67,000 decars and 82,000 decars of land respectively. A barrage-reservoir, to cost £60,000, of a capacity 25,000,000 cubic metres, is to be built near the headwaters of the Topolnitza in the neighbourhood of Ishtiman. A further reservoir will be necessary on the Upper Maritza.

The Lower Maritza section comprises the area between Tatar Pazarjik and Philippopolis, and is by far the most important section, redeeming over 1,000,000 hectares. The rivers concerned are the Jelidere, Krishim, and Cepelu to the south, and the Ludajana and Strema to the north. The principal canal in the north will run from the Topolnitza eastwards to the Strema, and continue in a south-easterly direction to the Maritza. The Strema is to have a reservoir of a capacity of 50,000,000 cubic metres. In the south the principal canals will be one from the Jelidere eastwards to the Maritza; a second from the Krishim eastwards to the Cepelu, and a third from a point higher up on the same river, eastwards to the Maritza. The Krishim is to be endowed with a reservoir of a capacity of 110,000,000 cubic metres.

In conclusion I should like to chronicle the many compliments paid in Bulgaria to British irrigation engineering. Our work in India and Egypt is openly admired, as also our attempts to irrigate Mesopotamia. This ought to be a hopeful augury for our participation in the irrigation schemes now elaborating in Sofia.

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THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries in Burlington House, Piccadilly, last Tuesday afternoon. The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, F.S.A., took the chair, supported by Colonel Sir Charles Watson, K.C.M.G., the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Walter Morrison, the Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. J. D. Crace, the Hon. Secretary. The following members of the Executive Committee were among others present:—Colonel Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., Colonel W. C. Hendley, R.E., Mr. D. G. Hogarth, Rev. Arthur Carr, and Captain Newcombe, R.E., and there was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen interested in the work of the Society. After formal proceedings, an address was given by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, the Hon. Secretary for Palestine, upon recent work of exploration in Palestine. He remarked that in spite of the very considerable light which exploration had thrown upon the condition of civilisation in Palestine in early times there was one period regarding which we badly needed further knowledge, and that was the time of the arrival of the Hebrews in Palestine and their first contact with the more cultured Philistines. All indications pointed to the problem of the Philistines as being the next most necessary work of the Society. All these years they had been excavating upon the borders of the Philistine country; now they would do well to boldly seek a site in the midst of that land, and the investigations of Messrs. Mackenzie and Newton indicated Ascalon as a site peculiarly suitable for the purpose. Such an excavation would need liberal and increased support over a period of some years, as if once begun it must necessarily be done thoroughly. The speaker then referred to the great survey just accomplished under the auspices of the society by Captain Newcombe, R.E., and his assistants, with the archæological co-operation of Messrs. Woolley and Lawrence, of the British Museum. It was a magnificent piece of work, and of great importance. Two main facts had come out: First, that the region in question south of Beersheba had never been the home of a settled population until Byzantine times; and, secondly, that the very considerable communities which established themselves in the latter period did so with great difficulty by the most elaborate arrangements for the storage of a scanty rainfall, and some at least of these places were mainly monastic establishments. They did not conclusively show that the climatic conditions there were necessarily different to those of to-day.

THE NEAR EAST.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

ALEXANDRIA.....	June 18..	97⅜—⅜ p.t.
ATHENS.....	June 15..	25·16 drs.
BUCHAREST	June 18..	25·41½—25·48½ lei.
CONSTANTINOPLE ..	June 18..	109½—110 pi.
SOFIA.....	June 15..	27·12—27·20 leva.
TEHERAN	June 17..	55½ krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

THE NEAR EAST is constantly inveighing against the interference of Foreign Offices in Finance as being bad for business, both from the British trader's point of view and from that of the smaller nations whose borrowings are thus supervised by highly interested diplomatists. The latest example of this form of finance is to be found in the Bulgarian Loan. According to advices from the Balkans, it is there believed that France was inimical to the loan because Russia had no particular fondness for the present Administration in Bulgaria. Germany, however, while having no particular desire to lend money west of the Ottoman frontier, took up the loan because the Tsar of All the Russias went to Roumania. Perhaps this is meant to be a hint to Bucharest that if the kingdom of the Lower Danube is seeking to escape from the orbit of the Alliance into that of the Entente, a make-weight may be found south of the Dobruja. In any case, I suspect that an armament order, as well as a railway contract, is annexed to the Bulgarian promise to pay, which doubtless is of the nature of a protocol—as befitting its augustly diplomatic character. I cannot help thinking that there is a lot of money waiting to be made by a British bank which will lend money in the Near East as a commercial proposition on approved security without the intervention of the Powers. I know that business men have the very lowest opinion of the diplomatic achievements of the United Foreign Offices of Europe, and they are hardly likely to welcome the establishment of an unwritten law that all Balkan loans must necessarily be viséd by Foreign Offices.

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It is a curious commentary alike on the slowness of diplomatic procedure and the instability of the Ægean situation that the International Balkan Financial Commission which was appointed to settle the respective proportions of the Ottoman Debt which are to be assumed by the victors in the First Balkan War and was interrupted by the Second Balkan War, should now be menaced with another interruption owing to the possibility of the outbreak of a Third Balkan War. The members of the Commission met unofficially on Monday in Paris, and if peace is preserved they are expected to get to work this month. It will be remembered that the proportions of Turkish Debt to be taken over as at present proposed are as follows: By Greece, £T14,315,406; by Servia, £T4,451,473; by Bulgaria, £T4,075,590; by Albania, £T1,090,685; and by Montenegro £T151,040. Possibly some hope is cherished in Athens that another successful war against Turkey might enable the Hellenic Treasury to avoid taking over so serious a burden as that proposed by the International Balkan Financial Commission.

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It is satisfactory to learn that Famagusta, which has hitherto been somewhat boycotted by trade, is, in future, to be a port of call for the vessels of the Pandeleon Line. This service may be expected to give a very considerable impetus to trade with the Syrian and Anatolian coasts, and it will also be very beneficial to the port of Famagusta itself, as well as to the Cyprus Government Railway, which for some time past has run from Famagusta through Nicosia to Morphou, and is now being extended to Evrychou among the north-western foothills of Troodos, whence a carriage road leads up to the summer camps. I see that a new Greek line is to begin a direct service with the Piræus, and this, coupled with the improved Khedivial arrangements will help to make Cyprus much more accessible both for trade and for visitors.

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After the tedious period of blight, occasioned by the long wars in which the Porte has been engaged—wars which drained the provinces of money and, what English people sometimes fail to realize, of labour as well—there are abundant signs that commerce is about to emerge from her hibernation in Ottoman Asia. In Jerusalem, for example, considerable building works are being put in hand. The French are to erect a new Consulate General, the Greeks to build schools and renovate convents, the Italians to construct a church and hospital, and the Roumanians a cathedral. More than that, the railway, which is to connect Jerusalem with Afuleh Junction on the Damascus-Haifa line by way of Nablus, is due to arrive at the City of David in a few months. If the French build their railway from Rayak to Lydda on the Jaffa-Jerusalem line, there may be some opportunities for the merchant to benefit from a possible competition between these two rival trade-routes. I very much hope that the final mile or so of the Turkish line may be re-surveyed because, according to the present scheme, the railway will be laid far too close to Saint George's College, the Anglican church and headquarters just north of Jerusalem.

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Last week I pointed out that if the Turks wished to rid the Anatolian coast of its Greek population—in itself a comprehensible policy, though probably unsound, economically—they should expropriate by legal enactment and pay compensation. A correspondent suggests that the existing process of violent expatriation is likely to affect the Ottoman Budget:—

"The Greek Rayahs of Pergamus, Chesme, Alatsata, Adramit have to a man deserted these towns, and the same thing applies to countless villages. I estimate that at least 50,000 have abandoned home and all their earthly possessions, fleeing before the refugees let loose from Macedonia apparently with orders to drive out the Christians and occupy their dwellings. At this rate the number will soon be 10,000 for this province, but no doubt you are aware that the same exodus is taking place all along the coasts of the Marmora and Black Sea."

"Meanwhile, crops are ripening, and there are no hands to take them in. Imports have ceased. What a gay time French investors will have if Djavid's budgetary estimates fall short of 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. during the next six months! An Englishman cannot realise what this will mean in a country whose population lives from hand to mouth."

My correspondent also anticipates as certain an outbreak of disease.

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According to our Bucharest correspondent, the impression in that city is that, both on strategic and commercial grounds, the construction of a Danube bridge into Bulgaria is undesirable. It is thought that the advantages to be reaped from its existence would fall mainly to Bulgaria and Austria-Hungary, and that Roumania has but little to gain and more to lose.

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The Khedive and Lord Kitchener, having made tours of the Egyptian provinces, it has, I note, now fallen to the Cabinet to do likewise, and on Friday the Regent and the Ministers went in state to the Dakahlia, where they visited the village of Kom-el-Nur. As a matter of fact, in doing this they obeyed the wish expressed during his recent tour by H.H. the Khedive, who was deeply impressed by what he saw there and desired his ministers to take an early opportunity of studying the conditions of the district. During all the discussion that has centred round the question of the introduction of some system of co-operative credit into Egypt, mention has frequently been made of the Kom-el-Nur Co-operative Syndicate. Although it was known that the syndicate had been very successful, few people were aware of the excellent work that has been silently carried out in this comparatively small village, which may well be taken as a model of what co-operation and self-help can achieve.

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The Consular Report on the Trade of the Piræus (Cd. 7048-107) points out that the British merchant is still trying to make the local purchaser buy what he wants to sell and not what his customer wishes to acquire. The Consul suggests that a closer study of the colouring and designs admired locally on the part of the British producer is required—and that it is more than ever required now in view of foreign competition. I have so often met with the argument that "our trade with *x* is not worth the expense and trouble of making special arrangements to cater for the local market" that I almost to wonder whether anyone of our people has ever found his "trade with *x*" double and treble, because he has taken pains to supply what was wanted instead of offering his wares on the "take it or leave it" principle, which means, as far as I have seen in the Levant, that the native purchaser leaves the British merchant, whose foreign competitor takes the trade.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 13.

Great Britain's Trade with Turkey.

According to the Board of Trade returns for the month of May, 1914, the total exchange of enumerated articles between the two countries amounted to £843,564, during May, 1914, as compared with £503,380 during the corresponding month in 1913, and £620,047 in 1912. This is a considerably better showing than even last month, the increase being particularly in the enumerated exports to Turkey.

The total enumerated imports from Turkey into the United Kingdom during the month of May, 1914, amounted to £121,376, and are in excess of the corresponding month in 1913 (£60,135), and 1912 (£101,877). The shipments of barley, which were nil in the month of May, 1913, amounted to £51,749 during the corresponding month in 1914, as compared with £45,561 in 1912. The shipments of other cereals were unimportant. Those of mohair amounted to £47,118, as compared with £30,776 during May, 1913, and £9,475 in 1912; the shipments of wool also amounted to £6,624 during May, 1914, as compared with £9,881 during the same month in 1913, and £16,999 in 1912; and those of raisins to £8,713, as compared with £19,478 in 1913 and £186 in 1912.

As regards the enumerated exports to Turkey during the month of May, 1914, these were considerably above the average, and were in excess of the previous month. They amounted to £722,188, as compared with £443,245 during May, 1913, and £518,170 in 1912. Most of the enumerated exports show very marked increases. The shipments of cotton piece goods amounted to £573,472, as compared with £366,564 during May, 1913, and £391,533 during the corresponding month in 1912; those of cotton yarns were £44,052, as compared with £33,210 in 1913, and £53,241 when the Italian war kept Italian yarns off this market. The shipments of coal amounted to £25,013 during May, 1914, as compared with £9,375 during the same month of 1913, and £30,407 in 1912. The shipments of woollen tissues amounted to £45,583 during the month of May, 1914, as compared with £16,889 during the corresponding month in 1913, and £21,093 in 1912; those of worsted tissues amounted to £13,305, as compared with £7,909, during the month of May, 1913, and £9,665 in 1912. The shipments of wrought copper amounted to £12,520, as compared with £2,479 during the month of May, 1913, and £5,164 in 1912; those of tin to £4,562, as compared with £4,206 in 1913, and £4,605 in 1912. The shipments of bags and sacks amounted to £3,681 during the month of May, 1914, as compared with £2,613 during the corresponding month in 1913, and £2,462 in 1912.

A survey of the total enumerated exchanges during the first five months of the present year, compared with the same period of the two preceding years, gives the following very satisfactory results:—1914, £3,618,425; 1913, £2,696,750; 1912, £3,245,311. During this period all the enumerated exports to Turkey show increases as compared with 1913, and in many cases as compared with 1912, the totals being, £2,938,672 for 1914, as compared with £2,022,524 during the corresponding period in 1913, and £2,375,056 in 1912. The total exports of cotton piece goods during the first five months ended May, 1914, amount to £2,229,448, as compared with £1,662,277 during the corresponding period in 1913, and £1,739,750. The shipments of cotton piece goods, which represent over 75 per cent. of the enumerated exports, are to date almost identical with those during the same period of 1911, the record year. The shipments of cotton yarns are in excess of the previous year, but are less than the record for 1912, when Italian goods were kept off the market owir to the Italo-Turkish war, the totals being £202,753 in 1914, £170,441 in 1913, and £249,098 in 1912. The shipments of coal amount to £188,703 to May, 1914, as compared with £49,032 during the same period of 1913, and £97,002 in 1912, when coal was contraband of war. The shipments of woollen and worsted tissues to date during 1914 amount to £223,450, as compared with £99,721 during the same period of 1913, and £205,331 in 1912. The shipments of wroug copper to date amount to £46,587, as compared with £12,253 in 1913, and £51,737 in 1912; those of tin to £27,723, as compared with £16,810 in 1913, and £17,908 in 1912. The shipments of bags and sacks to date amount to £20,008, as compared with £11,990 in 1913, and £14,230.

The total enumerated imports into Great Britain from Turkey during the first five months of 1914 are £679,753, as compared with £674,226 during the same period in 1913, and £870,255 in 1912. This is not an unsatisfactory showing when it is remembered that the year 1912 was a record year for Turkey's exports to Great Britain since 1897, which was the nearest approach to it. The shipments of barley are still behind those of last year, and more so those of the year 1912, the figures to May, 1914, being £232,932, against £254,026 in 1913, and £512,976 in 1912 the total shipments of wheat to date amount to a paltry £4,792 for 1914, as compared with £73,984 in 1912, while those of oats are £21,804 in 1914, as compared with £15,198 in 1912. On the other hand the shipments mohair for the period ended May, 1914, amount to £245,506, as compared with £249,062 in 1913, and £143,355 in 1912; those of raisins amount to £114,002 in 1914, as compared with £82,111 in 1913, and £32,107 1912. The shipments of wool, of which the quantity consumed in this country is increasing, amount to £60,199 during 1914, as compared with £87,941 in 1913, and £84,680 in 1912.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN ROUMANIA.

(By Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

The general commercial situation in this country can be taken to be most satisfactory. For one thing, it is certain that the effects of the financial crisis caused by the political occurrences of last autumn have entirely disappeared. In reviewing this difficult financial period a distinction must be drawn between the trade of Muntenia, Oltenia, and the Dobruja on the one hand, and Moldavia on the other. Whilst business in the three former provinces maintained its regular course, the crisis in Moldavia occasioned great losses abroad. Although there is much money in the country, a marked reserve in purchases is still to be discerned, which may be attributed, perhaps, to the still obscure political atmosphere in the Balkans, as well as to the lately noticeable agitation against Austro-Hungary.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

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TRADE OUTLOOK IN ADRIANOPLE DISTRICT.

According to a report from the British Consul at Adrianople, published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, it appears that the Adrianople district as a whole is only slowly recovering from the effects of the war, and a general feeling of uneasiness prevails, coupled with a belief, the origin of which it is difficult to trace, that the political future of the vilayet is not yet assured. This feeling exists among all classes and all nationalities outside the Government officials and the army, and pessimistic views are expressed everywhere. The Turkish population, who have undoubtedly been the worst sufferers from the war, appear dazed by their misfortunes, and the local officials experience much difficulty in rousing them from the apathy into which they have sunk. Their apprehension has been so marked that numbers of them have refused to proceed with the winter sowings lest they should be unable to reap the result of their labours. Happily, however, with the approach of spring this feeling seems to be vanishing, and there is every reason to believe that the next quarter will witness a marked return of confidence among the Turkish rural population.

The commercial classes—Greeks, Jews, and Armenians—are naturally suffering from the existing commercial depression. The prosperity of the town depends entirely on the state of the surrounding agricultural districts, which have, of course, produced practically nothing during the past year. Moreover, the Treaty of Constantinople has deprived Adrianople of the important agricultural districts of Kossukavak, Ortakeui, Soufli, and Mustapha Pasha, whose commerce has hitherto centred in that town. The commercial outlook is considered so unfavourable that certain of the smaller capitalists have already migrated elsewhere. Their number would be larger but for the fact that the majority of them have their capital locked up in advances made to agriculturists, and they are unable to realise it until agricultural conditions improve. A satisfactory feature of the situation is that the Turkish peasant does not repudiate responsibility for loans made to him before the war, but accepts it and will undoubtedly discharge his indebtedness when circumstances permit him to do so.

The distribution of seeds, ploughs, and horses to Moslem villagers by the local authorities has enabled a certain amount of winter sowing to be carried out. It seems, however, certain that much of the seed distributed has not been sown for various reasons, the chief of which is the apprehensiveness which has existed among the rural population as to a possible renewal of hostilities. A considerable divergence of opinion exists as to the actual extent of the land on which grain has been sown. The official view is that this amounts to one-third of that of a normal year, while other calculations place it at one-tenth of the usual area. H.M. Consul, however, considers that one-seventh probably represents the correct figure, for while certain districts already show signs of a fair crop, others, and in particular those bordering on the frontier, have hardly been sown at all. Spring sowings will be of a more extensive nature, the Government having imported a large quantity of barley seeds for distribution to the peasants, in whom, as already stated, a return of confidence is noticeable.

BAKU OILFIELDS STRIKE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 14.

A Baku despatch of yesterday's date says there are 19,000 men on strike, and that the revolt threatens to extend. The police-master has been instructed from St. Petersburg to confine himself strictly to the preservation of order and under no circumstances to display, directly or indirectly, any partiality between employers and employed. The strikers' demands are of an economic nature, and are not unreasonable.

A Tiflis journal alleges that cheap Persian labour has for several years past been unfairly exploited by the Baku oil companies, and therein probably lies the root cause of the renewed trouble.

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Servian Trade Opportunities.

Openings for British Exporters.—II.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

British firms desiring further information concerning paragraphs marked (A), *please to communicate with the Manager*, The Near East, *Devonshire Square, E.C.*

Belgrade, May 22.

Trade Terms.

The preference for the cash as against the credit system is the great drawback of trade between England and Servia, and my personal opinion is that we are inclined to be too exacting. I know of a firm that went so far as not only to exact cash payment before the goods were shipped, but also to insist that a credit account should be opened at a London bank *before the order was given*. Such a firm had better leave the Near East market out of their sphere entirely. On the other hand, there are British firms—sound, go-ahead firms—which do give a long credit, and do not regret it. Admittedly, all firms cannot do so, but there is in every path of life a formula of compromise, and it can be found. One-third with the order, for instance, and two-thirds after three or four months are workable terms; for small orders, many of the agents prefer cash payment, enabling them to sell at their own price, but in the case of big orders, it cannot be demanded of them. The Austrian and Italian firms give the longest credit, but I do not for a moment think it necessary or advisable that we should do likewise. Reasonable offers to a good agent will never be refused, but unreasonable ones . . . In the case of agricultural machinery, large motors, etc., the terms will have to be granted by the agent, and, roughly speaking, two years (that is, two crops) and 6 per cent. interest per annum, is paid; arrears are charged at the same rate.

Owing to the fact that the purchases by the peasants are made in the latter half of the year only, the agent must be able to supply quickly. This must be borne in mind by the British firms. Moreover, he must have (in the case of machinery) *a sample in stock* which he can show, and even demonstrate the working of. A catalogue (never mind what language it is written in) is worthless. A British flour mill factory, working at prices comparing favourably with German prices, refused to agree to special terms for the supply of a small mill for demonstration purposes; a Continental firm did, and controls the market to-day. Needless to say, the small initial outlay has since been many times recovered.

There is a general opinion at home that we cannot compete with Continental prices. The opinion of the agents in Belgrade, the majority of whom I have met, is, on the other hand, quite contradictory. "British prices for most articles compare favourably with Continental articles," they say; "but the terms are impossible." In other words, we have never seriously worked the market. Those who have (I could give you their names), and who have given reasonable credit when justified, are doing well.

Turning to Government contracts, one finds the same hesitation among British firms. If there is one risk in a thousand in dealings with private firms, there is none in dealing with the Government. At the present moment the latter is a big purchaser of railway and building material; the terms vary according to the conditions of supply, but they are sound, and offers from England, through a well-connected agent, would have the most favourable consideration, regardless of the fact that foreign firms would have the powerful, ingenious, often Machiavellian support of their Consulates and Legations. But if no attempt is made now, the opportunity will have gone.

The creation of an Anglo-Servian commercial bank, acting as a link between the credit and cash systems, would be the best solution of the problem, and would ensure our trade. Well administered and thoroughly competent, it would be a paying concern, and Servian capital would participate. (A.)

Trade Opportunities (A).

The demand at present, with the exception of cotton goods and yarns, to be treated on another occasion, is about as follows (incidentally, I cannot refrain from alluding to several British triumphs in the Servian market, due largely to the enterprise of the firms in question. They include Colman—whose starch, blue, and "Savora" are doing exceedingly well—Twyfords, Limited, of Stoke-on-Trent, Ruston Proctor, of Lincoln, Marshall and Sons, of Gainsborough, Robeys, of Lincoln, etc.:—

Government Supplies.

These are for railway and building material. A credit for 2,000,000 frs. has been opened for rails, and 8,000,000 for rolling stock. British firms stand a very good chance in the case of rails, and the deal could be negotiated through a bank. The rolling stock will most likely go to Germany.

Buildings include new Ministries, barracks, and other Government buildings, a new station at Belgrade, and harbour works at Prahova—most probably also at Salonika. Warehouses are also necessary in Belgrade. The bridge over the Danube at Prahova is now being discussed by the Serbo-Roumanian Commission.

The ironwork and fittings for these buildings must all come from abroad. Firms like Maples or Waring and Gillow stand a good chance for furniture, as does the Shannon for office furniture. A credit of 1,000,000 frs. is to be voted for furnishing the new Royal palace. I understand from the architect, M. Tittelbach, that Empire and Louis styles will be required. So far offers have been received from one German and one Austrian firm, but were an English firm to compete it would certainly be welcomed. Hanging lamps (lustres) will also be in request, and doubtless some cutlery and silver plate, etc.

The Servian Steamship Company is to increase its material—steamers, tugs, and barges. The Government intends subsidising a steamship line (for cattle transport) in the Mediterranean, with a port at Salonika, and calling at Alexandria, Malta, Sicily, and the Adriatic ports. Vessels will be necessary, or some arrangement (possibly) with an existing line. An Italian offer was refused for political reasons, but this would not apply to England.

Finally, there is a great demand for military supplies (exclusively of cannons, etc, which will have to be bought, apparently in France), including tents, leather goods, harness, awnings, lorries, etc.

General Supplies.

All building material (there is an extraordinary building activity in Belgrade at the present moment, and in a few years' time the city will no longer be recognizable), furniture, and office furniture, iron bars, beams, and hoops, electrical fittings, telephones, sanitary arrangements, refrigerators, and electric fans.

Iron and iron goods of all sorts and descriptions (a British firm sending out a man to study the requirements locally, the kind of iron in demand, and the objects for which it is intended, would do a big business), Sheffield cutlery (this needs introducing), tools, etc.

Machinery, low-power motors (for crude oil only, the refined being too expensive), agricultural machinery, rollers and lorries, small weaving looms (New Servia), flour mills, typewriters, also motor-'buses (a company has been formed for running 'buses between Veles and Monastir; the concession will be extended to Ochrida and Struga, and most likely to other places as yet unconnected by rail. All 'buses will have to be bought abroad).

Other articles:—Soap (Lifebuoy, if introduced, would sell well), perfumery, cheap sweets (rocks, caramels, etc.), shop fittings, packing paper, string, and rope, paints and varnish, typewriting and notepaper, pens (Perry and Co. visit the market regularly, as do Raphael Tuck and Co., for their cards, etc.), leather goods.

Reference may be here made to the Government's railway programme, published in The Near East of May 22. All the material will have to be imported, and I should advise British firms to get in touch with the concessionaires as soon as possible.

The building of hotels by a Franco-Serb company, which reserves the right to buy the material and fittings in the open market, and *not* necessarily in France, is another opportunity too good to be missed.

In conclusion, I wish again to emphasise the erroneous opinion held in England concerning the Servian market. There are opportunities to do business, and good business, and we need fear no rival. Our prices are favourable, our goods the best, and Servia is more than willing to increase her trade, both her exports and her imports, with us, to the mutual benefit of both countries.

The profitable investment of British capital in Servia is a matter to which I shall refer on another occasion (A).

BRITISH TRADE WITH SERVIA.

A Proposed Exhibition.

(*To the Editor of* The Near East.)

Sir,—We have read with much interest in your issue of June 5 what your Special Correspondent writes about Servian trade opportunities, and beg to say that the statements made therein regarding the difficulty of obtaining selling agencies from British manufacturers are correct and as we have experienced ourselves; we have also had occasion to see that Continental manufacturers have sold goods here which British manufacturers could have furnished at lower prices.

In order to increase British trade in Servia we would suggest the creation of a permanent exhibition of English goods, to be visited and inspected by Servian customers only, who would be thus enabled to examine and compare the qualities and prices of the English goods with those of the competing continental countries. Foreign manufacturers or representatives of foreign manufacturers would not be allowed to visit the exhibition, but only direct customers.

We think that it would be possible in this way to lay the foundations of a useful project for fostering good business relations between the British manufacturer and the Servian wholesale importer. We would be ready to open up and carry on this exhibition. Our long experience in this market would certainly enable us to give the necessary information regarding the requirements of the Servian market, the standing and reputation of the customers, etc., etc.

It would be desirable if your readers would express their opinions about this matter in your esteemed columns, and thus enable us to realise eventually the plan in question in a way profitable to both countries.—Yours, etc.,

Fuchs Bros. and Co.

Belgrade, June 10, 1914.

AUSTRO-SERVIAN TREATY.

According to the Vienna correspondent of *The Economist*, writing under under date June 9, the Treaty of Commerce which is about to be renewed between Servia and Austria-Hungary should provide conditions which will give Austria a good market for her produce. But, of course, if the cattle duties and the partial prohibition of the import of Servian cattle are upheld, Servia will retaliate, and will look to some other foreign Power for the industrial imports which it needs. Both Germany and England are already busily engaged in winning the Servian market for themselves.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Odessa. June 14.

The crop prospects in the Taurida, the Northern Caucasus and South-eastern Russia are encouraging, and in the Southern Governments they are, on the whole, good and promising, but from several districts comes a cry for more rain.

The tone of our market remains firm, but the amount of business doing is comparatively very small owing, chiefly, to the continued diminution of spot stocks, which to-day are reduced to 250,000 poods of wheat, 15,000 poods of rye, 120,000 poods of barley and 100,000 poods of maize; the arrivals from the interior are mere driblets. Barley continues to command the chief attention.

Jaffa. June 7.

The following figures show the exports of oranges from Jaffa for the season 1913-14 :—

Destination.	Cases.	Value. £
Liverpool	917,481	183,500
Manchester	4,400	1,000
London	4,626	1,080
Rest of England	3,361	845
Marseilles	3,412	860
Hamburg	9,487	1,900
Trieste	58,492	11,700
Odessa	148,409	29,700
Egypt	130,301	32,580
Turkey	233,863	58,495
Holland	19,405	3,995
Total	1,533,237	£325,655

There is a diminution of about 30,000 cases, due to the fact that a large part of the oranges were somewhat small and were packed in boxes containing 250-60 instead of boxes of one gross.

Sofia. June 14.

According to official information received by the Ministry of Agriculture here the supplies of wheat on the Hungarian market are exhausted, and the prospects of this year's crop are bad. In the event of a deficiency of food stuffs in Hungary supplies are usually drawn from Roumania, but Roumania happens to have no surplus to dispose of, and the outlook for her crops this year is not promising. Therefore, Bulgaria, with her great stores of food in reserve and the prospect of an abundant harvest this year will be the best market in which Hungary can purchase grain. It may be expected that the prices of Bulgarian wheats and flours will in consequence have an upward tendency.

Bucharest. June 14.

During the last fortnight rain has fallen continually all over the country, and in many districts the country is flooded and great damage to the standing crops has been done. So much so, indeed, that now it is reckoned that the wheat crop will be quite below the average, instead of being, as was expected a week or two ago, much above it.

The following are extracts from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondent in the Near East :—

Beyrout. June 3.

The market has improved during the second half of May. Imports and exports are more active; and the arrivals of English manufactured goods, sugar, coffee, and hardware are worthy of note.

The cereal crop this year is reported to be abundant.

The prices of sugar and coffee have an upward tendency.

PERSIAN FRUIT.

The cold and snow that occurred in the month of April are reported to have done much damage to the fruit in North Persia. In the province of Azerbaijan nearly the whole harvest of almonds, plums, grapes, and other fruits was destroyed by the cold snap. Large quantities of these are usually exported into neighbouring countries, but prices this year will stiffen considerably as a consequence of the trouble.

According to the *Handelsmuseum* the Belgrade branch of the Prager Kreditbank is undertaking the erection in Belgrade of a factory for the production of chemicals and cosmetics.

RUSSIAN SUGAR.

(By Our Odessa Correspondent.)

In a recent reference, in the Duma, to the establishment of a direct line of fast steamers between Odessa and London, M. Timasheff, Minister of Trade and Industry, expressed the hope that the new service would be the means of reviving the export of Russian sugar to the United Kingdom, and, generally of making the British market more readily accessible to Russian products. In 1911 the exports of Russian sugar totalled 27,694,538 poods, and of that amount 12,690,795 poods went to the United Kingdom. Since then this particular trade has dwindled to a vanishing point, whilst the surplus production of Russian sugar over home consumption requirements steadily increases. The area this year under sugar-beet cultivation, chiefly in South-western Russia, is 1,900,000 acres, showing an increase of 400,000 acres, as compared with the beet acreage in 1912. Sugar exported from Odessa in Russian bottoms enjoys the privilege of a specially reduced railway tariff from the interior and the advantage of very low freight rates by the subsidised new steamship line between this port and London and Hull. M. Timasheff's idea appears to be that Russia is in a position to attain a similar prominence as a sugar grower and exporter to that she commands in her grain exports to Western Europe.

SERVIAN PLUM CROP.

The U.S. Consul at Belgrade reports:—According to official information, the plum crop for 1914 promises to be exceptionally good, the best for several years. The actual producing area according to the latest figures available—for the year 1911—was 346,000 acres, while in 1906 the crop acreage was 326,000. There is no marked change from year to year in the area in plum orchards.

The exportations of plum products for the year 1911 were: Crushed prunes, 73,000,000 lbs.; plum jelly, 11,400,000 lbs.; fresh prunes, 810,000 lbs.; slivovitz (brandy), 26,000 quarts. All these figures show a falling off from the average for the five preceding years.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending June 5 :—This week's sales amount to 39 cases of Carahissar, druggist's qualities, at 14s. to 16s., as to quality. Large buyers would have operated to some considerable extent had our sellers been disposed to accept slightly lower terms. New opium in the interior has been selling this week at 14s. to 15s., and the morphia results, as far as our analysis on some samples we have received show, renders from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. This is poorer by at least 1 per cent. on similar samples tested last year at even dates. We think, however, that the crop in the upper districts is richer in morphia this year. From this week we commence the first arrivals of new crop, which amount to 25 cases against 7 at same date last year.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for week ended June 12: The sales this week on our market amount to 151 cases at 14s. 9d. to 16s. 3d., half of which are for the States. We are, however, in a position to state that neither the Continental nor the London markets have paid or will pay now above figures for opium equalling what changed hands this week on this market. The Americans may or they may not have paid the full prices, but with London and the Continent shippers must be losing heavily, and in some cases we learn that engagements have not been fulfilled, and shippers are offering cash compensation instead. The arrivals are 67 cases against 36 at same date last year.

H.M. Consul at Aleppo (Mr. R. A. Fontana) reports that the prospects for the 1914 harvest in the Aleppo Vilayet are, on the whole, very good. Wheat and barley promise to be abundant, and a satisfactory yield of cotton is expected.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.

London, June 18.

The Beet market has been quiet this week with little doing; July 9s. 5¾d., Aug. 9s. 7¾d., Sept. 9s. 7¾d., Oct.-Dec. 9s. 7d. to 9s. 7¼d., and May 9s. 11d. f.o.b. Hamburg. The Austro-Hungarian production for May has been reported, 6,900 tons against 11,200 tons last year; and stock 541,600 tons against 546,800 tons last year. The French production for May was 450 tons against 970 tons last year, and stocks 297,204 tons against 354,690 tons last year. The German production for May was 14,300 tons against 10,400 tons last year, and stock 1,011,900 tons against 901,000 tons last year.

The Refined sugar market is steady, with fair business passing at late rates. First marks, foreign granulated, ready sold at 11s. 7½d., July-Aug. 11s. 9d., and Oct.-Dec. 11s. 8½d. f.o.b. Hamburg.

Coffee.

There was only a moderate demand at auctions this week, but prices were steady. Costa Rica low mid. to mid. sold at 71s. to 77s., and bold 77s. to 88s. East India, small, 65s. to 66s.; low mid. to mid., 69s. to 72s. 6d.; and bold, 74s. to 80s. The speculative market has been dull and lower, July 43s. 4½d., Sept. 44s. 3d., and March 45s. 10½d.

Seeds.

Linseed is fully steady, but inactive, London-Calcutta spot and afloat and June-July quoted 51s.; July-Aug. was sold 51s. 4½d., Aug.-Sept. quoted 52s., and Sept.-Oct. 52s. 6d. Rapeseed is quiet but steady, brown Cawnpore is quoted June-July 50s. 9d. Cotton seed is very firm: London-Egyptian, July, is quoted £8 8s. 9d., Aug. £8 10s., and Nov.-Jan. £8 11s. 3d. per ton. The market for Canary seed remains quiet. Some speculative transactions are reported in Dutch and Turkish for forward shipment. Haricot beans exhibit little variation.

Oils.

The market has been very quiet, with little doing, on Linseed spot pipes landed at 25s. 10½d. and barrels 26s. 1½d. Rape oil ordinary brown naked is quoted 30s., and refined casks 31s. 9d. Cotton oil, crude, spot sells 29s., refined sweet 32s. 9d. to 34s. as to make, and ordinary pale 29s. Roumanian and Russian petroleum is quoted 7d. per gallon. American 7¼d. and water white 8¼d. per gallon.

Oilcakes.

Linseed Cakes.—Owing to the recent rains which produced an abundance of natural foodstuffs, the market has shown very little activity, and values are not so strong. London made sells quietly £7 15s. to £7 17s. 6d. East India seed prices are quoted at £7 13s. 9d. to £7 15s. for arrival. Fine quality Russian £7 12s. 6d. Cotton Cakes.—Egyptian is still scarce on spot, arrivals being mostly sold ahead, and the tendency of the market is distinctly firmer. £4 11s. 3d. ex ship is quoted for May-July shipment, and £4 12s. 6d. for July, with English makes firmly held up at £4 16s. 3d. to £4 17s. 6d., and Bombay at £4. Decorticated cotton cakes and meal move off steadily at £7 13s. 9d. to £7 15s. ex dock.

Locust beans are getting into small compass, and values tend dearer at £6 5s. for whole and £6 15s. for kibbled.

Corn.

Wheat.—The cargo market is steady, although there is an absence of demand. South Russian, on sample, May-June (old style) is quoted 35s. to 36s. 9d. Choice white Kurrachee, June, is offered 37s. 10½d. Barley is quiet. South Russian Sept.-Oct. offered at 22s. 6d. Maize is firm, but quiet. Danubian-Bulgarian, June (old style), is quoted 24s. 7½d. Oats are also quiet and unchanged.

ALBERT SINGER
KHARTOUM SUDAN

EXPORT OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

Agency for firms desirous of introducing their brands of goods into the Sudan.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 12.

Prices have fallen steadily during the week, despite the resistance of the American markets. Bulls are discouraged and bears need not be very aggressive to make prices fall. The lack of demand for cotton for delivery in November constitutes another bearish factor. Speculation is very inactive in view of the ruling markets.

Reports regarding the coming crop are most encouraging. The weather is very favourable, and the cotton worm has only made its appearance at a few isolated points, without doing any damage. As to the water supply, it is abundant everywhere, and, thanks to the Assuan Dam, we may look forward with confidence to gathering the new crop without any lack of water.

Exports have already exceeded those of last year, the total so far amounting to 883,378 bales for 1913-14, as against 877,039 bales in 1912-13. If they continue on the same scale our stock will fall to the same level as that of last year.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market quiet. July, 17⅛, November, 18⅜. Exchange, three months' date, 96¼.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	6,000	5,000	6,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,586,523	7,451,098	7,248,784
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	1,750	Nil	800
Ditto since Sept. 1	197,039	192,000	194,355
Shipments to Manchester	Nil.	4,000	6,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	211,915	200,362	222,800
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	6,500	3,500	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	408,695	377,621	359,416
Shipments to U.S. America	3,000	Nil.	2,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	78,948	119,265	109,175
Shipments to all parts	11,250	7,500	12,050
Ditto since Sept. 1	896,597	889,248	885,746
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,262,000	1,031,000	802,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to June 3, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	195,289	192,000	193,555
„ Manchester	211,915	196,432	216,436
Total Shipments to Great Britain	407,204	388,432	409,991
Shipments to France and Spain	113,768	108,833	99,877
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	198,111	182,557	176,130
Shipments to Russia	67,594	63,004	62,767
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,110	805	919
Total Shipments to Continent	381,583	355,199	339,693
Shipments to U.S. America	75,948	119,265	106,841
Ditto to India and Japan	20,612	18,972	17,219
Total Shipments to all parts	885,347	881,868	873,744
Total c-op (interior gross weight)	Cantars.	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

June 5.—"Tudor Prince," Manchester. June 10.—"Meroe."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—With the exception of one or two days, the demand for Egyptian spot this week has been fair, and the business put through shows some improvement on recent weeks. The sales chiefly comprise medium grades of Nubari, Sakellarides, and Afifi cotton, while quite a fair quantity of Tokar and Sudan grown cotton has changed hands. Upper Egyptian, with the exception of lower grades and the top qualities, Nubari, Joannovitch, and Sakellarides, has been in very limited request, and holders seem inclined to take easier prices. Quotations for Afifi are reduced 20 points, with the exception of fine and extra fine, which are only 15 points lower. Uppers are reduced 20 points, except fine and extra fine, which are reduced 25 points. Nubari and Sakellarides, all grades, are reduced 10 points. Joannovitch is 15 points lower, except fine and extra fine, which are reduced 10 points. Estimated sales, 2,600 bales.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, June 17.

There have been no signs of increased activity in the market during the past week, and the turnover in yarn and cloth has not been equal to the production of the machinery. In view of the state of affairs, the position of spinners and manufacturers is getting worse, and the prices ruling are becoming very unremunerative. Operators seem quite determined to resist the prices ruling at the moment, and Manchester undoubtedly is anticipating a fall in values before very long. The Egyptian cotton crop is understood to be doing fairly well, although it is rather early for anything definite to be said. Some recent advices from the American cotton belt have been rather better, but the article continues to be strongly held. In piece goods for the Near Eastern outlets a dragging demand has been experienced, and, owing to the fear of further complications in that part of the world, there has been a disposition to restrict purchases to sorting up lots. Rather poor advices continue to be received from Egypt. Comparatively speaking, India continues to do very little in either shirtings or light fabrics, although a few more bids have been mentioned during the last few days for Calcutta. Some leading shippers are not receiving very encouraging news of the monsoon, and it is feared that the rains this season will be rather weak. With regard to the China market, letters and telegrams from Shanghai are a little brighter, but when business is attempted buyers and sellers seem quite unable to get to close quarters for lots of any magnitude. Not many fresh contracts of weight have been arranged in home trade cloths. Loud complaints have been met with from Burnley manufacturers. Order lists are running down in Blackburn and district. Certain styles in shirtings are still well sold. American yarns for home consumption have been somewhat irregular in price when tested and a slow demand has been experienced. On the whole, wefts continue to attract rather more attention than twists. Some fair offers have been about in bundles for India. Bolton spinnings have been firm in quotation, without much activity in the way of fresh business.

THE TRADE OF LINGAH.

According to the British Vice-Consul's recently issued report on the trade of Lingah for March, 1912, to March, 1913, despite considerable disorder in the interior, particularly in the Lar district, where robbers abound, the trade of that port for the year under review showed a marked increase in imports and exports. In regard to imports this is attributable to a generally flourishing condition of the coastal districts and a good pearling season. The increase of exports is of more interest, being largely due to a revival of the caravan trade between Lar and Lingah, carrying products of the country, which shows some improvement in the state of the road. These caravans are able to travel south in comparative safety, because robbers have little use for the goods carried, but the caravans invariably return empty, and very few of them risk taking back piece-goods, sugar, and other coveted merchandise to Lar. The northern districts are capable of assimilating a considerable quantity of, principally, piece-goods, sugar and kerosene oil, if it were possible to forward these to Lar with any degree of safety. During the year prices of sugar and kerosene oil at Lar were 100 per cent. more than the bazaar rates at Lingah.

As at Bahrein, pearls are the chief staple, and, in addition to the catch by the Lingah pearling fleet, pearls are brought here from the Shib Kuh and the Arab coast for sale. The past season was a good one, inasmuch as the catch was above the average. A few Arab pearl merchants managed to dispose of large parcels in Bombay early in the season (September, 1912), after which the market became stagnant, owing to the Balkan war, and the majority were unable to dispose of their parcels for cash even at a great loss.

The Cairo season weekly, *The Sphinx*, has changed hands, having been acquired by Mr. Max Fischer, formerly proprietor of the *Egyptian Mail*, and managing director of the Société Orientale de Publicité.

SUDAN MARKET REPORT.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for April of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government :—

Gum.—During April 2,102,952 kilos of gum, valued at £49,553, were exported via Port Sudan. According to a Kordofan Province report for April gum was not coming into the market quite so freely the latter part of this month. 35,204 kantars were sold in the market during the month as against 39,962 kantars during March this year and 39,684 during April last year. The total amount of gum brought in for the season to the end of April is still 12,000 kantars more than that of last season. An Upper Nile Province report for April states that during the month the following quantities of gum were shipped to the north from Renk :—Hashab, 750 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos); talh, 580 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos). In this connection the traffic on the Renk-Gule road has very much increased this year. A Sennar Province report states that during March the price offered for hashab gum was much lower than that of February, as there was no competition amongst agents of the northern merchants. During April the quantity and price of talh remained steady. The amount of hashab was less as local freight rates enabled pickers to get better prices at Kosti. According to a Kassala Province report, 2,382 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos) hashab and 202 kantars talh were exported from Gedaref during March, and 2,758 kantars hashab and 502 kantars talh were imported. The exports from Mafaza were 2,110 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos) hashab and 489 kantars talh. One thousand nine hundred and eighty-four kantars hashab and 193 kantars talh were imported.

A Nuba Mountain Province report states that over 2,000 kantars of gum were exported from this province via Rahad and Um Ruaba in March. This is the first occasion on which gum going north to the railway has been credited to this province.

Cotton.—A report from the Red Sea Province for March says that the sale of cotton started slowly owing to low prices offered, only one merchant from Suakin having come. A second buyer arrived later. Up to the end of March 110 kantars of 315 rottles were sold and ready for export.

According to a Berber Province report for April, a good deal of the 90 feddans of cotton sown at Darmali was already showing on April 10. This is half the area to be sown, so that sowing is even earlier this year than last. At Zeidah the total amount of cotton picked up to April 23 was over 7,300 kantars; the yield will probably total 8,000. Much work is being done, under supervision, in improving canals on native-owned land.

Grain.—Dura.—It is reported from Khartoum Province that during March, as was expected, the issue of the Indian dura was successful in keeping down the market price. During April large consignments of Indian dura arrived, and though the market prices did not fall, it is probable that this expedient has been the means of preventing a distressing rise.

Wheat.—A report for April from the Berber Province states that in general the wheat in Berber district was to some extent showing the effect of drought. In a year of low Nile, when sowing should have been early, it was, if anything, later than usual. News has been received that some promising rain cultivation at Wad El Dib in the Atbai was entirely destroyed by locusts at the beginning of March. A Halfa Province report for the same month states that the winter wheat crop has now been reaped throughout the province. Reports from the districts indicate that it is fair to moderate.

EXHIBITION IN BELGRADE.

Our Bucharest correspondent states :—It is proposed to hold in 1916 or 1917 an agricultural, industrial, and art exhibition in Belgrade, the contributions to which, from all parts of Servia, will show the state and progress of the country. The Belgrade Municipality will take an active part, and will see to the providing of efficient accommodation for visitors coming from abroad.

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ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

Debate in the Commons.

On Wednesday the House of Commons discussed the resolution authorising the Admiralty to invest £2,200,000 in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Mr. Churchill said they were concerned solely with the best means of securing at a reasonable price an abundant and sure supply of oil for vessels which have already been built or begun. He wished to state at the outset that they did not intend to make themselves wholly dependent on this Anglo-Persian oil supply, or upon the oil supply from any particular quarter. They would continue to depend upon coal as the main motive power of the fleet for many years to come, and they would continue to purchase large supplies of oil from all parts of the world. As to the military argument, there never had been and there never would be any shortage of oil for the British Government in peace or war provided they did not mind how much they paid for it, and provided they retained the power to protect it in transit. The supply of oil in peace depended upon price, in war it depended upon price plus force. There were two routes for the oil, one via the Suez Canal and the other round the Cape. The Cape route would probably first be used, because the present disposition of the Fleet made it easier to protect the trade on that route.

In the last year or two the Government had experienced in common with private consumers a long, steady squeeze by the oil trusts all over the world, until now they were paying double what they began by paying. For many years it had been the policy of the Foreign Office, the Admiralty, and the Indian Government to preserve the independent oil interests on the Persian oilfield, to help it to develop, and, above all, to prevent it being swallowed by a trust. Ever since the days of Lord Selborne and Mr. Pretyman at the Admiralty, the Admiralty had looked to Persia as a promising source for naval oil fuel. The hon. member for Chelmsford had displayed remarkable foresight in inducing Lord Strathcona to become chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and thus to secure its commercial independence and British character.

Under the agreement the money we paid would give us control—so far as Admiralty interests required it—of the Anglo-Persian Company and its concessions. The two millions to be advanced would be used in the actual development of the oil supply, and over the whole of these enormous oil regions they obtained the power to regulate the development according to naval and national interests and to conserve and safeguard the supply of the existing wells pending further development. Coupled with the agreement was a supply contract which was secret, but he could tell the House that the quantities of oil drawn from this source would embrace less than half of our total requirements of oil, and the prices would be fixed by a sliding scale in relation to profits. It would not be necessary to borrow. The Government believed that this investment of State funds—although there was a speculative element in it—was a prudent, thrifty, and profitable measure in itself, but the proposition was reinforced by naval interests of the highest order.

The critics of this scheme had urged that competition by a Government in the oil market would tend to lower prices and interfere with the oil trusts, and they also urged that it would be more patriotic for the Government to develop an oilfield within the British Empire. He did not wish to make any attack upon the Shell or the Royal Dutch Company. They had combined gigantic oil properties all over the world, and it was their policy to acquire control of the sources and means of supply, and then to regulate production and the market price. They had long looked towards the Persian field, and if this Bill were to fail there was no doubt than an amalgamation or merger of the Anglo-Persian with the Shell Company would probably take place. It was for Parliament to balance the moderate element of fair commercial risk which is inseparable from business enterprise of all kinds against the certainty of over-charge which follows on monopoly. It was for Parliament to balance the trouble and mental exertion unquestionably required from its members in the process of securing an independent oil supply against the exploitation of which the taxpayer would otherwise be the victim.

Mr. George Lloyd, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Gretton, and Mr. Ponsonby then criticised the scheme on strategical and political grounds.

Sir Edward Grey denied that general foreign policy had anything to do with this question, and he deprecated its being raised on this agreement. He did not think that if the worst came to the worst the task of protecting the 150 miles of pipe line would be so serious as had been represented. At the worst it would require only about two brigades of troops. Some members had asked whether the Russian Government's attention had been called to this prospect. It had never been discussed with the Russian Government. This particular concession was made before the Anglo-Russian Treaty was arranged, and the present contract did not alter the concession in any way.

Mr. Pretyman approved of the contract, but complained that the Government had neglected this matter until the last year or two, and now had to act in a hurry.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Dillon, Sir A. Spicer, Sir F. Flannery, Mr. T. E. Harvey, Lord C. Beresford, and Mr. Morrell.

Mr. Samuel Samuel complained of the unjustifiable attack that had been made by the First Lord on his company and on his brother, Sir Marcus Samuel. He claimed that his brother had rendered the greatest service to the Admiralty and to the country in the introduction of liquid fuel for use in marine engines. Yet the Government had always displayed hostility to them. The company had gone in for the development of liquid fuel because they knew it would be necessary for the Navy, and at the time of the Japanese-Chinese war they called the attention of the Admiralty to its possibilities long before the Admiralty contemplated its adoption for British ships. There was no such thing as a monopoly in the oil trade, and the Admiralty had been grossly deceived into adopting the present course. They were probably unaware of the Anglo-Egyptian Oil Company, in which the Egyptian Government were interested, a thoroughly British company, which could supply the oil required, and there were also companies in Trinidad and Roumania who would be glad to tender to the Government.

Mr. W. Rutherford, Mr. G. Parker, Mr. Godfrey Collins, Sir J. D. Rees, Mr. Edgar Jones and Mr. W. Guinness having spoken, the Committee divided, and there were :—

For the resolution	254
Against	18
Majority for	236

The announcement of the figures was received with cheers and laughter.

GERMAN ENTERPRISE IN TABRIZ.

(By "Mirza Firooz Khan.")

Good work is being done by the German rug factory which is situated in Shah-Nov (new city), the newest suburb of Tabriz (which has long and wide avenues, new shops, coffee-houses, gardens, etc.). The works cover an extensive piece of ground, and the factory whistle blows at 6.30 a.m. and at 5.30 p.m. Visitors are not allowed to enter the factory for fear of the discovery of the secrets of dyeing, etc. Dyeing and other important processes are carried out by well-paid Germans, while the unskilled part of the work devolves upon the natives.

When the factory was opened quite a ceremony was observed. Shuja-ed-Dowleh, the Consuls, the European residents, and leading natives were invited to be present, speeches were made, and coffee was served, with music, etc. Recently some of the directors of this factory came from Berlin to see it. They were pleased with it, and increased its capital from two and a-half million marks to five and a-half million marks. Hereafter it was decided to manufacture, besides rugs, calico of all kinds and colours, the cotton supply coming from Khorasan and Caucasia. The factory has branches also in Sultanabad, Shiraz, Kerman, and Hamadan.

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Shipping Intelligence.

BLACK SEA FREIGHTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 14.

To-day there is not a British bottom in the port of Odessa. That fact, in itself, mutely proclaims the utter depression of our market. Grain cargo is becoming scarcer, and in putting up the prices of the remnant stocks shippers are making business still more difficult. In the early part of the week a couple of boats, after much and costly delay, managed to complete on the Hamburg berth at, nominally, 6s., but one half the parcels were taken at 5s. 6d. and 5s. 9d., and even at the latter rates there is to-day scarcely any cargo obtainable. The last boat on the Rotterdam berth was loaded at 5s. 3d. and 5s. 6d. The marvel is that British owners continue to send out tonnage in ballast for such freight rates, and always at the risk of demurrage.

At Nicolaieff the same stagnation obtains, and merchants have the utmost difficulty in fulfilling previously made contracts. Unless there be an early arrival of grain in the Bug port from some part of the hinterland, business must come to an absolute standstill pending the new crop. At Kherson there is a very slight demand for Hamburg and the Weser at 6s. 6d., but a couple of boats will meet all requirements of the Dnieper port for the next fortnight or three weeks.

Novorossisk continues to transact a small and steady business at 6s. 3d. Antwerp, 6s. 6d. Weser, and 6s. 9d. Hamburg, whilst a very prompt boat has secured two-thirds of her cargo at 6s. for Rotterdam. At Theodosia there is nothing doing.

SHIPPING STOPPED AT SMYRNA.

A Reuter's telegram from Smyrna states that by Government order no steamer will be allowed to enter or leave the Gulf of Smyrna until further notice.

The keel-laying of the new Turkish Dreadnought "Fatih" was performed by Lady Caillard, wife of Sir Vincent Caillard, a director of Vickers, Limited, at Barrow on Thursday last week. Lady Caillard, by means of an automatic riveting machine, riveted two of the plates of the keel, which was afterwards placed in position on the blocks. The vessel is to be larger than the "Reshadieh" now finishing at the Barrow yard. Her length will be 525 feet, her displacement 23,000 tons, and her speed 21 knots.

The new twin screw steamer "City of Exeter," the largest passenger steamer yet built for the Ellerman Lines, Limited, completed her trial test satisfactorily at Belfast last week, and will sail on her maiden voyage for India on the 29th inst.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Liverpool May 22. "Esneh."—At Liverpool May 26. "Hathor."—Alexandria-London. Passed Gibraltar June 7. "Karnak."—Nicolaieff - Liverpool. Passed Gibraltar June 12. "Khephren."—Liverpool-Constantinople. Left Malta June 6. "Meroe."—Left Alexandria for Liverpool June 10. "Moeris."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria June 3. "Sebek."—At London. "Siptah."—Liverpool-Batoum. Left Constantinople May 23. "Tanis."—At Liverpool.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Swansea June 12. "Barnesmore."—At Antwerp June 4. "Barrowmore."—Left Liverpool for Braila June 14. "Cranmore."—At Galatz June 5. "Edenmore."—At Varna June 14. "Fenmore."—At Rotterdam March 9. "Foylemore."—At Sulina June 10. "Gorsemore."—At Piræus June 13. "Heathmore."—Kustendje-Antwerp. At Galatz June 5. "Incemore."—Galatz-Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar June 10. "Jessmore." Sulina-Hull. Passed Gibraltar June 10. "Kenmore."—At Galatz May 26. "Larchmore."—Sulina-Antwerp. Left Malta June 15.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—At Tyne June 12. "Chinese Prince."—At Tyne June 15. "Corsican Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria June 14. "Creole Prince."—At Syrian Coast June 10. "Egyptian Prince."—At Syrian Coast June 10. "Italian Prince."—Manchester-Alexandria. Left Malta June 11. "Kaffir Prince."—Left London for Alexandria June 14. "Merchant Prince."—At Alexandria May 24. "Orange Prince."—At Port Said June 2. "Saxon Prince."—At Novorossisk June 3. "Sailor Prince."—At Alexandria June 10. "Soldier Prince."—London-Alexandria. Left Malta June 11. "Stuart Prince."—Kherson-Rotterdam. Passed Dardanelles June 8. "Tudor Prince."—At Malta June 10.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chantala."—Left Karachi for Antwerp June 15. "Chakrata."—Bombay-London. At Antwerp June 15. "Chinkoa."—London-Calcutta. At Bombay June 5. "Chupra."—Bombay-Antwerp. Left Port Said June 14. "Chyebassa."—Left Calcutta for London June 14. "Culna."—London-Bombay. Left Suez June 12. Malda."—At Calcutta June 7. "Mashobra."—Calcutta-London. Left Genoa June 14. "Nevassa."—London-Calcutta. At Madras June 14. "Neuralia."—London-Calcutta. Left Suez June 13. "Takada."—At Calcutta May 9. "Tanda."—Left London for Calcutta June 13. "Varela."—London-Calcutta. Passed Gibraltar June 11.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—At Bombay May 29. "Arcadia."—London-Bombay. Left Marseilles June 12. "Assaye."—At Bombay May 26. "Candia."—Calcutta-London. Left Colombo June 12. "China."—At Bombay June 12. "India."—Left Bombay for London June 13. "Macedonia."—Bombay-London. Left Gibraltar June 15. "Nankin."—At Calcutta May 27. "Nore."—London-Calcutta. Left Aden June 10. "Nyanza."—At Calcutta June 10. "Osiris."—Left Brindisi for Port Said June 15. "Palawan."—At Port Sudan May 6. "Sicilia."—London-Calcutta. Left Malta June 14. "Simla."—Calcutta-London. Passed Ushant June 16. "Sumatra."—At Bombay March 27.

Cunard Line.

"Caria." — Swansea-Mediterranean. Left Gibraltar June 15. "Carpathia."—Left Trieste for Boston June 14. "Cyprus."—At Constantinople June 15. "Ivernia."—Naples-New York. Left Gibraltar June 12. "Pavia."—At Smyrna June 14. "Phrygia."—At Manchester June 15. "Saxonia."—Left New York for Mediterranean June 11. "Thracia."—At Liverpool May 20. "Tyria."—At Marionpol June 13. "Ultonia."—New York-Mediterranean. Passed June 14. "Veria."—At Algiers June 15.

Ellerman Line.

"Asturian."—At Batoum June 11. "Austrian."—Left Constantinople for Lisbon June 2. "Avon."—Valencia-Liverpool. Passed Guia June 12. "Bavarian."—At Mostyn June 8. "Belgravian."—At Leghorn June 12. "Bosnian."—At Alexandria June 12. "Britannia."—At Alexandria June 12. "Castilian."—At Swansea June 14. "City of Cambridge."—At Liverpool June 15. "City of Khios."—Left Liverpool for Gibraltar June 11. "City of Oxford."—At Alexandria May 22. "Fabian."—At Naples June 4. "Lisbon."—Left Malta for Liverpool June 10. "Malatian."—Naples-Liverpool. Passed Sagres June 12. "Mardinian."—London-Alexandria. Left Malta June 7. "Maronian."—At Liverpool. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Venetian."—Left Algiers for Malta June 11.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—Left Palermo for New York June 5. "Circassia."—Birkenhead-Bombay. Left Port Said June 11. "Elysia."—Bombay-Liverpool. Left Gibraltar June 16. "Italia."—Left New York for Gibraltar June 16. "Massilia."—Left Bombay for Marseilles June 9. "Olympia."—At Bombay June 9. "Perugia."—At Leghorn June 13. "Scindia."—Left Birkenhead for Bombay June 16.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

On Thursday of last week, before Mr. Robert Wallace, K.C., at the London Sessions, John Highwater, who had practised as an eye specialist, under the style of "Dr. Percival," pleaded guilty to having obtained £1 1s. by false pretences from an Egyptian named Butrus Ghobrial. Mr. Wallace, K.C., bound over the defendant, and said if he offended again he would be sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for this offence.

The U.S. Consul-General at Athens reports that the Greek Government has signed a contract with the Standard Oil Company, of New York, for 90,000 cases of petroleum for general uses, and 3,000 cases of higher test for use in lighthouses. The above quantity represents about a half-year's supply. The general expectation was that the order would be placed in Roumania.

Mrs. Hungerford Pollen, in a lecture on "Ancient Lace" at the Victoria and Albert Museum last week, said that examples found in Egyptian tombs were similar in character to Italian lace of the fourteenth century, and work of this kind was produced in Italy to the present day. No doubt the art of lace-making came from the East, and Persia gave to Venice her pre-eminence in lace design.

According to the *Nachrichten für Handel und Industrie*, Berlin, there is a good outlet for second-hand clothes in the region of Trebizond (Asiatic Turkey). The importation of these garments represent annually the value of about 115,000 frs., of which 80,000 frs. worth come from France, and 15,000 frs. from the United States. The balance is divided between Germany, Great Britain, and Austria.

It is reported in Cardiff coal trade circles that both Turkey and Greece are in the market for considerable supplies of coal. During the past week Turkish agents have inquired for about 100,000 tons, and Greece is understood to be seeking equally large supplies for prompt delivery.

The Ottoman Post Office is preparing to open a telephone line between the port of Hodeidah and Sanaa in the Yemen.

According to *Le Journal des Balkans*, no less than £109,000 have been collected by voluntary contributions for the Roumanian Fleet.

Our Belgrade correspondent informs us that an application has been made to the Servian Minister of Commerce for a concession to erect and work important paper mills, and the concessionaires have for this purpose deposited a caution-guarantee of 100,000 francs.

The plans and estimates for the erection of waterworks at Monastir (New Servia) having been sanctioned, the construction of the works will be commenced in July or August next.

The Servian Minister for War has sought and obtained a credit for one million francs for the purchase of military clothing. The orders will probably be placed with local cloth factories.

Our Belgrade correspondent states that a wireless telegraph station is to be erected over the Belgrade University buildings. In connection with this there will be a receiver for obtaining the exact middle European time.

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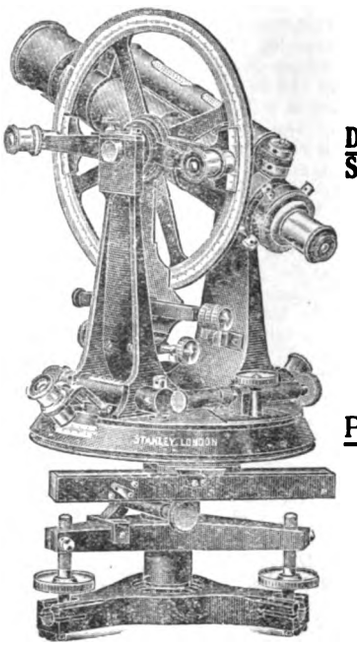

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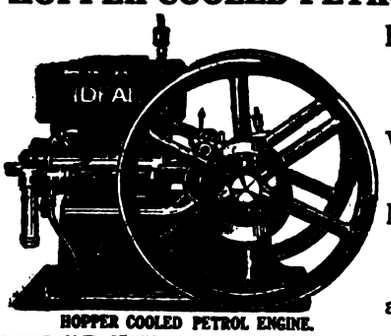

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From 1 to 16 h.p.
ALSO
1½ and 2½ h.p.
Vertical Engines.
No tank required.
Highest class material and workmanship.

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REFRIGERATORS.
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THISTLE (REGD.) BRITISH MANUFACTURE

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WILLIAM BERRY, Ld., 6 GOLD MEDALS AWARDED.
Works: Diamond Boot Polish Works, HOMERTON, And Manchester. LONDON, N.

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The Egyptian Mail

(Published in Cairo) is a well-informed and well-written daily paper with a rapidly increasing circulation.

IT COSTS A SMALL PIASTRE

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Engineering Notes.

Our Engineering Supplement.

The attention of engineers, machinery users, merchants, and the trading classes generally in the Near East, as well as engineer-manufacturers, shippers, and export merchants in the United Kingdom, is drawn to the Engineering Supplement which we publish this week. For the buyers the illustrated and displayed advertisements form a guide enabling them to approach directly the manufacturer, while the descriptive illustrated articles on engines, machinery and implements afford them technical and other information which it is difficult to obtain by ordinary correspondence. On the other hand, British manufacturers will find a great variety of information derived from the well-informed representatives of the journal on the spot. The needs of the divers markets in the Near East, the class of machinery that is suitable and wanted in each particular country or district, and the economic conditions and customs of each country with regard to engineering and machinery matters, are dealt with in detail, and a variety of valuable information not readily accessible elsewhere is provided.

British Enterprise in Servia.

Our Belgrade correspondent writes (June 14):—British firms are beginning to take an active interest in Servian enterprises. Lately the Railway and Works Company, of London, came to an agreement with the Servian Government for the tracing and planning of the Prilip-Shtip-Kotchané railway line, a distance of about 140 kilometres, for which the company will be paid at the rate of 700 francs per kilometre, and will obtain the contract for the entire construction of the line, providing the company's estimate for the construction is approved of.

Four days ago three directors of the Balkan Agency of London arrived here with the object of submitting to the Government a project for irrigating valuable tracts of land, and to-morrow Mr. Chedo Mijatovitch, former Servian Minister in London, will return to Belgrade with the object of making important financial proposals on behalf of a British group.

Servian Iron Industry.

Our Belgrade correspondent informs us that an application has been made by a Servian engineer to erect an iron foundry at Belgrade, and the permission will probably be accorded. Iron ore has been found in abundance in Servia, but the difficulty hitherto has been the question of conveyance. Now, however, as railways are being constructed which will traverse Servia in all directions, they will benefit not only the iron industry, but will tend greatly to increase the working of antimony and copper mines, which are already in a flourishing state.

Beyrout Railway Projects.

Apropos of his article upon Railways in Syria, which will be found on page 224, we have received the following note from our Beyrout Correspondent, too late to embody the information in the article:—The present narrow gauge suburban line, known as the Tramways Libanais, between Beyrout and Ma'ameltein, on the Libanese coast, is 21 kilometres 700 metres long. The extension from Ma'ameltein to Jebeil (old Byblos), which is under construction, and the works of which are proceeding very slowly—possibly for certain reasons not unconnected with the projected scheme outlined in the article—is to be about 16 kilometres. The further distance from Jebeil to Tripoli is about 45 kilometres 500 metres, making in all about 83 kilometres between Beyrout and Tripoli. At the present rate of construction, the Ma'ameltein-Jebeil extension may not be finished for another eight months.

A Varna Shipyard.

Our Sofia correspondent informs us that on June 10 the Bulgarian Government had under consideration proposals put forward by a Belgian company for the construction of a shipyard and repairing slip at the port of Varna. The Minister of Commerce pointed out the advantages of having such a yard, capable of effecting repairs to any damaged vessels on the spot instead of having to send them abroad for overhauling and reparation, and the Council decided to grant the concession asked for by the Belgian company. While congratulating Bulgaria in having such a yard at the Black Sea port, where it will certainly prove extremely valuable, we should naturally have been glad to see the contract given to a British firm.

An Embarrassing Rail Trouble.

Since the introduction of electric traction on railways and tramways in the East, people have, as elsewhere, nothing but praise for the system and its superiority over all others known there. But municipal and other authorities who are responsible for the maintenance of the lines have observed that the life of the rails is considerably shorter than before the use of electricity. The blame was thrown on the railmakers, and, by some, on the climate. The corrugation of rails and tramways, in the meantime, has become so serious that all kinds of remedies have been suggested and adopted, but with more or less unsatisfactory results. It may be a consolation to such embarrassed authorities to know that so far climatic conditions have nothing to do with the trouble. It is general, and is a serious problem engaging the attention in engineering and other quarters. The view of experts is that the rail-steel now used is not hard enough for its work, and that possibly modern methods of steel and rail making are at fault in that direction—which view coincides with that expressed by engineers in the East. The use of wheels of small diameter is also considered severe on the rails; but the conditions of tramway working make alterations in this respect almost impossible. It is therefore necessary to find a material which would not yield to the wheel actions, which are the immediate cause of corrugation, and it is believed that rails with a high proportion of carbon are essential to resist corrugation, as well as ordinary wear.

Roadmaking in Trebizond.

A recent Consular report states that some progress was made during 1913 by the French company engaged in repairing the Trebizond-Erzeroum road. It is not known when the work will be finished, but it is believed that there will be some speeding-up in 1914. The road has been completed and handed over to the authorities as far as Jevizlik (about eighteen miles), and another stretch from there on to Hamsikeui is nearly finished. The existing road over the Kop Pass has been temporarily repaired until such time as the new road, which is to pass at a lower altitude and will be freer from snow, can be made. When the work is completed the total distance from Trebizond to Erzeroum will be lessened by some nine miles. Some work was also carried out by the same company on the Kerasund-Kara Hissar road, while during 1914 operations will be begun on the first section, thirty-one miles in length, of the Rizeh-Ispir-Erzeroum road. The Turkish authorities also carried out some road works independently of the French company. A beginning has been made with the stretch of road from the centre of the town of Trebizond to the beginning of the Erzeroum road at Deirmen Dereh, which has hitherto at times been almost impassable; the repair of the Platana road was begun and should be finished by the middle of 1914, and a good road has been made to Souyouk Sou, the local summer resort. Other roads have been begun, under a system by which the population supplies the labour and the authorities the tools and technical assistance, between Kerasund and Pir Aziz and between Ordou and Abdal, while the continuation of the road to Surmeneh, which has hitherto stopped short at Yomura, ten miles from Trebizond, has been begun. Ultimately it is intended to build a continuous road parallel with the sea to link up the various small coast towns.

Nile Delta Drainage.

We are informed that the task of draining the low-lying lands of the Egyptian Delta that drain into Lake Mareotis has been entrusted to the Humphrey Pump Company by the Egyptian Government. Eighteen pumps, each capable of delivering 100,000,000 gallons per day, are to be installed.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Photographic Material.—Tenders are invited at the Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the supply of photographic material required by the Ministry for one year, commencing July 15, 1914. July 1.

Sacks for Cotton Seed.—Tenders are invited by the Administration of State Domains, Cairo, for the supply of 4,000 sacks for cotton seed. June 14.

Tools.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of tools. July 6. (L.)

Electric Material.—Tenders are invited by the States Domains Administration for the supply and installation at Sakha of electrical material, such as motor, lamps, transmission, etc. June 28.

Steel Girder Bridges.—Tenders are invited by the Inspector of Irrigation, Zifta Circle, Mansûra, for the supply and erection of fifteen steel girder bridges across the Baglia Drain. Approximate cost £E2,000. July 1.

Agendas.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance for the supply of agendas necessary for Government Administrations for the year 1915. August 1.

Bristol Board.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Finance for the supply of Bristol board required by the Printing Department during the year 1914. July 20.

Extension of Electrical Plant.—Tenders are invited by the Electrical Service, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the supply and erection at Khanka Lunatic Asylum of one 65-h.p. crude oil engine; one double current dynamo of 40 kw. and accessories; two centrifugal pumps and accessories. June 30.

ROUMANIA.

Passenger Carriages.—Tenders are invited by the Roumanian State Railways authorities for the supply of fifty-two passenger carriages, four bogies, fitted with Westinghouse brakes, hand brakes, and electric light, etc. July 3.

RECENT ADJUDICATIONS.

Amongst the recent adjudications at the Egyptian Ministry of Education (Department of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education) we notice the following:—

Pupils' Clothing.—Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, Cairo, £E405.

Raw Materials, etc.—Mr. F. Ratcliffe, Cairo, £E8,663; Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son (Egypt), Cairo, £E337.

At the Ministry of Finance, Survey Department:—

Weights.—Messrs. T. W. Peterson and Co., Limited: 10,000 2 rotls weights, 10,000 1 rotl weights, 10,000 ½ rotl weights, 10,000 ¼ rotl weights, 2,000 1 oke weights, 2,000 ½ oke weights, 2,000 ¼ oke weights, 2,000 ⅛ oke weights, at a total cost of £E478,350. Mr. S. Petsaly: 10,000 2 rotl weights, 10,000 1 rotl weights, 10,000 ½ rotl weights, 10,000 ¼ rotl weights, at a total cost of £E379,200.

THE CAIRO MOTOR CO., Ltd.
The Largest Motor Depot in the Near East.
SUPPLIERS OF
Motor Cars, Cycles, Launches, Marine Sets, Evinrude Motor Attachments, Dunlop Tyres & all Motor Accessories.
Head Office: RUE SOLIMAN PASHA, CAIRO, EGYPT.
Also at ALEXANDRIA and LONDON.

Egyptian Engineering Co., Ltd.
CAIRO and MANSOURAH.
Egyptian Engineering Stores, Alexandria.
Government Contractors, Engineers, Importers of Machinery of every description, Diesel, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Pumps Windmills, Agricultural Machinery, &c. Large stocks kept at all depots.
Sole Agents for over 40 first-class firms.

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THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Paid up, £400,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £600,000.

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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,800,800 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,800 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - -	65,000

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

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(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - -	Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - -	,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

FAVOURABLE SITUATION.—IMMINGHAM DOCK is geographically the most central port for the Continent, and is in direct rail communication with all parts of Industrial England.

ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE.—IMMINGHAM DOCK has a storm-protected harbour and deep water channel and entrance lock, enabling the largest ships to enter or leave **at any state of the tide;** 48 feet H.W.O.S.T., 27½ feet L.W.O.S.T.

LOW DOCK CHARGES.—IMMINGHAM DOCK charges are more favourable than at any competitive port—no waiting—quick and cheap transhipment between ship and rail.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW WORKS.—IMMINGHAM DOCK is adjacent to numerous valuable sites for new works and factories, which are in close proximity to coal and ironstone fields, and its many commercial advantages tend to minimise the cost of production.

TIMBER.—The large Timber Pond with deep water berths has accommodation for all descriptions of Timber.

There is a Timber Quay for Deals, Battens and Boards, Mining Timber, Pit Props, etc., with Sorting Ground and Timber Yards adjacent.

Ships can discharge direct from Hold to Truck Sorting Ground.

S.S. "Noreg" discharged a cargo of 1,404 loads of Pit Props in 17 working hours.

IRON ORE.—Ships discharge at Mineral Quay, with quick-working cranes and three sets of running roads alongside quay.

S.S. "Porjus" discharged a cargo of 4,427 tons Iron Ore in 43 working hours.

GENERAL.—Iron, Wood Pulp, and General Merchandise can be expeditiously handled by the latest type of cranes. Lifting capacity from 30 cwt. to 50 tons.

Sidings run alongside every berth, and spacious Transit Sheds and Bonded Stores are provided for dealing with traffic requiring storage accommodation.

The Ship Chandlery and Provision Department supplies Cabin, Deck, Ship, and Engine Room Stores of all kinds, and of best quality, at lowest prices.

DOCK DIMENSIONS.

Dock Estate....	1,000 acres.	Depth of water on sill H.W.O.S.T. ..	48 ft.
Water Area	45 acres.	Do. do. L.W.O.S.T. ..	27½ ft.
Length of Lock	840 feet.	Do. do. H.W.O.N.T. ..	45 ft. 6 ins.
Width of Lock ..	90 feet.	Do. do. L.W.O.N.T. ..	31 ft. 6 ins.

Depth of Water in the Dock, 50 to 55 ft.

For further information apply to GREAT CENTRAL GOODS AGENTS, or PORT MASTER, IMMINGHAM DOCK.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Limited) was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. C. W. Wallace, the chairman presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen, the only actual business that I have to lay before you to-day is that of the confirmation of one of the resolutions which were passed by you without a dissentient voice at our last meeting a fortnight ago, and inasmuch as since then we have read with satisfaction that the Press generally—at all events the generality of the independent and responsible journals—has expressed warm approval of the arrangements entered into between His Majesty's Government and this company, I find myself in the happy position of having to add little or nothing to what I said when we last met.

The one and only criticism which I have met with from, or emanating from, our own shareholders has been that, inasmuch as we have already proved vast stores of oil in our territories, we have allowed the Government to come into the concern on far too favourable terms. The shareholder—a very large shareholder—who brought this against us urged that we should have given the existing shareholders the option of taking up at par the additional capital required and then, as untrammelled sellers, have got the extremest farthing per ton for our products, and for any portion of it sold to the Admiralty, to have kept all the profit on it for our shareholders. I do not think that this criticism will appeal to many or any of you who heard what I said at the last meeting, but I take this opportunity of repeating it to you—if I did not make it clear when I last addressed you—that the consideration that we got for allowing the Government to acquire a large interest on favourable terms—that is, at par—is the securing of a substantial contract extending over a period of years at a remunerative price. I am not permitted to give you any further details of this contract, as I told you before, but I will repeat that in the unanimous opinion of your directors, who have studied the question in all its bearings on your behalf for many months, the consideration is a good and valuable one. As a separate matter I feel sure also that none of you will find any great difficulty in appreciating that it is by no means a disadvantage to have the Government of Great Britain associated with the company as it now will be.

But during the last fortnight you will have seen quite a different class of criticisms disseminated—criticisms framed to endeavour to persuade the public that the Government has made a very bad bargain. So far as these criticisms have come to my notice they have been largely based upon misstatements of facts, and they have emanated either openly or under the cover of "inspired" articles in one or two journals, from interested parties who are disappointed to find a substantial portion of the oil fuel requirements of the British Navy satisfied otherwise than by themselves, and also by the Admiralty being placed by its part ownership of these vast supplies of petroleum of ours in a position of practical immunity against squeezing by foreign-controlled rings and combines. It would have been surprising indeed if we had heard no cries of pain from such parties, and if we had not found them endeavouring, by pleadings that are very special and by arguments incapable of impressing the well-informed, to raise a suspicion in the minds of the public that the Government had been cozened into making a bad bargain in entering into this arrangement with us. But, gentlemen, the lamentations of the spokesman of these foreign monopolies are the best possible justification, I submit, that the Government could have for the action which they have now taken, and also prove up to the hilt the wisdom of the policy which the Government of India have followed for the past ten to twelve years in regard to the Burma oil industry. And nothing that has been said by or on behalf of these people that I have seen can raise the slightest doubt in well-informed minds as to the benefits to be derived from these agreements by both parties.

Now it is obvious, gentlemen, that both these sets of critics cannot be correct in their arguments. According to these, if we have made a bad bargain for our shareholders the Government must have made a good bargain, and if the Government have made a bad bargain, then our shareholders must have made a good one. The fact is, however, that the arrangement, as every first-class arrangement should be, will be one of benefit and advantage to both parties to it. In consideration of allowing the Government to acquire a small fraction over one-half in our share capital on favourable terms—namely, for the purpose of carrying out the developments which are now justified by the further information acquired as to the vast potentialities of our properties—we obtain a secure contract, extending over a period of years, at a remunerative price, without having to incur the expense of establishing a vast selling organisation, or of having to wrestle for a share of trade with foreign-controlled selling monopolies. The Navy, on the other hand, which does not (as these interested critics assert) give us a subsidy or unfair preferential support, but which makes an investment on the same conditions as any other investor, concurrently puts itself, as I have said, to a large extent in a position of advantage against the said rings and combines.

We feel so sure that you are able to appreciate the true state of the case that, without further remark, I will now propose the resolution that we have met to-day to consider and to confirm, if you agree with us, namely, "That the resolution for altering the articles of association passed at the general meeting held on May 29 last, be, and the same is hereby, confirmed as a special resolution."

Mr. C. Greenaway seconded the resolution.

Mr. Garnet-Mann asked whether the company now became a State-controlled concern.

The Chairman: No, sir. The State has appointed two directors on the board of this company with special powers of veto in certain directions, but those directions are purely affairs of State, such as complications with foreign Powers or the exploitation of new territories. With regard to general control, the commercial part of the company remains entirely in the hands of the present directors with the State directors as advisers.

The resolution was unanimously carried, and the proceedings then terminated.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.

The report of the directors of the Land Bank of Egypt, presented at the meeting held on May 12, states that during the year 184 mortgage loans were granted, for an aggregate amount of £E638,864. The total amount of loans outstanding at the same date amounted to £E3,736,143. This figure would have been higher were it not that the Land Bank, in common with other Egyptian companies, suffered from the financial stringency on the European markets, and the resulting restricted credit. No public issue of debentures was possible under advantageous conditions during the year, and the directors had to exercise extreme caution in the matter of loans, being frequently compelled to reject interesting proposals. To meet the requirements of its best clients, however, the company made a special issue of debentures, which figures in the balance-sheet under the headings, "Obligations 4eme Série" and "Crédit amortissable à longue terme." Of this advance there remains a sum of £E50,000 still available. The state of the money market had naturally its effect on the company's sales of land. At the present time the company's property consists of two urban estates, representing £E18,000, and twenty-two rural estates, representing £E125,000. Repayments during the year continued to be satisfactory, amounting in all to £E405,000. The amount of arrears, which stood at £E265,000 at March 31, 1913, was reduced to £E211,000 at October 31. The balance outstanding at March 31, namely, £E269,631.580, is practically the same as last year. In spite of various unfavourable circumstances, there was a balance available for distribution of £E127,735, showing an increase of £E3,100. A dividend of 8s. has been declared on the ordinary shares, and of £2 10s. on the founders' shares, the sum of £E2,229 being carried forward to the next balance-sheet.

BALANCE SHEET as at March 31, 1914.

ASSETS.

		£E.
Cash in hand and at bankers		132,879.467
Four per Cent. Debentures (fourth series)		192,875
Securities held in respect of statutory reserve		48,107.976
Short loans		23,905.833
Loans on Mortgages	3,736,143.295	
Distribution of the price of properties purchased by third parties	85,201.142	
	3,821,344.437	
Annuities in the course of encashment:—		
Former years	92,646.796	
Current year	177,084.784	
	269,631.580	
Interest due on overdue annuities	17,899.268	
		4,108,875.277
Mortgage debtors for interest acquired and not due		62,860.818
Properties acquired by expropriation		143,340.205
Sale of properties not yet completed		29,979.246
Office site		26,996.929
Sundry securities held on deposit		3,795.301
Sundry debtors		29,386.418
Advances on mortgages to be collected for account of third parties		15,025.932
Provision for interim dividend		38,025.000
		£E4,856,053.402

LIABILITIES.

Capital		975,000.000
RESERVE.		
Reserve fund	241,312,500	
Statutory reserve	48,300.105	
Provision for redemption of debentures and expenses	26,102.074	
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	16,070.579	
		331,785.258
DEBENTURES IN CIRCULATION.		
Type 3½ per cent.	939,339.823	
Provision for recovery	9,393.400	
Type 4 per cent.	2,852,814.126	
	3,801,547.349	
Less premiums and charges to be recovered	589,687.534	
		3,211,859.815
Sundry deposits		3,993.900
Deposits for the payment of loans		90,547.111
Provisional stoppages on loans		90,547.111
Dividends, coupons, and debentures payable but not claimed		16,017.394
Sundry creditors		22,837.099
Mortgages to be encashed for account of third parties		15,025.932
Interest owing, but not yet due		34,818.614
Interest encashed relating to next year's account		3,534.432
Balance of profit and loss account		100,633.847
		4,856,053.402

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

EXPENSES.

General expenses	14,975.467	
Stamps on shares and debentures and sundry expenses relating thereto	16,347.744	
Interest on debentures	139,942.982	
Sundry interest	1,867.676	
		173,133.878
AMORTISATIONS.		
Provision for redemption of debentures	11,416.662	
Provision for amortisation of properties acquired by expropriation	8,500.000	
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	6,000	
Brokerage on loans	845.825	
Written off furniture account	238.701	
		27,101.188
Net balance		100,633.847
		300,868.913

RECEIPTS.

Interest on mortgages, short loans, sundry interests, repayments	299,862.754	
Less allowances	3,500.000	
		296,362.754
Sundries		2,233.611
Brought forward from last balance-sheet		2,272.548
		300,868.913

NEW COMPANY.

Prahova Oil Lands of Roumania, Limited.

A company with the above title was registered on June 8 with a capital of £100,000, in £1 shares. The objects of the company are to acquire petroleum or oil-bearing lands and any rights connected with the getting of natural gas, petroleum, bitumen, asphalte, ozokerite, or similar substances in Roumania or elsewhere. Minimum cash subscription, seven shares. First directors: Sir Charles Follett, C.B., Hemyock, Devon; Mark Parker, 11-13, Southampton Row, W.C.; and Augustus Pereno, The Limes, Grosvenor Road, Gunnersbury, W. Qualification, £100. Remuneration, £250 each per annum (chairman £100 extra). The registered office is at 11-13, Southampton Row, W.C.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 680,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Koum, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, July 1.

STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is June 23.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Wed., June 24	Thurs., June 25	Fri., June 26
Wed., July 8	Thurs., July 9	Fri., July 10

LONDON, June 18.

The stock markets are distinctly better in tone. Very few people in London take any notice of the Greek and Turkish trouble, and still less appear to be interested in Albania. The successful début made by the new French Ministry has given a fillip to the markets. It was sadly needed. There are no buyers about, but some of the bears have repurchased. That is as high as anyone can put it. The new issues are going very badly indeed. The Canadian loan and the Russian Railway loan were complete failures. The Investment Registry has been asking for money for a shipping company, which appears to be a relief fund for Brazil Traction. The City of Perm wants a small sum, and the Port of London offers a million 4 per cent. stock at 96. This is a good security. The Indian Government asked for tenders for 500 lakhs of rupees. It will be interesting to see how this goes.

Money Plentiful.

Money is very plentiful. Paris is obtaining all the gold she needs from New York, and the African gold is therefore available for our own Bank of England. Rates continue low, and are not likely to go up, for the end of the half-year settlement presents no difficulties either in London or in Berlin. Everything has been arranged for.

Internationals Firmer.

The Foreign market is firmer, and a small rise seems probable. The French loan should be out shortly, and if it is a great success, as seems probable, this will increase confidence all round. Bulgarian 4½ per cent. are 82. Egyptian Unified continue a steady market. A good deal of business has been done at 99¼, whilst Egyptian preferred have been done at 88, and the inscribed at 83. Greeks have all weakened, and the Fours are down as low as 51½. Turkish continue steady at 82, in spite of the fact that some people consider a war to be certain.

Rails Harder.

The Home Railway market is a shade harder. Great Western continues to add to its traffic increases and there seems little doubt that it will be able to maintain last year's dividend. Great Eastern also look attractive at their present very low price, but there are no buyers anywhere. The American market is dull. None of the railways are doing well, and in spite of immense economies a good many of the roads will be unable to maintain their dividends.

Rubber and Oil.

The Rubber market remains hard at 2s. 4½d., but future deliveries are being offered at 2s. The Lankat report was excellent; 17½ per cent. dividend is paid and the crop for the current year seems to guarantee at least a maintenance of the dividend. Oil shares have shown very little signs of life.

The collapse in Spies seems to have knocked the bottom out of the Oil market. The Egyptian settlement went off quite easily. All those who desired to borrow money on their shares found no difficulty, but in spite of this the price has weakened, and is now only a shade over par. The output for the week is quite good, but speculation has entirely died out.

Mines Idle.

Mining shares are hardly mentioned. Paris has been picking up a few Kaffirs. Russians have been fairly active. There has been a certain amount of buying both of Russo-Asiatics and Tanalyks, but Russian Mining remain at 1½.

Egyptians Dull.

In the Egyptian market business has been quite as dull as in any other section of the House. National Banks have been dealt in at 14¼. Agricultural Banks have been rather weak: business has been registered at 4 25-32. The Deferred have also been purchased at 260. Land Banks have been bought by Paris, and the price is 6⅜. The deferred are nominally 40. The company's balance sheet appears on another page. Bank of Abyssinia are 5s. A small business has been done in Delta Light Railway preferreds at 8½. There have been some inquiries for Delta Lands, the bulk of the trade having been done at 8s. 3d. Beheras have been dull at 8⅞, and the preference remain at 4½. Union Foncière are called 22s. 6d. Alexandria Water are now 12½ ex dividend. Aboukir Lands are a shade harder at 21s. 6d. United Lands have hardly been mentioned. The price remains at 1s. 9d. Sidi Salem are 5s., and Trusts are also 5s. Salt and Sodas have been dealt in at 14s. 9d. There is very little business in New Egyptians, which remain at 10s. 3d. Markets are 23s. Khedivial Mail preferreds are called 3¾, and the ordinary 10s. Daira Sanieh remain at 3s. nominal. Altogether it has been a dull week in the Egyptian market.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum.

The report of the Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company, Limited, to be submitted to the meeting on the 23rd inst., states that the gross profit for the year to December 31 amounted to £26,046, and, deducting the expenses payable in London, there remains £22,670. After making the usual allowances for depreciation, providing £915 for debenture interest, and writing off the balance of preliminary expenses account, £4,875, the net profit for the year amounts to £11,243, which sum, with the balance of £8,729 brought forward, makes a total of £19,973 standing to the credit of profit and loss account. Of this amount the board propose to place £8,500 to reserve account, to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., which will absorb £7,500, and to carry forward £3,973. Owing to the satisfactory financial position of the company, the directors found it unnecessary to call up the debentures in full. The production of crude oil for the year under review was 12,973 tons, which is slightly in excess of that for 1912. The Balkan war greatly interfered with the company's work, and the development programme was entirely suspended for a considerable time in consequence of the shortage of labour and complete lack of transport facilities, owing to the Roumanian mobilisation. The policy of the board, in deciding to drill to the deeper oil source in Bordeni, has been amply justified. Well No. 28 came into production in October last at 408 metres, and to May 31 has given over 7,400 tons from this source. Wells Nos. 17 and 24 are also down to the same oil source, and have commenced to produce. The well at Gropi is now at 470 metres, but drilling has been delayed owing to a casing accident. This, however, should shortly be overcome, and deepening resumed. In the Runcu district, well No. 1 has reached a depth of 202 metres. The market prices for crude oil during the year kept very firm, with consequent benefit to the company.

Commercial and Agency of Egypt.

In the Chancery Division on Tuesday Mr. Justice Astbury confirmed the reduction of capital of the the Commercial and Agency Company of Egypt, Limited, by writing off capital lost or unrepresented by available assets. Mr. Gordon Browne, for the company, said the loss consisted entirely of a debit balance on the profit and loss account. The company had been carried on unsuccessfully for a considerable time, and now there had been a change of management, and the company wanted to write off the old loss. The company was formed in 1908, and its capital was £75,000, in 75,000 £1 shares. The shareholders, who were all resident in Egypt, had consented to the reduction. The evidence of the chairman of the company showed that the business of the company had, since January 1, 1908, been carried on at a loss, and the debit balance as at June 30, 1913, amounted to £28,250.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, June 12.

Share Market.

The holidays (fêtes de Pentecôte) have taken up two days of the week under review, which has otherwise been like its predecessors, with very little business doing. The cotton campaign being practically over, a lot of money has found its way back here from the interior. But this easing off has not reacted on our share market, owing to the apathy of the London and Paris markets and the indifference displayed by our speculators and capitalists. However, a marked looking up in Agricultural Bank shares has to be recorded, several thousand having changed hands. A strong demand for Credit Foncier Egyptien is also reported.

Union Fonciere d'Egypte.

The Bank of Athens has just handed over to this company some 2,800 feddans at Segaieh and El Warak (Gharbia) to be managed by them and sold to the fellaheen on easy terms of payment. These 2,800 feddans originally belonged to Mr. E. Karam and have been improved by the Bank of Athens. But as agricultural enterprise does not enter into the list of a bank's proper functions the management of these lands has been made over to the Union Foncière, which will receive a share of the profits.

Credit Hypothecaire Agricole et Urbain d'Egypte.

This company has ceased to make advances on mortgage, and is liquidating its old business. The Banque de Reports de Fonds Publics et de Dépôts, of Antwerp, has acquired the 11,200 debentures (500 francs each) issued by the Credit Hypothecaire.

Crown Brewery of Alexandria.

In consideration of its amalgamation with the Anglo-Egyptian Ice Co., the Crown Brewery has raised its capital to 1,500,000 francs, in 15,000 shares of 100 francs each. Although the sales of beer in 1913 amounted to 25,195 hectolitres—practically just the same figure as that for the previous year (25,159 hectolitres)—the profits only amounted to £E5,810, or £1,000 less. This decrease is due to the reduction in price that had to be made to compete with a rivalry as active as it was thoughtless. The company has thus been enabled to keep its good clients and to secure new ones. For the current year the company can already reckon on an increase of sales, which will compensate it for the sacrifices it has had to make in order to hold its own. In spite of the reduction in profits, the company has written off £E2,080, and has distributed a dividend of 8 francs on the capital shares and of 3 francs on the jouissance shares.

Societe des Presses Libres.

Mr. E. Piha having resigned his seat on the board of directors of this company, Mr. C. D. Strologo has been elected to replace him.

Societe d'Irrigation de Baliana.

By reason of the low Nile, the company has been able to irrigate more than 9,000 feddans in Upper Egypt, which has led to an unprecedented profit. The profits amount to £E28,427, an increase of £E13,778 on the preceding year. The company after providing for large amortisations is paying a dividend of 10 per cent.

New Companies.

Under the style of Wilhelm Vrapp, and with a capital of £E5,000, a company has been established for the purpose of carrying on business as exporters. Another new company is C. Chaniolis et frères, which has its headquarters in Alexandria, and will carry on business as dealers in Colonial produce. The properties of the firm of Georges Loutfallah Sursack, of Alexandria and Tantah, are to be sold by auction by order of the Mixed Tribunal of Alexandria.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LTD.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that a DIVIDEND of EIGHT SHILLINGS and NINE PENCE per £5 Share on Coupon No. 51 is PAYABLE on and after June 15th, 1914, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Ltd., 1, Pall-Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd. Alexandria, Egypt.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BRAGDEN,
Alexandria, Egypt, 30th May, 1914. Manager.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ALEXANDRIA WATER.—Coupon No. 51 is payable from June 15 at Barclay and Co., 1, Pall Mall East, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, E.C.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Production of oil at Gemsah for week, 2,755 tons (last week 3,511 tons), and at Hurgada 134 tons (last week 194 tons).

ANGLO-OTTOMAN TOBACCO.—The directors have declared a dividend of 15 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference and Participating shares, and a dividend of 22 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Ordinary shares for the year ended March 31 last.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—The board have decided to recommend a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year 1913. The transfer books of the company are closed from the 15th to 23rd inst., both days inclusive, for the preparation of dividend warrants, payable 24th inst.

BANQUE DE CREDIT, SOFIA.—The dividend is 5 per cent., as for preceding period. A branch is shortly to be opened at Bourgas, Black Sea.

CONCORDIA, BUCHAREST.—The net profit for 1913 amounted to 668,812 lei, as compared with 667,283 lei in 1912. The dividend is 5 per cent., as for the former year.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for eleven days ended May 31 amounted to £E7,097, a decrease of £E471 over the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA.—First Mortgage Debenture Coupon No. 24, due June 30, will be paid on and after that date by the National Bank of Egypt, 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.

GREEK LOANS.—The coupons falling due on July 1 of the Five per Cent. Loans of 1881 and 1884 should be presented at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son for payment of 56 per cent. in gold of their face value, being 32 per cent. ordinary interest and 12 per cent. per annum augmentation, payable on the coupon of the first half-year. The coupons of the Four per Cent. Monopoly Loan of 1887 should be presented for payment of 67 per cent. in gold of their face value, being 43 per cent. ordinary interest and 12 per cent. per annum augmentation, payable on the coupon of the first half-year. The coupons of the Five per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893 should be presented for payment of 32 per cent. in gold of their face value, and the coupons of the Greek Government Four per Cent. Loan of 1902 (Railways Loans) should be presented for payment.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Total receipts for week ended June 13 amounted to £7,061, an increase of £1,678 over the corresponding period of last year.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce that Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway 3 per Cent Bonds, amounting to £600, have been drawn for repayment at par on 15th prox.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

	Last Make-up. June 9.	Latest prices. June 17.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	102
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	82½	82
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	97	95
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99¼	99¼
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	84
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80
Greek 5 %, 1881	60	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	59	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	54	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	46	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	59	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	56
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	81	80
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	88	89½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	92
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92⅔
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95¾	95½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	85½	85
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	84½
Do. 4 % Unified	42	82
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	71	70⅛
Do. 4 %, 1909	72	70½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4¾	4¾
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7¼
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	79½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	82½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7⅞
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14½
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6¼
National Bank of Egypt	14¼	14¼
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8½
Do. do. 4 % Debs.	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	19	18
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	89
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	89
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/6
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2 1/16
Do. Do. Def.	—	⅜
Béhéra Co.	9	9
Do. Pref.	—	4 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	—	1/16
Daira Sanieh	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	8/6	8/4½
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/1½
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1¾
" Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	—
New Egyptian Co.	10/6	10/6
Sidi Salem Co.	—	5/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 17/32	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	98
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1 1/16
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/6	1 3/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	95½
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	—	£199½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2 1/16
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	1 3/16	24/3
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	4/9	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	6/-	5/9
Oilfields Finance Corporation	7/8	1 3/16
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	26/	26/-
Shell Transport	5 3/16	5 3/16
Suez Oil	6/-	5/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Last week's prices. June 11.	Latest prices. June 18.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	614	613
Canal de Suez Shares	5000	5035
Do. do. Jouissance	4245	4340
Do. do. Founders	2240	2280
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	721	725
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	149	152
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	445¾	450
Do. do. do. Act.	204	201
Land Bank of Egypt	161	162
Mines Balia-Karaidin	488	468½
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	145	130
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	506	513
Do. do. Ord.	40¼	36½
Do. do. Pref.	44	39⅛
Tabacs Ottomans	454	444
Turkish Unified Con.	82.30	81.35
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	371	371

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	June 4.	June 11.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	350	325
Do. do. Priv.	200	235
Do. do. Cap.	175	115
Do. do. Div.	104.50	90
Anglo-Belgian Co.	9.675	10.25
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	116.50	118.75
Do. do. Div.	135	137.50
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	468.50	458.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	67	66.25
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	415.50	417
Do. Priv.	516.25	522.50
Do. Div.	139	140
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	41.875	40
Do. do. Fond.	75	77.50
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	61.25	63.50
Do. do. Div.	85.50	36.25
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1356
Do. do. Ord.	495	495
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	285	290
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	395	350
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	91	98.75
Do. do. Div.	98.75	93.75
Tramways du Caire Priv.	502.75	510.50
Do. do. Jouiss.	512.50	510
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	151	172
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	9.125	10.50

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	June 5.	June 11.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.452	Fcs.452
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.449.75	Fcs.449.75
Do. do. Shares	£15 7 0	£15 5 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6 25	£T.6.20
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.413.50	Fcs.413.50
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.165	Fcs.165
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.94	Fcs.98
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.92	Fcs.95
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34.50	Fcs.34.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.29.25	£T.29.10

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	June 3.	June 10.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3 1/16	3 1/16
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12 1/16	12 1/16
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 46½	46½
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886	Fcs. 339	341½
Do. Do. 1903	Fcs. 268¾	288½
Do. Do. 1911	Fcs. 271½	271¼
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance	Fcs. 185	180
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/3	12/-
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2 3/32	2 3/32
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 164.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The lapse of a week has brought no actual aggravation of the tension between Greece and Turkey. But while delay removes the danger of a sudden explosion under the influence of the reports of the persecutions in Asia Minor, the situation has undergone no radical improvement. It is probable that the Porte is not a whit more anxious than the Greek Government to be committed to further hostilities; but there are forces at work which the Cabinet in Constantinople does not seem able to control. The persecutions suffered by the Greeks in Asia Minor recall the process of "Ottomanization" which the Young Turks introduced with such confidence a few years ago in their European provinces. That policy was the immediate cause of the first Balkan War, and led to the elimination of Ottoman power from Macedonia. The Young Turks, unable to profit by experience, appear to have transferred with a perfectly light heart their Macedonian policy to Asia Minor. The process of "Ottomanization," however, developed in a different and unexpected manner. Instead of offering the stubborn resistance that the people of Macedonia had offered, the Greeks of Asia Minor fled at the first sign of trouble, abandoning their property or selling it at panic prices. The success of the policy was entirely to the liking of the local Turks, who carried their advantage to extremes. The system rapidly degenerated into wholesale persecution, and the Porte was compelled to intervene. With what results it is too early to decide; for, unfortunately, it is possible that the oppression in Asia Minor should cease, the Porte even offer amends and the Greek Government profess satisfaction, without any real improvement taking place in Greco-Turkish relations. For what the Turkish Cabinet does to-day, the Young Turks may undo to-morrow, and each fresh application of the goad to the racial antagonism between the two countries brings an open breach appreciably nearer.

The Porte's reply to the Greek Note of June 12 was received in Athens on June 18. It was at best a temporizing document, couched in terms which, while not provocative, were calculated to give no satisfaction to Greece. The Turk's case is that the unfortunate incidents in Asia Minor were caused by the forced emigration of 200,000 destitute Mussulmans from Macedonia; but they claim to have put an end to the persecution of Greeks. The Note concluded by expressing the hope that nothing further would occur to disturb tranquillity in Asia Minor, and that the Greek Government for its part would take effective measures to assure peace in Macedonia so that the good relations between the two States might not be affected. Before the Greek Government had time to decide that such a reply was unsatisfactory to the point of exasperation the Porte presented a supplementary Note, which dealt with the Greek demand for an indemnity and the reinstatement of Greek emigrants. It proposed an exchange of properties between the Turkish emigrants from Greek Macedonia and the Greek refugees from Asia Minor. Although the Greek reply to this suggestion is not expected to be delivered for a few days, it is believed that the Government will accept the proposal on the condition that the exchange shall be effected voluntarily by the refugees concerned and not under compulsion. Other steps taken by Turkey display a conciliatory attitude. The Greek Government has been assured that the authorities in the districts where the excesses occurred will be punished and the culprits brought to book. At the same time the foreign Embassies in Constantinople have been invited to attach representatives to the suite of Talaat Bey in order to satisfy themselves as to the sincerity of the measures taken to restore order.

Greco-Turkish relations have a long way to travel before the situation in the Near East assumes a satisfactory aspect. The ostensibly correct attitude adopted by the two Governments towards one another since the Peace of Athens has found no response among the two peoples, and the recent events in Asia Minor have emphasized the makeshift nature of that treaty. In Turkey the desire to try conclusions with Greece single-handed has never been abandoned outside Government circles, with the result that in Greece the conviction is gaining ground that a fresh trial of strength is necessary before normal relations between the two countries can be established. The danger of the present crisis lies in the fact that Greece may decide that a better *casus belli* than the Turkish persecutions of Greeks in Asia Minor may be hard to find. An important factor is the relative strength of the two navies. With the prospect of notable additions being made to the Turkish fleet in the immediate future, Greece's case for not postponing action was strong. But now that the United States have agreed to the sale of the two battleships "Idaho" and "Mississippi" to Greece the balance of power has

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been restored largely, if not altogether, in Greece's favour, and the necessity for immediate action against Turkey is removed. There remains, however, the question of the islands of Chios and Mytilene. Statesmanship would prompt Turkey to "cut her losses" and to settle down to the development of the resources still at her command. If the future reveals an opportunity of recovering some of the lost ground, the Empire will be in a better position to maintain and consolidate any territory then gained. The utmost that the Porte seems able to do now is to keep open the old sores and to penalise Turkey's future without the least prospect of being able to strengthen her present position. Both Governments will be well advised to work hard to discover a *modus vivendi*. The establishment of cordial relations cannot be looked for, but the two countries might be brought to believe in a policy of "live and let live" as being to the interest of each.

An interesting episode during the past week has been the notification addressed to the Porte that Servia would be unable to remain on friendly terms with Turkey in the event of a Greco-Turkish conflict. Inasmuch as hostilities would almost certainly be confined to naval operations, Servian support for Greece would be more moral than practical, and the message need not have impressed the Porte overmuch. On the other hand, it reveals the scope of the alliance between Servia and Greece and establishes a factor of importance in the general situation in the Near East.

The situation in Albania defies analysis, because it is not known what degree of trustworthiness attaches to the different reports that emanate from that country. After the defeat of the insurgents who attacked Durazzo last week negotiations were opened with them by a Moslem deputation from the town. The insurgents are stated to have demanded exemption from military service and taxes for ten years as the price of their recognition of Prince William and the Albanian flag. In any case they required a three days' truce to discuss the subject with their friends. A two days' truce was granted, and, in spite of an exchange of firing which lasted for half an hour, has been prolonged. Hope does not seem to have been abandoned in Durazzo that the insurgents will ultimately submit to Prince William. It is reported that the Kaimakan of Shiak, who was wounded and captured by the loyal forces, is endeavouring to induce his followers to the number of 1,500 to make their submission. He is also responsible for the statement that the insurgents only number 5,500, while nearly half of them, including many Christians, have joined under compulsion. If this should prove to be the case the immediate outlook for the beleaguered capital would be brighter. But within the walls of Durazzo intrigue and conspiracy appear to be rife, and Prince William must be sometimes at a loss to know whom he can trust and where he can look next for practical support. Unless the siege is quickly raised, it is feared that an epidemic may break out in the town owing to the shortage of water and the defective sanitary conditions.

In the meantime the news from other parts of Albania is of the gloomiest. All the three forces which were supposed to be converging on the small rebel force outside Durazzo appear to have been defeated in the course of their advance. The last to fail was Prenk Bib Doda, who had been reported as being within four hours of Durazzo, and whose advance had been carried out so thoroughly that the insurgents had protested against the wholesale destruction in which he was said to be indulging. Prenk Bib Doda was taken prisoner, but released on parole by the insurgents, who have captured Elbasan and are marching on Valona. If Prince William could rely upon any force, or even if the insurgents themselves could lay claim to organization and a definite purpose, the situation in Albania would not seem so hopeless. But while the so-called Albanian Government remains shut up in the capital, the rest of the country seems given over to marauding bands, acting on no concerted plan beyond that of attacking everything they come across. Every day must increase the regret felt that Great Britain, having lent her name to the creation of the new Albanian State and the appointment of Prince William as Mpret, is content to remain an impassive spectator both of Italian and Austro-Hungarian intrigue and of the Albanian Government's helplessness.

King Peter of Servia, whose health has been far from satisfactory for some time, has found it necessary to hand over the reins of Government to the Crown Prince Alexander while undergoing a course of treatment for his illness. The proclamation announcing this decision limits the delegation of the Royal power to the period of the King's ill-health. Owing to this proviso, it is hoped that the question of the succession will not be raised. The Balkan correspondent of *The Times* points out that Prince George, King Peter's elder son, who resigned his rights to the throne in 1908, has a considerable following in the army, and that a formal abdication on the part of his Servian Majesty at this juncture might well lead to a collision between rival military factions.

The negotiations for a Bulgarian loan are understood to be nearing a successful conclusion. A director of the Disconto-Gesellschaft has reached Sofia with the contract for the loan, which will be submitted to the Minister of Finance and to the Cabinet. At the eleventh hour fresh loan proposals from French and Anglo-French sources have been made to the Bulgarian Government, but although the terms would be more gratifying to Bulgarian *amour propre*, it is supposed that both offers will be regarded as having arrived too late for the Government's consideration.

For the moment interest in the British Government's acquisition of shares in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company centres mainly in the business aspect of the transaction from the British point of view. The announcement that Chiasurkh, the site of one of the two proved oilfields of the company, has been allotted to Turkey by the Boundary Commission introduces a possible complication for the company and the Government's interests, but does not affect the question as far as the Persian Government is concerned. While Persia stands to gain from the development of her resources, the Government must be anxious to obtain the assurance that this extension or intensification of British interests in the neutral sphere will not provoke reprisals by Russia at Persia's expense. We could have wished that the reconsideration of the terms of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, on the lines already indicated in these columns, had preceded the notification of the Government's arrangement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. We have good reason for securing recognition of our interests in the neutral zone, but our obligations to Persia require that we should not give Russia an excuse for any further tightening of her hold on that country, the territorial integrity of which she is pledged to respect. Already, according to an estimate of the Persian Treasury, one-third of the land and resources of the province of Azerbaijan has passed under Russian control. The establishment of a Court of Appeal at Urumiah, with the Russian Consul as a member, is another indication that Russia requires but little incentive to abandon the fiction that her actions in Persia are inspired by a desire to promote Persian interests. If she can persuade herself that Great Britain has entered upon a policy of helping herself in Persia, we may expect very rapid developments in Azerbaijan.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 20.

The Ægean Crisis.

At this critical moment in the history of the relations between Greece and Turkey it may be well to sum up the attitude taken by the respective Governments of these countries, in their recent correspondence, in the form of a dialogue between Kyrios Miltiades and Mehmed Effendi, and to let the readers of The Near East form their opinion as to the merits and demerits of the arguments employed by each.

A Dialogue of Discord.

Kyrios Miltiades: The Hellenic Government has taken the step of calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the lamentable condition of the Greek population in Turkey which is suffering from every imaginable species of persecution (here several lines of rhetoric may be omitted) not because it desires to interfere in the internal affairs of another state, but because the influx of poverty stricken Greek emigrants from Turkey imposes a severe burden upon our finances. 100,000 fugitives cannot be housed, fed, and provided for without serious expenditure, and if this anti-Greek movement continues we shall soon have 200,000 on our hands. We cannot indefinitely bear this strain; moreover, we have certain violations of the Treaty of Athens to complain of, and must demand compensation on behalf of certain Hellenic subjects who have suffered from violence or from pillage.

Mehmed Effendi: I am ready to reply to your arguments, on the assumption, of course, that you do not wish to interfere in our internal affairs, and I would first begin by reminding you that 250,000 martyrised Moslems (here follows more rhetoric which may be omitted) have entered Turkey from Macedonia in the last six months. During the process of planting these unfortunate people on the soil, there have certainly been incidents of a disagreeable nature which the Imperial Government is the first to regret, and I doubt not that, though stories of the sufferings of the Greeks in Turkey have been much exaggerated, certain cases of injustice or violence have occurred. Our distinguished Minister of Interior may be trusted to make a speedy end of the anti-Greek movement in Anatolia as he has done in Thrace. Had these 250,000 Moslems remained in your country there would have been no trouble with our Greeks.

Kyrios Miltiades: Let me point out, Effendim, that we have statistics to prove that of these Moslems a minority only have left Greek territory. Let me also point out that in your treaties with Greece and Servia you successfully urged that Moslems resident in the conquered territories should have three years in which to choose between remaining as Greek or Servian subjects and leaving their old homes and settling in Turkey as Ottoman subjects. This was granted, and many of these martyrs are simply exercising their right of option. Again, what of Bosnia? Though under a just and clement Government, many thousands of perhaps foolish Moslems have been emigrating to Turkey in the past few years because they prefer possible poverty under the Crescent to opulence under the Cross. In their case the martyrdom is self-inflicted. Again, what of your "recruiting agents" who are trying to attract Moslem immigrants?

Mehmed Effendi: Your recruiting agents have also been active enough. And even if I grant what you say to be partly true, I cannot believe that so many Moslems would have left your country in so short a time had they been happy there. I will not discuss all the stories the newspapers tell, but there is no smoke without fire.

Kyrios Miltiades: Well, I agree if that is to apply to the Greek emigration from Turkey. Fishermen, casual labourers, and the like leave their homes for small cause, but when Greek farmers and men of substance go, leaving all their property behind, I am inclined to doubt the voluntary nature of their exodus. And what of the violations of the Treaty?

Mehmed Effendi: If there have been violations, remember that your people in Turkey do not always show the tact and good taste that should mark the conduct of residents in a strange country, and that our subordinate officials are, after all, human.

Kyrios Miltiades: Yes, but to bring Hellenic subjects before the court-martial and inflict heavy sentences on them after trial and in camerâ and without counsel is abominable; moreover, your Press and your politicians by their constant abuse of the Hellene and their threats as regards Macedonia and the islands do not render my hot-blooded compatriots any more inclined to be tactful and obliging.

Mehmed Effendi: What about your Pan-Hellenic propagandists? Are they not active enough in working on the sentiment of our Greeks, in persuading the latter to subscribe for naval armaments that may be used against us, in promoting desertion, even in influencing the Patriarchate itself? And to return to the question of emigration: we found, to put it plainly, that the Greeks were not a trustworthy element. Who can blame us? Who can accuse us of cruelty if we decide, as we have decided, to colonise certain strategical areas in Thrace and Anatolia with Moslems on whom we can rely? Can you, who are ousting the Bulgars as fast as you can, reproach us with taking similar precautions?

Bulgaria the Buffer.

As neither the European Concert, nor Roumania, nor the two most interested States have yet found a formula which will settle the question of the islands in a manner calculated to avert future crises similar to that through which Turkey is now passing, it will be wise to leave Miltiades and Mehmed to find it out for themselves, and perhaps—if they succeed in squaring the circle—to acquaint the readers of The Near East with their discovery. Meanwhile the situation, though slightly improved in the last twenty-four hours, is very unsatisfactory. The Servian warning that she will side with Greece is all to the good, as it prevents the Turkish extremists from entertaining ideas of an invasion of Macedonia with Bulgarian aid. The Bulgars, moreover, seem indisposed to move, and will oppose any attempt to enter Western Thrace on the part of either belligerent should war break out; and, failing an attempt to pass into Thrace or Macedonia, as the case may be, by the coast road that links Drama and Dedeagatch, it is very hard to see how either of the combatants could possibly reach the other on land, while on sea the Turks seem condemned to the defensive. This being so, it is hard to believe that extremist Turks who long for an occasion of expelling the Greek element from the Ottoman Empire and Greek extremists who have the Pan-Hellenic propaganda on the brain and long to attack Turkey before the Dreadnoughts arrive will be permitted by moderate statesmen on each side to bring about a ruinous and stupid war, in which Moslems in Macedonia and Greeks in Anatolia will suffer terribly and Hellene and Turk will merely race one another in the National Bankruptcy Stakes.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 18.

The Senussi Mission.

The visit of Es Seyyid Idris es Senussi, the cousin of the Grand Sheikh, which has aroused some comment in certain circles, came to an end on Sunday, when the Khedive's guest proceeded by special train from Alexandria to Port Said, where he embarked for Haifa en route for Medina. Es Seyyid Idris is, therefore, carrying out what was said to be the object of his journey from Tripoli—a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Prophet. Nevertheless, well-informed native circles affirm that he is also entrusted with a political mission, and that he will eventually pay a visit to Constantinople. It is believed that pourparlers between Italy and the Senussi have reached an advanced stage, and that a final agreement will be arrived at whereby the Grand Sheikh will be accorded complete autonomy within his present sphere of influence, with full liberty to levy taxes, subject to the payment of an annual tribute, and with freedom to trade except in arms, ammunition, and slaves. In other words, the Senussi will acquire towards Italy in Tripoli a position similar to that accorded by the Sudan Government to Ali Dinar, the powerful Sultan of Darfur, with this slight difference, that the Grand Sheikh is to be given the title of Governor-General, with a handsome allowance from Rome. It is also affirmed that Es Seyyid Idris's mission includes that of persuading the Sultan to withdraw his religious representative from Tripoli and appoint the Grand Sheikh to that post. From what can be gathered, the Porte is not averse from this proposition, though assistance is still being afforded the Senussi secretly from Stamboul. A war with Greece would for obvious reasons, however, prompt the Ottoman Government to delay as much as possible its approval to any arrangement that would place Italy in fuller possession of the conquered province. Italy on its side is prepared to make the fullest concessions, no matter what the cost may be, as she is convinced of the great advantages that will eventually accrue to her from every standpoint, if she can only get this powerful sect under her control, so to speak.

Influence of Es Seyyid Idris.

Various facts have led observant and well-informed natives to come to the conclusion that Es Seyyid Idris is combining political business with the pleasure of fulfilling his religious duties. He is admittedly the only member of the Senussi family who is friendly with the present Grand Sheikh. As the son of the latter's saintly and celebrated uncle, he is much revered, and by those who have had close dealings with the sect, it is alleged that he enjoys even greater prestige than his august cousin. To whom, then, could the Grand Sheikh entrust such a mission with greater confidence and with less fear of recriminations from his adherents than to Es Seyyid Idris, whose association with any settlement would commend it to the tribes concerned? Moreover, substantial confirmation of the statements that local efforts were being made to bring about an arrangement between Italy and the Senussi has been afforded by the circumstances surrounding Es Seyyid Idris's arrival, departure, and sojourn, and by the fact that *El Moayed*, the vernacular organ which has been most outspoken in its antagonism to Italy and all things Italian ever since the outbreak of the Tripolitan War, has suddenly veered round, and has published a series of articles that are certainly eloquent of what is going on behind the scenes. These features, as also the coincidence of the occurrence of other incidents, lead one to give credence to the native theory. The change in attitude of *El Moayed* is of itself highly interesting, and the near future will show whether the deductions made are correct or whether other no less important factors are at work.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly cannot be accused of slackness after its labours of this week. In its four sittings it has disposed of most of the work that lay before it. First of all, the Bill creating higher commercial schools was dealt with, and, with one or two amendments, accepted by the Minister of Education, was passed. Next the Assembly approved of the Bill laying down the manner in which the cotton-sticks and immature bolls are to be treated, so as to hinder the propagation of the pink boll-worm, which threatens to do such damage to the cotton crop. The delegates, most of whom are themselves landowners, raised no opposition whatever to this measure. This business was disposed of in one sitting.

The Agricultural Syndicate Bill, which, contrary to expectation, was not postponed until next session, took up the other three sittings. As was anticipated, the Bill gave rise to a very interesting and at times heated discussion, which centred round the clauses regulating the creation and dissolution of the syndicates, the liability of members of syndicates, and the manner in which loans may be contracted. The Assembly, by thirty to twenty-one, voted that the consent of the Ministry of Finance to the creation of a syndicate was unnecessary. The question of the liability of members gave Saad Pasha Zaghlul an opportunity to attack the Five Feddan Law, and on the point of making members owning five feddans or less equally liable with their large land-owning fellows for the engagements contracted by their syndicate, to which the Government objected, the Assembly expressed its approval by thirty-two votes against sixteen. Thanks to the brilliant defence made by the Minister of Agriculture, who was supported by the Prime Minister, the Government won all the other points in dispute, including that of the dissolution of syndicates. The committee led by Saad Pasha wished this faculty to be left to the law courts, and the elected Vice-President made a most eloquent speech on the question, but the House approved by a majority of seven the proposition submitted by Hussein Pasha Wassif, the newly elected member for Boulak, giving the Council of Ministers power to dissolve any syndicate which concerns itself with politics. Substantially this is what the Government had proposed in its project.

It is interesting to note that the President was unable to attend the above-mentioned four sittings owing to the illness of Mme. Mayloum, who is in Alexandria. His place was taken by Said Pasha Zulfikar, the nominated—and consequently the senior—Vice-President. The recent debate on the vexed question of the Acting-Presidency, albeit it gave rise to such regrettable incidents, has therefore had its justification at this early date, though it is permissible to assume that if the point had not been decided, Mayloum Pasha would have sacrificed his personal feelings to his duty, as it would never have done for a debate of this nature to have taken place at such a juncture.

The Ottoman Commissariat.

The fact that the Government is about to undertake at its expense certain repairs to the house occupied by the Ottoman Commissariat has prompted *El Watan* to ask what is the good of there being an Ottoman High Commissioner in Egypt, and to make some very pointed remarks as to the rôle played by the Commissariat in the political affairs of this country. The Coptic organ is quite justified in what it says. The Ottoman High Commissioner has absolutely no status in this country, and is not recognized officially as the representative of the Porte. As Lord Milner says, the post is an anomaly. In the past the Ottoman Commissariat has been the connecting link for the intrigues that were carried on between the Porte and the Cairo malcontents, and has at times acted as the fan which has kept aflame the fire of Nationalism. There is every reason to regard it as equally dangerous to-day, and the abolition of this anomalous post would assuredly remove a factor which has a disturbing effect and is a source of much annoyance and trouble to many peace-loving natives.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, June 15.

A proposal has recently been submitted to the Port Said municipality by one of our leading merchants for the erection, at his expense, of a theatre and aquarium on the site of the Municipal Gardens, near the Casino Palace Hotel. Under the proposed scheme the ground would be leased for a long term of years. The theatre would come under the control of the lessee, and the aquarium would be stocked and maintained by the municipality, who would share profits with their tenant.

There is much to be said in favour of the proposal, as by its successful achievement a pressing need of the town would be satisfied. Our only source of diversion at present, other than private entertainments, is the cinema theatres, of which we have three, located in stuffy, ramshackle buildings of ancient design. Occasional travelling theatrical companies stay for a few nights *en passant*, but most have, unfortunately, met with a very small measure of success, owing chiefly to the unsuitable nature of the buildings, the lighting, ventilation, and acoustic properties of which leave much to be desired.

The scheme, however, has met with considerable opposition in various quarters, the main point at issue being the site chosen for the theatre. It is generally felt by all classes of the community that to surrender the Municipal Gardens, practically the only open cultivated spot in the town, would constitute a sacrifice few are willing to contemplate. Moreover, the municipality would, under the proposed measure, be saddled with the cost of upkeep of the buildings—not a small charge on its slender resources. It is considered that, although the ultimate accomplishment of the project would in many ways confer considerable benefit on the inhabitants of the town, another locality might be chosen from among the many vacant sites at the council's disposal.

It is to be hoped that the proposal will not be allowed, by conflict of opinion on this point, to fall through, as our growing population is greatly in need of a healthy means of diversion for its leisure evenings, and the town would be rendered still more attractive to the summer visitor.

LETTER FROM SMYRNA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Smyrna, June 16.

Talaat Bey's Visit.

Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior, has arrived in Smyrna to try and improve the serious situation caused by the boycott and anti-Greek movements. He is probably the only man in the Turkish Government who can do anything in this direction, and it is hoped that his visit will have good results.

Talaat Bey's presence was urgently required. At Edremid, Aivali, Soma, Chesmé, Vourla, and at all the villages in the vilayet, the Greeks were living in a constant state of anxiety. Thousands of Greeks had packed up a few of their belongings and crossed over to Mytilene, Chios, and Samos, and many more were waiting for steamers and sailing ships to take them away.

It is well known that Talaat Bey is strongly opposed to the chauvinistic policy of Enver Pasha, Djemal Pasha (Minister of Marine), and Rahmi Bey (Vali of Smyrna), and his visit is said to have had a beneficial effect and to have caused many of the intending emigrants to return to their homes. From Dikili Talaat Bey telegraphed to Constantinople that he had found 3,000 Greeks waiting to embark, but on his personal assurance that full security would be afforded them they returned to their villages. At Vourla and Chesmé, however, matters are even worse, and all business is at a standstill.

To an outsider it is impossible to understand what Turkey hopes to gain by carrying on this extreme campaign of boycott and persecution. The Turkish papers assert that the Greeks are carrying on a similar campaign in Macedonia, and certainly thousands of Moslems are coming over to Turkey-in-Asia from Salonika, but the Turkish Ambassador in Athens, on his recent tour through Greek Macedonia, does not seem to have been unfavourably impressed by Greek methods there. Even if the Greeks were forcing the Turks in Macedonia to emigrate, a policy of retaliation on the part of the Turks at present is not a wise one. The Greeks in Asia Minor are numerous; they are hard-working, and cultivate the land. The tithes they pay to the Government are important, and it will be many years before the incoming refugees are able, if ever, to take their place. The country is consequently bound to suffer, and the bad feeling between Turks and Greeks will grow stronger.

The Seidikeui Murder.

The village of Seidikeui, situated some ten miles from Smyrna, and forming the centre of an important tobacco and vine district, has once more come into unpleasant notoriety.

Its energetic *mudir*, or mayor, Ahmed Mukhtar Bey, returning home from his office at the Konak, was fired on by a Greek, and shot twice in the feet. An operation at the Turkish Hospital was unsuccessful, and this promising official succumbed to his wounds. Mukhtar Bey was a nephew of the late Kiamil Pasha, and although imbued with the same feeling regarding his Greek neighbours as most of the Turks, governed his district fairly and with justice. He was an excellent shot and good swordsman, and offered to take the place of Pierre Loti when the latter was challenged by a Bulgarian officer. His assassination has given the Vali of Smyrna an excuse to carry on his anti-Greek policy even more thoroughly than before and to make matters more unpleasant than ever for the Greeks in his vilayet. The murder is being made out by him to be a purely political one, although there does not actually appear to be any good proof of its being so, and the protests of two Greek newspapers against the theory of political murder resulted in the arrest of the editors and their being brought before the court-martial. If it had been the intention of the Greeks to murder anyone for political reasons, they surely would have selected as their victim a member of the present Union and Progress Party, and not a side-tracked relative of that party's late most-feared enemy, Kiamil Pasha.

The incident is an unfortunate one, taking place as it did at a period when the relations between the Greeks and the Turks are so strained, and the probable effect will be the expansion of the boycott movement in Anatolia against all Christians. The situation, in fact, is at present anything but reassuring.

The present Governor, instead of using his great influence and devoting his undoubted abilities and energy to improving the welfare of the large population under his jurisdiction, seems to be intent on stirring up the Moslem population against the Christian element. The local Turkish Press is inspired by him, and publishes regularly concocted stories of Greek aggressions. If this state of affairs continues, the fate of this district may be the same as that of Salonika.

INSULT TO GREEK FLAG.

The strained relations existing in Alexandria between Moslems and Greeks have resulted in insults to the Greek flag on the part of the former. It appears that at about seven o'clock in the morning of June 16 some native dockers boarded the Greek s.s. "Constantine," which had a cargo of fruit, and asked for work in unloading. This was refused, and at the same moment the sailors hoisted the Greek flag. The sight of the flag infuriated the dockers, who hauled it down, tore it up, and burnt it at the stern. Full reparation was made later in the day, when a superior officer of the coastguards, in full uniform, accompanied by another officer, called upon the Greek Consul-General, Mr. Paraskevopoulo, and accompanied him to the harbour. The officer then raised the Greek flag at the stern of the "Constantine," while the coastguards fired a salute. The five dockers were handed over for trial by the Native Tribunals. In connection with the same accident a native policeman was maltreated by a Greek sailor for refusing to arrest the natives because he had not seen them tear down the flag. The Greek Consul has had the sailor arrested. A similar incident had happened not many days before.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 20.

The Ægean Crisis.

I may say that the Greco-Turkish crisis which has arisen so suddenly in consequence of the treatment of resident Greeks in Asia Minor, although causing intense indignation in this country, has been, on the whole, received with a certain satisfaction as affording Greece a heaven-sent opportunity to anticipate a Turkish aggression, and at the same time to settle the numerous questions which are still left over from the last war. During the last few days public opinion, more particularly the Opposition Press, has been clamouring for immediate hostilities against the Porte, in order that the outbreak of war should prevent the reinforcement of the Ottoman Fleet by those Dreadnoughts which are at present on order. For some days after the delivery of the first Note an outbreak of war was considered to be inevitable, and everybody was of the opinion that it was a necessary evil.

At the moment of writing, however, the situation has grown slightly better, in view, it is believed, of the activities of France and Russia in Constantinople. Both Powers have considerable interests in each of the countries which would be affected by war. In spite of this, the Hellenic Fleet, under Admiral Koundouriotis, is pressing forward its preparations for active service. The scheme of attack, which is reported to be highly effective, is entirely unknown to the public. In any case, it is certain that Greece has no intention of attacking Turkey by land, which could only be done by violating Bulgarian neutrality; but fears are entertained that the Turks may not be deterred by such considerations. So far as I can see, any operations directed against Smyrna or the Dardanelles must depend to a certain extent upon the attitude of the Powers. However that may be, it is obvious that in any forthcoming war with Turkey "our future lies upon the water."

The Budget for 1914.

The Budget for 1914, which was laid upon the table of the House last week, estimates the revenue at 224,000,000 drs. (£8,960,000), and the expenditure at 220,000,000 drs. (£8,800,000)—that is to say, very nearly twice the figure with which the Treasury of this country had to deal before its recent aggrandisement. Of this sum 9,000,000 drs. are expected to be raised from Crete, 66,000,000 drs. from Macedonia and Epires, and 10,500,000 drs. from the Ægean Islands.

Expenses of the Army and Navy.

The Army Estimates are put down at 37,000,000 drs., and the peace footing of that force is established at 60,000 men. There will be five army corps, made up of fourteen divisions; there will be fifty-seven batteries of field artillery and forty-two batteries of mountain guns. The cavalry, which of late years was composed of twelve ill-mounted squadrons, will in future have thirty-six squadrons, with 15,000 horses. As explained by Mr. Venizelos in the course of debate, arrangements have been made to put 500,000 men in the field in case of war, but these arrangements are not expected to bear fruit immediately. When they come to be in full working order the annual expense of the army will be 52,000,000 drs. In addition to the above, the extraordinary estimates, which will be devoted to the purchase of stores and the renewal of equipments, amount to 120,000,000 drs., of which 87,000,000 drs. will be spent this year. Of these, 24,000,000 drs. will be forthcoming from the special funds for national defence, and the rest will be supplied by the Treasury.

The Ministry of Marine is put down for ordinary estimates of 22,000,000 drs.—about three times the former amount—and for 67,000,000 drs. of extraordinary estimates. The latter figure includes the payments which will have to be made this year for the ships now under construction in Germany. The total of the extraordinary Naval Estimates amounts to 164,000,000 drs., but this does not provide for the proposed purchase of two Dreadnoughts and several smaller vessels.

Extraordinary Expenses.

Of the sum provided in the extraordinary estimates 185,000,000 drs. are divided between the army and the fleet, as detailed above, and various public works; 7,500,000 drs. are set aside for the refugees. Beyond this, 180,000,000 drs. are allotted to the partial redemption of the floating liabilities incurred by the Government during the war, which amount in all to 219,000,000 drs. No less than 106,000,000 drs. are required to balance the deficit of the 1913 Budget. All this makes away with 470 millions, which will be met out of the £20,000,000 loan.

Future Needs.

Thus there remains of this loan the sum of only 30,000,000 drs., which is completely inadequate for the claims which still have to be met. For example, the 60,000,000 drs. will have to be found next year for the second Dreadnought of the Lorraine type now on order in France—105,000,000 drs. in all for the army and the fleet—and more than 100,000,000 drs. will be required in the near future for the construction of the folowing railway lines which are projected:—Kalambaka-Sorovitz (Sorovitchevo), which will link up the Thessalian Railway with the Monastir line (98 miles), Kalambaka-Janina (61 miles), Salonika-Anghista (81 miles), Kozani-Veria (19 miles), Tripolitza-Sparta (31 miles), and some widening of gauge in Thessaly.

To meet all these expenses, of which a considerable sum can be considered productive expenditure, the Minister of Finance considers that it will be necessary to raise a further loan of £16,000,000,000, which will be amply guaranteed by the same revenues which have been already allocated to the service of the £20,000,000 loan. The interest on the national debt, which already amounts to 2,800,000 drs. a year, will be nearly 4,000,000 drs. per annum after the conclusion of this further loan, and will itself amount to £80,000,000. Such figures would be appalling if it were not that the revenue both in old Greece and in the new territories shows a steady increase, which enables us to view the economic future of the country with equanimity.

NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 5.

The weather has been most unusual, and in this respect, as not infrequently happens, has taken its mood from Europe. A prolonged spring, with few really hot days and many grey ones, led up to a sudden burst of heat last week. No sooner had linen suits replaced cloth ones than the temperature underwent a complete change, and became cold and blustering. During the last twelve hours rain has fallen in many parts, and at the time of writing a thunderstorm is in progress in the plains. Meanwhile, threshing operations "à l'Arannah" are in full swing. The corn crops are likely to be moderate to good. A troublesome insect which last year caused much damage to the carob trees is again attacking it, and definite measures are being worked out for combating it.

Cyprus Turf Club.

A meeting was held last Saturday at the English Club, Nicosia, when it was decided to have a Race Meeting at Nicosia in November next. It was also agreed that steps should be taken for the formation of a Turf Club, whose functions would, presumably, correspond to those of the Jockey Club at home, and in whose hands would rest the framing and enforcing of racing rules and regulations in the island.

Sericulture in the Island.

Efforts are being made to improve and develop the sericultural industry in the island. There are now two silkworm rearing stations under the control of the Agricultural Department, and the production and distribution of healthy eggs of good quality is being aimed at. A more direct and effective control by the Department of the private rearing establishments and the enforcing of the existing law should go far to place this valuable industry on a more satisfactory footing. The island is well adapted for it, and the mulberry tree thrives well, so that with wise direction on the part of the authorities this work should be considerably extended.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 20.

The Constantza Meeting.

The Tsar has come and gone. The reception given to the Russian Imperial Family was all that could have been wished. Roumanian and Russian Decorations were showered right and left with a lavish hand. But whether the meeting had the political and matrimonial importance attributed to it yet remains to be seen. No further announcement has been made with regard to the proposed marriage of Prince Carol with one of the Grand Duchesses, but a further visit of Prince Ferdinand with his son to the Russian Court later in the year is spoken of.

The local Press has printed columns on the Tsar's visit, but not a word about an agreement between this country and Russia. The cordiality of the speeches was significant enough, and has drawn strong remarks from the Austro-Hungarian Press, which warns Roumania against the friendship of Russia, reference being made in nearly every case to 1877 and Bessarabia.

In the exchange of "honours" the greatest was the Honorary Colonelcy of the 5th Red Hussars which was conferred upon the Tsar by King Carol. This regiment, which, by the way, was the first Roumanian force to enter Silistria, being in garrison at Dobritch (or as the Roumanians now call it, having reverted to its older Turkish name, Bazarjik), was drawn to Constantza to form a guard of honour.

King Carol at Bazarjik.

On Tuesday King Carol and Prince Ferdinand visited Bazarjik by motor, being enthusiastically received, especially by the Roumanian and Moslem population.

Result of Elections.

The elections for the Constituent Assembly are now over, and have produced the following results:—

For the Chamber—	For the Senate—
143 Liberals	80 Liberals
2 Dissentient Liberals	22 Conservatives
21 Conservatives	13 Conservative-Democrats
18 Conservative Democrats	2 Dissentient Liberals
2 Nationalists	
2 Independents	117 Members
188 Members	

Second Advent Propaganda.

A curious occurrence is reported from Rinced, where a sergeant has been degraded and sentenced to a term of imprisonment for preaching Second Advent propaganda in his regiment. One of the leading tenets of the sect is opposition to war and the use of arms.

Time's Revenges.

It is a remarkable fact that the Mayor of Jassy, who was presented to the Tsar at Constantza, was formerly a resident in Bessarabia, and was condemned to twenty years in Siberia for revolutionary tendencies. He escaped, however, and settled in Jassy, where he has attained his present position.

THE CROWN OF SERVIA.

Owing to the necessity for his taking a course of mineral baths at Vrania the King of Servia has temporarily withdrawn from political life, and has entrusted the Crown Prince Alexander with the Regency. It will be remembered that the Crown Prince of Montenegro is also acting as Regent on behalf of his father.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the establishment of a Regency in Servia comes the news of the dissolution of the Skupshtina, which has been expected for some time past. The elections for its successor will be held in August.

A Concordat has just been signed between the Vatican and Servia by the Cardinal Secretary and Dr. Vesnitch, the Servian Minister in Paris, who was in charge of the negotiations in Rome.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 21.

King Ferdinand in Servia.

Last Wednesday while King Ferdinand was travelling in the Orient express on his way back to Sofia he traversed Servian territory for the first time since the war, and, although his Majesty had preserved the strictest incognito, an unpleasant incident was provoked by a headstrong and ill-mannered inferior official in the Servian railway administration. The guard of the train forced his way into the Royal carriage "because he had learned that his Majesty was travelling with the train, and he wished to assure himself of the fact." The zealous official even stopped the train between Pirot and Soukovo in order to carry out his discourteous verification, nor would he permit it to proceed until he had been very vigorously remonstrated with by members of the King's suite. Next day Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, called at the Servian Legation here and drew attention to this incident, and received the Servian Minister's assurances that his Government deeply regretted the gross discourtesy. It is stated that the official in question is in the habit of making use of his "little brief authority" to harass and annoy all Bulgarians travelling through Servian territory.

Relations with Greece.

Yesterday the Bulgarian Government telegraphed to Athens that it was sending Mr. Passaroff, the new Bulgarian Minister, to Athens, and asking that the Greek Government should also send its Minister immediately, in order that both Ministers should take possession of their posts simultaneously. Before leaving Mr. Passaroff had audience with the King, and he received his final instructions from the Prime Minister.

When asked whether he did not consider Athens as being a very difficult post at present for a Bulgarian diplomatist, Mr. Passaroff replied that he was pleased at the prospect of going to the Hellenic capital, and had every confidence that he would be able to improve the relations between the two countries and gradually settle all pending questions. Mr. Passaroff relies greatly on being assisted in this task by the tact and proved statesmanship of Mr. Venizelos and Dr. Streit, the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Outlook (June 20) has an interesting article on "French Faction and Greek Militancy," in which the situation in the Ægean is clearly analysed, though with an unmistakable bias. We quote below:—

"A great impetus," says *The Times*, "was given to the propaganda in favour of a preventive war by the fact that with her new Dreadnoughts Turkey would soon be temporary mistress of the Ægean." That point may accordingly be taken for granted for the future. The Greeks believe that it is their interest to strike quickly, and the manufacture of a pretext cannot be an insuperable difficulty for the ingenious politicians of Athens. What better excuse than the alleged misconduct of Moslem refugees in Greek districts? But there need be no Moslem refugees full of wrongs and exasperation if the Greek Government did not drive them in beggary from their native homes. The injuries, true or false, inflicted by ruined Muhamadans upon Greeks in Thrace or Asia Minor could not have occurred if the Greek Government had prevented the ruin of those 300,000 Muhamadans instead of expelling them from their houses and farms in Macedonia.

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P.G.B.

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ODESSA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 21.

United States Intervention in Albania.

From Athens comes the somewhat curious statement that the United States Minister to Greece, Mr. Williams, recently undertook a journey to Northern Epirus in order to study the situation there, and from Epirus he proceeded to Albania. Previous to his departure from Athens, according to the *Hellas*, Mr. Williams informed, by means of a circular letter, the other diplomatic representatives in the Greek capital that he was proceeding to Albania with the object of tendering the services of the United States to the distracted authorities there as arbitrator in the cause of pacification and consolidation of the newly constituted kingdom. The Great Powers, says one of the Russian journals, will probably shrug their shoulders at the mission of Mr. Williams, and further remarks that the capacity for arbitration displayed by the Government of Washington in Mexico is not such as to recommend it for the same office in turbulent Albania. Mr. Williams' mission is probably more officious than official, if it be not undertaken, indeed, without any mandate whatever from Washington.

The Constantza Meeting.

The southern Press describes the meeting of the Tsar and King Carol of Roumania as the most important and far-reaching political event of recent years. That it is regarded as a distinct rebuff in the Wilhelmstrasse and at the Ballplatz goes without saying. On the eve of the meeting the *Tageszeitung* and the *Berliner Tageblatt* both affirmed, without qualification, that a *rapprochement* between Russia and Roumania would be the conversion of the latter into a mere subservient satrapy of the great Northern Power, and would compel both Germany and Austria-Hungary to revise their joint policy in South-Eastern Europe and in certain directions in the Near East. If the South-Russian Press be as correctly informed as it professes to be, the result of the Constantza meeting will be something more binding than a mere friendly *rapprochement* between this country and Roumania; that has existed for some time past, since the date of the Peace of Bucharest, in fact, and the two monarchs and their Foreign Ministers did not meet the other day for the sole purpose of confirming a friendly understanding which was already in existence.

The chaotic condition of Albania was admittedly discussed at Constantza, but with what result has not transpired. One of the leading southern organs makes itself responsible for the emphatic statement that King Carol will not under any circumstances consent to the employment of Roumanian troops for the pacification of Albania, and it is just as unlikely that he would allow them to form a contingent of an international force should the latter course be decided upon. King Carol has, says this journal, no desire further to exasperate the Dual Monarchy, which bitterly resents the attitude lately assumed by Roumania.

The Odessa Visit.

During the visit of the Tsar and the Imperial Family to Odessa it was noticed with much satisfaction that the Cesarevitch was happily enjoying more robust health. He looks well, albeit somewhat pale for a boy of his age, and has dispensed with the aid of his Cossack attendant. He walks freely, but with a slight limp with the left leg; the former rigidity of the left knee has disappeared, and it is said that the Court physicians are perfectly satisfied with the Prince's steady progress towards normal health and strength.

The Hellenic Reservists.

The whole of the Greek reservists in South Russia and the Caucasus have been recalled to the colours. They number altogether about 3,000. At the Hellenic Consulate-General in this city some 700 reservists have registered during the week, and others are daily enrolling their names and the numbers of their regiments and taking the shortest route homewards.

NEWS FROM ISPAHAN.

(From An Occasional Correspondent.)

Ispahan, May 20.

News has been received at Ispahan of the continued depredations of that picturesque bandit Reza Khan Joozani. He is credited with the looting of several caravans, one with a valuable consignment of indigo. Other caravans are held up at Bistagoon, afraid to venture on to Ispahan. The activity of Reza Khan may lead to the closing of the Ahwaz-Ispahan road, though it is hoped that the Samsam-es-Saltaneh may be able to cope with the difficulty. A force of Bakhtiaris is said to be at the heels of the raiders, who are believed to be in retreat, whilst another report mentions that the Bakhtiaris are themselves having a good time in robbing the inhabitants. Both reports may be true, and are typical of the time.

The Russians are active in Ispahan. Not only are they utilising to the full the opportunities of control which their possession as agents of the Zil-es-Sultan's properties give them, but they are going so far as to offer protection to bazaar merchants and mullahs. This is interference with Persian sovereign rights indeed, and great uneasiness is caused thereby in certain quarters.

Reza Khan is headman of one of the Zil's villages, and apparently expects immunity for his misdeeds. It is a curious state of affairs when we see Russian protection extended to a considerable section of the population of the Ispahan district.

Intrigues are on foot for the displacement of the Samsam-es-Saltaneh. Whence these intrigues emanate we can only guess; perhaps inter-tribal jealousies may be partially responsible for them, but, in view of the abnormal interest of Russia in Ispahan affairs at the present time, all sorts of rumours are heard and believed.

THE MUSKAT ARMS TRAFFIC.

The text of an exchange of notes [Cd. 7361] between his Majesty's Government and the Government of the French Republic respecting the trade in arms and ammunition at Muskat was issued on the 9th inst. by the Foreign Office. It is set forth that the British Government will use their influence with the Sultan of Muskat to insure that French nationals in the Sultanate will, as regards the trade in arms and ammunition, receive in all respects the same treatment as British subjects and protected persons. In a note to Sir F. Bertie, Sir Edward Grey reports that on February 4 the French Ambassador made verbally a declaration of which the translation runs:—"The French Government will not decline to examine any new Regulation dealing with the arms trade at Muskat, even though such Regulation may involve Customs measures in territorial waters, on the express condition that the exterritorial rights of French citizens at Muskat and the jurisdiction of French Consuls shall be respected. The French Government could not concur in a procedure involving the right of search."

THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, May 30.

Recruiting Difficulties.

On May 30 the Government again took a number of recruits from the district of Jerusalem, sending them the same day to Nablous. Their eventual destination is said to be the Yemen, where trouble is again rife. There is strong and widespread discontent at the way in which men are being taken just at the gathering in of the harvest, and the freedom with which the people everywhere express their feelings and censure the Government shows how desperate they are becoming under the present state of affairs. The general feeling is in favour of the Arab insurgents in Yemen and against the Turkish Government, and many of the recruits have said openly: "The Turkish Government may send us to the Yemen, and they may tell us to shoot, but if we do shoot it will be the Turkish officers, not the Arabs, who are our kin." This is, in fact, what happened some years ago, but the matter was hushed up. Last week the Sheikh of a small Moslem village north of Jerusalem was notified by the Government that he was to call and send in for military service twelve of the young men of his village, whose names were given him; as the picturesque wording of the order has it, "You are to beat the drum and call the young men of the village for service." The Sheikh accordingly assembled four or five small boys with empty kerosene tins, and sent them up to the highest place above the village, with instructions to beat upon the tins all day. He then sent word to the Government at Jerusalem: "I have beaten the drum all day, from sunrise to sunset, but as eleven of the young men you have called are in America, and the twelfth is in Jericho, they could not hear the drum, and therefore they have not come!" Jerusalem is enjoying the jest; but it shows how weak and how greatly despised the Government is that such open flouting of it by a mere hamlet is possible, and it dare not resent the affront. On May 30 the local authorities also commandeered forty camels from the fellahin to carry loads of gunpowder and cartridges to Nablous and perhaps further. Everyone believes they are intended for the Yemen, and that matters there are far more serious than the Government will admit.

An Execution at Jerusalem.

June 12.

On June 10 a Moslem from Egypt was hanged in public at Jerusalem, outside the Damascus Gate. The day before, the town crier was sent round to announce the execution to take place on the morrow, and the time and place. Thanks to this timely notice, a large crowd assembled in the dawn next day, and the accounts of the execution, though not all agreeing in some points, all tend to show that it was most disgracefully carried out. The man was not hanged with rope, but with an iron chain, or, as some say, with wire; there was apparently no drop-kick, and he was slung up off the ground and died of slow strangulation. It is said that he took half an hour to die, and a spectator testifies to the dreadful expression on the unfortunate man's face. The man was a savage and a notorious murderer, and had been in prison for two years. His last crime was the murder, under very brutal circumstances, of the head of the Armenian Convent at Jaffa. The whole place has been greatly upset by this execution, Christians by the horrible way in which it was carried out and Moslems because the man was a Moslem. "It is a black day for us, for a Moslem has been killed for killing a Christian!" This was the comment of a Moslem who has lived for years with Christians and is really fond of them. It is reported that two more criminals are to be publicly hanged within the next few days, outside either the Damascus Gate or the Jaffa Gate. We can only hope that public opinion will be strong enough to prevent a repetition of the ghastly callousness of the first execution. Old residents recall the last public execution in Jerusalem, some fifty years ago, when a man was beheaded outside the Jaffa Gate.

The Egypt Exploration Fund's Exhibition of Antiquities and Papyri discovered at Oxyrhynchus and Antinoë will be held in one of the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House from July 13 to 28. Professor Naville and others will lecture during the course of the exhibition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE BALKAN ALLIANCE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In his review of Colonel Rankin's "Inner History of the Balkan Wars" your critic describes the writer of the book as having been led into error regarding the real authorship of the Balkan Alliance. The full history of that epoch-making compact has yet to be written, but when all is known, the honour of its inception will unquestionably rest with Mr. Venizelos. Owing to the profound secrecy maintained up to the last moment with regard to the Greco-Bulgarian negotiations, not only the world at large but even the Cabinet Ministers in Athens and Sofia—with the exception of the two Prime Ministers—were excluded from all knowledge of what was taking place. The Greek proposals, made in writing and embodied in two distinct clauses, were despatched in the spring of 1911, and were known only to King George, Mr. Venizelos, King Ferdinand, Mr. Gueshoff, and Mr. Bourchier, who transmitted them to Sofia. A similar secrecy was not maintained with regard to the Serbo-Bulgarian negotiations at Belgrade, which were conducted under the auspices of the Russian Minister, Mr. Hartwig; the object of these negotiations was not an alliance of all the Balkan States for the liberation of Macedonia, but a combination of the three Slavonic States directed against Austria-Hungary; it was not till a much later stage that Russia and the Belgrade negotiators were made aware of the larger scheme, into which the Russian project was eventually merged. To conclude that "serious" negotiations between Bulgaria and Greece did not exist until after the signature of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty, is to fall into the fallacy *post hoc, ergo propter hoc;* the proposals of Mr. Venizelos, by far the first in point of time, were seriously made and seriously considered from the outset, but Mr. Gueshoff waited to make sure of Servia before finally clinching the arrangement with Greece. How can we suppose that Mr. Bourchier, who was himself the medium of communication between the two Prime Ministers during the earlier period of the negotiations, could have been under any misapprehension as to their views and the parts which they respectively played?

The subsidies given by Bulgaria to Montenegro, which were considerably larger than your critic supposes, were at first accorded in connection with the Belgrade scheme. King Nicholas continued to receive them up to the moment when he turned his arms against Bulgaria.—Your obedient servant,

June 24. Makedonski.

"ROUMANIA TO THE RESCUE."

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I am only one amongst the many of your readers who, I am sure, congratulate Mr. A. L. Kennedy on his masterly and practical letter in your issue of June 19. I also would join with Mr. Kennedy in congratulating The Near East on its work "in sympathetically interpreting Balkan aspirations to the British public."

To enlarge upon your correspondent's letter would be a work of supererogation.

But I venture to express an opinion on one or two points. I quite agree that, owing to the regrettable manner in which everything in this country is made subservient to party politics, the "man in the street" is prone to think or care nothing about foreign or Imperialistic matters. At the same time, all classes take an interest in Balkan matters, both as regards the aspirations of the countries concerned and in the general political problems involved, if the matter is put clearly before them. Owing to "atrocity-mongering" by a certain influential section of the Press and the inevitable recriminations, the British public has formed an entirely erroneous opinion about the Balkan States, and is inclined, without distinction, to condemn all. It is very difficult to eradicate these ideas. But those who have at heart the welfare of the Balkan States and realise their great future importance in political history must work hard to state facts

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fairly and avoid sentimentality, so that the public may consider the Balkan problems both fairly and sympathetically. So far from being justified in criticising, we have got much to learn from certain of the Balkan States. The idealism, combined with personal self-sacrifice and bravery, which is characteristic of the Bulgarian is, alas! sadly lacking in the average Englishman of to-day.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

G. W. C. Hollist, M.R.C.S., etc.

Riseley Lodge, Maidenhead,
June 23, 1914.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "Pro-Turk, but Anti-Government," will forgive me, perhaps, if I say that, as he does not give his name, his address, or the date of his letter, his precise standpoint is not quite as clear as it might be, as one does not know (*a*) his nationality; (*b*) whether by "pro-Turk" he means in favour of the Turkish race or merely in favour of Turkey as a geographical entity with *all* its races (one might assume this from his lack of a good word for any Turk, except a certain nameless Hodja who is brought in to try to prove the hopeless attitude of the people—and his praise of the rayah); and (*c*) where he himself resides, as, according to him, to live in Constantinople and to know anything about Turkey are mutually exclusive conditions.

With regard to the latter point, and if your readers will pardon me for venturing to write from Constantinople after your correspondent's remarks, I would merely say that one might as well say that a man who knows Paris only does not know France as a whole, or the same thing about a Cockney Londoner. I grant this, *but in a strictly limited sense*. If one lives all one's life in any one spot one's appreciation of facts and circumstances in other places must necessarily suffer. Going back to my example of Paris, too, it is certain that one could not take the general method of life and amusements of certain advanced sections of that city as representing those of the whole French nation—nothing would be more unjust. But to imply, as your correspondent does, that any favourable opinion formed of the Turkish race, as against the native Christians, in Constantinople would be at once proved wrong and absolutely reversed by an equally close knowledge of those same elements in the provinces is really hardly reasonable. Having myself had certain good opportunities of judging of the characteristics of the various races of the Empire in the provinces as well as in Constantinople, and that under no sort of official patronage or control such as your correspondent is so strong against, I for one venture to assert that, to say the least of it, the Turkish race has not to fear comparison with any as to either patriotism, honesty, and practical religion or desire to progress. It is only hampered as to the latter by the heritage of the Hamidian *régime* and the load of misfortunes and economic woes resulting from the wars and other calamities which have fallen upon the country since the Constitution.

With regard to charges of corruption, such as your correspondent makes—directly against the authorities of the vilayet of Aidin, indirectly against Talaat and Djavid Beys—in connection with the locust campaign, I can only say that, were the irregularities by the former such as stated then no one would be more pleased to have them brought to their attention in order to take the necessary steps to punish those responsible than the two Ministers in question, who have both worked tooth and nail for the Empire's progress and prosperity. The accusations against the Ministers themselves are a little bit too bad. The method of argument seems to be that (1) it is stated that in certain portions of the vilayet of Aidin the local authorities have committed irregularities; (2) therefore, Talaat Bey and Djavid Bey both not only knew of these irregularities, but approved of them. This kind of argument would not even pass muster in modern British politics, and we have seen some pretty weak arguments in the latter of late years.

It is, unfortunately, the case that in politics everything is not always perfect; abuses occur sometimes, and, also unfortunately, they cannot always be remedied at once. But this is true of *all* countries, and it is grossly unfair that Turkey should so often be the butt of anonymous correspondents, who single her out for attack, but scrupulously ignore the many equally flagrant abuses that occur in other Balkan States, not to mention England, France, Russia, etc. (especially Russia). Fair play is what Turkey and her friends desire—fair play, and time to work out her regeneration undisturbed by the Great Powers; instead of which she has been, and she is, subjected to every kind of pressure and interference from all sides, and, to make it worse, there is a regularly organised conspiracy of silence in the greater part of the world's Press, so that it is practically impossible to get anything published in favour of Turkey, although all kinds of Greek and other falsehoods about Turkey and the Mohammedan races abound and are published with gusto. The old saw of "Give a dog a bad name" was never better exemplified than in the case of the Turks. Another proverb that Turkey's enemies seem to have taken to heart is that about "If you only throw enough mud some of it will stick."

Your correspondent ends up by saying: "Those who uphold the present Government in the European Press are doing the worst possible service to Turkey." He then signs himself "Pro-Turk but Anti-Government." One does not get much chance of "upholding" the present Government in the European Press; but let that pass.

I merely say that no one who writes such a letter as that of your correspondent is entitled to use the expression "Pro-Turk" in connection with himself.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

Arthur P. Tully.

Constantinople, June 17, 1914.

THE ÆGEAN ISLANDS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The speech from the Throne at the recent opening of the Turkish Parliament shows the real attitude of Turkey at the question of the Ægean Islands. It appears, to my great surprise, that, while His Imperial Majesty is fully aware of the strategical importance of the Islands of Chios and Mytilene, he lays no stress on the possession of the islands of Samothrace, Lemnos, Nikaria, and Samos, which are clearly as important as the above two islands. I do not know how His Majesty's Government is settling these matters with the Greeks, but it will cause great regret to the well-wishers of Turkey to hear of the Greeks keeping the "keys of the Dardanelles" and the "stepping-stones of Asia Minor," even with the consent of Turkey.

There is also a rumour that Turkey wishes to exchange the entire Dodekanese for Chios and Mytilene; as it is not an official statement I cannot discuss it, but if there is truth in this rumour I am at a loss to understand why the possession of Rhodes and the Sporades (the Dodekanese) by the Greeks is not equally menacing to Asia Minor, and a stepping-off point for Greece in Asia. The fact is that, except for Thasos and one or two far-off islands like Karpathos and Astropalia, no island can be separated from Turkey without a real danger to her empire. Settle as they like, but the Turks will soon learn the importance of their possessions in the Ægean.—Yours faithfully,

Ahn Ed Reffi.

The Moslem Lodge, Meerut, U.P. India,
May 25, 1914.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Armenian Reform. June 18.

In reply to Mr. Noel Buxton, Mr. Acland said: The Turkish Government have, on the recommendation of the Powers, selected Mr. Westenenk, of the Dutch East India Service, and Major Hof, of the Norwegian Army, to be Inspectors-General of the Eastern Vilayets under the new reform scheme. I understand that these gentlemen will enter on their duties on July 5. The proposed scheme has been elaborated by the Ambassadors of the Powers in conjunction with the Porte, and as such it will naturally receive the support of his Majesty's Government.

Greek Migration from Turkey.

In reply to a further question put by Mr. Noel Buxton, Mr. Acland said: I learn that as a result of boycotting and persecution, many Ottoman Greeks are leaving Turkish territory. His Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople has spoken unofficially to the Porte on this subject, and I believe other Ambassadors have done the same. His Majesty's Minister in Athens has taken like action in regard to the treatment of Moslems in the new Greek territories, respecting which there are similar complaints, and from which many Mussulman refugees have gone to Turkey.

Rights of Minorities in the Near East.

In reply to Mr. Noel Buxton, Sir Edward Grey stated that he had received reports on the general question of civil and religious liberty in the territories lately acquired by Bulgaria, Greece, and Servia which he had not yet had time to consider in detail. His Majesty's Government proposed to recognise the annexations subject to certain assurances with respect to the rights of minorities from the Governments concerned. He hoped to receive these assurances in due course, and it would seem just that the Governments should have opportunities to make them effective before reports were made public.

British Interests in Mesopotamia.

Mr. G. A. Lloyd requested Sir Edward Grey to lay papers regarding the new agreements relative to British and other interests in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf, so that the House might have an opportunity of discussing them before these agreements were finally concluded.

Sir Edward Grey: I cannot lay papers until all the negotiations are concluded, as they are all interdependent. Some have been signed, but it has been agreed that they should not become operative pending the conclusion of others, which I hope will very soon take place. I shall then lay all the agreements, together with a covering despatch reviewing the course of negotiations and the settlement which is reached. There is no reason to depart from the usual practice of concluding the negotiations before papers are laid. The general lines on which the negotiations are proceeding were stated in debate last year, and they have been adhered to.

Montenegro and Albanians.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had received a petition from the chiefs of Plava, Gussinje, and Vuthai; whether he had received other petitions from the chieftains of Northern Albania complaining of the excesses of regular Montenegrin troops; whether some of these Montenegrin murders of defenceless people were perpetrated in public; and if he had any information as to what happened at the villages of Qerin and Martinovitch.

Sir Edward Grey: I have received through the British Delegate on the International Commission of Control in Albania a petition addressed to the Commission by the representatives of a number of villages in Northern Albania respecting their inclusion in Montenegro. The reply to the remaining parts of the question is in the negative.

Greece and Turkey. June 22.

Sir Mark Sykes asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in the event of war breaking out between Greece and Turkey, what steps

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he intended taking to protect British shipping in the East Mediterranean from the dangers to which it would be liable from floating, contact, and drifting mines in harbours and straits.

Mr. Acland: I can only say we shall exercise what influence we can to prevent war breaking out, and, if it does break out, to secure that the harbours and straits are not closed to merchant shipping.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had information with regard to 4,000 Mussulmans who were reported to be surrounded in Argyrokastro by the forces of the provisional Government of Epirus, and if he would make representations to the Hellenic Government to use its influence to prevent the perpetration of outrages.

Mr. Acland: I received such a report by telegraph from an unofficial source on the 12th inst., but I am not in a position to verify its accuracy. I understand that my informant, who is a United States citizen, is now in Northern Epirus in company with the United States Minister to Greece, who will doubtless make the representations the hon. member suggests should they appear called for.

Anglo-Persian Oil Contract.

Mr. Dillon asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Indian Government had been consulted on the proposed purchase of a controlling share in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and, if it had, whether he would lay upon the table of the House a statement of the views of the Government of India.

Mr. Churchill: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In addition to communications that passed between the Departments in London, Admiral Slade was placed in full consultation with political officers on the spot, and on his return from Persia he proceeded to Delhi, and conferences took place with officers of the Indian Government appointed by the Viceroy under instructions from the Secretary of State. In reply to the second part of the question, it is not proposed to lay papers on the subject.

Trans-Persian Railway. June 23.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Foreign Secretary whether the Trans-Persian Railway scheme provided for going down to the Persian Gulf at or near Bunder Abbas.

Sir E. Grey: The option for the Trans-Persian Railway will provide for a line starting in North Persia and laid down to the coast, ending at or near the sea.

Russians in Persia.

Sir George Scott Robertson asked the Foreign Secretary whether he had received any official information of the statement made by M. Sazonoff to the effect that order and relative tranquillity had been restored to the Azerbaijan province of Persia; that the new Russian intervention was not military at all, but had taken the form of a wide-reaching assumption of administrative functions; and, if so, whether he had already made a friendly protest to Russia on the ground that a wide-reaching assumption of administrative functions in Persia by one of the signatories of the Anglo-Persian Convention of 1907 was not in accordance with either the letter or the spirit of that Convention.

Sir E. Grey: M. Sazonoff stated in the Duma that order, in the stability of which he had not much faith, had been established in Azerbaijan, owing mainly to the presence of Russian troops. I have made a communication to the Russian Government, and pending the receipt of their views I cannot make any further statement.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

OIL AND WATER.*

Years ago one used to be taught that when certain substances were thrown together and shaken up in a vessel the result was a mechanical mixture, while certain others, treated in the same way, produced a chemical compound. The former could be separated into its component parts at will, the latter had all the appearance of being a new substance. So it has been with the Byzantine Greeks and their conquerors, the Osmanli Turks. At most they produced a mechanical mixture—the Turk despised his *rayah*, the Greek detested and looked down upon his conqueror as a barbarian incapable of civilisation, and each hated the religion of the other. The Normans who conquered the Saxons of England were not kept apart from their subjects by any religious bar, and within a century or so both peoples had been absorbed to form a new nation. But Turk and Greek never mixed. Greek boys might be made Janissaries and Greek girls might be carried off into Turkish harems, but their religious antipathy has co-operated with their mutual racial detestation to keep the peoples apart even after five centuries, and now any observer can see in the Levant the line of cleavage between the two so clearly marked that it is possible to expel the Greeks and leave the Turks, while the opposite policy can be pursued in Macedonia. But it would have puzzled an ethnologist to divide Norman stock from Saxon in the days of the Stuarts.

Demetra Vaka is a Greek, and her thoughts, ambitions, and aspirations are those of a free Hellene, for all that she was born an Ottoman subject, the daughter of a race of *rayahs*, whose men-folk served the Sultan for pay, while their women hated all Turks in their hearts, and mourned, as we have seen free Hellas mourn, for the downfall of New Rome and its unorthodox Autocrat, the Uniat Constantine, in 1453. Demetra herself was perhaps unusually patriotic, and although she was very fond of the little Turkish girls with whom she played in the harems to which she was a welcome visitor, and earned the name of Yilderim, the polite Turkish way of saying spitfire, she could hardly compare with her truculent Aunt Kalliroë. This good woman describes a perfectly respectable Turk as "the Asiatic brute and murderer," and appeals to her "Great Christian God" to save her from the infamy of allowing an infidel daily to pass her door and walk the street where Christian virgins dwell. She makes all this to do because a Turk wishes to buy a Greek house which is for sale, and in order to save it from such profanation buys it herself, and burns incense and candles for four months in her new abode to disinfect it from the pollution of having been coveted by a Turk! The authoress endeavours to show what is best in the overlords of her people, and introduces the reader to some charming scenes in Turkish home-life, describing as their setting just such a picturesque and untidy interior as the imagination conjures up when the word harem is mentioned.

Demetra Vaka has many adventures among Moslems and Christians, she is cured by a saint, rescued from an embarrassing situation by a Turkish gentleman, captured by brigands whose hearts she wins by reciting patriotic verses to them, and desperately imperilled by earthquake, but, however lasting a value these incidents of life in Turkey may have for the future, the immediate interest of Demetra Vaka's story lies in its treatment of the fundamental differences between Turk and Greek. Those who are puzzled by the racial animosities which convulse the Ægean populations of to-day will find the explanation in this book. They will be able to realize the outlook of the Ottoman Greek towards his Turkish master and see how difficult it is for him to remain in the old subjection when his brothers over the water are masters of what used to be Turkish soil and claim victory over the conqueror of long ago. He will also be able to see through the eyes of the Turk how impossible it is to retain under his flag so many hundreds of thousands of unwilling and hostile subjects who despise his rule as much as they detest his religion and hate his race. The time has come to separate this mechanical mixture; it is being done crudely and roughly enough, but Demetra Vaka's book goes far to show how necessary an operation it has now become.

* "A Child of the Orient," Demetra Vaka. (John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Press and Poetry of Modern Persia. By Professor E. G. Browne. (Cambridge University Press. 12s. net.)

Hints for Residents and Travellers in Persia. By A. R. Neligan. (John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 5s. net.)

Morocco the Piquant. By G. E. Holt. (William Heinemann. 5s. net.)

The Missionary Obligation. By Alfred E. Garvie. (Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. net.)

A Child of the Orient. By Demetra Vaka. (John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

No book of the kind has yet been published with regard to Persia.

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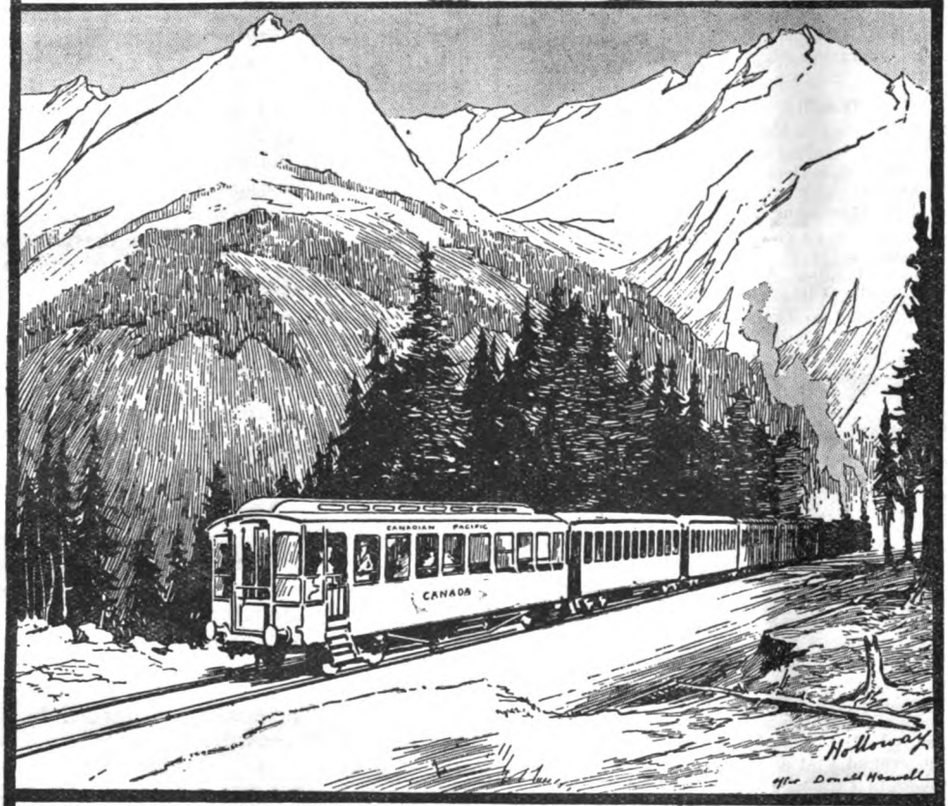

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The welcome appearance last week in *The Times* of a message from its Balkan correspondent, dated from Belgrade, does not seem to point to much success on the part of those dynastic efforts which are being directed to the confinement of his activities to Bulgaria as within a ring-fence of hostile influence. Mr. J. D. Bourchier possesses no mean record of services rendered to Greece. As a convinced believer in the principle of nationalities, he has always consistently supported the cause of Hellenism in Crete and the Ægean islands. More than once he joined the Cretan insurgents in the mountains; he pleaded their cause with the commanders of the international fleet at Canea, and helped them in their negotiations with the Turkish Government. His services were recognised by a vote of thanks from the Parliament of the island. After the establishment of Cretan autonomy he kept a vigilant watch over the island, never failing to denounce the infringements of its hard-won privileges which some of the Powers seemed disposed to make in complaisance to the Young Turk régime in Constantinople. It is well known at Athens, as well as at Canea, that he acted as mentor to Prince George during the earlier years of H.R.H.'s High Commissionership in Crete, and that he undertook this duty at the request of King George, who highly appreciated his political abilities and honesty of purpose. When the throne tottered during the stormy days of the Military League, he firmly supported the dynasty at the risk of his personal popularity with the officers, on the one hand, and the demagogues on the other; and the King, whose tact and wisdom prevailed in the end, never forgot the part then played by his friend, whom he often consulted. When Mr. Venizelos, to whom Greece owes everything, came to Athens, Mr. Bourchier, who had always been his warm admirer, did much to smooth the path of the Cretan statesman, whose quarrel with Prince George had naturally tended to prejudice the King against him. It was in collaboration with Mr. Bourchier, whom, in a private telegram recently published, he described as "one of the principal artisans" of the Balkan Alliance, that Mr. Venizelos laid the foundations of that memorable compact which has resulted so auspiciously for Greece.

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In view of these facts, it is difficult to avoid stigmatizing the highly placed authors of the present campaign against Mr. Bourchier as wanting in gratitude. They owe much—perhaps everything—to him. It would be unfair to Greece to hold her responsible for an unworthy intrigue which recalls the days of Byzantine turpitude. It would be equally unfair to accuse Mr. Venizelos, whose loyalty of character is beyond suspicion, of any participation in this discreditable conspiracy. It is unnecessary to particularize all the forces which have been set in motion—the voice of calumny has not been silent. The Press, of course, has been extensively employed. An important Athens newspaper has been inspired with the suggestion that the Balkan correspondent of *The Times* should be beaten "till the blood flowed." An American journal has been instructed to charge him with wholesale corruption and the forgery of those inconvenient letters of the Greek soldiers, in which they artlessly revealed the orders they had received and their manner of carrying them out. These charges have been reprinted and circulated in handbills throughout the United States. Mr. Bourchier's great crime appears to have been his brief disclosure of the atrocities committed by the Greek Army as revealed by the refugees, who crossed the Bulgarian frontier in scores of thousands. He was contradicted by King Constantine and the Hellenic Legation, but when he offered to produce his evidence his antagonists retired discreetly from the encounter. They had discovered that he had made his inquiry in conjunction with a representative of the British Government, and the circumstance damped their ardour for the attack. A little before, we are told in Mr. Cassavetti's book (pp. 303, 304), he had received a sarcastic telegram "from a high personage in Greece"—to whom he taught a much-needed lesson in dignity by sending a studiously polite and respectful reply. Mr. Bourchier's verdict has been fully endorsed by the Report of the Carnegie Commission, and further persistence in this undignified campaign can only end in further discomfiture.

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A correspondent tells me that in some parts of Asia Minor the anti-Greek movement was, at the time of writing, quite out of control, and that in some cases the boycott has developed into actual massacre. As my correspondent points out, such excesses are unlikely to be confined to Christians of one nationality only, and I cannot think the Powers view the prospect with equanimity. Identic notes have been delivered to the Porte, and there is talk of an International Commission to supervise the repatriation of the evicted emigrants. This is all very well—but the Young Turks do not want the Greeks back, and it is more than doubtful whether the latter would be wise in returning. I can see a considerable field of utility for the International Commission in securing proper compensation for the refugees; but I cannot believe that the repatriation of an unwanted minority, useful though it be, can lead to permanent tranquillity now that the Ottoman Moslem has so clearly manifested his desire to be rid of the Greeks and their propaganda alike. Like most Englishmen who have realised how uneasy a subject a Greek can be, I am able to understand the Turkish point of view, but I can only deplore the policy which deliberately leaves to the violence of a mob an experiment in expropriation which should require the utmost tact and firmness of statesmen, as much as I reprobate the atrocious means adopted by the mob to secure its ends. Apart from Philhellenism or Pro-Turkism, readers of THE NEAR EAST can only condemn the persecution of racial minorities wherever it may take place and regardless of the identity of those who perpetrate it.

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The offer made by the High Commissioner of Cyprus to amend the constitution of that Island in such a way as to permit of the discussion of the estimates by the Legislative Council, before their submission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to increase the numbers of non-Moslem elected members and of official nominated members, has not won the hearts of the Opposition. Indeed, such a result was hardly to be expected, as the second item of the reforms tends at once to deprive them of a dearly cherished grievance, and to perpetuate the impotence of any purely factious opposition in the future as in the past. The ambitions of the Greek Cypriote agitator are too well understood by those in authority for the advisers of the Crown to be willing to entrust the future of the Island to a party whose members give constant indications of a consuming anxiety to misuse any power they may possibly acquire. Any observer will realise that it is the duty of the British Administration to see that the Island does not become a second Macedonia in the future, just as at present it prevents the occurrence in the Sanjak of Cyprus of such events as have obtained an unenviable notoriety for Thrace and the Ægean Coast districts of Anatolia.

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According to the *Jeune Turc*, overtures have been made to Bulgaria by her former allies to join them once more against the Turk. The possession of Kavalla is mentioned as a possible price for her services. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information, but the fact that such a move should have been considered possible is at once something of a tribute to the rehabilitation of Bulgarian prestige and a sardonic commentary on the Balkan situation. So far as can be predicted, I think it is safe to say that Sofia will prefer neutrality to co-operation with Athens. Bulgaria has no quarrel with the Porte, and an arrangement such as that apparently favoured by her ex-allies would expose her once again to the brunt of war.

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There is no doubt that Bulgaria intends to remain strictly neutral in the forthcoming conflict between her Eastern and Western neighbours. That is known on unimpeachable authority, and I cannot see what other course is open to Mr. Radoslavoff. Bulgaria has not entirely recovered from the effects of her recent struggles, and her only policy is to "lie low and say nuffin'." The Northern neighbour is indisposed to see the Treaty of Bucharest upset by Bulgaria at present, although King Carol's Government were, at the time, anxious that Kavalla, as well as Adrianople, should remain Bulgarian. The present Cabinet in Sofia knows full well that it must be on its best behaviour, and I am sure anyone versed in Bulgarian history will readily see that an Administration of the political complexion of Mr. Radoslavoff's can hardly expect to find sympathy or support from official Russia.

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Among the Honours accorded this year to those whose energies have been displayed in the Near East, the most notable are Lord Kitchener's earldom and Sir Edgar Vincent's barony. If the usage of the mediæval chroniclers serve as precedent, "El Lord" may now become "El Khond." In view of the Government's activities in the Gulf it is not surprising to find the Sheikhs of Koweit, Bahrein, and Muhammerah figuring in the list, as well as the latter's Wazir, the Rais ut Tujjar. The Sirdar obtains a well-deserved G.C.B., and five others who have done good work in Egypt and the Sudan are honoured by His Majesty. Major Doughty-Wylie's services to Islam in Macedonia and to European peace in Albania are also recognized. Whatever may be said of the recipients of decorations nearer home, no one can accuse those who have won distinction in the Near East of obtaining "unearned increment."

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. June.	1914. June.		1332. Shaban	5674 Tamus
26	13	Friday	2	2
27	14	Saturday	3	3
28	15	Sunday	4	4
29	16	Monday	5	5
30	17	Tuesday	6	6
July. 1	18	Wednesday	7	7
2	19	Thursday	8	8

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Crown Prince Danilo, who is acting as Regent of Montenegro in the absence of his father.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Joseph of Bourbon-Parma, uncle of the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

Thursday is the birthday of Princess George of Greece, the daughter of Prince Roland Bonaparte.

Saturday is the birthday of H.S.H. the Prince of Wied, brother of the Mpret of Albania, and son-in-law of the King of Wurttemburg.

Sunday, Shaban 4, will be the anniversary of the wedding of Princess Hadige Hanum, sister of H.H. the Khedive, to Prince Abbas Pasha Halim.

H.M. the Queen of the Hellenes, with T.R.H. Princess Eirene and the infant Princess Catherine, arrived on Thursday last week at Eastbourne, where they will stay for several weeks. On Monday her Majesty visited their Majesties the King and Queen, and remained to luncheon, and on the same day called on H.M. the Dowager Queen Olgo of the Hellenes at Marlborough House.

His Majesty the Tsar of the Bulgarians has returned to Sofia from abroad by way of Belgrade and Nish.

H.M. the Dowager Queen Olga of the Hellenes arrived in London from the Continent on Sunday evening on a visit to H.M. Queen Alexandra.

H.I.R.H. the Archduke Francis Ferdinand has been in Bosnia in connection with the manœuvres.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Roumania visited Silistria last Saturday.

H.R.H. Prince Christopher of Greece was present in the Royal Box at Ascot on Friday last.

H. H. the Khedive of Egypt is expected in London on a private visit at an early date. His Highness will be received by his Majesty the King, at Buckingham Palace, and will spend some part of his time at Lord Kitchener's country seat at Broome Park.

Earl Kitchener arrived at Dover by the five o'clock boat on Tuesday afternoon, and motored to his Kentish residence.

On Saturday H.E. the High Commissioner of Cyprus, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, G.C.M.G., celebrates his birthday.

On Saturday Mr. Cumberbatch, H.B.M. Consul-General at Beyrout, who was formerly at Smyrna in a similar capacity, celebrates his birthday.

H.H. the Turkish Ambassador attended Lady Dawson's garden party, held at her residence, 7, Edgwarebury House, Elstree, on Saturday.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Mishu have returned to the Legation from the Continent.

Last week H.E. the Servian Minister, M. Boshkovitch, who at one time represented his country in Athens, entertained the British Minister in that capital, Sir Francis Elliot, Lady Elliot and Miss Elliot, at dinner at the Ritz. Among those invited to meet his Excellency were:—The Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius, the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Mishu, who had just returned from Germany, the First Secretary of the Hellenic Legation and Mme. Rizo Rhangabé, the First Secretary of the Servian Legation, Mr. Georgevitch, Mme. de Prelle de la Nieppe, wife of the Councillor of the Belgian Legation, and Captain Wolkoff, Naval Attaché at the Russian Embassy.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister visited Eastbourne on Sunday.

T.E. the Bulgarian Minister and the Persian Minister were amongst those who accepted invitations to be present at the Royal Geographical Society's conversazione on Tuesday evening at its house, Kensington Gore.

The Earl of Derby, G.C.V.O., took the chair, and Lord Emmot, G.C.M.G., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies was amongst the speakers at the Third International Congress of Tropical Agriculture at the Imperial Institute on Tuesday, when a paper on "'The Work of the British Cotton Growing Association" was read by Mr. J. A. Hutton, chairman of the association.

Mr. J. D. Bourchier, the Balkan Correspondent of *The Times* has returned to No. 13, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.

Baron von Falkenhausen, German Consul at Cairo, will not return to Egypt after his present leave of absence, having sent in his resignation to the Foreign Office at Berlin, as his request to be transferred elsewhere has not been taken into consideration.

Mr. Michael Pherekyde, formerly President of the Roumanian Lower House, has been elected President of the Constituent Assembly.

Our Sofia Correspondent states that Mr. Nedkoff, the newly-appointed Bulgarian Consul-General at Salonika, has left for his post.

Colonel Bernard Pasha left Cairo last week for England.

The betrothal of the daughter of the deputy Nedjm-ed-Din Mollah Bey, with Ebulhuda Bey, Secretary-General to the Sheikh-ul-Islam, has been celebrated in Constantinople. T.H. the Grand Vizier, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, Hairi Effendi, the Fetva-Enimi, and several other high officials were present at the ceremony.

Mr. Stellakis, Hellenic Consul at Port Said, has been promoted Consul-General at Ekaterinodar, and Mr. Raphael, Hellenic Consul at Taganrog, has been promoted Consul-General at Jerusalem. Mr. Chorbajioglu, of the Macedonian Administration, has been appointed Consul-General at Adrianople vice Mr. Mavrondis, who is transferred to Trieste.

Izzet Pasha has arrived in London from Constantinople.

The Press Bureau in Cairo has issued an official denial of the rumours as to the Sirdar's approaching retirement, but these rumours still persist, and it is said that Lord Edward Cecil will be his successor.

Amongst the honours granted by the King on the celebration of his Majesty's birthday were the following:—

An Earldom of the United Kingdom has been conferred upon Field-Marshal the Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, H.M.'s Agent and Consul-General in Egypt. Baronies of the United Kingdom have been conferred upon Sir Edgar Vincent and upon Major-General John Fielden Brocklehurst. Murdoch Macdonald, Esq., Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, Egypt, has been promoted K.C.M.G. Frank Gerard Clemow, Esq., M.D., British Delegate to the Ottoman Board of Health, has been appointed C.M.G. Arthur King Lewis, Esq., Director-General Egyptian Customs Administration, has been appointed C.M.G. Major Lee Oliver Fitz-Maurice Stack, Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government, has been appointed C.M.G. General Sir Henry Macleod Leslie Rundle, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta, has been promoted G.C.M.G. General Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, Sirdar, Egyptian Army, and Governor-General Sudan Administration, has been promoted G.C.B. Major Charles Hotham Montague Doughty-Wylie, Member of the Albanian Delimitation Commission, has been appointed C.B. H.E. Sardar Arfa, Amir Nuyan Sheikh Khazal Khan-iba-Haji Jabir Khan, Sheikh of Mohammerah, has been appointed Honorary K.C.I.E. Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Surbah, Ruler of Koweit, has been appointed Honorary K.C.I.E. Sheikh Esa Bin Ali Al Khalifa, Chief of Bahrein, has been appointed Honorary C.S.I. Haji Muhammad Ali, Rais-ut-Tujjar, of Mohammerah, has been appointed Honorary C.I.E.

Parker Bey, director of the Police School, left Cairo for England this week on three months' leave.

Mr. C. Crawley, of the Public Works Ministry, Cairo, is going on leave this week.

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Dr. Warnock has been granted three months' leave of absence from July 2.

Mr. F. Newhouse, director of the basin conversion works, has been transferred to the Blue Nile district.

Mr. D. P. MacGillivray, managing director of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, is on his way to England from the Sudan.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (June 20):—On the occasion of the Tsar's visit to Constantza, many decorations were conferred. Mr. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, received the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Alexander-Nevski; Mr. Costinescu, Minister of Finance, and Mr. Porumbaru, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Grand Cross of the Order of the White Eagle of Poland; other members of the Cabinet, the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Anne. The former Ministers, Mr. Take Jonescu, Mr. Alexander Lahovary, and Mr. Marghiloman, being already members of Russian Orders, were each presented with gold snuff boxes, set with diamonds. King Carol decorated Mr. Sazonoff with the Grand Cross of the Order of Carol I.

H.M. the King of Servia has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of St. Sava on Mr. Neklindoff, formerly Russian Minister in Sofia.

Under the patronage of her Majesty Queen Alexandra and Princess Andrew of Greece, Miss Olga Papadachi and Mr. J. T. Grein are organising a matinée on Thursday, July 2, at the Queen's Theatre in aid of the Greek refugees. Amongst those who have promised their services are Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Gertie Millar, Mlle. M. de Nys, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. Graham Browne, Mr. Henri de Vries, Mrs. Alix Grein, Mr. Stacy Aumonier, and Mr. Cyril Scott. Tickets may be obtained from Miss Olga Papadachi, 70, Princes Square.

Colonel F. Lee, who has been appointed to the command of the Lowland Brigade, Territorial Force, served as A.D.C. to the General Officer Commanding, in Egypt, from 1891 to 1895. He also took part in operations in Somaliland in 1903-4, and was present at the action at Jidballi, for which he received the medal with two clasps.

A dinner will be given at the Hotel Cecil to-night in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton, on the occasion of their marriage, by Armenians who desire to testify their appreciation of Mr. Buxton's work in their country's cause. The Right Honourable George W. P. Russell will preside, while among those who have promised to be present are:—The Bishop of Hereford, Mrs. Percival, Sir I. F. Buxton, Sir Edward Boyle, Lady Boyle, the Rev. Harold Buxton, Mr. C. Roden Buxton, M.P., and Mrs. C. R. Buxton, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, M.P., Mr. Philip Morrell, M.P., Mr. Arthur G. Symonds, the editor of *The Daily News*, Tigran Nazarian, the editor of *Taraz* and *Aghbur*, of Tiflis, and many others.

Mr. Allan Ferguson Compton Joseph, the well-known civil engineer and financier in Egypt, was found dead at Charing Cross Hotel on the 15th inst., with symptoms of narcotic poisoning. His widow, who lives at Gerrard's Cross, in giving evidence at the inquest, said that her husband was permanently settled in Egypt, but returned at intervals on business. He had considerable property in Egypt, but owing to recent depression there was unable to realize. What financial troubles he may have had could, however, have been only temporary. The Coroner informed the jury that among the belongings of Mr. Joseph some 250 letters and documents were found clearly proving that he had at least temporary financial difficulties. There was no evidence showing that the poison was self-administered. The house physician of Charing Cross Hospital said that death was due to narcotic poisoning, but what particular poison was used he could not say. The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius entertained a large party at luncheon last Friday at the Hellenic Legation, 14, De Vere Gardens, to meet Sir Francis and Lady Elliott, who are on a visit to London from Athens. Among the guests were Lord and Lady Bryce, Ellen Lady Swaythling, Sir Lucas Ralli, and Mr. and Mrs. Pember Reeves.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have come to 12, Cavendish Place, from Bracknell, Berks.

Lady Inchcape gave a large ball at the Ritz Hotel last Friday night for her daughter, Miss Effie Mackay.

F. Orkhan Bey, the first secretary to the Turkish Embassy, was to leave London yesterday for the Embassy at St. Petersburg, where he has been transferred.

Dr. Eloui Pasha and Dr. MacCallan have been selected to represent the Egyptian Government at the Ophthalmological Congress to be held at St. Petersburg this year.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain S. M. Toppin, Royal Artillery (attached to the Egyptian Army), son of Major-General and Mrs. Toppin, of Bournemouth, and Jessy Viva, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Coleman, late of Streatham.

The marriage took place yesterday, at St. Nicholas's Church, Hintlesham, Suffolk, of Mr. Francis Goldworth Lowick, fourth son of the late Lieutenant W. N. Lowick, R.N., and Mrs. Lowick, of Westbury-on-Trym, and Miss Norah Anstruther Wilkinson, younger daughter of the Rev. A. Anstruther Wilkinson, Rector of Hintlesham. The bridegroom is secretary and editor of the monthly journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. The bride is the sister of Mr. Clennell Wilkinson, assistant editor of *The Egyptian Gazette*.

The service was fully choral, the officiating clergy being the Rev. A. Anstruther Wilkinson and the Rev. Canon Beauchamp, Rector of Copdock and Honorary Chaplain to the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The bridegroom's brother, Mr. Morris Lowick, acted as best man, and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Clennell Wilkinson. The bridesmaids were Miss Eileen Atkinson and Miss Kathleen Hornung (cousins of the bride), Miss Vivian Snelling (elder daughter of Mr. Rowland Snelling, editor of *The Egyptian Gazette*), and Miss Queenie Willcocks. After the ceremony, the Rev. and Mrs. Anstruther Wilkinson gave a reception at the Rectory, and in the evening entertained the villagers. Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Lowick left for a motor tour in Cornwall and Devon, and will go to Egypt to take up their residence at Alexandria next September.

The presents included a handsome silver tray and illuminated address, presented to the bridge by the villagers of Hintlesham, while among the many relations and friends who sent presents were, their Highnesses Princes Abou Bakr and Ahmed of Johore, the Dowager Lady Blois. Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan, Major-General Murray, Mr. F. J. C. Gansoni, M.P., Mr. Edward Shortt, M.P., and Mrs. Shortt, Mr. E. W. Hornung (the well-known novelist, uncle of the bride), Mr. K. P. Birley (President of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt), Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Lias, Mrs. A. du Boulay, Mrs. Pryce Weedon, Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Snelling, Mrs. Travers Symons, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Squire, Mr. W. L. Henderson, Rev. and Mrs. Lucius Fry, Miss Withers Green, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Bunnell Burton, Mrs. and Miss Burnes, Miss Alpar, Colonel and Mrs. Flint, Mrs. Farmiloe, and Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Wortham.

The sudden and unexpected death of the distinguished lawyer, Sir John Gray Hill, will come as a great shock to his many friends and acquaintances in Egypt and Palestine. Although he had reached the ripe age of 75, his friends find it difficult to realize this fact. His vigour of mind and body seemed undiminished. Although well known in his profession at home, where he was once President of the Law Society, and in recent years had done very much in training boys for a career at sea, he was celebrated in the nearer East for his devotion to Palestine. Although he had travelled extensively and written not a little about the Holy Land, his main connection with the land was the beautiful house upon one of the points of the Mount of Olives. Here he and Lady Hill spent some weeks annually, enjoying rest and quiet after a strenuous period of work and social duties in Birkenhead. Recently, Sir John Gray Hill exhibited a very active interest in the Zionist movement, and gave one or two most interesting addresses on the subject. He will be greatly missed, and his many friends would offer the deepest sympathy to his accomplished widow.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE.

LOWICK—ANSTRUTHER-WILKINSON.—On the 25th inst., at St. Nicholas Church, Hintlesham, Suffolk, by the Rev. A. Anstruther-Wilkinson, father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Canon Beauchamp, rector of Copdock, Francis Goldworth Lowick, son of the late W. M. Lowick, Lieut., R.N., and Mrs. Lowick, of Westbury-on-Trym, Glos., to Agnes Norah Anstruther, younger daughter of the Rev. A. Anstruther-Wilkinson.

DEATHS.

HILL.—On the 19th inst., John Edward Gray Hill, Knight, of Mere Hall, Birkenhead, and Ras Abou Kharoub, Jerusalem, suddenly, from heart failure, aged 75.

HORNER.—On June 14, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast (of typhoid), Eleanor Elsie Horner, of the International Nurses Home, Cairo.

PATRICCHIO.—On June 19, at 365, Goldhawk Road, London, W., John Patricchio, aged 81.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1914.

COMMERCE, NOT CONQUEST.

For many years past there have been complaints, both in private and in the Press, that the British Government was paying no manner of attention to the needs of British trade in Persia, and that that trade was perishing owing to the prevalence of local disorders and the diminution of British prestige. This undoubtedly was the case, and the official mind was not greatly exercized thereby so far as the public could see. Such portions of the public as were interested in the matter either financially or sentimentally bitterly resented the official attitude. Now the Government has gone about on another tack, it has proclaimed its own direct and overwhelming financial interest in what had been pictured as one of the most distressful areas in Asia, and has informed the public that in future the British Exchequer is definitely to be embarked in a business venture in Southern Persia. One would have thought that such an action, implying, as it necessarily must, official oversight of the political conditions of trade in the area of operations, would have satisfied those critics who had deplored the disinterestedness of the Foreign Office and the decadence of British commerce. It has, on the contrary, provoked a considerable number of hostile statements, largely based on the dogma that "The Government can do no Right," and on little else. The Bakhtiari tribesmen, the Russian Government, the Sublime Porte, the oil trade itself, and even the British public have been invoked to show cause why Mr. Churchill's new departure must of necessity be a dangerous or impossible experiment, leading inevitably to all manner of disasters to the territorial integrity of Persia, the military and financial capacities of the Indian Empire, and the commercial standing of a variety of companies enjoying British registration. But the complaints do not ring true—at times they suggest the inspiration of monopolists, at others personal pique or simple commercial jealousy, and as further opportunities occur for studying the new policy its potential advantages tend to become more clearly understood and the objections to be urged against it less and less formidable.

It is one of the best-known lessons of history that in the life of a State there is no opportunity for prolonged repose. If at some point in its career its inhabitants decide that the time has come to sit still for a little and think peacefully about the past, then the only future before that State is likely to be occupied with arrangements for its funeral. A people, after some great effort, may lie down and pant with exhaustion, as men do at half-time. That is different, it is only a necessary rest preliminary to that fresh effort, which again keys the nation up for the strife of aggressive existence. And nowadays existence to be successful must be aggressive. A quiescent or even a defensive existence is a sure herald of decay. A nation can show its aggressive existence by diplomacy or war—both very fashionable on the Continent. Great Britain emphasizes the fact that she is still alive and intends to go on living by a bold stroke and a picturesque policy—but one which combines in itself the two great factors of her strength, her Navy and her trade. More than a generation ago Disraeli, with a calculated *coup de théâtre*, thrust Great Britain into an enormously profitable commercial venture closely connected with her naval and commercial supremacy. Now once again does the nation of shopkeepers announce *urbi et orbi* that it intends to trade imperially. The Admiralty has placed itself in such a position that it requires a large and constant supply of oil at a reasonable cost. It has arranged to supply its own oil at a fair market price—a price which will break to pieces any monopolist ring, but will not hurt legitimate trade—a price which will enable the Government in its commercial capacity to draw reasonable profit from its investment and so enable it to develop its new property on behalf of the public without further charge upon the revenue. Moreover, this is to be done, not as by a department of State, but on the business lines of a commercial undertaking which has to hunt dividends and appease shareholders anxious as to their holdings, and not merely satisfy paid and packed Parliaments. The Government under its business disguise has every hope that it will be able, with the co-operation of India, to develop its concession up to a highly satisfactory pitch, and that within a few years. It is expected that the oil produced on commercial lines will fully supply the Navy if necessary, and it is realized that the Gulf, far from being an inconvenient source of supply, is one of the safest that could be found. So long as Great Britain holds the command of the sea—and it is to ensure that command that this Oil Agreement has been made—the Gulf is inaccessible to an enemy, and the tank-ships are free to leave the refineries and come round the Cape to England. No Navy is adequate to patrol the whole Atlantic against our oil-ships while we command the sea—nor in emergency would it be necessary for the tank-ships actually to make a British port. Under the new conditions of warfare a fleet can "oil" at sea. Consequently such an operation can be performed at any point named by authority and communicated by wireless. It may, then, be taken for granted that now and henceforth the Persian Gulf is a *mare clausum* so far as the acquisition of territorial rights on its coasts by outside Powers is concerned.

On land, where the future of the concession is declared by some to be irremediably gloomy, a little examination helps to show that the pessimists tend to exaggerate. The present administration of Mohammerah, the Sheikh and his Wazir, realizes that it depends for its existence upon Great Britain, which has supported, protected, and assisted that curious political entity in the past and is understood to be pledged to do so in the future during good behaviour. The Sheikh maintains his peace throughout those parts of Arabistan of importance to the working of the concession, and there is no apparent reason why he should cease from doing so. The Bakhtiari chiefs, Samsam es Sultaneh Ilkani and Ghulem Hussein Quli Khan Ilbegi, have a very considerable authority over their tribesmen, and are themselves interested in the working of the concession both as beneficiaries and as its salaried servants. In many places, moreover, the economic pressure which has contributed to the turbulence of the Bakhtiari in the past is yielding to the civilizing influence of the commerce fostered by the existence of the concession and of the wages which can be earned by those whom fate had hitherto made caterans. The pipe-line itself—popularly supposed to be the Achilles heel of the whole affair—is buried away underground and its site adequately patrolled. The new demarcation of the frontier, affecting as it does the actual nationality of some of the Anglo-Persian Company's wells near Kasr-i-Shirin, does not impair the validity of the concession, which has been expressly recognized by the Porte as well as by the other three signatories of the Turco-Persian Treaty. The British Government assumes that its concession is good in law, and that very assumption goes far to settle any doubts upon the point, for those who might endeavour to question its validity know full well that in such a case it would not be the Law Officers of the Crown with whom they would have to deal. The Government, however, is determined upon commerce, not conquest, and fully intends to try whether sterling gold will not pacify Southern Persia more rapidly, and more profitably, than sharpened steel. In any case, the Government will have to see that its millions are not damaged by local preventable causes, and in that fact lies an abundant promise of safety for the British trader. We strongly advise him to profit as early as may be from this unlooked-for improvement, or else he will be forestalled by the pushful foreigner.

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THE HEIRS OF THE HITTITES.

HITTITE—ARMENIAN? A THEORY.

During the last generation antiquarians and ethnologists have devoted increasing attention to the problem of the "Hittite" civilisation and language. Who were these strange people who ruled an Empire or confederacy that extended from the Plateau of Konia to Carchemish on the Euphrates, whose rulers for a time waged equal war with the greatest of the Egyptian Pharaohs, who opposed a sturdy resistance to the Assyrian monarchs, whose hieroglyphs still undeciphered by scholars are found at Hama in Syria and within a two days' march of Smyrna? Their gods and kings, as depicted on the monuments that have survived them, show that they were a mountain race, wearing the peaked "snow cap" that the inhabitants of the wintry plateaux of Anatolia still don when the wind begins to bite, the snow boots with up-turned toes that are worn in many parts of the Balkan and Asiatic regions of the Near East, the heavy cloaks, and sometimes the baggy breeches of heavy woollen cloth that almost every up-country native of the interior of Asia Minor wears or wore before it became fashionable or genteel to purchase cheap and chilly "reach me downs." Their physique, too, is that of the present-day peoples of the plateau that extends from the Taurus to the Black Sea, and all historical records of their activity describe them as an intrusive race of Northern invaders, who entered Northern Syria as conquerors, and ruled there and in the Taurus for many centuries; an apparently non-Semitic people, though naturally influenced by the higher culture of the neighbouring Semites of Assyria and Palestine and by the mixed Akkadian-Semitic civilization of Babylonia, warriors in their prime and in the days of decline great traders and middlemen whose cities dominated the trade routes from Alexandretta to Mesopotamia and from Mersina to the interior of Asia Minor.

A variety of theories have been current as to the affinities of this people. They have been identified with the "proto-Babylonians" of Akkad and Sumir, with the ancestors of some of the Caucasian peoples of to-day whose languages are as distinct from those of their "Aryan" or "Ural-Altaic" neighbours as Basque is distinct from French, with the "Turanians," *i.e.*, with peoples of what are now called the Turkic and Tatar branches of the Altaic stock, with Iranians and even with the enigmatical Etruscans concerning whose affinities we are as much in the dark as we were 100 years ago. But till a decipherable bilingual inscription is discovered and satisfactorily interpreted by our antiquarians nothing can be said to be known as to their linguistic affinities, save that they were in all probability non-Semitic. Some, too, of the above identifications have been already abandoned by scholars. The theory that the Hittite was a sort of proto-Turk who entered Western Asia 3,000 years or so before the Seljuks is unsupported by archæology. All recent discovery in Central Asia and in Russia goes to show that the Turco-Tatars are late comers into the Near and Middle East, that much of what has been called Turkestan since the early middle ages was inhabited before the Christian era by nations that seem to have been akin rather to the Iranians or to have formed a link between them and the "Aryan" speaking peoples of Europe; that the Scythians of Herodotus, once regarded as typical Mongolian nomads, were of Iranian rather than Turkish affinities, as the names of their sovereigns and a few words preserved by Herodotus seem to prove. Nothing has yet been discovered to connect the Hittites racially with the early non-Semitic Babylonians. The Etruscan theory is a confession of ignorance, and we are now left with two possibilities: One, that they were of stocks which once held most of Asia Minor, left the Lycian and Vannic inscriptions as a memorial of their existence, and may conceivably be represented by some of the strange peoples of the Caucasus, Georgians, Mingrelians, Tcherkess —who knows—the other that they were a Western, and probably an European, intrusive race which pushed from West and North towards the Euphrates and Syria, and was long established, and formed a state or a confederacy of states in the central plateau region of Asia Minor.

Is it not possible that in the Hittites we may have the ancestors of the Armenians? That in Cappadocia and what was once called Lesser Armenia we have the centre round which the invading tribes from whom this ancient race sprang grouped themselves for centuries till pressure from the West or South drove large sections of them into what is to-day Armenia, i.e., the Eastern plateaux and mountain masses between the Euphrates, the Black Sea, the Caucasus, and the Persian border? Such a theory must be speculative in default of exact data, and may at any moment be disproved by fresh discovery; yet for the moment it seems at least as probable as its only important rival. Though much influenced by Persian, as English was influenced by the Romance speech of the Norman-French, Armenian is not an Iranian tongue, but an independent speech possessing affinities with Iranian on the one hand and with Slavonic and Albanian on the other. Now early Greek tradition connected the Armenians with the Phrygians, who had a great empire in north-west Anatolia till the coming of the Cimmerians, and likewise connected the Phrygians with the Thracians, a people of whom we know little, but whom certain archæologists and philologists believe, for reasons that cannot be given here, to have been more rather than less akin to the Albanians, the last survivors of a group of peoples that has been absorbed by Latins, Greeks, and Slavs. Early Greek tradition is by no means always wrong, and its tales of a series of invasions of Asia Minor from Thrace are in all probability founded on fact. That the Armenian came from the West is attested not only by tradition, but by certain well-known historical facts. At Van there are a number of cuneiform inscriptions written in a tongue which the balance of philological opinion connects with some of the languages now spoken in the Caucasus, and which are at all events neither Iranian nor Armenian. They relate the history of the kingdom of Van or Urartu (Ararat) from the tenth century B.C. to the middle of the seventh century B.C., when King Sarduris II. of Van made an alliance with Assur-Bani-pal, the last great Assyrian monarch. Iranian tradition gives no indication of the existence of Armenians east of Van in those days, and it is therefore necessary to believe that the Armenians who now form the majority of the population of the Van district came from somewhere in the West. Furthermore, when Xenophon and the famous 10,000 marched across Armenia to Trebizond, they found Armenians for only four days' march (fifty or sixty miles for armoured infantry in mountain country in bad weather), after they had crossed the Kara Su. The extension of the Armenians into the Hinterland of Trebizond clearly came at a later date. Moreover, such Phrygian inscriptions as have been deciphered show that Phrygian was an Indo-European tongue with certain distinct affinities with Armenian as with Greek.

Of the language spoken by the masters of the Hittite Empire, the centre of which for a long period was at Boghaz Keui, north of Jozgad, in North Central Anatolia, we know practically nothing but the names of certain gods and kings. It is, however, worth noting that the nominatives of these names end in *s* and the accusatives in *m*. This empire or confederacy has left most of its remains in the area between Boghaz-Keui in the north and Adana in the south, and between Angora and Egirdir on the west, and Sivas and the Euphrates at Jerablus on the east. The list of the nations which accompanied the "Hattie" (Hittites) in their wars against the Ramessid Pharaohs includes the Dardani and other peoples of Western Asia Minor, and there are abundant traces of the "Hittite" civilisation in Phrygia. After the Assyrian Empire had formed a barrier to any Hittite advance towards the east, and had begun to conquer the most eastern Hittites, Phrygia seems to have been a powerful and independent kingdom which was finally overthrown in the general confusion caused by barbarian invasions that overran much of West Asia in the sixth and seventh centuries B.C. The Cimmerians, who are described as the most pestilent of these invaders, came from Europe, and it is hard to resist the impression that the early history of Asia Minor resolves itself into a series of invasions from the north-west. The invaders settle down, found kingdoms, and are in the end displaced or conquered in their turn by more energetic newcomers. Till the Persians appear, the movement is from west to east. The Greeks and Romans revive the old order of things till the later Persian and finally the Moslem conquests.

The connection of the Phrygians with the Hittite Empire is, of course, no proof that the Hittites were Indo-European; nor does the fact that the Armenians undoubtedly moved

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from what was once the centre of Hittite civilization into their present abode prove that they were Hittites. The Armenians may have been in their earlier stages a subject tribe or a part of a "Hittite" confederacy without being Hittites. Only linguistic evidence can prove the theory here suggested, viz., that the Armenians were either Hittites or a section of a Hittite confederacy and were driven eastward in the welter and confusion in which so many empires foundered between 700 B.C. and 600 B.C.

The type that is so often figured on the Hittite sculptures is decidedly Armenian. The heavy build, short legs, hooked nose, full beard, and, above all, the short, flat-backed "Armenioid" head are characteristic, but here again one must remember that environment influences the physical character of a race, and that the Armenians may well have absorbed much non-Armenian blood in their passage across Asia Minor. Purity of race can never have existed in regions where female slaves were an article of commerce and polygamy recognized, and the Armenians (Haik) of Indo-European speech from the West may have been but a small aristocracy in the midst of a primitive population of slaves and clients. If our archæologists could only find the real key to the Hittite hieroglyphs and a tablet, for example, bearing the pictorial symbols of the "Hatti" and a transliteration of the same in Aramaic or Phœnician characters!

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

British Policy in Persia.

In an able article under the heading "The Government's Oil Adventure," which appears in *The Times* (June 20), both the Admiralty and the Foreign Office receive very severe castigation. It is contended "that both Mr. Churchill and Sir Edward Grey have grossly under-estimated the probable consequences of their action." We quote from the concluding paragraph:—

We wish to see a plain declaration of the intentions of the Government regarding Persia substituted for the present tendency towards evasion and muddle. We want to put an end to the confusion of purpose which on the one hand refuses protection to British trade on the main southern routes, and on the other hand talks lightly of pouring British troops into the oil-wells area. We want to stop the sorry spectacle of Government Departments working impetuously upon separate and conflicting lines without any unity of aim. Mr. Churchill drives his bargain, Sir Edward Grey comes in and blesses it and reverses his whole policy of non-intervention at a nod, and neither of them thinks of nor understands the limitations imposed upon the Indian Army. If they had frankly told the country that they were entering upon a very dangerous undertaking, that it might have far-reaching and disturbing consequences, but that the advantages to be gained were greater than the risks involved, we would then have given due weight to their arguments. They did not do so. They glossed over the dangers, they affected to despise them, they tried to lead the discussion in other directions. We believe they erred because, after the fashion of Ministers long in office, they did not give the subject sufficient attention.

Cyprus of To-day.

Dr. Max Ohnefalsch-Richter contributes to the June number of *The Pall Mall Magazine* an article of great archæological interest on "Cyprus: Its Ancient Civilization." The writer has also something to say on the island as it is at the present time in a short introductory passage from which the following is an extract:—

It has generally been recognised that many improvements have been made in Cyprus under the British occupation since 1878. But the Government has been unable to carry out any drastic reforms because of the heavy annual tribute of £92,800 which has been and is still paid to Turkey. It is true that four-fifths of the Cypriotes are Greeks; but as Greece has already doubled her territories since the Balkan wars, and as she will obtain most of the Ægean Islands, an annexation of far-off Cyprus would only be a great burden to her at the present time. Great Britain, however, might with advantage take the present opportunity to annex Cyprus and to commute the tribute to Turkey. From its geographical position opposite to the Gulf of Alexandretta, Cyprus will always have a certain political value for Great Britain. Its commercial value is small. Lying away from the naval route to the Near and Far East, the island has no transit trade whatever. For the same reason it can never become a coal or fuel station like Suez. Famagusta, its sole harbour, will never be a large naval station like Malta, while lack of coal and sufficient water power prevents the growth of mechanical industry.

With regard to the future of Cyprus the writer adds:—

Should Cyprus be annexed as a Crown Colony and the tribute be commuted, it will become, perhaps, the most prosperous and flourishing little community in the Mediterranean, "the Garden of the East," as its first High Commissioner, then Sir Garnet Wolseley, promised it should be. But Cyprus will never reach again such periods of wealth as the island of the golden-tressed Aphrodite has seen in ancient times, during the Byzantine era and in the Middle Ages.

The Fighting round Durazzo.

The Manchester Guardian (June 22) publishes an interesting narrative of the fighting round Durazzo on the day when Colonel Thomson was killed. The letter, which was "received by a correspondent from a friend who was present at the battle," and is dated June 16, gives a vivid description of the confusion and excitement of the day. The following is an extract:—

I got a black coffee and went up to top of hill behind town with a Mr. Corbett, an Englishman, an old man and very game, who came in the same boat here with me. Some Kosovo men with rifles were behind a bank, and as the fire seemed dangerous we crawled along to their cover, where it was quite safe, and a few bullets came over. Then up rode the King. I hadn't seen him before, but had had a long interview with the Queen, who is a bright, intelligent woman. The King looked lean and haggard and as yellow as if he had a touch of fever. He stood up conspicuously, and Corbett cried out to him that he had better take cover. He looked doubtful, and I added, "We have really had four or five bullets here," and he lay down under our bank for a bit. By the middle of the morning the fire was very sharp. The insurgents were fairly close to the town and were sheltering in force, I believe, in the river bed, as it was on that that our gun fire was largely directed. Our guns were served by Austrians, whether officers or civilians I do not know. But the fire seemed very good, so far as one could see from a distance, and all the shells exploded. The natives, as usual, having once began to fire, fired like mad, wasting hundreds of cartridges. It was amazing to see the way both parties walked about in the firing zone conspicuously; I could see them on open spaces, without borrowing Corbett's glass.

The writer of the letter had the news of Colonel Thomson's death early, but he says:—

I had kept dark the fact that Thomson was hit, as it seemed better. But by midday all the town knew the poor chap was dead. A most distressing thing—a fine, plucky chap, and he leaves a wife and child. And such a hole-and-corner affair! After lunch X—— came to find me. He was quite upset, as he had been just alongside Thomson. Thomson turned away from him to urge his men to advance. X—— heard a bullet, looked back, and saw Thomson drop, shot in the neck and unconscious at once. Bled internally. They carried him to a hut, but he died almost directly.

The Ægean Crisis.

In an article in *The Academy* (June 20), under the heading "The Crisis in the Near East," the view is taken that:—

In all the circumstances it is little wonder that at the present moment feeling runs high throughout Greece. Whether or not the Government is exploiting the agitation caused by the ill-treatment of Greeks in Turkey is, for all practical purposes, beside the question. M. Venizelos is no cynical opportunist, nor is he lacking in astuteness. He realises that, while the situation will not permit of procrastination, the moment, so far as national sentiment is concerned, could not be more favourable for decisive action. We cannot do otherwise than hold to the opinion that true statesmanship justifies the Greek Government in issuing at this stage the proclamation of annexation of Chios and Mytilene. Such action, together with the Note which has just been presented at the Porte demanding past and future satisfaction for Greek subjects residing in the Ottoman Empire, is rightly intended to force Turkey's hand. Delay would mean the delivery of the two Dreadnoughts to the latter Power and the temporary disappearance of Greek supremacy on the sea.

Articles to Note.

"The Near East," in *The Birmingham Post* (June 19).

"The Latest Situation in the Balkans," by Edward Foord, in *The Sphere* (June 20).

"Turkey and Greece," in *The Morning Post* (June 22).

"Egypt of the Magicians," by Rudyard Kipling, in *Nash's Magazine* (July).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	June 25..	97⅜—⅞ p.t.
Athens.....	June 22..	25·17 drs.
Bucharest.....	June 25..	25·43½—25·51½ lei.
Constantinople ..	June 25..	109¼—110 pi.
Sofia.....	June 22..	27·12—27·20 leva.
Teheran.....	June 24..	55½ krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I see that the old scheme of constructing a pipe-line from Chiasurkh—the Turkish section of the Kasr-i-Shirin field—to Baghdad is again being mooted. Readers of The Near East will remember that as long ago as March last it was pointed out in our columns that to attempt to use the Tigris for oil transport from Baghdad to Busreh was out of the question even now—and in the near future the navigable value of the river for such purposes would be even further impaired. At that time it was laid down by a well-informed writer that the only measure to be adopted adequate for dealing with the oil on a commercial basis was the construction of a pipe-line from the oilfields direct to refineries capable of discharging into sea-going ships. The Anglo-Persian Company already has refineries at Mohammerah at the head of the Gulf, and a pipe-line from Kasr-i-Shirin to that port would be more that 150 miles shorter than the existing pipe-line from the Baku Fields to the Black Sea. It is idle to suppose that Kasr-i-Shirin oil can find a market in Baghdad for railway use when the new railway will in a few months actually traverse the enormously wealthy Gayara Field on the Tigris just south of Mosul, consequently I cannot see any reasonable ground even for the rumour of a Chiasurkh-Baghdad pipe-line.

***

I should also like to remind our readers that on March 20 The Near East published a map showing the Turkish area of the Kasr-i-Shirin Field as being on the Ottoman side of the frontier, a geographical fact which appears to have been unknown to some of our greatest contemporaries until they were told about it in the *Sind Gazette* as a piece of news. I suppose we must console ourselves with the reflection that there is now more truth than ever in the phrase *ex oriente lux*.

***

Although, for the moment, at any rate, relations between Turkey and Greece seem to be less strained, it cannot be said that all danger of war has been eliminated. The sale of the American battleships "Idaho" and "Mississippi" to Greece was ostensibly effected as a guarantee of peace. But the forthcoming completion of the Turkish battleship in England will not tend to make Turkey more amenable to the demands of Greece. In any case, Lloyd's are inclined to take a somewhat pessimistic view, and during the last week rates on the war risk market have stiffened considerably. The highest rates, amounting to from 40s. to 60s. per cent., have been paid on grain cargoes in Greek bottoms consigned to European ports from the Black Sea, the Sea of Azoff, and the Danube. The reports of mine-laying at Smyrna and in other territorial channels have also made shippers nervous. The regulations issued by the harbour authorities for the navigation of the Dardanelles, of which we give a summary on another page, would be almost ludicrous if they were not so irritating to shippers. To all requests that foreign ships may be permitted to leave the Dardanelles at their own risk at night the authorities have turned a deaf ear. Further, should any vessel endeavour to pass certain points after sunset, blank shot—at the rate of half a Turkish lira a shot—will be fired across her bows. Should she persist, round shot will be fired at the rate of one Turkish lira per shot.

***

It is announced that the arrangements for a German loan to Bulgaria have now been completed. It was thought at one time that the negotiations would fall through, as Bulgaria was unwilling to grant the guarantee of a tobacco monopoly, which the German financiers demanded. This difficulty has now been overcome, and a director of the Disconto-Gesellschaft has already left Berlin for Sofia, taking with him the loan contract. This fresh German endeavour to re-establish her prestige in the Balkans, which was somewhat damaged by the experiences of her protégé, Turkey, during the war, is of peculiar interest. It is clear, too, that Franco-Russian financiers—and it is even said an English group—determined to make an effort to counteract the enormous influence which Germany must acquire in Bulgaria by means of the new loan, by making offers themselves. The proposals were, however, reluctantly refused.

***

The results achieved by the Imperial Ottoman Bank during 1913 are distinctly satisfactory. The net profits, it is true, only showed an increase of a few hundred pounds, as compared with those for 1912—£362,066, as against £361,223. But the period of reconstruction after a war is always the most trying, and Turkey, in view of her strained relations with Greece, must still be regarded as on a war footing. Such a condition of affairs does not tend to peaceful development and financial enterprise. The directors, however, have been able to declare a dividend of 7 per cent., the same as in 1912, and £23,260 is carried forward as against £22,400. Another hopeful feature of the balance-sheet is the large increase in current accounts, which is a sure feature of returning confidence. At the end of 1913 current accounts stood at £13,452,000. as against £10,935,000 at the end of 1912; while fixed deposits are returned at £1,222,000, against £1,152,000, and bills payable at £1,765,000, against £1,703,000. These totals mean a great stride forward, and it is permissible to assume that the result for 1914 will be even better.

***

Three years ago Bulgarian attar of roses reached the extraordinarily high figure of 3,000 frs. (£120) the kilogram. This naturally did not suit the book of the foreign buyers of this product, the manufacturers of perfumes, who concocted a scheme to bring the price down. They agreed among themselves not to buy Bulgarian attar of roses for a specified period. "In consequence of the limited export," says a Bulgarian correspondent, "stocks amounting to nearly 10,000 kilograms. of attar of roses were accumulated by Bulgarian producers, which may be valued at £1,200,000 out of the total national wealth. The boycott by the Western perfume manufacturers has had its effect. The price of attar of roses has dropped considerably, and exportation at the reduced prices has already begun. The boycott has been removed, and in a short time it may be expected that the whole of the available stocks will be bought up for export. The result will be that a considerable amount of gold will be brought into the country." This boycott strictly carried out by an international ring of consumers against a whole nation of producers is a remarkable illustration of two characteristics of modern business methods — combination and internationalism. I suppose Bulgaria will have to take it lying down, unless, however, she can organise a perfume manufacture of her own and consume her own raw material.

***

Advices from Egypt state that a committee has been formed under the patronage of Prince Ahmed Fouad to organise a joint Exhibition of Ancient Arab Art and Modern Egyptian Industries. It is expected that the Exhibition will be opened at Heliopolis some time in February next year. The Heliopolis Company has consented to place the Stadium and the grand hall of the Heliopolis Palace Hotel at the disposal of the Exhibition Committee. The Stadium will be turned into a model *suk* or market, where workmen may be watched at the actual performance of their tasks, and a valuable collection of ancient Arab art will be housed in the hall of the Palace Hotel. It is hoped that the Exhibition will not only prove a great draw to the tourists who flock to Egypt, but that it will serve to revive appreciation of ancient Arab art, and to show how it may be applied to modern uses.

***

During last year 8,675 parcels arrived at Corfu by post, chiefly from Germany, France, and Italy, an increase of more than a 1,000 over the total for 1912. It is characteristic of our rivals that they are quick to take advantage of any new method of doing business which promises to open a profitable market for their goods. Seemingly, the mail order business does not appeal to British exporters. At any rate, a British Consular Report on Corfu affirms that all countries except the United Kingdom have taken advantage of the facilities for sending out to Corfu packets by parcel post with payment against delivery, and that, consequently, trading in small quantities with Germany, France, Italy, and other countries has increased. If this business pays our foreign rivals, why do British firms refrain from entering the field? Surely here is an opportunity neglected.

***

By an Act passed on January 2/15, 1914. provision is made for the loss of Hellenic nationality by naturalization in a foreign country for which the permission of the Hellenic Ministry of the Interior is essential. A Greek subject who acquires foreign nationality without such permission retains in law his Hellenic nationality with all rights and obligations pertaining thereto.

Commentator.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 20.

Fusion of Two Banks.

For some time negotiations have been taking place for the fusion of the National Bank of Turkey and the Banque de Salonique, and it is now stated that an agreement has been reached between these two establishments, and its ratification in detail is only a matter of days.

The balance-sheet for the year 1913 of the National Bank of Turkey, of whose capital of £1,000,000 only one-fourth is paid up, shows gross profits amounting to £T52,653, with working expenses of £T28,863, leaving a net profit of £T23,790. After carrying 10 per cent. to the reserve fund and paying 5 per cent. to the shareholders, various sums were carried forward to the credit of the founders and the shareholders.

As regards the Banque de Salonique, its capital, fully paid up, amounts to £T880,000, and its balance-sheet for last year shows net profits amounting to £T55,718. At the last annual general meeting, held on May 20, the shareholders authorised the change of the title of the bank and the issue of new capital amounting to £T440,000.

Shipping Intelligence.

The Maritime Chamber took the opportunity of the advice that the navigable channel of the Dardanelles had been increased to 1,400 metres to request the authorities that foreign vessels be allowed to pass out of the Straits at night at their own risk. The reply which has been received to this request is laconic and to the effect that ships are not permitted in the Dardanelles by night.

A notice of the harbour authorities, communicated by the Sublime Porte to H.M. Embassy, advises that vessels are not permitted to enter the Bosphorus from the Black Sea beyond Kavak after sunset, and lays down the following regulations for the observance of ships :—

1. No vessel is permitted to pass in beyond the Bay of Buyuk Liman after sunset.
2. Shipmasters are required to comply with the light signals at Buyuk Liman.
3. Half a Turkish lira will be charged for each blank shot, and one Turkish lira for each ball shot fired upon vessels contravening this order.
4. A ball shot will be fired upon any vessel attempting to pass Anadol Kavak after sunset.
5. When the weather is so bad that a vessel cannot anchor for the night at Buyuk Liman, vessels may proceed to an anchorage at Kavak.

Strict observance of these regulations is required, as a non-compliance may involve the damage or even the sinking of a vessel, for which the Ottoman authorities will assume no responsibility.

Electric Tramways.

With the regular arrival of new cars, the Constantinople Tramway Company has been able to increase the number of its cars running on the lines which were already open to the public, as well as to open new lines to traffic, and as a consequence its monthly receipts show a steady growth during the last three months, those for March being £T15,509, those for April £T17,657, and for May £T20,587. No comparison is possible with last year, as during the war the company's horses had been requisitioned, and, pending the electrification of its lines, the entire service was interrupted. The highest receipts during one of the previous three years were in 1911, when they amounted to £T96,051 during the twelve months, the working expenses averaged 87 per cent. of the gross receipts during the years 1909, 1910, and 1911. The capital of the company was to the end of 1912 £T440,000, this capital has since been further called up and appears in the balance-sheet for 1913 as £T656,878. At the last annual general meeting the directors were authorised to increase this by the issue of shares to the amount of £T750,000 and debentures for a like amount.

The statutes of the Ottoman Company formed for the construction and working of an electric tramway system for Broussa have been ratified by the Ministry of Commerce. The company will have a capital of £T50,000, and the concession, which was granted to the French Périer group, is for a period of seventy years.

Several propositions for the establishment of electric tramways in various towns of the Empire are at present occupying the attention of the Ministry of Public Works. A French group are interested in the electric trams and lighting of Samsoun, and are said to have already sent engineers to the spot to report on the subject. Local parties have applied for the concession for the electric lighting and trams of Trebizond. The municipality of Van has asked for a concession for a period of forty years, with a view to the formation of a company for the establishment of an electric tramway service in that city.

The Constantinople Quay Company

The report of the board of directors for the year ended December, 1913, show receipts amounting to £T129,440, which is the highest on record, and greater by £T14,770 than during the previous year. After deduction of working expenses, the net profits during the year amounted to £T43,340, and this, together with the balance of profit and loss account brought forward from last year permits the payment of a dividend of 3½ per cent. to the shareholders, the placing of £T20,000 to the statutory reserve fund, and the carrying forward to next year of the sum of £T8,160.

Port of Haifa.

The Ministry of Public Works has approved the plans for the construction of the new port of Haifa by the French group at the head of which is the Schneider firm.

AGRICULTURAL REFORMS IN CYPRUS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 22.

Agricultural Banks.

A Bill dealing with Agricultural Banks, introduced by Mr. Theodótou, M.L.C., has been passed. It is hoped that this will lead to good results. It is the best step forward that has been made towards the relief of the peasantry, whose indebtedness is one of the principal obstacles to progress in the island. Mr. Theodótou has been most painstaking in his efforts to solve the problem which has been so long under consideration. Mr. Theodótou has also done good service by bringing home, by means of speeches and otherwise, to the peasantry the need of strict forest preservation, and of the damage caused by goats.

Carob Disease.

With a view to remedial measures in dealing with the disease which has attacked carob (locust bean) trees, a Commission has been appointed by Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, to investigate and report. The new Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, and several District Commissioners and members of the Forest Department are members.

Agriculture and Stock-rearing.

The Agricultural Department has done well in organizing meetings of agriculturists for practical demonstration in agriculture and stock-rearing. These are held on fixed dates, at the Government Nursery Gardens, at Nicosia.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Our Belgrade Correspondent states that the Servian Government having applied to the German Government to recommend an agricultural expert to act as adviser attached to the Council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, the German authorities recommended Dr. August Gehrkens, who has since been accepted for this post at a yearly salary of 18,000 francs.

The Board of Trade Journal states that information has been received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, from a trustworthy source, with reference to a trader at Corfu. Certain particulars will be communicated in confidence to firms in the United Kingdom who may be interested on personal application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

In the first three months of this year Servia exported to Italy 6,820 oxen and 2,290 swine of the total value of four million francs.

From January 1, 1915, the maximum draught allowed for vessels passing through the Suez Canal will be raised to 30 feet (9.14 metres).

The new offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Alexandria, which are housed in one of the finest buildings of the town, were furnished throughout by the Shannon, Ltd.

The Serbo-Montenegrin Commission for the delimitation of the common frontier is again at work.

The production of wines at Corfu last year was only moderate (according to the French Consul at that place) owing to the exceptional drought prevailing from June to August, which was prejudicial to the vines. The vintage hardly reached 90,000 hectolitres, so that considerable quantities of wines were imported from Levkas, Cephalonia, from the Archipelago, and especially from Santorin.

The contract for the supply of postage stamps, postcards, etc., to the Egyptian Postal Administration during a period of five years, commencing on January 1, 1915, and ending December 31, 1919, has been awarded to Messrs. Thos. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., of London, whose tender was the lowest of those submitted.

At the last meeting of the Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt it was announced that, with regard to correspondence exchanged with the International Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber concurred with the opinions already expressed by important home Chambers that the advantages to be gained by a second mail service between England and India were out of proportion to the expense involved, which would have to be borne largely by the British taxpayers.

The Astra Romana Petroleum Company, of Bucharest, last year produced only 444,024 tons of oil, against 447,790 tons in 1912; but owing to higher selling prices, the net profits rose from 3,196,031 lei or francs to 6,387,994 lei, and the dividend is increased from 5 to 10 per cent. on the share capital of 60 million lei.

BY APPOINTMENT.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

The Interim Account.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 16.

Last night's *Official Journal* contained the final figures for the first quarter of the year —the period for which a special *interim* Budget was drawn up owing to the alteration made in the State financial year. The revenue, which had been estimated at £E3,650,000, amounted to £E3,679,754 and the expenditure, estimated at £E3,495,000 (ordinary £E3,315,000 and extraordinary £E180,000) reached £E3,558,292 (ordinary £E3,316,146, and extraordinary £E242,146). A surplus of £E121,462 has therefore been realized, as against £E155,000, the amount budgeted for.

While the revenue has, therefore, exceeded the estimates by about £E30,000, the ordinary expenditure has comparatively speaking been kept at the figure originally fixed. The extraordinary expenditure has, however, exceeded expectations by over £E62,000. This is in part due to the fact that the new credits for urgent work, which were fixed at £E58,000, had to be increased to £E86,516, of which £E73,927 has actually been spent during the period, while instead of spending, as was anticipated, only £E122,000 of the old credits (£E633,414) brought forward from 1913, the sum actually spent was £E168,219.

Of the new credits opened and spent during the *interim* period, £E15,816 was absorbed in dealing with bubonic and cattle plague; £E16,020 by *sadds* (temporary dams) in Lower Egypt; £E3,554 in measures for the prevention of contraband traffic across the frontiers; and £E2,460 in the construction of new telephone lines. Of the amount spent from old credits £E40,000 was spent on new schools, £E46,000 on Public Works and £E5,500 on new barracks in the Sudan.

Realized Surplus.

The realized surplus goes as usual to the Reserve Fund. This fund, on January 1st, 1914, stood at £E5,848,763. A sum of £E34,535 was obtained during the quarter by the sale of Government lands, and a further amount of £E13,658 by sundry special receipts. Both of these items have been placed to reserve. On the other hand credits to the amount of £E1,285,604 against the reserve fund were carried forward from 1913, and new credits for urgent works for £E120,700 were opened during the quarter. Of the first category £E475,201 was spent—£E175,401 on the Lower Egypt drainage works, £E12,589 on irrigation work in the Sudan (for Egypt), £E60,000 on sundry irrigation works, and £E131,000 on the railways, £E21,000 on the Cairo station—while of the new credits £E106,771 was spent, £E85,444 on the Cairo drainage alone.

The ordinary capital expenditure against the Reserve Fund during the *interim* period amounted, therefore, to £E581,972, but in addition an extra sum of £E332,897 had to be taken—£E319,703 for part payment of the purchase price of the Mariut railway line; £E8,089 for railway rolling stock and £E5,105 for expropriations. As a result the Reserve Fund on March 31 was reduced to £E5,103,549, a figure which the Financial Adviser foresaw in his report on the 1914-15 budget.

It is worthy of note, that under the new system, adopted as from April 1 this year, the unexpended balance of credits opened against the ordinary budget (£E477,784) and the Reserve Fund (£E824,332) have been automatically cancelled.

Expenditure on Khedivial Library.

In conclusion the statement of accounts shows that the Public Debt, which stood at £E94,144,640 on March 31 last, was reduced by £E57,900. Interesting balance sheets of the Khedivial Library and Arab Museum are appended, showing that both of these institutions had to draw on their reserve funds to meet their expenses; a statement of the amounts advanced to the Sudan by Egypt for development work (£E5,414,525) since 1899 is attached. The details of the advances made up to March 31 last to the various municipalities and Local Commissions by the Government, for water and light installations, and various other municipal works, amounting to £E432,873 are also shown.

"NEW" BULGARIAN RESOURCES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 19.

At present the tobacco crop of New Bulgaria amounts annually to about 10,000 kilograms, worth £2,000,000. The Minister of Agriculture, who is taking steps to improve the cultivation and extend its area, hopes to treble the quantity of the annual crop.

Forests constitute the source of wealth next in importance in the new lands. The bulk of the population in the districts of Gornia Jumaya, Nevrokop, Mihomea, Jakronda, Dospat and Dovlen, make their living out of the woods in one way or another, and the Razlog district is famous for its extensive virgin forests. Formerly the big Bulgarian timber firms exported large quantities of timber through Turkey, and much of this was sent to Drama, Kavalla, Serres and Salonika. At present the export from Old Bulgaria cannot be increased owing to the lack of railways, and the road to Greek Macedonia is closed. Thus hundreds of villages are deprived of their means of livelihood; and the present Government is, therefore, actively engaged in organising means of transport for the timber trade.

BULGARIAN LOAN COMPETITION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 21.

Last Wednesday M. de Panafieu, the French Minister here, called on the Prime Minister, Dr. Radoslavoff, who is also Minister for Foreign Affairs, *ad interim*, and informed him officially that French banks were ready to advance 100,000,000 francs (£4,000,000) to Bulgaria now, and to negotiate with the Bulgarian Government a loan of 500,000,000 francs (£20,000,000) at 5 per cent., to be issued at 85.

These terms are preferable to those being negotiated in Berlin, and the French are prepared to issue the loan at the end of the present year, paying 150,000,000 francs then and the balance of 250,000,000 francs at the end of 1915. The next day the Russian Minister, Mr. Savinsky, also called on Dr. Radoslavoff and informed him that his Government acquiesced in the proposal of his French colleague, and supported it.

The Prime Minister thanked both diplomatists for their readiness to help Bulgaria in the task of consolidating her finances; but he added that he was afraid the offer was too late, as the negotiations with Berlin were almost finished. The director of the Disconto Gesellschaft, representing a syndicate of the leading German banks, is expected to arrive here to-morrow, bringing the contract of the loan, which will be signed immediately and submitted for the sanction of the Sobranje.

SERVIAN FINANCE.

According to *The Investor's Review*, the Servian Government is endeavouring to place, against orders for military materials, £3,600,000 of Treasury bonds in France and £1,200,000 in Germany. Negotiations have been begun with the supplying firms, who are consulting their bankers. The orders to be placed in Germany are for varying amounts, the Rhine Motor and Machinery Factory, for instance, whose bankers are the Schaaffhausen Bankverein, the National Bank für Deutschland, and a local bank, having an order for deliveries valued at £240,000 to £320,000. Nothing definite, however, has yet been arranged.

ALBANIAN STATE BANK.

According to the *Neue Freie Presse*, arrangements have now been practically completed for the establishment of an Albanian State Bank with a capital of 75,000,000 francs (£3,000,000), contributed in equal shares by the Great Powers. The special interests of Austria-Hungary and Italy in Albania will be recognised by the direction of the bank being placed in their hands. Prince William, adds the journal, will be given a new loan of 5,000,000 francs (£200,000).

AGRICULTURE IN NEW ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 30.

The Inspector of Agriculture, M. Virgil Dimitriu, has published a report on the state of agriculture in the newly acquired territory, from which the following interesting notes are taken:—

Agriculture is not nearly so much advanced as it might be, as the cultivation of the ground is not carried out in a systematic manner. One cause of this is the lack of agricultural roads and labour, both of which are conspicuous by their absence.

As regards the system of agriculture in general, the newly acquired territory is far behind Roumania itself. Cattle are plentiful, but badly looked after. The use of agricultural machinery is almost nil, and even those few employing anything of the sort lack the intelligence and experience to work the machines. Agricultural credit is good, and the agricultural banks grant credit to proprietors of land both great and small against mortgages, or with cattle or eventual produce as security, or even against drafts alone. They are ready to buy agricultural machinery with a view to selling it to the smaller proprietors on the instalment plan.

The last notes are especially worthy of attention, as they seem to indicate a new market for agricultural machinery manufacturers, which is a peculiarly safe one, the buyers being agricultural banks, and consequently reliable customers. The territory in question is immensely rich as regards its soil, but is so far only in a primitive condition, and opens, under Roumania's forward policy, a new and important market for everything in connection with agriculture.

ROUMANIAN OIL PRODUCTION.

The following information from the 1913 report of H.M. Consul-General at Galatz is published by *The Board of Trade Journal*:—

The Roumanian petroleum industry continues to flourish, although the production of crude oil in 1913 may have been below expectation owing to the war and to the insufficiency of the means of transport; nevertheless, it reached the figure of approximately 1,900,000 tons, as compared with 1,807,000 tons in the preceding year, and 1,625,000 tons in 1911. Since 1906 Roumania has doubled her output of petroleum, and she is now the fourth oil-producing country of the world, coming after the United States, Russia, and Mexico. There should, moreover, be a marked increase in the output once the new pipe lines at present under construction from Baicoi to Constantza have been completed. The total export of crude oil and oil products in 1913 is estimated to have been about 1,030,000 tons, as against 850,000 tons in 1912 and 678,000 tons in 1911. The chief importing countries were the United Kingdom (whose import of Roumanian petroleum has increased enormously in the last few years), France, Germany, and Egypt. Crude oil was exported to the extent of 29,000 tons, mostly to Austria-Hungary. The export of residues reached 341,000 tons, of which nearly a third went to the United Kingdom and about a sixth to Italy. The United Kingdom also took 100,000 tons of refined oil, and Egypt 97,000 tons, out of a total of 419,000 tons. France and Germany were the chief buyers of benzine, each taking about a third of the total export of 208,000 tons.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Haifa. June 13.

The crop outlook is good, and there is general optimism. There has been abundance of rain, and it is estimated that the crop this year will be greater by 15 per cent. to 25 per cent. than that of last year. It is feared, however, that the comparatively low prices ruling in Western markets may adversely affect the export trade.

Odessa. June 21.

Further rains have fallen over the greater part of Southern Russia, but the reports received here state that they have come too late in many districts to do much good. These reports are, however, more or less contradictory, and we must await more authentic advices. The general condition of the crops is, I believe, satisfactory.

The demand from the Western grain marts is fairly good, but the local grain stocks are too small to permit of a very active business being done. The Odessa granaries are to-day reduced to 230,000 poods of wheat, 10,000 poods of rye, 80,000 poods of barley, 80,000 poods of maize, and 10,000 poods of oats. Barley of good average quality, with 3 per cent. admixture, brings 89c. f.o.b., or about 3c. in advance of the price obtaining in the previous week. Wheat is also firm, and from 1r. 15c. to 1r. 25c. is paid for the better qualities, f.o.b. Rye is neglected at 90c. to 94c. according to quality. There is a fairly lively inquiry for good dry maize at 80c. to 80½c. per pood f.o.b.

Sofia. June 21.

The rumours which have been studiously circulated that brigands are at work in the Strumitza district are false. These reports have been circulated with the object of preventing the merchants from coming from the West to buy silk cocoons and opium, both of which industries are this year in an exceptionally flourishing state.

The recent heavy rainfalls, followed by disastrous floods, have greatly damaged the harvest. It is estimated that more than 25 per cent. of the crops have been ruined. The havoc is particularly serious on the Danube in the neighbourhood of Nicopolis. The rose crop has been very good this year and the production has been doubled. Reports from the Karlovo Customs-house state that 25½ kilograms of attar of roses, valued at £100 the kilogram, has been exported from that district alone since June 13.

The market for silk cocoons at Soflou has been opened, and in the first three days 12,650 kilograms of yellow cocoons were sold at a price varying from 3.70 to 4.25 fr. the kilogram. The cocoons of Soflou are of a very fine quality. Under Turkish rule the production was 700-800,000 kilograms a year, but this year the quantity will be much less.

The following are extracts from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Beyrout. June 13.

The market continues to improve slowly. During the period under review (May 24—June 7) imports have been satisfactory, except in the cases of sugar and coffee. Wholesale merchants are waiting until they have realised on their existing large stocks of these articles before placing further orders.

On the whole the cereal crop in Syria will be, if not superior, at any rate equal to that of last year.

Serres. June 10.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for May:—

The rains have come a little late it is true, but in time to save the crops, which were in a critical situation. Tobacco and maize have especially benefited, and in a less degree wheat, cotton, and barley. The planting of tobacco proceeds actively, and an abundant crop is anticipated.

Aleppo. June 9.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for May:—

The agricultural outlook in our district, although not so brilliant as was anticipated at the beginning of the season, is not unpromising. In the surrounding plains the wheat looks well, but it has been thinly sown and great spaces have been left uncultivated. In consequence of the rain and cold weather the grain is not yet ripe generally, and the harvest will be a little late. Though not expected to be bad, the result will be inferior to last year's.

The activity on the market during the first week of May slackened to a calm, but towards the end of the month the improvement was marked. The sales of imported products have been restricted. In consequence of the improvement in the price of colonial produce in Europe, a distinct movement in these articles has begun.

The wool sales have begun, but the prices offered in Europe are inferior to those offered here.

Busreh. May 29.

The market is still paralysed by the money stringency, which gets worse and worse, and inspires the reverse of confidence in commercial circles.

The stock of cereals here is estimated at 2,000 tons. The arrivals of the produce of the new crop will begin in a week. Some farmers, however, will prefer to keep their grain rather than send it to Busreh, where remunerative prices are doubtful.

The yield of dates will be inferior to last year, particularly that of the "Sayer" variety.

The stock of cotton cloth is very limited. The sugar market improves gradually, though there is nothing doing in this article owing to the glut of sugar at Baghdad—some 180,000 packages. All the localities of the interior draw supplies from Baghdad in consequence of this, and the demand at Busreh is limited to the town and immediate surroundings.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, June 24.

The general conditions prevailing throughout the market during the past week have shown no signs of more animation, in fact the last few days have been the most discouraging for some time back. Spinning mills and weaving sheds have been producing goods faster than they can be disposed of. It has been talked about on 'Change that if this state of things lasts much longer there will have to be further curtailment of production in both spinning and weaving districts in the near future. Prices in the raw material have been irregular from day to day and buyers have therefore had very little confidence in them. Only in cases of urgent need have operators purchased, the general flow of trade being blocked by cautious buyers. The crop in Egypt is reported to be progressing favourably. Fairly satisfactory reports have been given concerning the weather in the American cotton belt. Owing to the continued unsettled state of the Near East retail orders have composed the bulk of the trade in cloth for outlets in that part of the world. Business for Egypt has been of small extent and bids have been poor. A featureless demand has been experienced in shirtings and *dhooties* for India. Rather better news of the monsoon has been received, but this has not stimulated fresh business being arranged. Rather an improved tone showed itself at the beginning of the week as regards China, but business for that quarter has tapered off, and is now about as quiet as the rest. Not much activity has shown itself in the home trade. The uncertain weather has helped to check the progress of many distributing houses in their summer trade. No relief has come to Burnley manufacturers, and complaints have been numerous from day to day. Sellers of American yarns for home consumption have experienced a slack week and prices have been irregular when tested. The export section has been quiet, and offers have not been of much use for the Near Eastern outlet. Bolton counts have been comparatively steady, without any general flow of orders being recorded.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, June 25.

Sugar.

The market has been quiet and easier generally this past week, but large business is being done to-day on Beet at slightly improved prices, Aug. 9s. 4½d., Sept. 9s. 4½d., Oct. 9s. 4½d., Oct.-Dec. 9s. 5d., Jan.-Mar. 9s. 6d., and May 9s. 8¾d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Refined continues quiet, with English at late rates to 3d. decline. Tate's No. 1 Cubes, prompt 18s. 1½d., and No. 2, 17s. 7½d.; Granulated fine 16s. 4½d. and Granulated Standard 15s. 10½d. Foreign, refined, is steadier, first marks granulated (50 tons minimum) ready 11s. 3¾d. to 11s. 4½d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Say's cubes, June-July 14s. 10½d., and loaves 14s. f.o.b. Paris. German and Austrian cubes prompt 13s. 4½d. to 13s. 9d.; crushed 12s. 7½d. to 13s. 3d. f.o.b. Hamburg.

The market for cane sugar is rather dull with little doing.

Coffee.

There has been only a moderate demand at auction sales this week, some 3,500 bags that were offered at last sales having been sold at following rates: Mexicans low mid. 70s., Salvador mid. 70s. 6d., and bold 75s., Columbian mid. 72s., and Costa Rica low mid. to mid. 71s. to 77s., and bold 77s. to 87s. The speculative market has been steady, closing at 3d. to 4½d. advance. July sold at 43s. 3d., Sept. 44s. 3d., and Dec. 45s. 3d.

Seeds.

The market has been quiet and easier, in some instances, but is closing steadier generally. Linseed was easier during the week, closing, however, steady at the decline, London-Calcutta afloat being sold at 51s., June-July offered 51s. 3d., July-Aug. sold 51s. 6d., and Aug-Sept. offered at 52s. 3d. Rapeseed is firmly held, Brown Cawnpore June-July 51s. asked, and Yellow Guzerat 55s. 6d. Cottonseed is rather quiet, London-Egyptian July sellers asking £8 7s. 6d., Aug. £8 8s. 9d., Nov.-Jan. £8 10s. per ton. The market for Canaryseed remains inactive, pending definite reports of the new crop, but prices are firm, supplies being very limited.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes: There has been a particularly small demand during this past week, but values are fully as dear, and in some instances a slight advance is asked. Fine seedy Calcutta command £7 16s. 3d. to £7 17s. 6d. for arrival. Best London made is in little demand at £7 15s. to £7 17s. 6d. Good quality Russian is offered £7 13s. 9d. to £7 15s. ex quay. Cotton cakes: Only a very little quantity of Egyptian remains in store, and shippers in the meantime are asking almost prohibitive prices in forward positions, quotations being £4 12s. 6d. to £4 13s. 9d. ex ship for June-July despatch, whilst spot parcels are selling £4 16s. 3d. to £4 17s. 6d. ex quay. English makes are quiet at £4 17s. 6d. to £5, and Bombay £4 2s. 6d. Decorticated Cotton Cakes and Meal are in better demand and sell freely at £7 15s. to £7 17s. 6d.

Corn.

Wheat: Owing to the reported weakness in the American market and fine weather in the Argentine, the market for cargoes is very dull and lower to sell. Choice White Karrachee June to August offered 37s.; South Russian on sample June, old style, 34s. 9d. to 36s. 3d. is asked, and North Russian June-July on sample 37s. Barley is quiet, 24s. is asked for South Russian June, 23s. 3d. July, and 21s. 9d. Sept.-Oct., old style. Maize is also quiet, Danubian-Bulgarian, prompt, is offered at 24s. 3d., and Bessarabian June 25s. 3d. Oats are quiet and unchanged.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

Good Crop Reports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 19.

The market has been feverish, and a downward tendency has been in evidence. The export trade has sold large quantities in futures, and speculation has been demoralised. The bulls, who had counted on a lack of water this summer, have found themselves in the wrong, for there was never so much water as there is at the moment in the Irrigation Canal.

The news with regard to the new crop is very favourable. Contrary to previous years, the cotton worm has not appeared. The cotton plant is in a very healthy condition, and part of the time lost at the beginning of the year has been caught up.

The market in futures is calm, and speculative transactions are much reduced. On the other hand, there is more activity in the spot market, and exports have been so large that the stock has been very much reduced.

Very little cotton has arrived from the interior, and it seems probable that we shall finish the season with a stock of 500,000 cantars only.

The rise in the price of cotton seed has been very marked, and the demand from the interior has improved.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. November, 17 3/32, January, 18 5/32. Exchange, three months' date, 96 1/4.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	11,000 ..	1,400 ..	1,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,597,765 ..	7,452,486 ..	7,250,276
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	4,000 ..	4,000 ..	Nil
Ditto since Sept. 1	201,093 ..	196,038 ..	194,355
Shipments to Manchester	Nil. ..	Nil. ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	211,915 ..	200,362 ..	222,800
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	2,250 ..	2,250 ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	410,915 ..	379,914 ..	361,939
Shipments to U.S. America	3,000 ..	1,500 ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	82,003 ..	120,870 ..	109,175
Shipments to all parts	9,250 ..	7,750 ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	905,926 ..	897,184 ..	888,269
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,193,000 ..	973,000 ..	784,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to June 17, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	197,093	192,000	194,355
" Manchester	211,915	200,362	222,800
Total Shipments to Great Britain	409,008	392,362	417,155
Shipments to France and Spain	114,674	109,939	100,527
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	199,749	184,396	177,594
Shipments to Russia	71,134	63,109	62,807
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,116	805	919
Total Shipments to Continent	387,673	358,249	341,847
Shipments to U.S. America	79,003	119,265	109,175
Ditto to India and Japan	20,992	19,372	17,569
Total Shipments to all parts	896,676	889,248	885,746
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamer Sailed.

June 24.—"City of Oxford."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—The demand for Egyptian spot since our last report has been generally moderate, the sales amounting in 1,900 bales, as against 2,700 last week. Doubtless holidays had the effect of limiting inquiry, but in any case spinners seem reluctant to buy, except when absolutely obliged. The bulk of the sales consists of medium-grade Afifi and Nubari. In other growths only a small business was done. Quotations are reduced 5 points, except good, fine, and extra fine Nubari, Joannovitch and Sakellarides, which are unchanged.

CROPS IN SYRIA.

Favourable Outlook for 1914.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, June 10.

The crop outlook in general for 1914 promises a material improvement on that of last year. The principal factors in this improvement have been a good and timely rainfall, and a more settled condition of things that has resulted in the decrease of emigration. Owing to the absence of an official bureau of information and to the Oriental tendency to exaggeration, the forecasts cannot be considered absolutely trustworthy; but as a point has been made of collecting the information from merchants of authority and long experience the estimates may be considered as near the reality as it is possible to arrive.

In this country the wanton work of deforestation that has been going on for centuries—animals as well as men have contributed to the work of destruction—has caused the rainfall to be capricious and unevenly distributed, but this year it has been generally abundant. Still, owing to the widely different nature of the soil and the lie of the land, also to want of proper drainage works, the rainfall sometimes produces contrary results. Thus abundant rains in low and deep lands, as in the Mersyne district, are apt to swamp the crops, while the contrary effect would be caused in high and shallow lands. The same applies in a way to the period of the rainfall. In Gaza, early spring rains are necessary, owing to the hot nature of the sandy soil and the early ripening of the grain, while in other parts late spring rains are necessary. This year, owing to the dry weather that prevailed in February, the Gaza crops have suffered, while the crops in the other districts have not been affected; but have, indeed, benefited by the late spring rains.

In the following summary each district is treated separately. The principal port of each district is particularly indicated, as this report is intended rather for shipping purposes.

Jaffa.—The orange crop, which is by far the most important article of export, including the small proportion of lemons and bitters, is expected to be about the same as last year's—namely, 1,600,000 cases exported. The sesame seed exports are expected to reach about 2,500 tons. The bean crop is small, and there will be hardly any for export. The wheat crop is better than that of last year throughout Palestine, and there may be a small export movement if prices abroad are favourable. The wine crop promises to be good. On the other hand, the olive crop is poor, and imports from Smyrna and neighbourhood continue. The lupine crop is fair, and the bulk of the exports are expected to go to Egypt. There is a large water melon crop. The almond crop is middling.

As regards the barley crop of Gaza, which is included as usual in the Jaffa district, the total quantity available for export is expected to be only about 8,000 tons. This partial failure of the Gaza crop is due to the dry weather in February, mentioned above.

Haifa and Acre.—The crops in general in this district and in the southern part of the Hauran, the exports from which pass through Haifa, are better than last year's. The estimated crop of wheat is about 22,000 tons, of which a good part is expected to be exported to Europe, and principally Italy; barley about 3,000 tons, which, it is anticipated, will be hardly sufficient for local needs and the requirements of Medina; beans about 1,500 tons; peas very abundant, both in Haifa, Acre and Hauran districts; the total quantity of the crop being estimated at about 12,000 tons, of which Marseilles is likely to absorb the largest part. The lentil crop, which is estimated at 1,500 tons, is fair, but still far superior to that of last year. The dari seed crop is estimated at about 2,500 tons, against a production of less than 7,800 tons last year. There will be a large sesame seed crop estimated at about 12,000 tons. The locust bean crop is estimated at about 5,750 tons.

Sidon (Tyre).—The lemon crop, which is the most important article of export, is estimated at about 150,000 boxes, and the orange crop at about 120,000 boxes. Owing to the good demand for fruit, even locally, the orange and lemon cultivation is constantly on the increase. The wheat crop in the plains is expected to be about 30 per cent. less than that of last year, which was also defective. On the high lands, where the rainfall is more plentiful, the crop is good.

The barley crop, both in the plains and in the hills, will probably be double that of last year. Beans are abundant, except in Sidon itself; lentil a smaller crop than last year, but a fair average in general; of peas and fenugrec there is a very good crop. As far as can be judged at this early stage. Maize and dari seed will be better than last year. Locust beans are middling.

The late rains in the spring have done the lemon trees a great deal of good, and it is expected that the crop will be unusually early this year, the first shipment may take place about the middle of August. Owing to the failure of the Italian and Sicilian crop, a good trade may be done with Liverpool, given proper tonnage facilities.

Beyrout.—This port has lost its importance as an export trade centre, after the construction of the Tripoli-Homs Railway to the North and of the Hedjaz railway branch, Damascus-Haifa, to the South. It taps now only the products of the Bekaa and Damascus, and of the northern part of the Hauran. As it is a comparatively large town, its local consumption is such as to leave little grain available for export. The total exports of wheat for this year are expected to reach about 1,000 tons, or the same quantity as last year; barley about 2,000 tons against half this quantity in 1913; peas 1,500 tons against 1,000 tons in 1913; beans 500 tons against 200 tons in 1913; lentils about 200 tons, the same as last year; dari-seed and maize poor prospects; last year's exports of these two commodities were practically nil. A good part of the wool clip continues to find its way through Beyrout. Between Beyrout, Tripoli, and the other coast ports this year's clip is expected to be about 5,250 T. against 4,150 T. in 1913, half of which was shipped to the United States, while two-thirds of the remaining half supplied military needs at Constantinople. The exports of apricot kernels for 1913 amounted to about 16,000 bags, but the estimated quantity for 1914 is about 12-13,000 bags. The exports from China sometimes offer a keen competition to the Syrian article.

(To be continued.)

EGYPTIAN HIDE IMPORTS.

The following information is extracted from the *Bulletin* of the French Chamber of Commerce, of Alexandria :—

According to Customs statistics, the imports of tanned ox and calf skins have decreased by 10 per cent. from 1907 to date. Sheep and goat skins, on the contrary, show an increase of 50 to 60 per cent. This is due to the fact that the prices of the latter products have remained almost stationary during the past few years, while those of ox and calf hides have increased from 25 to 30 per cent., and to the population being accustomed to wear, in preference, shoes made of goat and sheep skins owing to their cheapness.

In the importation of tanned ox and calf skins, England, according to Customs statistics, is at the head of other nations. France occupies the second place, and is still progressing.

The principal exports from England into Egypt are machine straps, the consumption of which is in proportion to the utilisation of new machines, and, consequently, to the industrial progress of the country. We may add that the import figures of this article have not increased in the same ratio as those for boot leather.

England also exports skins manufactured in America, the consumption of which is constantly progressing. Merchants prefer treating with England because the distance between Egypt and America being much more considerable, business with the latter country is more difficult from the point of view of rapidity of execution of orders; the question of credits is also considered.

As American tanned sheep skins are much appreciated in Egypt, it is to be expected that their importation will become still more considerable, and that the total figure of the British exports for Egypt will grow in consequence.

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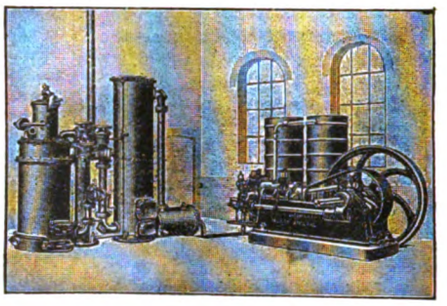

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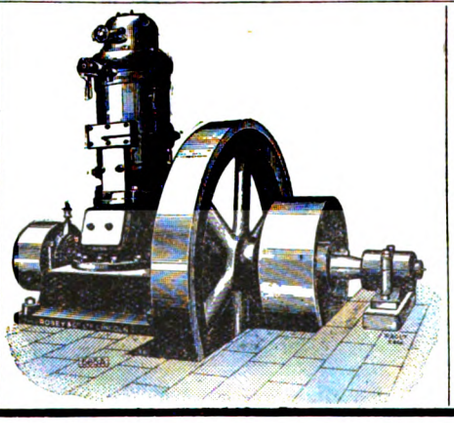

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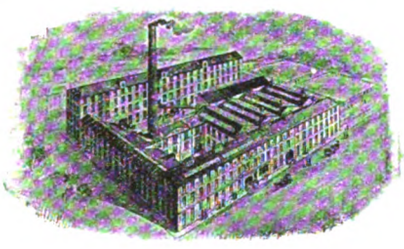

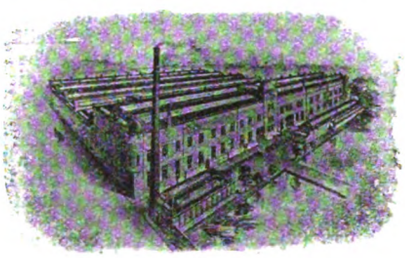

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Engineering Notes.

Locomotives for Egypt.

According to *The Egyptian Mail*, fifteen more express locomotives, of the same type as those recently delivered to the Egyptian State Railways, will shortly be put up for tender. There are at present five of this type, numbered 735 to 739, and they have worked very successfully. It is found that they are able to keep time with heavy loads against the head winds so often met with in the Delta. These locomotives were built by the German firm of Henschel, and though the tender for the fifteen additional engines will, of course, be open to firms of any nationality, Messrs. Henschel, through the experience they have already gained (says our contemporary), will probably be able to offer at substantially lower figures than any of their rivals. The cost of these will amount to about £E50,000.

The Heluan Railway.

The doubling of the Heluan Railway is proceeding rapidly, says *The Egyptian Mail*. Last week the new set of rails from Tura reached Massara Station, a distance of five kilometres, and the work of sleeper-laying between Massara and Heluan, seven kilometres, has now been commenced. There is a wide masonry storm water culvert between the last two-named stations, and work on the strengthening of this has begun, while work on the bridge between Tura and Massara, though still in hand, is nearly completed. It is understood that the State Railway engineers hope to have all new construction between Tura and Heluan completed early in July, after which the replacing of the old permanent-way will begin.

Economy of Coal.

If there is one reason more than another which discourages the employment of steam power for industrial or agricultural purposes in the East, it is the cost of coal. It is an item which, in the calculations of cost of engine work, appears with discouraging results; and this is more noticeable when the steam power is wanted for remote districts where coal costs more than double the price than that ruling in England. It will be interesting to users and would-be users of steam engines, therefore, to learn that there is a new and cheap process, of extensive application, for the treatment of coal, by which considerable economy is effected. It has been proved by experts that if bituminous coal be immersed in water containing gas chlorine in solution, the coal absorbs the gas to the extent of 0.10 per cent. Small though this proportion is, the effect on the bitumen fuel is remarkable, causing it to burn like anthracite coal, that is to say, slowly and without the formation of soot or smoke, or much ash. In a boiler test the evaporation was 25 per cent. better with a "chlorinated" bituminous slack than with similar but untreated material. Here, therefore, is a cheap process by which coal can be treated that may not be burnt in the present wasteful way, and thus afford considerable economy in cost of fuel, and with better results.

Bulgarian Port Developments.

Some interesting information on railway and port developments in Bulgaria is given in the report of H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia (Mr. W. B. Heard). The report states that the port of Bourgas, during and since the war, has been greatly congested, owing to the lack of rolling-stock to transport the accumulated merchandise. Under such circumstances the warehousing accommodation is altogether insufficient, and goods stored on the quays have been greatly damaged by wet. Large orders for rolling-stock are to be given in the future, as the requirements for grain transport alone can hardly be met under present conditions. With reference to the development of Porto Lagos, the report states that it is hoped that in time Porto Lagos may become a Mediterranean port of the first class. At the outset upwards of £1,000,000 is to be expended, and the construction of the port is to be put up to public tender. It is said that the harbour is to lie somewhat to the south-east of the present town. As regards Dedeagatch, it is not intended to construct a harbour there, and the place will accordingly remain an open roadstead as heretofore. As freights for Dedeagatch are high, owing to its unprotected position, it seems doubtful if it will secure much of the seaborne trade now passing through Varna and Bourgas. When Porto Lagos, however, is fully developed, this harbour should prove the principal port for the trade of Bulgaria. It is hardly necessary to point out the great advantage which will be gained for Anglo-Bulgarian commerce by the opening of this port.

Naphthalene as Fuel.

A short time ago a German engineering firm constructed an internal combustion engine specially designed to run on nephthalene, a solid gas-works product that requires to be melted in a special receptacle on the engine before it can be vaporised. It has been demonstrated that by using the new fuel an economy of 60 per cent. over the old liquid fuel can be effected, and with the new type of engine it is now being introduced in the Continent and the Near East with some success.

A good deal has been heard lately about solid oil fuel. Experiments made with it both on ships and in locomotives are reported to have given very satisfactory results; but the question whether it has greater advantages than liquid fuel is not yet finally announced, and the advantages and disadvantages of both varieties continue to give rise to heated discussion by their respective advocates. In these notes we have already recognised the advantages possessed by solid fuel in regard to overland transport facilities, which are an important consideration in many parts of the Near East, where goods have frequently to be carried long distances by mule or camel; but we have been inclined to think that upon the whole the advantage lay in the liquid fuel. If, however, naphthalene is proved to effect the economy claimed for it we may have to reconsider our verdict.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Uniforms.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of the uniforms necessary for the staff of the Postal Administration during four years, from 1915 to 1918, inclusive. July 31.

Steel Sheets.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of 1,500 galvanised mild steel sheets. July 29.

Lininette, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of lininette and tarlatan, calico and drill, and grey cloth. July 30 (L.).

Calico and Drill.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of calico and drill. August 5 (L.).

Costumes.—Tenders are invited by the Parquet of the Native Court of Appeal, Cairo, for the supply of 265 coffee-coloured costumes for the guards of the Courts of First Instance, etc. July 23.

Swing Bridge.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the construction of a swing bridge over Rêyah Tawfiki, at Kafr Shokr, July 2.

Swing Bridges, etc.—The Director-General, 3, Soliman Pasha Street, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of six swing span bridges and nine lift span bridges for the Central Gharbia drainage projects. September 30.

TRADE OF ROUMANIA.

According to a forthcoming report for the year 1913 of H.M. Consul-General at Galatz (Major J. G. Baldwin, C.B.), extracts from which are published by *The Board of Trade Journal*, United Kingdom merchants do not seem to be over eager to push their wares in the Roumanian market. While their Continental competitors have representatives in the country to nurse the market, British exporters are content to leave their interests in the hands of local commission agents. There is little doubt that United Kingdom interests have suffered greatly in the past from the lack of proper representation, and United Kingdom merchants are strongly recommended to follow their rivals' example and send out capable and energetic travellers to study the conditions and needs of the Roumanian market. Travellers should be capable of transacting business either in German or in French, failing Roumanian, and catalogues should always be in one of these languages.

Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Italy and Belgium are the chief competitors of the United Kingdom in the Roumanian market. Germany has the largest share in the trade, and her proportion remains more or less stationary. Austria-Hungary, which comes next, is steadily increasing her share. With these two countries the United Kingdom shares over 70 per cent. of the total import trade, but her own quota shows a slight but almost steady decrease. France maintains an almost steady position, but both Italy and Belgium are annually contributing a larger proportion of the total imports. The United States, whose wares a few years ago were rarely seen in Roumania, is also rapidly coming to the front.

Continental manufacturers, and especially those of Austria-Hungary and Italy, have a distinct advantage over their United Kingdom rivals in the Roumanian market owing to geographical position and to cheaper freight rates. Quick delivery by rail tells heavily in favour of Continental manufacturers in those classes of goods which are of high value in relation to their bulk, such as textiles and machinery, and it is precisely in these lines that the United Kingdom is losing ground. The advantage of railway transport is less marked in the case of bulky goods, such as iron, coal and chemicals, and in these goods United Kingdom merchants are increasing their share of the trade.

The new territory which Roumania has acquired is entirely agricultural, the chief product being wheat. There is said to be a great scarcity of commodities in general, and the prices of some of the commonest articles of every-day use are very high. The territory is sadly in need of roads and railways, and the postal facilities also are very poor. The Government, however, seems to be intent on developing the district as rapidly as possible, as the soil is said to be very fertile, and the territory when once opened up should add considerably to Roumania's resources as a grain-producing country.

With the opening up of the territory there is likely to be a marked increase in the demand for agricultural and industrial machinery, and United Kingdom manufacturers would do well to keep an eye on the possibilities of this new market.

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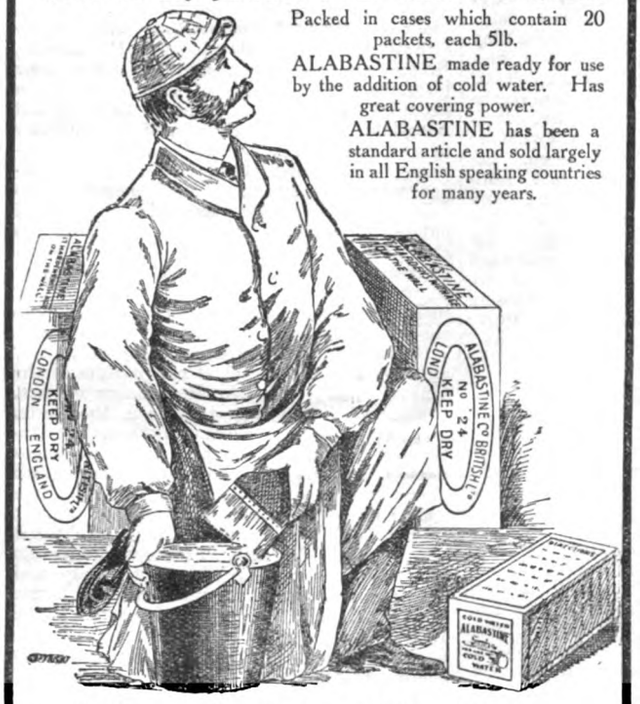

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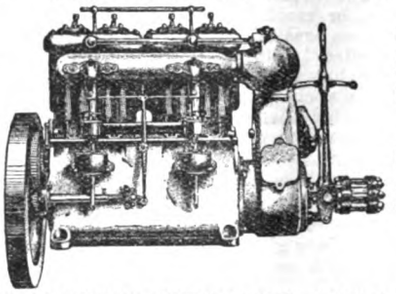

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EGYPT AND THE U.S.A.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 19.

In spite of several attempts, no success has attended the endeavour to start a direct steamship line between Egypt and the United States. This failure is not due to lack of freight, but to the agreement which has been arrived at between the British and German steamship lines.

Egyptian cotton, destined for the manufacturing centres of Providence, Fall River, and New Bedford, has to be despatched to England, where it is transhipped for Boston or New York.

I learn that the Phalère Shipping Company intends to start a direct line between Egypt and the United States.

ROUMANIAN DANUBE PORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 20.

The Roumanian Ministry of Public Works intends greatly improving all Danube ports, and thirty million francs is to be devoted to this. One million is to be spent at once on the port of Silistria, and a like sum on Oltenitza. This is of importance to Great Britain, many lighters on the river being British owned and flying the Red Ensign.

BLACK SEA FREIGHTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 21.

There has been very little business done during the week, and the tone of the market remains dull and lifeless. Some few parcels were taken for Rotterdam at 5s. 6d., for Hamburg at 6s. and 6s. 3d. was obtained with difficulty. Grain cargo continues very scarce, and the arrivals from the interior are still dwindling. There can be no active revival before the new crops are harvested. At Nicolaieff the grain trade is at a practical standstill. A ship on the Rotterdam berth has been twelve days collecting parcels at an average rate of 5s. 9d., and a part cargo for Hamburg was accepted at 6s. 3d. Beyond this nothing was done in the Bug port except for 2,000 tons taken by a steamer for Genoa at 9frs. (7s. 6d.). At Kherson, two ships have been berthed for Rotterdam at 5s. 6d. For later shipment cargo has been booked for Hamburg at 6s. 3d., and for the Weser at 6s. 6d. At Novorossisk business is somewhat better, but rates are low, namely, 6s. Rotterdam; 6s. 3d. Weser; and 6s. 6d. Hamburg. These rates, have, however, fallen 3d. since yesterday in consequence of the arrival of extra tonnage. From Khorli and Skadovsk there is no demand at all. At Theodosia a steamer has been ten days collecting a part cargo for Rotterdam at 5s. 6d., and was then compelled to go to Novorossisk to complete.

Greek Shipping Warned.

All Greek shipping in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff was instructed a week ago through the Consuls to leave these waters with the least possible delay. Many of them left in ballast. Pleading *force majeure*, the shippers declined to fulfil their loading contracts, and cargo-insurance premiums were suddenly raised to a prohibitive figure.

In view of the possibility of another Greco-Turkish rupture, and the consequent reclosing of the Dardanelles, the Black Sea and Azoff Bourses and Chambers of Commerce are again petitioning the Imperial Government to obtain the neutralisation of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

According to *The Motor Boat*, a company has recently been formed to supply new naval vessels to the Turkish Government, and we understand that Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., have secured the contract. All classes of vessels are included in the scheme from Dreadnoughts to dinghies, and a sum of £20,000,000 has been apportioned, making a record for shipbuilding contracts.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Liverpool May 22. "Esneh."—At Liverpool May 22. "Hathor."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Left London June 21. "Karnak."—At Liverpool June 18. "Khephren."—At Batoum June 22. "Meroe."—Alexandria/Liverpool. Passed Scilly June 22. "Moeris."—At Alexandria June 20. "Sebek."—At Glasgow June 21. "Siptah."—Poti/Liverpool. At Constantinople June 16.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Liverpool June 18. "Barnesmore."—At Antwerp June 4. "Barrowmore."—Liverpool/Piræus. Passed Gibraltar June 19. "Cranmore."—At Galatz June 5. "Edenmore."—At Sulina June 17. "Foylemore."—At Sulina June 11. "Heathmore."—Kustendje/Antwerp. At Galatz June 5. "Incemore."—At Antwerp June 22. "Kenmore."—Sulina/Antwerp. Passed Constantinople June 19. "Larchmore."—Sulina/Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar June 19.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—At Antwerp June 17. "Corsican Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria June 14. "Creole Prince."—At Syrian Coast June 10. "Egyptian Prince."—Odessa/Liverpool. At Kherson June 17. "Italian Prince."—At Alexandria June 15. "Kaffir Prince."—London/Alexandria. Passed Gibraltar June 20. "Merchant Prince."—At Alexandria June 24. "Norman Prince."—At Manchester. "Orange Prince."—At Syrian Coast June 15. "Saxon Prince."—Novorossisk for Hamburg June 12. "Sailor Prince."—At Nicolaieff June 17. "Soldier Prince."—At Alexandria June 15. "Stuart Prince."—Kherson/Rotterdam. Passed Sagres June 17. "Tudor Prince."—At Manchester. "Trojan Prince."—At Liverpool.

Ellerman Line.

"Algerian."—At Port Sudan June 22. "Assiout."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria June 17. "Asturian."—Left Batoum for Constantinople June 18. "Belgravian."—Left Catania for Patras June 19. "Bosnian."—At Alexandria June 12. "Britannia."—Left Constantinople for Rodosto June 19. "Castilian."—Left Swansea for Malta June 16. "City of Khios."—Liverpool/Malta. Left Algiers June 19. "City of Oxford."—At Alexandria May 22. "Italian."—Left Liverpool for Mediterranean June 20. "Mardinian."—At Alexandria June 14. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Venetian."—Algiers/Syra. Left Malta June 17.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—At Constantinople June 20. "Caria."—At Genoa June 19. "Carpathia."—Naples/New York. Left Gibraltar June 22. "Cypria."—At Poti June 18. "Lycia."—Taganrog/Liverpool. Passed Sagres June 19. "Pannonia."—Left New York for Mediterranean June 20. "Pavia."—At Algiers June 21. "Phrygia."—At Manchester June 15. "Saxonia."—New York/Mediterranean. Left Gibraltar June 22. "Thracia."—Left Liverpool for Constantinople June 17. "Tyria."—At Marionpol June 22. "Ultonia."—Left Trieste for Fiume June 23. "Veria."—Passed Gibraltar June 17.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—At New York June 22. "Circassia."—Birkenhead/Bombay. Passed Perim June 19. "Italia."—At Genoa June 21. "Massilia."—Bombay/Marseilles. Left Port Said June 22. "Olympia."—At Bombay June 9. "Perugia."—At Naples June 21. "Scindia."—Birkenhead/Bombay. Left Gibraltar June 21.

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"Arabia."—At Bombay May 29. "Arcadia."—London/Bombay. Left Aden June 22. "China."—Left Bombay for Aden June 20. "Devanha."—At Bombay June 22. "India."—Bombay/London. Left Port Said June 22. "Nankin."—Left Calcutta for London June 17. "Nore."—London/Calcutta. At Colombo June 18. "Nyanza."—At Calcutta June 10. "Osiris."—At Port Said June 17. "Palawan."—At Port Sudan May 6. "Persia."—London/Bombay. Passed Dover June 20. "Salsette."—At Bombay June 19. "Sardinia."—At London June 20. "Sicilia."—London/Calcutta. Left Suez June 19. "Somali."—At Southampton March 19. "Soudan."—At Southampton Feb. 19.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—Left London for Bombay June 20. "Chantala."—At Bombay June 16. "Chinkoa."—London/Calcutta. At Bombay June 5. "Chupra."—Bombay/Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar June 22. "Chyebassa."—Calcutta/London. Left Colombo June 22. "Culna."—London/Bombay. Left Suez June 12. "Malda."—At Calcutta June 7. "Nevassa."—At Calcutta June 19. "Neuralia."—London/Calcutta. Left Aden June 17. "Takada."—At Calcutta May 9. "Tanda."—London/Calcutta. Left Marseilles June 20. "Varela."—London/Calcutta. Left Suez June 19.

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In rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts, it is my painful duty to refer, with much regret, to the loss we sustained in April last, by the death of Mons. Paul Révoil, who, since his retirement from the position of Director-General in Constantinople, had placed his valuable experience at the disposal of the Bank in Paris. The railway receipts show, in the aggregate, an increase as compared with the year 1912:—

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Smyrna-Cassaba(old lines)	278,477	229,166	+ 49,311
" (extensions)	68,530	73,052	— 4,522
Rayak-Aleppo	145,628	136,995	+ 8,633
	1,270,699	1,261,208	+ 9,491
Bagdad	101,430	62,563	+ 38,867
	1,372,129	1,323,771	+ 48,358

The amounts paid by the Ottoman Public Debt to these companies for insufficiency of receipts were as follows:—

	1913. £T.	1912. £T.	Difference £T.
Haidar Pacha-Angora	—	—	—
Eski Chéhir-Konia	12,708	—	+ 12,708
Smyrna-Cassaba(old lines)	—	—	—
" (extensions)	139,963	135,263	+ 4,700
Rayak-Aleppo	51,622	61,097	— 9,475
	204,293	196,360	+ 7,933
Bagdad	18,365	—	+ 18,365
	222,658	196,360	+ 26,298

The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, after having paid the kilometric guarantees and the annuities of the various Loans, the service of which is secured on the tithes and sheep tax, has been able to show a disposable surplus from this source of about one million two hundred and fifty thousand Turkish pounds, which is the largest amount yet recorded. In April last, five hundred million francs out of the authorised eight hundred million francs, Ottoman 5 per cent. loan of 1914, was issued in Paris. As regards our agencies; we opened during the year, 1913, branches at Djeddah, Hodeidah, Ourfa, and Bolou, and since the beginning of the present year further branches at Dardanelles and Zahlé. On the other hand, as the result of the annexation of Tripoli, our branch there was closed last year; while during the present year we have disposed of our branches at Monastir and Uskub, as those towns no longer belong to Turkey. We are very much indebted to our Direction in Constantinople, and to our staff both at home and abroad, for their attention to the business of the bank during the past year, which has been one of some difficulty. I now, Gentlemen, beg to move: "That the report and accounts now read be received and adopted; that the dividend for the year ending December 31, 1913, be fixed at 14s. per share, and that this dividend be paid in Constantinople, London, and Paris, on July 1, 1914." This was seconded by Viscount Goschen, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman also moved: "That M. Charles de Cerjat, Le Comte Adrien de Germiny, Mr. E. W. H. Barry, and Lord Hillingdon be and they are hereby re-elected members of the General Committee." This was seconded by the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, which was proposed by Mr. A. Hood and seconded by Mr. F. O. Grant, ended the proceedings.

GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.

The report of the directors for the year ended February 28, 1914, submitted to the ordinary general meeting of shareholders held on May 30 last, states that the area of the company's estates on February 28, 1914, was 7,929 feddans 20 kirats 3 sahms, the balance-sheet value of which is £E427,042.658. This amount includes, in addition to the cost price, all expenditure on improvements, buildings, etc., up to the date of closing the books. The raising of the Assuan dam heralded a new epoch in the agricultural history of Egypt, and results have not been slow in verifying the anticipations referred to in the last report. Thus the manifest insufficiency of the water supply during low Nile and the exceptionally low flood of 1913 would have seriously compromised the success of the crops and caused incalculable loss to the country if the Ministry of Public Works had not had at its disposal the enormous reserve of water held up by the raised dam to meet such a contingency. Thanks to the judicious disposal of this reserve, the Irrigation Department was able not only to avert disaster, but also generally to insure a better distribution of irrigation water, notably in the Damietta branch of the Nile, than in 1912. Fortunately, experience shows that low Niles generally occur in series and at wide intervals. We may, therefore, infer that the period of drought through which Egypt has passed will be followed by one of high, or at least normal, floods.* Despite, however, the scarcity of water and other adverse circumstances with which it was necessary to contend, the company's crops in 1913 gave better results than in former years. The improvement must be attributed principally to the efficient local management of the estates and to the unremitting efforts of the senior officials. The numerous legal expropriations of landed property now in progress, and possibly to a certain extent the uncertainty which continues to prevail in the political affairs of the Balkan States, have adversely affected the Egyptian land market, and in 1913 sales of land were practically nil. The directors are, however, pleased to announce that the company is on the eve of concluding an important sale, namely, that of the ex-Wilson property of 2,165 feddans, part of the sale price being met by an exchange. Full particulars of this transaction, which relates to the current financial year, will be given in the next annual report. As stated above, the working results in 1913 were in general more satisfactory than in previous years, notwithstanding the abnormal lowness of the Nile and the repeated attacks of insect pests. The improvement is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	Cotton Cantars.	Rice Daribas.
1910-11.....	4,843	—
1911-12.....	5,665	307
1912-13.....	4,982	30
1913-14.....	6,600	1,276

The total value of the 1913-14 crops amounted to between £E36,000 and £E37,000, the major part of which was encashed by the company in payment of rents, annual instalments on land sales, arrears, etc. The surplus reverted to the company's tenants, who will, it is hoped, invest it in the purchase of land during the current financial year. The shares this company holds in the Koubbeh Gardens and the Société Agricole de Kafr-el-Dawar are not quoted officially, and, as in previous years, have been taken into the balance-sheet at their par value. Any depreciation that may have occurred in these shares would be compensated for by the appreciation in the company's lands, a fact which is borne out by the sales already made and the sale of the ex-Wilson property now nearing completion. Debtors' accounts comprise rents in arrear, loans to cultivators, accounts to be adjusted, suspense accounts, etc. A sum of £E1,500 has been reserved out of the profits of the year to amortise such of these debts as seem to be doubtful or irrecoverable, although the amount on the debit side of the balance-sheet under the heading "Reserve for profits not yet encashed" is ample to meet any eventual loss in this respect. The same percentages have been written off as usual. The amount of unpaid calls is £E690 less than the figure on February 28, 1913. Creditors' accounts comprise, in addition to bank credits and sums advanced by the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company, balances due to contractors, interest accrued but not yet due, suspense accounts, etc. After deducting, from the year's receipts, administration and other ordinary expenses incurred during the financial year, there is a net profit of £E14,167.049, viz.:—

Receipts.	£E.
Agricultural income.....	18,271.635
Interest.....	5,596.037
Land reclamation for third parties	669.142
Profits realised and not encashed (sum available)	515.
	25,051.814

Expenditure.	£E.	
Agricultural working expenses ..	8,872.	
Proportion of administration expenses	1,892.624	
Depreciation on office furniture, etc.....	120.141	10,884.765
Net Profit....		14,167.049
This amount is in excess of that at 28th February, 1913, although there were no sales of land during the year.		
Balance brought forward from the previous year.....		2,609.440
		16,776.489
Less Interest and 5% debenture coupon, etc.		14,407.731
Balance		2,368.758

Exceptional expenditure.	£E.	
Doubtful debts	1,500.	
Partial amortisation of cost of issue and redemption of the 5½% mortgage bonds.....	1,500.	3,000.
Less above balance		2,368.758
Debit balance		631.242

which the directors propose to carry forward.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting:—

This meeting approves unanimously the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account relating to the eighth financial year ended February 28, 1914, and grants a discharge to the board of directors in respect of their administration of the company's affairs.

It resolves to carry forward to the next account the debit balance of profit and loss account.

It re-elects H. E. Mansour N. Shakour Pasha and M. Philippe L. von Hemert as directors.

It appoints MM. F. H. Russell and Léon Rolin as auditors for the current financial year, and fixes their joint remuneration at £E150.

Balance Sheet.

The following is the balance-sheet of the company as at Feb. 28, 1914.

Dr. To Capital:—	£E M.	£E M.
100,000 Shares of £E 4 each..	400,000 —	
Less unpaid calls.....	14,164 —	
		385,836 —
100,000 Founders' Shares....		
Mortgage Debentures (5%)....		
1910 Issue—guaranteed by a mortgage on the Company's lands, including lands sold since 1910	199,875 —	
1912 Issue—guaranteed by a legal charge on lands sold before 1910.....	26,325 —	
		226,200 —
Creditors:—		
Loans from bankers, etc.	24,665 782	
Sundry creditors—		
Estates	2,437 979	
Head Office and suspense account	6,096 871	
		33,200 632
Reserve for profits not yet encashed		19,225—
Reserve for doubtful debts....		1,500—
Statutory reserve		1,415 878
		667,377 510

Cr. By Cash at bank and in hand	£E M.	£E M 7,197 489
Lands, 7929 f. 20 k. 3 s.:—		
Purchase price, expenditure improvements, etc.....	404,005 452	
Buildings, agricultural plant, etc.....	23,037 206	
		427,042 658
Share investments:—		
Koubbeh Gardens, 8,750 shares of £E4 each at par.....	35,000 —	
Kafr-el-Dawar, 4,000 shares of Frs. 250 each, at par and 200 founders' shares	39,425 913	
		74,425 913
Purchasers of lands:—		
Instalments unmatured	59,181 746	
Annual instalments in arrear	8,072 623	
		67,254 369
Mortgage loans.....		4,260 —
Land reclamation for third parties.....		605 816
Debtors:—		
Tenants in arrear and debtors on estates	28,755 532	
Sundry debtors—Head office and suspense accounts....	14,088 379	
		42,843 911
Sundry accounts (to be amortised):—		
Preliminary expenses	908 210	
Office furniture	173 037	
Issue and redemption expenses of the 5½ per cent. Mortgage Bonds.....	6,638 575	
Cost of issue of 5 per cent. Debentures (first and second series) and loan charges	35,396 290	
		43,116 112
Profit and loss account.....		631 242
		£E667,377 510

* See extract from Lord Kitchener's Report on Egypt and the Sudan for 1912, reproduced in footnote on page 2 of our 1912-13 Report.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 680,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING, HON. ALGERNON MILLS, SIR CARL MEYER, Bart., HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, July 1.

STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is June 23.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Wed., July 8	Thurs., July 9	Fri., July 10
Mon., July 27	Tues., July 28	Wed., July 29

LONDON, June 25.

The market continues inactive. There has been a slight revival in the investment section, but no big business of any sort. Speculation is absolutely dead. Brokers, whether inside or outside the House, do not do a bargain a day. The inaction is probably due to nervousness in regard to Ulster. Until that question is settled we shall have no revival in the Stock markets. New issues do not appear to be going particularly well. The Union of South Africa is an excellent Trustee security. Borax Consolidated Deferred shares have been offered through Messrs. George Clare and Co., but whether the public purchased is doubtful. The City of Kieff also came in the market with a loan of over two millions, a reasonable security at a moderate price.

Money Plentiful.

Money is plentiful, and if there is no foreign complication and the Ulster question can be settled we shall get a 2½ per cent. Bank rate within a month.

The Bulgarian Loan.

In the Foreign market Egyptian Unified have been offered and are now quoted 99¼. The inscribed stock is called 83, and a fair business has been done. The statement that a group of English bankers will advance money to Bulgaria has now been denied. The loan will probably go to Germany. Bulgarian Four and a-Half per Cents. are quoted at 82. The latest news from Greece is more peaceable, and Greek Fours made up at 52. Hungarian Rentes carried over at 82. Turkish Unified carried over at 81, and look like going harder.

Home Rails Depressed.

The Home Railway market remains very depressed. Metropolitans have been sold on the abandonment of the bill. Both Great Western and Great Northern continue to hold their own and both stocks are very much under-valued. Great Western return 5½ per cent. at the present price.

Yankees Weak.

Americans are weak. The more the recent decision in regard to the Inter-Mountain rates is considered the less it is liked. Baltimore and Ohio figures are bad, and it is possible that this road will reduce its dividend. Southern Pacific have been purchased. Steel figures for June promise to be very bad. The only chance of a rise in the America market lies in the hope that the Inter-State Commerce Commission will allow rates to be raised.

Rubber and Oil.

Plantation rubber has fallen to 2s. 3d. Sialang maintains its 15 per cent. dividend, but the shares seem over-valued. Bukit Mertajam pays 6¼ per cent., and on prospects for the current year should double this distribution. Therefore, the shares are cheap. The Spies report is unsatisfactory. The Directors do not speak hopefully of the chance of getting the water out of the wells in the Baskakoff plots. Until the trouble has been overcome it seems wise to keep out of the market. Galician Oil Trust seems likely to be wound up compulsorily. No one should join the reconstruction, as on the figures the funds to be provided would hardly keep the company going six months.

Mines Idle.

There is no business doing in Kaffirs. Some small purchases of Modders and Brakpans have been made from the Cape, but no news that would justify these purchases has been published. Chartered continue most depressed. Russian Mining Corporation report, although it promises large contracts from drainage works in St. Petersburg, failed to move the market.

Egyptians More Active.

The Egyptian market shows a little more activity, but there has been a good deal of selling of National Banks, which are now down to 14. On the other hand, Agricultural Banks have been purchased up to 4⅞, and the deferred have been inquired for at 280. Land Banks have been dealt in at 6⅜. Bank of Abyssinia are 5s. Delta Light Railway prefs. made up at 8½. There has been quite a fair business doing in Delta Lands, which made up at 9s.—some thousands of shares have been bought during the past few days. There has been a little trade done in Behera, which make up at 9. Union Foncière are 21s. 3d. Alexandria Water have been dealt in at 12½ ex dividend. There has been some buying of Aboukir at 21s., and the make-up price hardened to 1 1-16. United Lands have been dealt in at 1s. 9d., at which price they carried over. Sidi Salem remain unchanged at 5s. Gharbieh Land, the report of which appears in another column, carried over at 1⅜. Egyptian Investment Trusts have been dealt in at 5s. Markets are a shade weaker on the death of Mr. Allen Joseph, being now 23s. Khedivial Mail prefs. are 3¾, and the ordinary 10s. Daira Sanieh are nominally 3s.

COMPANY NOTES.

Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the year 1913, presented at the meeting on Wednesday, states that, after providing for bad and doubtful debts out of revenue and provisions previously made, the amount available is £362,067, which, added to the balance brought forward, gives £384,467 at the credit of the profit and loss account. After deducting from this sum the amount required for the percentages, in accordance with the statutes, there remains £373,260, and of this the committee recommends a distribution of 14s. per share, equal to 7 per cent., leaving £23,260 to be carried forward.

Sulzer Brothers.

This concern is to be transformed into a limited liability company, with a capital of 24 million francs. The two 4½ per cent. loans for five and seven million francs respectively, issued in 1908 and 1912, will be redeemed or converted into 5 per cent. shares in a new issue of sixteen million francs.

Lake Copais.

The report of the Lake Copais Company, Limited, for the year 1913, to be presented at the general meeting on July 2, states that the profit, after charging interest on the prior lien bonds, amounting to £5,652, was £7,577. From this £1,500 has been transferred to reserve and the balance is carried to the A debenture stockholders' interest account, making, with £25 brought forward, a total of £6,102 at their credit. The directors recommend a distribution of 3 per cent. (subject to deduction for income-tax) on the A debenture stock. In accordance with the resolutions passed last year, this distribution will be paid in fully-paid 6 per cent. second prior lien bonds at par. Fractions of £5 will be paid in cash. The area of land cultivated was 30,325 acres, against 31,740 acres in the previous year. The falling off in the results was due to the reduction in the area under cultivation, consequent upon the war and to flooding, and also to a lower range of prices for produce. Of the area of 30,325 acres mentioned, the farms department cultivated 892 acres only, against 2,219 in the year 1912 and 4,999 acres in the year 1911. The reduction has been made in pursuance of the policy already announced. Snow and rain in February, 1913, resulted in the flooding of some 12,500 acres of land, of which 7,500 acres had been sown. As a result 5,270 acres of the 30,325 acres cultivated produced no crop. The principal works of the year were the completion of the new gas pumping station, the installation of new turbines in the electric generating station, and the improvement of canals, drains and storehouse accommodation.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, June 19.

Share Market.

The marked fall in cotton has seriously depressed the market. Dealings have been restricted, and demand has slackened owing to the departure of our leading financiers for Europe.

The Zervudachi Estate.

The sale by public auction of 511 feddans of land, situated at Alf, in the Province of Behera, belonging to the estate of the late M. C. G. Zervudachi, will shortly take place. The reserve price has been fixed at £E9,946. An agreement has been reached between the receivers for the estate and the Daira Khassa of H.H. the Khedive with regard to the property situated at Ghizeh and Cairo.

New Companies.

A new company has been formed under the style of the Upper Egypt Artesian Boring Co., which has its headquarters in Cairo. This company has a capital of £E10,000. Messrs. Louis Rahbé and Co. have formed a company with a share capital of £4,000 for dealing in iron and other metals.

Other companies recently formed are:—Messrs. Mattioli, Fumaroli and Co., with a capital of £E2.000, building contractors; Messrs. S. Papazian, D. Ohanessian and Co., with a capital of £E4,290, trade in leather, skins, and leather articles; Messrs. P. Frangos and Co., capital £E2,500, importers of bicycles, motor-cycles and motor-cars.

Cairo Land & Financial Company.

This company has a capital of £E80,000, of which £E50,000 has been issued, divided into 20,000 ordinary shares of £E4 each. Last year's balance-sheet showed a loss of £600.

Owing to the absence of dealings in land in the suburbs of Cairo, the company is in a precarious financial condition. It holds 1,720 shares in the Epargne Immobilière, Limited, 930 shares in the United Hotels of Egypt, Limited, and a few shares in the Express Nile Steamers, Limited, and the Société Anonyme des Halles Centrales d'Egypte. The market value of practically all these shares is very small.

Belge-Egyptienne de l'Esbekieh.

This company, which has a capital of 7,000,000 frs. (£280,000), holds property in the centre of Cairo, which figures on the balance-sheet at a value of 12,686,470 frs. The net profits for 1913 were 361,012 frs., as against 310,044 frs. in 1912. The last dividend was 6 per cent.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.—The National Bank of Egypt announce that Coupon No. 20 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. Cumulative Preferred shares, due July 1, will be paid at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria and London (3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.), and by the Société Française de Banque et des Depôts, and Messrs. F. M. Philippson and Co., Brussels.

ANATOLIAN RAILWAYS.—The total receipts for the year 1913 amounted to 17,885,211 frs., leaving a balance of 4,969,449 frs., as against 18,840,420 frs. and 4,630,498 frs. in 1912 respectively. The dividend is raised from 5½ to 6 per cent., 500,000 frs. has been set aside for renewals, 192,935 frs. placed to the reserve, and the balance carried forward is 642,635 frs.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OIL.—Gemsah — Production for the week, 1,715 tons (last week 2,755 tons.) Hurgada—120 tons (last week 134 tons.)

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN OIL.—(Week ended 20th instant) 284 tons. Well No. 24, Bordeni, still fishing for instruments. All work last week impeded owing to heavy rains.

BLACK SEA OIL.—Week ended 20th instant, 19,203 poods (310 tons.)

CHEMINS DE FER ORIENTAUX.—Including the amount (1,432,233 frs.) brought forward,

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the net profits for 1913 amounted to 5,667,549 frs., as compared with 7,816,374 frs. in 1912. Dividend to be paid is at the rate of 8 per cent., or 40 frs. per share, and a sum of 1,494,017 frs. is carried forward.

CHEMIN DE FER DE DAMAS-HAMAH ET PROLONGEMENTS.—The dividend proposed for 1913 is 5.78 frs. net per share, as against 5.41 frs. for 1912.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FOUR PER CENT. LOAN.—The National Bank of Egypt announces that coupon No. 25, due on July 1, 1914, will be paid at 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.—The seventeeth annual general meeting will be held at 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., on July 8.

IMMOBILIERE D'EGYPTE.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at the offices of the company in Brussels on the 26th inst.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.—The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, 52, Threadneedle Street, E.C., has received instructions to pay on and after July 1 the coupons and drawn bonds of the 3½ per cent. and 4 per cent. debentures of the Land Bank of Egypt at the current rate of exchange of the day.

MERSINA-TARSUS-ADANA RAILWAY.—On and after July 1 the company will pay, in Constantinople, at the offices of the Ottoman Railway Company of Anatolia, the Deutsche Bank Filiale Konstantinopel, in London the Deutsche Bank (Berlin), London Agency, 8s. against coupon No. 28, falling due on that date on the First Mortgage bonds of £20. Payments in Constantinople will be at the rate of 110 gold piastres per £1 sterling.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—Half-year's interest on Four and a-Half per Cent. First Charge debentures will be payable at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C., on and after July 1 next.

NESTOR GIANACLIS.—The fourth annual general meeting will be held at the offices, Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C., on June 26.

ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTURERS.—The profits for last year, including the balance brought forward, was £236,700, as compared with £212,700 in 1912. The dividend is at the rate of 20 frs. per share, as against 25 frs. in 1912. The annual general meeting will be held at Smyrna on July 11, when, among other business, a resolution will be submitted confirming the purchase of the ordinary and founders' shares of the Ottoman Cloth Company.

OTTOMAN FIVE PER CENT. LOAN, 1896.—The numbers are published of the bonds drawn for payment at par.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended June 20, amounted to £8,857, an increase of £3,107 over the corresponding period of last year.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the DIVIDEND of 14s. per Share (equal to 7 per cent. per annum), voted at the General Meeting of Shareholders held this day, will be PAYABLE on and after the 1st July next in London at the Coupon Offices of the Bank, 27, Throgmorton Street, E.C. The Coupon to be presented is No. 56. It must be listed on forms, which can be obtained on application, and be left four clear days for examination before payment.

C. E. L. CORTHORN, Secretary.

London, 24th June, 1914.

SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA.

NOTICE

is hereby given to bearers of the Behera Company's Debentures and Preference Shares that COUPONS falling due on the 1st July next (Coupon No. 40 of Debentures and Coupon No. 19 of Preference Shares), as well as the reimbursement of Debentures that were redeemed at the drawing of the 29th May, 1914, will be PAID at the following establishments:—

In Alexandria.—At the National Bank of Egypt.
In Cairo.—At the National Bank of Egypt.
In London.—At the National Bank of Egypt, 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.
In Brussels.—At the Société Belge de Crédit Industriel et Commercial et de Dépôts, 60, Rue Royale.

Alexandria, the 15th June, 1914.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

	Last Make-up. June 24.	Latest prices. June 24.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	103
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	82	82
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	100
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	95
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99⅛	99⅛
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88⅛
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	84⅛
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80⅛
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57
Do. 5 %, 1884	57	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44⅛	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	56
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	80	80
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	74	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	88	89⅛
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	92
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92⅛
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	79
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95	95⅛
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	85	85
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	84⅛
Do. 4 % Unified	81	81
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70	69⅛
Do. 4 %, 1909	70	70½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	4⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	79⅛
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	82½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	—	⅛
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7⅛
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6⅛
National Bank of Egypt	14⅛	14½
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8⅛	8½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	—	96
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	18	18
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	88½
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	103
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	89
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2 1/16
Do. Do. Def.	—	⅛
Béhéra Co.	9	8⅜
Do. Pref.	—	4⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	—	⅛
Daira Sanieh	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/1½
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜
" " Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	97
New Egyptian Co.	10/6	10/6
Sidi Salem Co.	—	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 7/32	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	98
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1½
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	1 3/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98⅛
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅛
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	89⅛
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	—	£198⅛
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2 3/16
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	1 3/16	24/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	5/6	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	5/3	5/3
Oilfields Finance Corporation	1/16	1/16
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	26/9	26/9
Shell Transport	5⅛	5⅛
Suez Oil	6/6	7/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Last week's prices. June 18.	Latest prices. June 25.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	613	612
Canal de Suez Shares	5035	4985
Do. do. Jouissance	4340	4280
Do. do. Founders	2280	2300
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	725	729
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	152	161
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	450	448
Do. do. do. Act.	201	203
Land Bank of Egypt	162	161
Mines Balia-Karaidin	468⅛	484
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	130	130
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	513	506
Do. do. Ord.	36½	38
Do. do. Pref.	39⅛	41½
Tabacs Ottomans	444	450
Turkish Unified Con.	81.35	81.42
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	371	357

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	June 11.	June 18.
Agricole et Industrielle 4½ Debs	325	320
Do. do. Priv.	235	230
Do. do. Cap.	115	115
Do. do. Div.	90	86.50
Anglo-Belgian Co.	10.25	13
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	118.75	127
Do. do. Div.	137.50	155
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	458.50	457.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	66.25	67
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	417	418
Do. Priv.	522.50	526.25
Do. Div.	140	143.25
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	40	45
Do. do. Fond.	77.50	88.75
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	63.50	67.50
Do. do. Div.	36.25	42.50
Esbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1356	1330
Do. do. Ord.	496	491
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	290	292.50
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	350	395
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	98.75	95
Do. do. Div.	93.75	91.25
Tramways du Caire Priv.	510.50	510
Do. do. Jouiss.	510	540
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	172	188.75
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	10.50	15.50

CONSTANTINCPLE BOURSE.

	June 11.	June 19.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.452	Fcs.452
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.449.75	Fcs.450
Do. do. Shares	£15 5 0	£14 18 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.20	£T.6.05
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.413.50	Fcs.411
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.165	Fcs.155
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.98	Fcs.97
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.95	Fcs.95
Laurium Greo.	Fcs.34.50	Fcs.34
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %.	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.29.10	£T.28

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	June 10.	June 17.
Agricole & Industrie. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3⅛	3⅛
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12 1/16	12⅛
Banque d'Athénes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt.	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New.	Fcs. 46¼	47
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 341½	341½
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 288½	269
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs. 271½	271½
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance.	Fcs. 180	180
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/-	12/-
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2⅛	2⅛
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ½	½
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2	2
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 18/4½	18/4½
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8⅛	8⅛
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4 1/16	4 1/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 93	93
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 80	80
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E. —	—

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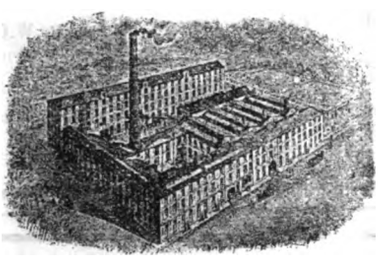
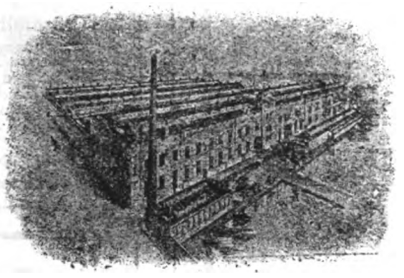
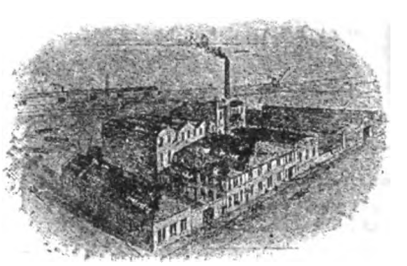

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JUL 24 1914

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 165.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The tragedy of Serajevo has by now been discussed in many of its bearings, and the new situation to which it has given rise is slowly ripening. It is not yet known for certain what prompted the assassin to perpetrate his odious crime. He confesses that he had been much influenced by the literature of Anarchism which he had read. It may be that he, like the assassins of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria and of King George of the Hellenes, was a mental degenerate, and had no motive other than a blind desire to strike as notorious a blow as possible. Unfortunately, the murderer seems to be an Orthodox Serb, and the day which he selected for his crime was the anniversary of Kossovo. This has given rise to reports that he was an exponent of "Greater Servian" ideals, and that his action was prompted by a "patriotic" desire to avenge the absorption of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by the Hapsburg instead of by the Karageorgevitch Monarchy. And on this supposition the local populace appears to have acted. Croats, who are Roman Catholic Serbs, and many Bosniaks, who are Moslem Serbs, rose in riot and attacked the persons and property of Orthodox Serbs. Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the two provinces, and the military have been called in to aid the police, overwhelmed by the flood of civil disorder. We cannot but reprobate outbursts of mob violence, but the fact that a crowd should have been so wrought up as to become a mob shows what a profound effect the murder of the Archduke has had upon the Serb populations under the sway of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty.

So far as can at present be seen the chief effect of the crime of Serajevo has been a heavy blow to the hopes and schemes of the advocates of a Great Servia, which is to include all the areas inhabited by the Serb race. This murder has revealed the inherent weakness of the scheme. Under the Ottoman rule, which has been rolled back from the countries in question within living memory, a man ranked according to his religion, his *millet* was all-important, his race, his language, even his aspirations were of secondary consideration. The Servian ideal is to group Serbs of three faiths under one crown, but the pistol shots of the Franz-Josef's Strasse have awakened old animosities. Catholic has turned upon Orthodox, because the murderer of a Catholic Prince was an Orthodox, and Moslem has joined in the fray, regardless of a common speech, a common blood, and the hopes of a common future, which the expansionists of Servia had been so industriously preaching. It is too soon to judge, but as far as present appearances go it would seem that the violent death of the Archduke has shattered rather the dream of a Servian than the actuality of an Austrian Empire. In these circumstances it is idle to suppose that those whose political propaganda has been so damaged by the crime could have had any interest in inciting it, just as it is absurd to say that the riots at Serajevo call for the intervention of Belgrade. The Serbs of Bosnia are not Servian subjects, and Mr. Pashitch is not the man to thrust his head into a bees' byke without very urgent and pressing necessity. It goes without saying that there will be a great deal of Press snapping and snarling because, after all, the assassin is a Serb, and his victim was an Austrian—the attitude of many Austro-Hungarian journals is already, and in our opinion justifiably, resented in Belgrade. The fact that the former appears to be an Anarchist, while the latter was an Archduke, does not mitigate the offence, which has excited racial and religious passions at a particularly unfortunate moment.

Very little light has been thrown during the past week on the situation in Albania. Durazzo remains in a state of siege. The defences have been strengthened; behind them remain Prince William and the Albanian Government, doing nothing, while the insurgents continue to mark time at a convenient distance away, with intervals devoted to conversations with intermediaries. Reports of what is happening in other parts of Albania are untrustworthy. Thus the alleged capture of Prenk Bib Doda and his subsequent release on parole are now denied. The Mirdite chief is stated to be still advancing on the insurgents, though interested parties are at pains to throw doubt upon his loyalty to Prince William. There would seem to be some ground for believing that in the south the insurgents have captured certain towns and have reduced others to a panic-stricken condition. The reinforcements on which Durazzo was supposed to be relying appear to have paid more attention to looting than to attacking the insurgents, with the result that they fell an easy prey to the latter.

However hopeless the position in Durazzo, the insurgents have given no indication of representing an organised movement with some claim upon the reversion of Prince William's authority. At their request

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a British emissary was sent out to confer with them, in the person of Colonel Phillips, who is in command of the international force at Scutari. He was confronted with the insurgent Council of War, who demanded the abdication of Prince William, an *interim* Government by the International Commission of Control, and the election of a new ruler, to be chosen by delegates from all Albania. But this Council seemed to be inspired by other leaders in the background, and the only point on which they showed unshakable firmness was the demand for the abdication of Prince William. Their attitude is not complimentary to Albania's first ruler, and points to the accuracy of the report that the whole trouble arose from the Mpret's having mistaken a peasant conference for an incipient revolution, and having ordered it to be dispersed by Malissori. The peasants proved more than a match for the latter, and their success led to the present insurgent movement.

It is to be hoped that Colonel Phillips' official report will throw some light on the general situation and on the strength and inwardness of the insurgent movement. The Albanian Government has found one very candid critic in the United States Minister to Athens. This diplomatist has been undertaking a tour in Epirus and Albania. At Durazzo he does not appear to have been received by the International Commission, and consequently he felt himself under no obligation to return compliments which were not paid to him. In a statement to the Athens Press on his return Mr. Williams denounced both the International Commission and the Albanian policy of the Great Powers. This policy he termed "an epochal scandal of anarchy, incompetence, hypocrisy, and murder." The Albanian Government was accused of having plunged the country into the throes of civil and religious war. It is not improbable that Mr. Williams will consider that he has sufficient proof to make good his charges. Whether he will also be able to excuse his want of diplomatic tact is another matter. He has expressed in picturesque language views that are gaining ground in many quarters; but his method of calling attention to a serious state of affairs will make it difficult to apply the remedy which he advocates. In urging that Albania should be given a trial in self-government, it may be presumed that Mr. Williams is echoing what has already been suggested in these columns, that Albania's ruler should take the Albanians into his confidence and govern with their help rather than remain shut up in the Konak at Durazzo.

The hopelessness of the situation lies as much in the incompetence of the European Concert as in the helpless condition of the Albanian Government. Help must clearly come from without, but in regard to Albania the Concert of Europe remains under the hypnotic influence of Austria-Hungary and Italy, the two Powers which are primarily responsible for the present state of affairs. Unless Great Britain or another Power breaks away from the attitude of cynical indifference to Albania's predicament, which Italy and Austria-Hungary have imposed on the Concert in their own interests, the situation in that country must be a great deal worse before it is better. A policy of drift, quite apart from its effect on the fortunes of Europe's protégé, Prince William, will quickly lead to a religious war between the Moslem and Christian sections of Albania. In discussing the Albanian question in the House of Commons Sir Edward Grey adopted the attitude that diplomacy in Europe was bankrupt. He was perhaps more immediately concerned with Epirus, but his reference was to Albania as a whole. To the contention that there is no halfway house between a policy of *laissez faire* and the landing of British troops we do not subscribe. The position of Great Britain in the council chamber of Europe must indeed be parlous if she cannot exercise influence without a demonstration of strength.

The Greek Government has replied in a conciliatory tone to the Turkish rejoinder to its original Note. It takes note of the Turkish communication concerning the measures adopted to put an end to the incidents in Thrace and Asia Minor, and also of the declaration regarding the reinstatement of the Greeks inhabiting the Asiatic littoral. The proposal for an exchange of peasants who desire to emigrate is accepted, and with it the suggested valuation of property and the settlement of the damage done on either side. For the rest, the Greek Government protests its own blamelessness in regard to the emigration of Moslems from Macedonia, and will not allow that the state of the latter is comparable with that of the Greeks, whose exodus was the result of provocations, attacks, and depredations. The improvement in the tension between Greece and Turkey, brought about by this exchange of notes bears out the opinion expressed in these columns that war was by no means inevitable. It would be idle to suppose that the two countries are yet out of the wood. For the present state of their relations the good offices of Talaat Bey, on the occasion of his visit to Asia Minor, are largely responsible. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Porte carries out its promises in a manner satisfactory to Greece.

The joint action of Russia and Roumania in warning the Porte that the closing of the Dardanelles in the event of a Greco-Turkish war would interpose grave obstacles to international trade, and in particular would cause enormous losses to Russian and Roumanian commerce, may be regarded in part as a corollary to the Tsar's recent visit to Roumania. It illustrates the general recognition now accorded to Roumania as a controlling force in Near Eastern affairs. Roumanian interests alone would justify very strong representations to the Porte on this subject, the more so as the time approaches when Roumanian trade through the Dardanelles will be reaching its maximum volume for the year. But such representations, if backed by Russia, cannot fail to carry weight in Constantinople, and are to be welcomed as a fresh factor in the cause of peace.

In virtue of a concordat negotiated direct with the Holy See Servia becomes emancipated from Austrian religious tutelage. The Austrian protectorate over Roman Catholics in Servia is at an end, and in its stead authority is vested in an Archbishop of Belgrade, with Uskub as a suffragan bishopric exercising jurisdiction in the new territories. The ratification of the concordat acquires enhanced significance from the fact that for some time Austria was able to prevent it.

In a discussion on foreign affairs in the House of Commons Sir Edward Grey made the interesting announcement that the British Government had lately "brought under review with the Russian Government" facts relating to the situation in Persia. The line adopted had been that it was time to take stock of the position, with a view to seeing what had taken place since the Anglo-Russian Convention was made, in the light of "the general cumulative effect of many instances and the tendency of them in the last two years." The British Government had not proposed any alteration in the Anglo-Russian Convention, but they approached the discussion, Sir Edward Grey admitted, under the impression that the situation had worked to the disadvantage of Great Britain by the force of events not foreseen when the Convention of 1907 was made. The Government is to be congratulated on having at last set on foot negotiations of this nature. We may hope that behind Sir Edward Grey's guarded utterance lies a genuine determination to put an end to several anomalies which not only militate against British prestige but impair Persian integrity. The Foreign Secretary permitted himself to say that "it would be a very serious matter if Russian political influence spread from Ispahan into the neutral zone." Serious for whom? As far as Persia is concerned, it must be equally obnoxious to have Russian political influence—as we understand the expression—exercised in Azerbaijan or in the neutral zone. If Sir Edward Grey's idea was that it would be serious for Great Britain, then we shall hope that the Foreign Office will screw up its courage still further and demand very specific alterations in the Anglo-Russian Convention.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 25.

The Dispute with Greece.

In spite of warlike rumours and the continued existence of a certain uneasiness, the situation must be described as in every way more satisfactory. The Greek Government seems to have found that a basis of negotiation was to be discovered in the Sublime Porte's somewhat uncompromising reply to its protestatory note; and whether this discovery was due to the fact that the members of the Hellenic war party learnt from the Premier that the French Government had warned him that if Greece allowed herself to be dragged into a war by her own Chauvinists she would obtain no French financial support, or whether the war party was not really half as strong or as numerous as was believed here, it is certain that the two Governments are already discussing a settlement of the question of the Greek and Moslem emigrants on less rough-and-ready lines than has hitherto been the case. The Servian Government has, it is believed, received assurances from Sofia that Bulgaria has no intention of interfering in the present dispute, and there is reason to believe that Mr. Tosheff has told the Porte that his country does not wish for war at present and will remain neutral, blocking Western Thrace against the entry of either Ottoman or Greek soldiers. This has, of course, damped the ardour of the Turkish war party—which, be it remembered, is a very different thing from the Turkish Government—and even the purchase by Greece of the "Idaho" and "Mississippi" is regarded in diplomatic circles as being in no sense likely to be a cause of war, on the ground that a situation in which one of the rival Powers is very much stronger than the other at sea is more dangerous to peace than is an approximate equilibrium of maritime strength. At present Greece is very much stronger at sea than Turkey. In a few months' time Turkey would have been enormously superior to Greece in capital ships had it not been for the purchase, which, if it will not do away with Turkey's eventual superiority, will none the less diminish it, and make a Turkish attack a more risky affair than it would otherwise be. The fact that the Greeks will possess two battleships of some value and a superior torpedo fleet should make Turkish Chauvinists, should they unhappily arrive in power, think twice before they attempt to use even such vessels as the "Osman I." and the "Reshadieh."

The Rival Fleets.

It is not long since I had a conversation with a promising and intelligent officer who was in command of the turret guns on one of the Turkish battleships which took part in the actions off the Dardanelles and Mudros Bay, who gave me a most interesting account of the campaign, and accompanied his account by certain criticisms of the tactics on each side. I am, for obvious reasons, prevented from giving his name, but will give the following résumé of what he said:—

"The Ottoman fleet lost its chance in the action off the Dardanelles, where the 'Averoff' came within 3,500 metres of the 'Torgut' and the 'Barbarossa,'" whose twelve 11-in. Krupps, if older weapons than the 'Averoff's' four 9.2 in. Elswick pieces, should none the less have been able to inflict a knock-out blow on the Hellenic flagship, whose commander's tactics were extremely rash. As it was, the 'Averoff' was badly knocked about, but the supine tactics of the Turkish Admiral prevented the Ottomans from following up their advantage. In the battle off Lemnos the 'Averoff' was certainly well handled, and her shooting had improved so remarkably that it was believed that she had foreign gun-pointers on board. She kept at long range, and, using her superior speed, inflicted considerable damage on the only two Turkish ships which were really engaged. She was herself badly hit at the end of the action, but here again the failure of the Ottoman higher command to rise to the occasion was made manifest. The fleet had left the Dardanelles with orders to return well before nightfall, it having been calculated that the Greeks, who had a large superiority in torpedo craft, would otherwise use the approach of dusk to deliver a dangerous attack. The Turkish Admiral, hypnotised by his instructions and the moral menace of the enemy's destroyers, drew off after a hot action of an hour and a half's duration, and left the field to the 'Averoff,' which alone of the Greek ships took any serious part in the encounter. Some defect of nerves or machinery prevented the 'Messudieh,' which had a strong battery and could steam at 12 knots, from taking part in the battle. Both sides had good luck and bad. The 'Averoff' was able to put a shell into one of the turret ports of the 'Barbarossa' and wreck the turret, but, on the other hand, one of her shells hit and nearly perforated the Turkish flagship's belt only a few inches above its lower edge. A difference of a few inches meant salvation in this case for the Ottoman vessel." All the battle proved, concluded my informant, was that the Greeks shot better than the Turkish fleet, but neither side showed any remarkable tactical skill, and each lost great chances owing to want of enterprise.

In these circumstances I would warn readers of The Near East, should war unhappily break out over the Ægean question, from attaching too much importance to paper strength on either side. Prophecies based on the number of vessels engaged and their strength as given by the various naval handbooks may stray wide of the truth. To use the language of the prize ring, we are not going to see two trained professionals whose form is known enter the ring, but shall rather be witnesses of a set-to between two talented and promising amateurs who have only recently been under the care of experienced trainers.

"Events" at Smyrna.

Talaat Bey, who returns on Saturday, is reported to have dismissed or otherwise punished a fresh batch of officials who have been concerned in recent troubles, and I am informed that some of the "reorganised" gendarmes who indulged in excesses at Phocea and Serckeui will be very severely dealt with. One gets a strong impression that Rahmi Bey's failure to deal with the anti-Greek boycott and with the furiously anti-Greek campaign waged by certain Turkish journals of Smyrna induced many minor officials to suppose that the Government would not object to "events." This deduction proved a mistaken one, unfortunately for the officials concerned; but that it was made at all is partly the fault of the central authorities, and still more the fault of the provincial Government of Aidin. In this connection I should like to say that, while very grave complaints have been brought against the gendarmerie, there has thus far been no complaint whatever of the conduct of the military, who, when called out, behaved with great impartiality and discipline.

The dragomans of the six European Embassies who have been sent, in reply to the Porte's request, to study the situation in Anatolia, all left on Sunday, with the exception of the British representative, Mr. Matthews, a hard-headed Ulsterman, who left on the previous day for Brusa, and will by now have joined his colleagues in Aidin province. Mr. Matthews had been instructed to inquire into the case of Mrs. Wiltshire, a British resident, whose olive orchards in Khodavendikiar, containing some 7,000 trees, were forcibly seized by a band of Moslem refugees, who refused to surrender them.

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TURCO-GREEK RELATIONS.

The following letter has been addressed to Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by a number of noblemen and gentlemen interested in Turco-Greek relations:—

Sir,—In view of the critical situation in the Near East and the fresh menace directed against the peace of Europe we venture to appeal to his Majesty's Government to use their own influence and invite the co-operation of the other Powers in order to avert the threatened hostilities.

The reason put forward by the Hellenic Government for its aggressive attitude is the alleged persecution of Greeks in Thrace and in parts of Western Anatolia. While freely admitting that ill-treatment of Greeks has occurred in Ottoman territory and that considerable numbers of Greeks have migrated to Salonika and the islands of Chios and Mitylene, we are convinced that the sufferings experienced by these Greeks are incomparably less severe and less extensive than those inflicted upon the Moslems of Macedonia. In any case the original aggressors in these persecutions and expulsions were obviously the Greeks themselves. Specific, cumulative, and convincing evidence exists to prove that the migration of some 240,000 Macedonian Moslems to Asia Minor and Ottoman Thrace has been brought about by a wholesale system of oppression and cruelty. It is worth remembering in this connection that the Carnegie Commission reported that, whereas all the Balkan nations had violated the laws of civilisation and humanity, the most deliberate and systematic cruelties were those perpetrated by the Greeks; on the other hand it must not be forgotten that during the progress of the Tripolitan and Balkan wars not a single Italian or Greek was molested in Turkey. The influx into Asia Minor of vast numbers of destitute Moslems has seriously embarrassed the Ottoman Government, and, very naturally, has aroused the indignation of the Turkish people and given occasion for reprisals.

In this connection we venture to hope that his Majesty's Government may see fit to submit to the Ottoman and Hellenic Governments the desirability of accepting an International Commission, for the purpose of regulating what appears to be now inevitable—the migration of Turks to Anatolia and of Greeks to Macedonia and of securing adequate compensation on both sides for those dispossessed of their lands, houses, and property. Greece has no *casus belli* against Turkey which Turkey does not possess in a more valid form against Greece; and timely intervention by the Powers would almost certainly prevent hostilities based on such grounds as those brought forward by Greece. We appeal to his Majesty's Government to use their utmost influence on behalf of peace for several reasons:—

(1) If hostilities are renewed, a war will once more have been forced upon Turkey, a country which earnestly desires peace and needs a period of repose in order to improve the condition of her people, reorganise her finances, and develop her resources.

(2) The legitimate trade interests of Europe in general and Great Britain in particular will again be seriously injured by a fresh outbreak of hostilities in the Ægean. A blockade of Smyrna, *e.g.*, would probably inflict less actual loss on Turkey than it would on the commerce of Great Britain and Germany. British traders are already suffering from the large increase of duties imposed under the new *régime* at Salonika, and the City of London has not forgotten the sinister influences exerted upon the financial and commercial world by the Balkan wars of 1912-13.

(3) When Turkey conquered Greece in 1898 she did not secure a single village for herself; since the last Balkan war Turkey has been deprived of nine-tenths of her European territory and two islands which she regards as essential to the defence of her chief Asiatic port. If Greece is permitted by the Powers to embark on a fresh war of aggression against Turkey it is difficult to exaggerate the effect which will be produced on the feelings of millions of our loyal Moslem fellow-subjects in India, whose patience has been sorely tried by what they consider the injuries and humiliations unjustly inflicted on the Ottoman people.

There is, we think, no ground for assuming that the proposed acquisition of three modern warships by Turkey is an indication of aggressive designs against Greece. A nation with an extensive littoral like that of Turkey must obviously need warships for purely defensive purposes. Turkey has not forgotten what she suffered from the absence of efficient ships during the Balkan war, nor can she overlook the fact that the Gallipoli Peninsula, the key of Constantinople, is always exposed to the risk of capture by an enemy's fleet.—We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

LAMINGTON	DENBIGH	AUBREY HERBERT
	WALTER GUINNESS	MARK SYKES
	IVOR HERBERT	J. D. REES
	HAROLD COX	E. G. BROWNE

June 17, 1914.

In answering this communication on behalf of Sir E. Grey, Sir Eyre Crowe wrote:—

In reply, I am to assure you that his Majesty's Government are fully aware and mindful of the reasons adduced in your memorial which make the maintenance of peace especially desirable, and, as Sir E. Grey has had occasion to state in the House of Commons, his Majesty's Government and the Governments of other Powers have made, and are making, representations both at Athens and Constantinople which they sincerely hope may contribute to avoid a rupture.

As regards your proposal that his Majesty's Government should suggest to the Greek and Turkish Governments their acceptance of an International Commission to regulate the reciprocal emigration of their Christian and Moslem subjects, and the adjustment of losses thereby incurred, I am to state that Sir E. Grey considers that these objects should be attainable by the Turco-Greek Commission already designed for the purpose, and, further, it is his experience that offers of mediation are seldom acceptable to Powers at variance, unless they can be made at the desire of both of them. Should, however, both Greece and Turkey express a wish for such an International Commission, his Majesty's Government would not fail to give due consideration to the proposal.

Sir E. Grey has taken note of your view of the responsibility attaching for the present state of things, but he does not feel himself competent to apportion the blame, nor must he be understood to endorse the statements as to the special censure incurred in your view by the Greek Government. It should be remembered that the totals given of Turkish emigration are, in all probability, much exaggerated, and moreover, large numbers of the Moslem refugees from Macedonia come from territories which are not administered by Greece.

THE HELLENIC NOTE TO THE PORTE.

Dr. Streit, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Hellenic Government has communicated a Note to the Porte which, from its amicable tone, has done much to ease the situation, which had already been somewhat modified in a favourable sense by the previous Ottoman communication:—

> Le Gouvernement Royal, qui, à juste titre, s'est ému de l'émigration forcée des Grecs de la Turquie, dont plus de 150,000 sont venus se réfugier sur son territoire, a pris connaissance avec une véritable satisfaction de la communication du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman dans sa note responsive d'après laquelle il s'est appliqué à mettre fin aux événements regrettables qui se sont passés en Thrace et en Asie Mineure. Il a également pris connaissance de la déclaration du Gouvernement Impérial, faite par une lettre de son Représentant à Athènes: "Qu'il a déjà commencé et continuera à réintégrer les Grecs de l'intérieur du Vilayet de Smyrne qui se trouvent sur le littoral de la côte asiatique," comme aussi de la proposition contenue dans la lettre précitée de Son Excellence Ghalib Kemaly Bey et d'après laquelle: "les Grecs déjà partis de l'Empire resteraient en Grèce et rentreraient dans le nombre de ceux qui seront échangés." Les mesures mêmes que le Gouvernement Ottoman a fait connaître comme étant adoptées par lui pour faire cesser les persécutions et les violences que le Gouvernement Royal lui a dénoncées prouvent suffisamment que les faits signalés par le Gouvernement Royal dans les différentes Notes qu'il a dû adresser à la Sublime Porte n'etaient nullement exagérés.

The Note, after expressing a hope that friendly relations will not be disturbed in the future, continues:—

> Le Gouvernement Royal a déjà declaré au Gouvernement Ottoman qu'il accepte sous des modalités à concerter et sous la protection des deux gouvernements l'échange simultané des populations des villages grecs en Thrace et dans le vilayet de Smyrne contre les villageois musulmans de la Macédoine et de l'Epire grecque, après constatation, bien entendu, par des Commissions mixtes du désir spontané à émigrer que les dites populations rurales manifesteraient. Le Gouvernement Royal s'empresse encore de déclarer qu'il partage la manière de voir du Gouvernement Impérial concernant l'évaluation des propriétés des populations déjà émigrées de part et d'autre, qui en effet est de toute urgence, aux fins de la réinstallation réciproque et immédiate des émigrés dans les propriétés délaissées, et du réglement définitif entre les deux Gouvernements des comptes en dédommagement réciproque qui en résulteront et du solde qui, après compensation, restera, selon le cas, à la charge de l'un des deux Gouvernements.

After pointing out the difference between the situation of Moslems in Hellenic Macedonia and Greeks in the Ottoman dominions, the Note refers to the stipulations of the Treaty of Athens, and asserts:—

> D'ailleurs, il résulte des statistiques élaborées avec le plus grand soin que des populations musulmanes émigrées de la Macédoine il n'y a qu'un nombre de 52,570 seulement qui soient partis des territoires helléniqueus depuis la première guerre balkanique jusqu'à la fin du mois d'Avril, 1914, y compris ceux qui, arrivés en Macédoine des territoires bulgares, avaient été installés à Drama, et que ce chiffre n'a été augmenté pour les musulmans émigrés des territoires helléniques que de quelques centaines jusqu'à aujourd'hui. Il est encore à relever que les musulmans ayant quitté. La Grèce sont partis en emportant tous leurs biens et que leurs propriétés restent intactes.

The Note concludes with a reaffirmation of the constitutional rights of Hellenic subjects of no matter what religion and of Ottoman subjects resident in Hellenic territory.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 25.

Government's Summer Headquarters.

The official headquarters of the Government were transferred to Alexandria on Sunday for the summer, and the Ministers will only pay periodical visits to Cairo during the next four months. At one time it was said that this annual change of the official venue of affairs was to be dispensed with this year for financial and other reasons; but the suggestion made was found to be impracticable, and so the old summer programme was adhered to. The Government has its offices at Bulkeley, Ramleh, where the British Agency also has its estival residence, but it is highly probable that new premises will have to be requisitioned next year; for, owing to the creation of the two Ministeries, Wakfs and Agriculture, and the ordinary expansion of the other services, the present accommodation is quite inadequate, even though the staff that proceeds to Alexandria is kept at the bare minimum.

A Record Journey to Alexandria.

When Lord Kitchener proceeded on leave on Thursday last he travelled to Alexandria by special train, which covered the distance in two hours and a-quarter. This constitutes a record run, for the fastest train on the regular service takes just over three hours. Of course, the special train was a good deal lighter than the ones ordinarily used on this line; but even making allowance for this, the time is considerably less than any yet achieved on the Alexandria service. There appears to be really no reason, barring that of expense, why the State Railways should not to-day run non-stop trains between Cairo and Alexandria. The recent performance of Lord Kitchener's special has shown that at least thirty minutes could be knocked off the present journey with the greatest ease and without any ill results, and considering the importance of this service, the extra expense that might be involved would be fully justified by the consideration shown to the public convenience.

The Birthday Honours.

The Birthday honours that have fallen to members of the Anglo-Egyptian community in Egypt and the Sudan have been received with satisfaction, though once again surprise is freely expressed that officials of very long standing should still be without the official recognition to which the great services they have rendered to their country and to Egypt are considered to entitle them.

Lord Kitchener's elevation in the peerage is much appreciated, and is regarded as signifying the Home Government's approval of the economic policy he has initiated and carried out in Egypt. The G.C.B. bestowed on Sir Reginald Wingate is welcomed as a further recognition of the brilliant administrative work he has achieved in the Sudan during the past fifteen years. As for the K.C.M.G. which has fallen to Mr. Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, no honour was ever better merited, for the recipient has rendered, and is still rendering, the most invaluable services to both Egypt and the Sudan; and that there has been heard not one dissentient voice is surely evidence of his popularity and of the high esteem in which his work is generally held. The honours bestowed on Major Stack and Mr. King-Lewis are also well merited, especially in the case of the former, who recently received recognition of his services whilst acting as Director of Intelligence and Sudan Agent in Cairo, by promotion to the post of Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government at Khartoum.

The Legislative Assembly.

The prorogation of the Legislative Assembly on the eve of Lord Kitchener's departure came as a complete surprise, for it was generally expected, even amongst the members, that the session would continue for at least another two days. The order of the day included the final accounts for the past financial year; the note of the Finance Committee on the Government's reply to the observations and proposals made on the 1914-15 Budget; the Government's reply to the decision of the Assembly that the Birkets Law must not be promulgated until the consent of the Mixed Court of Appeal to its application to foreigners has been obtained; and a long list of motions. Evidently the delegates were tired out by the concentrated work which they had done during the previous fortnight amid the abnormal climatic conditions that have prevailed. The examination of the final accounts was adjourned to the next session; the Finance Committee's note on the Budget was unanimously approved without the formality of a public reading out of its contents; the Government's reply on the Birkets Law was accepted after a short discussion; and the motions, some of which were withdrawn at the meeting, were adjourned en bloc to the next session. Thus, in a little over two hours all the business had been disposed of, and it was amid much applause that Mazloum Pasha delivered his short prorogation address.

Arrest of a Turkish Officer.

The local Press is displaying no little interest in the case of a certain Mustapha Hakki, a Turkish officer, who has been placed under arrest by the Cairo police at the request of the Ottoman Government. The charge against him is that of deserting from his regiment at Hodeida. Mustapha Hakki, who is a Syrian Arab, and son of Zacharia Pasha, the well-known Damascus notable, does not deny the charge, but says that he left his regiment—he went first to Aden and then came on to Cairo—because he had expressed certain opinions which had displeased his brother officers, and for which he feared he would be called to account. In native circles it is alleged that this is an affair in which politics are mixed up, and it is understood that the Government is conducting a close inquiry into the case. If it is proved that he is in reality a political refugee, then, of course, this officer will not be surrendered to the Ottoman authorities; for although, from a legal standpoint, Egypt still forms part of the Ottoman Dominions, and military deserters can be reclaimed by the Sublime Porte, Lord Cromer established the precedent that this could not apply to any Ottoman subject who could be considered as a political refugee.

It is affirmed, although no one as yet seems to have seen him, that Azmi Bey, one-time Police Commandant at Constantinople, who was dismissed from his post over the Mustapha Kavakli affair, is now in Cairo. Whether there is any connection between the above arrest and the arrival of the man who is said to have played such an important part in the Committee's plots and intrigues it is not possible to say; but the fact remains that the movements of Turkish agents in Cairo and Alexandria have once again become most marked, and many complaints are being received as to the interfering tactics of these spies. Something ought certainly to be done to put a stop to what is nothing short of a scandal.

To-morrow, at 8 p.m., at Queen's Gate Hall, Harrington Road, South Kensington, a "Triple and Trilingual Bill" will be given by "One and Only Oriental Polyglot Company," under the direction of Messrs. Dano and Narsis, of the Ottoman and Egyptian theatrical companies. The plays to be given are: (1) "Ghaneyet el Andelus," one-act drama in Arabic; (2) "Khorotik," an Eastern fantasy; (3) "Balekji Abdullah," a screaming farce, in Turkish. Tickets may be obtained at the Box Office of the Queen's Gate Hall, Harrington Road, South Kensington.

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SERVIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, June 28.

"Widowdan" Celebration.

To-day, in every town and village throughout Servia, the great national festival called "Widowdan" is being celebrated. Belgrade is en fête; there are military open-air concerts, processions, and festivities, and in the streets ladies are collecting for the benefit of the great patriotic society, the "Narodna Odbrana." The name of Kossovo is eternally imprinted on the memory of all Servians, and although the fall of the empire five centuries ago has been lately gloriously avenged the old commemoration day is still kept up.

Servia and the Vatican.

The Concordat between Servia and the Vatican has been signed—on the part of Servia by the Servian Ambassador in Paris, and on the part of the Vatican by the Cardinal Secretary Merry del Val. The Concordat contains twenty-two articles. For Catholics in Servia there will be appointed an archbishop, whose residence will be in Belgrade, and there will be a bishop residing in Skoplje having jurisdiction throughout New Servia. Before definitely making these appointments the Vatican will notify the names of the candidates to the Servian Government, and if there be no political reason for disapproving of them the ratification will take place at Rome.

Development of New Servia.

A great many persons in Old Servia and abroad desiring to emigrate to the New Servian territories are seeking permission to purchase land there, for which there are ample opportunities in consequence of the exodus of the well-to-do Mohammedans. The Government, in order to prevent speculation, is introducing a law that only such persons as will themselves till the ground will be entitled to purchase, and every intending purchaser must first obtain permission to make such purchase from the Minister of Agriculture.

Many Albanian residents of the New Servian territories who joined the Albanians in the late rising against Servia and fled to Albania now regret their fate, and are seeking permission from the Servian authorities to return to their former homes. Over 200 have already returned.

Dissolution of Parliament.

Parliament is dissolved, and the new elections fixed for August 14 next. There will be a fierce struggle between the parties. The Radical party will be backed by all the machinery at the disposal of the Government, as is usual in the Orient, and hopes to obtain a good working majority. The Opposition parties, consisting of the Samostalni, Progressives, and Nationalists, have decided on a joint platform during elections, and they, too, expect to obtain a majority by a combined effort.

The date fixed for the convocation of the new Parliament is September 23 next.

THE SERVIAN REGENCY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, June 28.

Prince Alexander reigns in Servia! A proclamation signed by King Peter, and published in the Official Gazette of June 24, informed his beloved people that by virtue of Article 69 of the Constitution Crown Prince Alexander temporarily reigns in his stead. And this is the latest surprising event in this land of surprises.

The King has *not* left the country; he has only gone to a Servian bathing resort, the Vraniska Bad, whither he set out on the day of the proclamation.

The King is seventy-two years old, and is not in good health, but when seen at the railway station previous to his departure his appearance was not such as to cause any anxiety. Taking into consideration the uneasiness produced by events now taking place in other Balkan States and the political circumstances in Servia, combined with his being a victim of rheumatism, he doubtless needs rest; but the question arises: Why should the Crown Prince reign, and that whilst the King remains in Servia?

The entire Servian Press indulges in comments and plentiful theorizing. The *Zivono* has a leading article headed "Abdicated." The *Pravda* says that, "taking into consideration the age and debility of the King, the proclamation provisionally transferring to Crown Prince Alexander the royal powers is probably of a durable character. *Mali Journal* says: "It was not sickness that constrained the King to delegate the regency to his son, but we may expect other surprises, and that probably in connection with the military."

Should the King quit the country of course he must be replaced, but as he remains in the country, whether in the capital or elsewhere, if he is in a fit state to perform his functions he is expected to do so. In case he is not in a state to perform his functions, and his incompetence is only of a temporary nature, such as an illness of short duration, it is not likely that he would on that account delegate his power.

THE ALBANIAN PROBLEM.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. James Bourchier addressed a meeting of the Albanian Committee in one of the Committee rooms of the House of Commons. Among those present were the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, Lord Newton, Lord O'Hagan, Sir Mark Sykes, and Lady Barclay. Mr. Bourchier, who had travelled in the interior of Albania last autumn, pointed out that owing to the neglect and indifference of some of the Powers and the selfish aims of others, the situation had undergone a serious change for the worse since the time of his visit. At that time, notwithstanding certain local feuds and the rivalry between Ismail Kemal and Essad, comparative harmony prevailed between the Moslem and Christian sections of the population, and all were eagerly looking forward to the arrival of the new Sovereign. The intellectual leaders of the Moslems had the good sense to desire a Western and a Christian ruler who would lead the country in the path of modern civilisation. Unfortunately, the Powers, who had called the young State into existence, took no measures whatever for the necessary preservation of order within its limits except at Scutari; and as time went on local discords multiplied and foreign intrigues gained a footing in the country. The very first act of Prince William was a serious mistake for which the Powers were responsible. His disembarkation was made at Durazzo—the last town in Albania that should have been selected for his *début*. He should, of course, have made his first appearance at Scutari, when he would have been surrounded by the troops of the Powers; but Italy would not allow this, while Austria would not permit him to land at Valona. Durazzo was selected as a compromise, with disastrous results for the young Sovereign. The present deplorable situation cannot be allowed to continue without serious danger for the peace of the Balkans, and even that of Europe; yet it seems that we are about to adopt a policy of drift and to leave the solution of the problem to the "most interested" Powers. Mr. Bourchier then developed a proposal which he made when the independence of Albania was first mooted. The action of the Powers in Crete should be taken as a model, Albania being divided into sectors, which should be administered by the international authorities until a local force capable of maintaining order could be formed. The international troops could then be withdrawn, as in the case of Crete. Had this plan been adopted at the outset a very small force would have sufficed. A larger number of troops will now be necessary. Meanwhile Prince William has been expected to govern without adequate means of enforcing his authority and to begin his reign by shedding the blood of his own subjects.

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NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, June 28.

King Carol and the Dobruja Society.

A traveller who has arrived here from Bazarjik (Dobritch) states that during the recent visit of the King and Queen of Roumania to that town a deputation of the Bulgarian inhabitants presented themselves before their Majesties and requested that one of the two Bulgarian churches which had been seized by the Roumanian ecclesiastical authorities might be restored to them. The King is reported to have replied that while there were organisations like the Dobruja Society the Bulgarians must not expect any improvement in their lot. One of the members of the deputation, a physician, observed that the Bulgarians in the Dobruja had nothing in common with the society in question, which was outside the country, and that the Bulgarians of the Dobruja are Roumanian subjects, and as such implored that their petition might be granted. The King then replied that he would discuss the question with his Ministers.

At Bazarjik (Dobritch) there is a school built from funds bequeathed by the late Mr. Tzontcheff for the purpose of educating poor children. This school the Roumanians have transformed into military barracks. Profiting from the presence of Queen Elisabeth at Bazarjik, the widow of Mr. Tzontcheff, with several other Bulgarian ladies, appeared before her Majesty, and informed her of what had occurred. The Queen, who was unpleasantly surprised by this information, promised that on her return to Bucharest she will take steps to remedy the injustice.

The Influx of Refugees.

During the past week some 1,170 refugees were disembarked at Dedeagatch, of whom 320 came from the village of Singel, near the Dardanelles, in Turkey; and 850 from Salonika. All of them are destitute, and in a most deplorable plight.

"Autonomous Macedonia."

The Macedonian refugees here have started a weekly paper under the name *Autonomous Macedonia*. Its name is its programme. Its leading article considers the recent manifestations of strong Bulgarian spirit in the population of Macedonia, and says: "The national pride of the young Macedonian students will not be abandoned to silence. The voice of the Macedonian recruits in the Servian Army will not pass calmly as through a desert, while the act of the heroes of Shtip, unique in the history of nations, will serve as a signal to all of us, the banished, and will remind us of our country's duty."

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 28.

Bulgaro-Roumanian Frontier.

The Roumanian Ministry of War has nominated a Commission to meet a Bulgarian Commission for the purpose of threshing out the unsettled questions with regard to the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier. It is believed that the questions will be settled in the course of the next month.

The Dardanelles Question.

It is reported in several newspapers here that the real object of the meeting at Constantza was the discussion by the two monarchs of the question of opening the Dardanelles. Quite a sensation was caused here a day or two ago by the publication of an article in a local paper by Mr. Diamandi, a brother of the Roumanian Minister at the Russian Court. Mr. Diamandi pointed out the importance for Roumania of an ever-open door at the Dardanelles, especially to her commercial interests; for only by way of the Dardanelles can she transport the bulk of her produce—grain, petroleum, etc.—to the principal markets. Bulgaria and Servia have now free access to the open sea, the article continues, and in like manner Roumania has a right to demand free passage at any time for her merchant steamers and those of other countries transporting her exports and imports. How her commerce may be throttled owing to this disability was shown when the Dardanelles were closed last year. It has caused surprise not only in Roumania, but elsewhere, that Roumania has approached the Porte on this subject, asking whether her trade would be sure of a free passage through the Dardanelles if a war broke out between Turkey and Greece now, the first time that any country not one of the Powers has dared to take such a step.

Help for Albania.

The Albanian colony in Bucharest, a very large one, held a meeting on Thursday, at which a resolution was unanimously passed that the colony should afford all the help possible to the Mpret. It is stated that a large number of volunteers from among the colony have left, and that many of them have already joined the Mpret's army. All capable of bearing arms were called upon at the meeting to follow this example, and a subscription will be opened for the equipment and maintenance of the volunteers.

NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 12.

Next week the Government offices will move up to Mount Troodos for the summer. The troops, one company of the Suffolk Regiment, under Major H. D'Arch Smith, took up their quarters there on June 11.

The Cypriot Greeks have again presented a petition to the King, through the High Commissioner, praying for union with Greece.

The reply of the Secretary of State to the memorial addressed to him by Greek members of the Legislative Council, asking that in view of the increased number of the Greek population in the island, in proportion to that of other nationalities, they might be granted the right of sending two additional Greek members to the Council, has now been received and communicated to them. It is to the effect that they may have their two additional members, but on condition that two more official, non-elected, members are also added. As this arrangement is said not to be to their liking, it is probable that the composition of the Council will remain as at present.

The report on the Education of the Island, by Messrs. Talbot and Cape, the experts sent out from Home last year, is a very thorough and practical document. It shows up all the weak points of the present system, and makes many wise suggestions for improvement.

On Wednesday, June 10, a reception was given by Mr. C. B. Wodehouse, the Commissioner of Larnaca, and Mrs. Wodehouse, on the occasion of the marriage of their only son, which took place on that day in England. The party was given in what is now called St. Lazarus Gardens, formerly a malaria-infested place, known to old Anglo-Cypriots as St. Lazarus Marsh. The "At Home" was largely attended, and the charm of the Gardens came as a surprise to most of those present, the work of filling up and subsequently of laying out the ground having been quietly carried out during the last few years. The gardens will now become a popular resort.

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NOTES FROM SALONIKA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 25.

The Past and the Future.

The 11th inst. being the anniversary of the taking of Constantinople in 1453 by the Turks, there was held, for the first time here, a requiem service to the memory of Constantine Palæologus, who lost his life defending that city. On this occasion our tram service was not stopped, nor were the shops compulsorily closed, but those tradespeople who desired to share in the general mourning were invited to do so. Naturally, many complied, and flags were generally hoisted half-mast.

A local paper writing on the subject said:—

> The happy results of the two last Balkanic wars whipped up the energies of Hellenism and inspired it with vast hopes. And to-day, while celebrating the anniversary of the fall of Constantinople, which it looks upon as one of national mourning, Hellenism makes manifest its firm will to achieve the realization of its Great Ideal: the restoration of the Byzantine Empire.

However, this celebration has made one thing quite evident, which is that the compulsory stoppage of the tram service along the quay, about which (on the quiet) so many complaints are heard, this grievance being mentioned by "An Occasional Correspondent" in The Near East of the 19th inst., is altogether unnecessary; and so it is to be hoped it will not be again put in force.

The Problem of the Refugees.

When and how this vast immigration of Greek refugees is going to end it is impossible to foresee, and if we escape a serious epidemic as the summer advances it will be more by good luck than anything else. Even now our water supply is not equal to the increased demand; and it is altogether impossible for our authorities, animated with the best intentions, to deal with a situation that would tax the powers of any European country. During three days alone of the early part of last week over 10,000 refugees landed here from Asia Minor, several hundred others from Thrace, and still they come in one steady stream. As an officer of high rank was heard to say, it is worse than a war; and there is hardly a doubt it is a considerable factor in the deciding of Greek policy. But what we cannot understand is why the authorities will not allow the Turkish emigrants now in the town to leave. The place is crowded with immigrants; in the open, in schools, under tents, everywhere; and yet the Turks who have come in from the interior are not allowed to go. The British steamer "City of Malaga" arrived here about a fortnight ago with refugees from the Marmora, and, with the consent of the authorities, was at once chartered to carry Turks to Asia Minor, it being stipulated, however, that she was not to take those coming from Greek territory, but only from the new Servian and Bulgarian provinces. The ship was ready to receive her passengers on the Saturday afternoon, but the port authorities requested the captain to wait until the following morning, when the necessary formalities would be in order. So, early the next morning, the ship being alongside the quay, the gangways were put out and all made ready, when the captain learned that the police were not allowing the passengers, their baggage, etc., to come on board. On going to the officer in charge of the police, this official told him he was quite willing to let the emigrants embark, but the port authorities had forbidden it. So off the captain went to them, but only to be informed that they would be only too glad to get rid of the crowd, but that the police would not allow it. Back he, therefore, went to the police to ask what the little game they were playing meant; but as they still blamed the port authorities, there was nothing for him to do but to go off to the Prefecture. There, the Prefect said it was all nonsense, that, of course, the emigrants were to go, and that he would accompany him to the captain of the port to see that no further obstacle was put in the way. So they drove down together to this latter's office, and the Prefect went in to see him, but came out again in five or six minutes to say the Turks could not go, no reason whatever being given.

Greek Police and the British Flag.

That arrangement having fallen through, the captain was offered freight to carry Bulgars to Dedeagatch, this time with more success, and he managed to get away full up on the Tuesday afternoon. Before doing so, however, and while he was on shore (his officers are all Greeks), the police went on board, arrested three of the Bulgarians, most savagely beating one, and forced them on shore again under arrest. By what right they acted in this brutal manner, beating a man under the British flag, is for the Consul to find out. On hearing about it the captain could only make a protest, also putting in a claim for damages for his loss of time, but that any satisfaction will ever be obtained is exceedingly doubtful. But this was not all the vexation he had to put up with, for his second engineer, a Greek, was served with a notice to leave the ship and join the Fleet. The authorities wanted the captain to pay the engineer off, but this he absolutely refused to do, saying that if the man deserted his ship that was his affair, and he must bear the consequences.

Schemes of Improvement.

I see by The Near East of the 12th inst. that Athens is to be beautified; but so are we—on paper, and when the money can be raised. It is said our municipality are proposing to borrow from £1,600,000 to £1,800,000 for this purpose, beginning, however, with only £600,000 for immediate outlay. When all the projected plans are completed, Salonika will be a different town; but it remains to be seen what population there will be left to make use of the boulevards, promenades, gardens, etc., and to pay the interest on the loans. At any rate, Salonika compares in that respect very favourably with the capital, although, as previously said, the supply is not now sufficient for its regular inhabitants, the military and the 50,000 or so refugees.

The Tramway Sedition Case.

The "Occasional Correspondent" in The Near East of the 19th mentioned the case of Mr. Mehmet Capanji, who was recently hauled out of a tram and rushed off to the police station, and later to the Procureur, for venturing to utter a criticism on something or somebody. This incident has had a sequel; and, to save the situation, a trial of this gentleman took place on Monday in the Correctional Court. According to the report of the case in the papers, the informer was a Greek refugee from Constantinople, who deposed that Mr. Capanji "had spoken against the authorities." One would have thought any magistrate would have at once quashed such a flimsy case, but evidently that would not be in accordance with Greek legal procedure, for two officers (Colonel Cambouris and Lieutenant-Colonel Monferratos) were called for the defence, and "expressed their conviction that the accused, belonging as he does to the upper circles of Salonika society, could never have spoken against the new régime." After hearing these witnesses and "brilliant" speeches for the defence from two eminent lawyers, "the court pronounced a sentence of acquital." So the affair ended for Mr. Capanji, but if the thousands of refugees we have here are going to ride about in the trams amusing themselves by giving in charge their fellow-passengers, they may get some fun out of it, but it will be mightily unpleasant for their victims.

Greeks and Jews.

And now another refugee question has been raised by the authorities. For very many years Jews have had the carrying of salt from the port to the Public Debt stores, for which work they have been paid eight piastres per thousand okes. On Monday the director of this department, now, of course, Greek, sent for these men, and told them that some refugees were offering to do the work for seven and a-quarter piastres, and he asked them if they were willing to accept the same terms. On their replying that the work had been done by them for the last forty years, and that they could not lower the rate, they were dismissed, and replaced by refugees. So now some sixty Jewish families are thrown on the streets to starve or to emigrate, and the refugee problem is much simplified. These refugees have only to cut under the Jewish and alien labour to the extent of a penny or twopence, and this element is then squeezed out, Salonika thus getting rid of it once for all.

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SUFFERINGS OF GREEKS IN ASIA MINOR.

THE SACK OF PHOCEA.

We have received from the well-known author "Lascaris" a description written by an eye-witness of the persecution of Greeks in Asia Minor. The mission of Talaat Bey, Turkish Minister of the Interior, to Smyrna and the neighbourhood has, however, it appears from other sources, had a calming effect, and the more virulent forms of persecution have momentarily ceased. An International Commission, accompanied by the dragomans from the foreign Embassies in Constantinople, is now engaged in making an independent inquiry in the affected area:—

M. Félix Sartiaux, the French archæologist, who has been carrying out excavations at Phocea, arrived at Smyrna on June 15. He told me that from May 31 to June 13 armed bands of Turks attacked the village of Sulougjuk, which is inhabited by 150 Christian families. The peasants sent their women and children to the neighbouring island of Englesonisi, and defended themselves bravely against their assailants till their ammunition gave out, when they, too, sought refuge on the desert island. Thereupon the Turks pillaged and set fire to the village, after which they joined the Mussulman population of the neighbouring villages and marched on Phocea. They were joined by the porters of Phocea, who were working in the salt quarries of that city, and by the riff-raff of the town, as well as by members of the Turkish police force dressed as peasants.

This mob fell upon the Christians, and massacred everyone they could find. Those who succeeded in escaping were taken on board an English steamer and a large sailing vessel. M. Sartiaux and his friends were able to save a great number of Christians by hoisting the French flag over the houses in which they lived. The Turks, however, took their revenge in other parts of the town, and acts of barbarity that defy all description were performed. The local authorities made no effort to preserve order, but rather took part in the disturbances. A whole quarter of the city was destroyed by fire. M. Sartiaux has made a list of the victims, about fifty in number. Four girls, aged from fifteen to twenty-two, whose parents are among the dead, were dragged through the streets by the mob, and nothing is known as to their fate. Old men and women and even paralytics and madmen were tortured by having their hands cut off, while others were hanged. The Church of St. Irene was pillaged and profaned, and a *muezzin* went up into the belfry and summoned the Faithful to prayer.

Phocea is deserted. Here and there a few terrified women and children may be seen, and the people of Smyrna are doing their best to relieve their sufferings.

RUSSIA AND THE ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL DEAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 28.

The British Government's acquisition of a controlling interest in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, is not apparently regarded with friendly complacence by the leading organs of the Russian Press. Sir Edward Grey's statement to the House that the intention of the British Government in this matter has long been known to Russia, and that there is no reason whatever for believing that its realisation can in any way ruffle Russian susceptibilities is not accepted without demur. The *Novoye Vremya*, which for some time past has displayed a marked friendship for and sympathy with England, sees in this Anglo-Persian oil deal a "grave danger" to Russia and a still greater danger to Persia, and fears that it may lead to extremely undesirable friction between the two protective Powers in Persia. The comments of some of the other leading Russian organs are more pointedly adverse. The *Semstchina*, for example, sarcastically remarks upon the "curious coincidence" of Sir Edward Grey's announcement and the visit of a British naval squadron to Russian waters.

Whenever (says this journal) England displays a particularly friendly and delicate attention towards this country it behoves us to look for a hidden motive. It has always been so, but our diplomacy is usually too purblind to perceive the machination. The British warships come to anchor at Reval and our Duma Deputies hasten thither to give the British admiral and his staff a cordial reception; and that is the moment chosen by the British Foreign Minister to make his extraordinary announcement concerning his "capture" of the Persian oilfield. Who are the over-lords in Northern Persia, we or the English? Russia will tolerate no encroachment upon her sphere of influence in Iran. This oil concession obviously enables England to extend her sphere of action beyond the neutral zone and into Persian territory which was assigned to Russia's direct protection by the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907. The resolution of the British Parliament practically cancels the neutral zone. England's sphere of action in Persia is, as a matter of fact, extended, by means of this oil concession, to a line drawn through Kermanshah, Ispahan, and Yezd, and, consequently, the convention of 1907 may now be considered as worthless and waste paper.

Returning to the subject to-day, the *Novoye Vremya* concludes its further and hostile comments with the declaration that "in making its compact with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company the British Government has openly and flagrantly transgressed the letter and the spirit of the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907."

With the exception of the *Rossia*, an official organ, none of the more prominent Russian journals have a friendly and approving word to say for the Persian oil concession, and even the *Rossia* damns it with the faintest approval, or rather with patently grudging acquiescence in the scheme. It goes without saying, of course, that Sir Edward Grey consulted the Russian Foreign Office before making his statement to the House, but Russia's actual reply to the British oil enterprise will shortly become clearly apparent in the further and final consolidation of her permanent occupation of Northern Persia and in the greater absolutism of her influence at Teheran.

NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, June 22.

Public indignation still runs high in Jerusalem at the hanging last week, of which fresh and horrid details keep on coming to light. The victim had to be held by several soldiers while they bound him securely, for he was of unusual strength, and fought desperately until overpowered. Apparently he was not blindfolded, and could see the preparations for his death going on around him while he remained helpless. No one in all Jerusalem could be found who would undertake the actual hanging until a gipsy consented to do it for £4. There were eight or ten other men under sentence of death in the prison, who were to have been dealt with in the same way; but a member of one of the chief Moslem families here went to the Mutessarif, and said that if the incidents of June 10 were publicly repeated he would himself raise the place in protest. I am glad to say that in consequence of this energetic protest Jerusalem has been saved from further disgrace of this kind.

Nasr-ed-Din Hodja on the Bench.

From grave to gay—an equally true incident. Last week an Austrian subject, who had lived at Jaffa for twenty years, was arrested there for walking about with a Turkish flag bound round his shoe, the star being prominent. He was thrown into prison for having publicly insulted the Turkish flag; but on appealing to his Consulate the Austrian dragoman went down to the Serai and formally demanded his release. It was refused, and the incident seemed likely to become a troublesome one when the Governor hit upon a happy expedient. "The cause of offence is the shoe," he said; "you can therefore take the man, and we will keep the shoe!" And so it was arranged; the man is free as usual, and the offending shoe, with the Turkish flag bound round it, remains unhappily in prison. Certainly Turkish officials are men of infinite resource.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

KURDS AND ARMENIANS.*

Many Englishmen still retain old-fashioned notions as to the relative value as a man of the Kurd and the Armenian—the former, in imagination, is endowed with most of the more pleasing characteristics of interesting Highlanders, taken from the pages of the best fiction; while the Armenian is but poorly regarded even by many who have met him. The authors of this book, however, speaking from actual and uncomfortable experience, do a great deal to dethrone the Kurd from his apparently deserved pride of place. They strip him of his mountain virtues, and allow that at best he is merely picturesque; he will not pay taxes, he will not work, he will not serve in the army, and—damning accusation if true—he is not a brave warrior, as every Highlander should be, but figures as a truculent bully, only capable of flaying or fleecing an unarmed population. He is full of pride and thieving, and considers himself to be one of a privileged caste, nor will he condescend to be a productive unit in the labour world until he is out of the shadow of his ancestral mountains. On the contrary, as the authors point out, the local Armenian, whose numbers have been drastically reduced by "artificial means," so that in no vilayet does his race form a majority, is still, in spite of the predatory terrorists who are his neighbours and the lack of protection which the Ottoman administration is in many places far too weak to accord him, a hard-working and thrifty farmer, full of patriotic attachment for his nation and his national Church. The reputation of the Armenian for financial ability and commercial capacity is well known, but many people in the West fail to realise that he is also endowed with administrative and diplomatic gifts, by which his Ottoman overlords have greatly profited in the past. Nor should the European forget that time was when the Armenian ranked as the equal of the Frank in love and war; and the authors of this book very rightly recall episodes in the history of Armenia of which any country might be proud. But, in spite of its military prowess and splendid past, the Armenian monarchy foundered, and since then the rallying point of the nation, as with so many of the peoples subjugated by the Turk, has been its Church—called from its founder, St. Gregory the Illuminator, the Gregorian Church. Some of the nation, however, recognize Papal claims, and form the Armenian Uniat or Mekhitarist Church; others, again, are Armeno-Orthodox, but the great mass are Gregorians, subjects of the spiritual sway of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin and of the temporal authority accorded by the Porte to the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, who is elected and assisted by the Armenian National Assembly. The book contains much information about the Gregorian Church, which appears to have retained, on the one hand, certain sacrificial ceremonies which have a flavour of the doctrine of Blood Atonement; while, on the other hand, it is based on an elective principle, which should earn it the hearty support of some of the Nonconforming organisations of our own country. It is remarkable, moreover, that the Gregorian Church has always resisted the pretensions and attacks of the Œcumenical Patriarchate, and the authors incline to the opinion that its heresy, for which its adherents are damned in the eyes of the Orthodox as being Eutychians, took its rise rather from political and nationalist stubbornness than from spiritual perversity and stiff-neckedness.

The authors explain how scattered is the Armenian nation, and refer to the benefits accorded to this people under Russian rule in Transcaucasia. This, however, they point out, is rather a novelty, as until within the last few years the centralizing spirit of Russia looked with disfavour on national aspirations of all kinds within her borders, and visited minor peoples, such as the Poles, the Finlanders, the Livonians, the Ukrainers, and other non-Russian subjects of her Crown, with pains and penalties for cleaving to their racial characteristics and ambitions. At that time the Russian Armenians suffered severely, and their Church was proscribed and suppressed.

The book, which is most sympathetically written, places an interesting and remarkable people in a favourable light, and should do much to correct misunderstandings in this country upon a whole category of vexed questions concerning the Six Vilayets and their diverse and mutually antipathetic populations. There is a map illustrating the dispersion of the Armenian nation in its present captivity and its numerical preponderance in various parts of the Ottoman and Russian Empires.

* "Travel and Politics in Armenia." Noel Buxton, M.P., and the Rev. Harold Buxton. (Smith Elder. 5s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

St. Ives. By R. L. Stevenson. *The Lilac Sunbonnet.* By S. R. Crockett. *De Omnibus.* Barry Pain. *Quo Vadis?* Henryk Sienkiewicz. *Southward Ho! and Other Essays.* By Holbrook Jackson. (J. M. Dent and Sons. 1s. each net.)

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It has been reserved for *The Times* to combine the virtues of an official utterance with the advantages of anonymity. In Thursday's issue a letter appeared on the Foreign Page over the signature "Munsef," in which the writer vigorously defended the reputation of the Bakhtiaris, those influential gentry in whose hands is supposed to lie the future of the Anglo-Persian oil pipe-line. Even from an anonymous correspondent the letter was interesting and gave every sign of being as well-informed and authoritative as it turns out to be when on looking in the index the reader finds that it was written by —— well *vide The Times* for July 2, page 8, first column, though I am not sure that his Excellency will be entirely pleased by the publicity of the information.

***

The jubilee of the French College of the Lazarists at Damascus has just been celebrated, and the occasion was marked by a gathering of ecclesiastical clans remarkable even for Syria, that country of innumerable conflicting Churches. Among the prelates who took part in the festivities, in addition to visiting Franciscans and Jesuits, were Mgr. Beshara Shemayel, Vicar-Patriarchal of the Maronites, Mgr. Clement Baccache, the Syrian-Uniat Archbishop, and Mgr. Demetrius Cadi, Melchite Bishop of Aleppo. The French Consul-General at Damascus, M. Ottair, and his staff attended the celebrations in order to maintain the prestige of his country in the Levant, although such an act of piety would not be favourable to his prospects of promotion were he to indulge in it at home.

***

I observe with a certain sardonic interest that the Albanian rebels have established a Provisional Government at Berat. It does not surprise me. Albania is the home of such entities. Ismail Kemal Bey had a Provisional Government at Valona. Mr. Zographos had another in Argyrokastro; a previously unknown hero erected a third somewhere in the north, but as he issued no postage stamps no one troubled to recognise him or his Government, and the Republic of the Drin—which, I believe, was what he thought he had created—died unlamented and almost unknown. It is possible that the Autonomy of Berat will follow that of Epirus into oblivion, but I greatly doubt whether the Mpret will be able to get rid of it by his own unaided efforts. It will probably have to wait for the "Cretefication" of the Principality, which is demanded and predicted by all experts on the Albanian question.

***

Roumania is really becoming very advanced, for I learn from a correspondent that some 300 convicts engaged in serving life-sentences at the salt mines of Turgu Okna went on strike the other day. The grievance which led the officials of the Moldo-Wallachian Criminals' Mutual Protection Association and Convicts' Union to call out their members is stated to be the dishonesty of certain warders, who misappropriated the money obtained from the sale of curios made by the convicts "out of hours" and entrusted to them for disposal. The strikers insisted on sleeping out of doors—had summer weather anything to do with this decision?—and would not obey anybody until they had been comforted by the arrest and dismissal of the peccant officials. This really seems to be a case of setting a thief, if not to catch, at least to watch a thief, and gives the scholar an excellent opportunity to introduce a well-worn Latin tag. I am sorry to learn that the leaders of this justifiable strike have been sent to extra hard labour, which will perhaps leave them neither leisure nor inclination to carve bones or weave leather strips.

***

The true Turk is generally given credit for being a very slow-witted, unimaginative person, without much taste or talent for the pursuit of the arts. However, there are not wanting signs that he is not only making an effort to understand business, but also to take an interest in literature and the theatre. M. Antoine has been appointed director of the Constantinople Conservatoire, and it may be confidently expected that this distinguished Frenchman will not let the grass grow under his feet in his new sphere of activity, but will add to the laurels which he won in the theatrical world of Paris. I understand that a number of plays have been translated into Turkish, including "La Dame aux Camelias," some of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and a few works by Molière. It will be observed that an attempt has been made to suit all tastes. If the experiment is successful, an indigenous drama will probably be encouraged to develop. At any rate, the visitor to Constantinople will now be able to find something more interesting than the shoddy forms of entertainment which have hitherto flourished there like weeds of the Levant. I remember with pain a tour I once made of the places of entertainment in the Turkish capital, the most edifying of which housed a very degenerate circus. M. Antoine will have a task of no little difficulty, but I wish him success.

CORSAIR.

THE NEW TURKISH WRITING.

WHAT IT SHOULD DO FOR TURKEY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Abdul Hamid is always credited with having arrested any attempt at progress for the very good reason that he knew that any change would mean danger to him. One thing is certain, and that is that the art of reading and writing was not encouraged in Turkey in his time, or before his time for that matter, because that would have meant the spread of knowledge and the consequent fostering of progress.

The Turk has for ages left all commercial pursuits to the Armenian and the Greek; he therefore found that reading and writing were not very needful to him. It was only the clerical classes, mostly those persons engaged in the Government service, who possessed these accomplishments. Thus it is, in part, that the Armenian has his reputation for business capacity, and one can realise how he must have laughed at his Turkish compatriots who contented themselves with agricultural pursuits and rather looked down at their Armenian business men.

Turkey is now, however, striving to rouse herself and to bring her humbler subjects with all possible speed over the odd century of time by which their educational standard lags behind that of the lower classes of European countries. It is a stupendous proposition, but several hard-working men, and in particular the Minister for War, Enver Pasha, have decided to start the new education on firm foundations.

As each raw recruit comes up from the interior to do his military service he will find now that he is surrounded by older comrades who can read and write the tongue which he can only talk as yet. He should also find that in one month or so he, too, will be able to read and write with ever-lessening difficulty. When our soldier returns to his native village on completion of his term of service will he not take very good care that his children learn to read, too? Will he not be keen to see the newspaper printed in the new style, which will start him thinking on the affairs of his country and will foster in him a spirit of national unity? He will feel that he has a common bond with those in the capital city, and will begin to realise the why and wherefore of many things that seemed to him meaningless and useless before he could read about them.

To turn to the new writing itself, the idea is to use phonetic writing for all words. Turkish writing is at present a sort of stenography, or, to use a stenographer's phrase, a series of grammalogues, and anyone wishing to read a word aright must first know the word, in the same way that he would have to know the word represented by a grammalogue. To illustrate the difficulties of the old writing, it will be sufficient for the uninitiated to be told that the same sign in Turkish represents the sounds o, ou, u, eu, v; and the reader must know which of these sounds is intended before he can pronounce any particular word.

It will thus be understood why it takes a man of fair intelligence about two years to learn to read a Turkish newspaper thoroughly, and why this attainment is a practical impossibility for a person of minor intelligence.

In the new writing each letter is written separately, thus avoiding the difficulties which were caused in the old alphabet by the fact that there were three separate and different signs for each letter, according to its position in the word to be written. This separation of the letters will greatly facilitate the printing of newspapers and literature in general, and it will enable the easy construction of a typewriter for Turkish—hitherto a matter of considerable difficulty. There are two disadvantages which present themselves, the one being the considerable loss of time in writing by hand and the other being the greater space taken by the new writing. The first of these objections will, I should imagine, settle itself by the adaption of the new style to handwriting, and the other objection would seem to be easily outweighed by the attendant advantages of the new system.

How is the writing being brought into general use? First, as explained above, each soldier is being taught its use, and in this way the knowledge will be disseminated throughout the Empire; and, secondly, all the official correspondence in the Army and at the Ministry of War is conducted in the new style. This latter will therefore receive an official status and recognition which ought to give it much help for its début.

What is the general opinion about it at Constantinople? It is hard to say. There are, of course, differences of opinion on the subject, and new schemes are always opposed by those who were brought up under the older system, and who naturally consider that the old-fashioned things are the best. Young plants thrive well, however, if firmly planted and well watered, and it is certain that the *yeni yazi* (or new writing) will grow to be a tree that should produce good fruit one day if carefully looked after during the more tender years of its existence.

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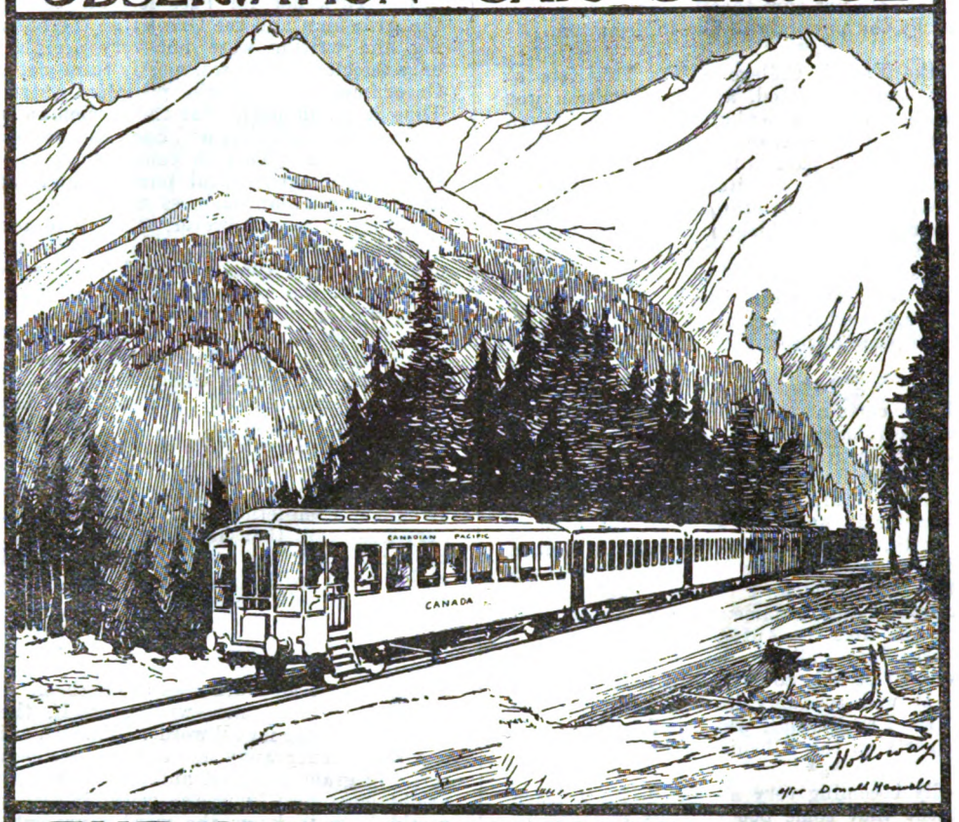

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Debate on Foreign Office Vote. June 29.

Foreign affairs were discussed in the House of Commons on Monday, the House going into Committee of Supply on the Foreign Office vote. Below is a summary of the references in the various speeches to the affairs of the Near East.

Lord Ronaldshay said that in view of the contract with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company the Committee was entitled to know what policy was being pursued in Southern Persia. Apparently, Sir Edward Grey was coming round to the views of those who advocated the forward policy. Advocate as he (Lord Ronaldshay) was of a forward policy, it came to him as a considerable surprise that a member of the Government should come forward with a policy of investing public money in a country like Persia. The right hon. gentleman would seem, if he might be allowed to say so, to have out-Heroded Herod. He thought it was desirable that it should be stated explicitly that we had interests in that part of the world, and that we were prepared at all costs to defend them.

Mr. Noel Buxton asked whether it was not possible that the improved state of relations among the Great Powers, and especially with Germany, made it possible that a new diplomatic attitude might be adopted towards Persia—that something on the lines of our diplomatic attitude to Afghanistan might be adopted, and that possibly a diplomatic mission might come to be worth attempting for the revival of some kind of Persian policy, possibly along with the removal of the capital from the Russian sphere of influence. Turning to the troubles arising out of the Balkan war, he said that progress had been very great, but in the minor matter of the treatment of minorities it was the duty of the Great Powers to do something to mitigate the suffering entailed in the transfer of populations. The break-up of Turkey was possibly not very far from sight, financially and morally.

Sir Mark Sykes said that a portion of the oil supply vital to this country existed in the neutral zone and the British sphere in Persia, and it was necessary, therefore, that we should have a definite Persian Gulf policy. If we went into Persia we should have to stop, and we must face our difficulties. One of these was that there might be internal trouble in the region of an oil supply, in which case we should inevitably have to have British occupation. If we had that occupation, on the possible hypothesis mentioned by Mr. Buxton of the complete break-up of the Ottoman Empire, we should have a German frontier in Mesopotamia, and, on the other hand, on the possible hypothesis of the break-up of Persia, we should have a Russian frontier. It must be our interest to maintain the integrity of the Ottoman Empire as long as possible, and the best reforms we could interest ourselves in in connection with that Empire were in respect of the provinces of Mosul and Baghdad, through which the railway was going. The position with regard to Persia was very difficult and complicated, because the desire to avoid internal disorder and yet maintain the integrity of Persia were contradictory things. Sir E. Grey spoke lightly of using two brigades for the defence of the oil pipes. A division seemed nearer the mark, but whatever the number of troops they must be added to the present Indian garrison. The root of the whole of our Persian policy seemed to rest on the question as to how the concession was worked. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company was, as far as one knew, worked on model lines and was above reproach, but as the Government were the predominant partner it was their business to see that these lines were maintained. It was their duty also to keep an eye on other concessionaires and see that they did not victimise or exploit the people, and that the local native communities got a fair share of the profits for maintaining order. Such a policy followed in the neutral and British zones would do much to produce an indigenous native civilisation, which in the best event might become part of a regenerate Persia, and, in the worst event, a native State capable of supporting itself 40 or 50 years hence.

Mr. Baird said that with regard to Mesopotamia, while the Foreign Secretary had recently stated that he did not think he would be in a position to publish the agreements, that could not prevent people being extremely nervous as to their nature, because so far as those agreements were known, by rumour, to the public, it appeared that, having renounced our right to participate in the Baghdad Railway, we hoped to counterbalance the effect of that railway by developing the navigation of the Tigris.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert said that he hoped the present situation in Albania would not be used as an argument for refusing all intervention. He thought that this situation could have been prevented, and that England could have done more. He imputed a full knowledge of everything that had happened to the Greek Government. Unless they were going to give Albania a chance, it would have been better not to constitute a State.

Sir Edward Grey, in reply, maintained that with reference to Persia he had not departed from the policy which was laid down some years ago. It must be remembered that this oil concession existed before the Anglo-Russian agreement was made, and that it remains to-day exactly as it was then. Turning to the question of defence, he said that if he spoke lightly of sending two brigades, it was because he urged upon the House that the conditions which would make it imperative upon us to do so were conditions that could not arise—not that he treated it lightly. The hon. member for Bradford asked who would pay the bill. We did not anticipate that any bill would arise, but if it did arise the circumstances under which it arose would have to be taken into very careful account, and the House would have to be quite clear that no burden was placed upon India if that burden was being incurred not in the interests of India, but solely in the interests of the supply of oil to the Admiralty. Touching on the encroachments of Russia, and the integrity and independence of Persia, he urged that he had always said that when disturbances exist in Persia which threatened Russian interests or trade, they could not construe the temporary protection of those trade routes and the preservation and maintenance of order in the country by Russian troops as being inconsistent with the spirit of the Anglo-Russian agreement. But as order increased the Russian Government had assured him that these troops would be progressively withdrawn, and lately their numbers had been reduced.

A Tendency to Russification.

But lately there had been, besides the presence of Russian troops, a tendency for the civil administration in Azerbaijan to become more and more Russified, not through the deliberate policy of the Russian Government, but through the action of Russian consuls. There was, for instance, the collection of taxes by Russian officials. The Government had lately brought these facts under review with the Russian Government, and said that it was time we had a friendly discussion with them and took stock of the position, so that we might see exactly what had taken place since the Anglo-Russian Convention was made—taking stock, not by the way of making complaint of one particular instance here, and another there, but of the general cumulative effect of many instances, and the tendency in the last few years. That matter we had begun to discuss with the Russian Government. We had not proposed any alteration in the Anglo-Russian Convention. We had simply proposed to discuss the situation which in some respects we thought had worked to our disadvantage by the force of events not foreseen when the Anglo-Russian Convention was made.

With regard to the Baghdad Railway, he hoped papers would soon be published, including the text of the agreements and the covering despatch. The reason the matter was hung up at the present moment was that we had made various agreements with Turkey and with Germany separately. We had signed some of these agreements with Turkey, and we had initialled others with Turkey and Germany. But we could not sign them, and Turkey and Germany could not sign them, until they had completed their own negotiations. When the agreements were laid *in extenso* before Parliament, he thought it would appear that they made a very complete settlement of many troublesome questions. The agreement the Government had made with regard to the Baghdad Railway was that, although we did not participate in it, the railway stopped at Busreh, and by agreement with Germany and Turkey it was not going to be continued beyond Busreh, or to the Persian Gulf, without the British Government's consent in some future agreement. That was a most important point, because originally the Baghdad Railway concession between Germany and Turkey included the right to go to the Persian Gulf. That was certainly the cause of great anxiety in this country. Of course, we had stipulated for equal rights in the sense of equal rates on the Baghdad Railway, and two British directors were to be admitted. As to the question of the navigation at Baghdad, which had previously been in a most unsatisfactory state, under the new arrangement whatever rights the Messrs. Lynch possessed previously were preserved and recognised. The Turkish rights on the river would be entrusted to an Ottoman company, in which there would be 50 per cent. of British participation with the casting vote. Finally, we had got the recognition by Turkey of the *status quo* in the Persian Gulf as the British Government had regarded it for many years past. Under the agreement we should secure from Turkey, to our mutual advantage, a satisfactory understanding about the *status quo*, which would prevent either Turkey or ourselves stirring up trouble against one another at a later date. In return for all these things when they were complete we had agreed to a 4 per cent. increase in the Turkish Customs, which would advance them to a total of 15 per cent. Having got the condition as to the termination of the Baghdad Railway, which secured British interests from disturbance in the Persian Gulf, we were able to agree to the increase in the Turkish Customs. With regard to Armenia, the Turkish Government had appointed two European Inspectors-General who would have very wide powers, quite sufficient to enable them to realise in administration the reforms which they all hoped for, and which the Turkish Government undoubtedly desired to see carried out. As to the protection of minorities in Macedonia and the Near East, he did not think the Powers were at this moment prepared to get up an International Commission for the purpose. With regard to Albania he did not know that except in one respect we could do more than we had done so far. Who were we to deal with? In the present circumstances he would not be prepared to send a British Consul into Epirus where there was no Government to hold responsible for what took place, and where there was no Government whom they could bring to book. He was opposed, and would remain opposed, to sending British troops into Albania. If we sent British troops into a disturbed district they would run the risk, some of them, of losing their lives, and they would run the risk also of having to take life. He was quite sure that if British soldiers were sent into Albania and fired on any section of the Albanian people the House of Commons would want a very strict account of why it had happened. On the other hand, if we were not prepared to send British troops and to use force we must stand aside, and if other Powers took a different view we could not object to the measures they proposed to take.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania's New Subjects.

In the July *Contemporary* "A Bulgarian" refers to the treatment to which Roumania is subjecting the inhabitants of her new territories in the Dobruja, where, as a result of the Treaty of Bucharest,

at the cost of a few scores of men, none of whom died fighting, she acquired 3,000 square miles of fertile land, with the Balkan hegemony thrown into the bargain.

He points out that

Roumania could lay neither ethnographic nor historic claims to the districts which she obtained in recompense for her chivalrous conduct. Of a total population of some 280,000, the number of the Roumanian inhabitants did not exceed 6,359, as against 134,331 Bulgarians and 106,830 Turks.

"From a historic point of view, her pretensions were even weaker," as her dominion over Silistria lasted only from 1390 to 1394. Not content with abolishing the "universal suffrage and proportional representation" which existed in the ceded territories under the Bulgarians, the new rulers went further and—

When the Roumanians occupied New Dobruja they found in the various localities about 200 Bulgarian schools, all of them in a flourishing condition; not one of them remains to-day. Under the pretext that in Roumania the State alone is responsible for public instruction, the Roumanian authorities closed all existing schools and sequestered their property. A score of schools have since been opened, but as most of the new teachers are Roumanians and the children are ignorant of their language, matters have not been much improved. . . .

The Bulgarian churches have fared no better than the Bulgarian schools. With the annexation the Bulgarian Exarchate was deprived of its legal status in those territories, and all the churches and other religious foundations passed into the hands of the Roumanian clergy. In those cases where the Bulgarian priests agreed to read the service in Roumanian, they were left in possession of their churches. Where that condition was not accepted, the priests were replaced by Roumanians or the churches were closed.

The author then goes on to explain the drastic measures taken on the question of land tenure:—

The Bulgarian law and the jurisprudence of the Bulgarian law courts only recognise one kind of property—that of absolute freehold. All traces of feudal tenure were swept away with the liberation of Bulgaria, and during the last thirty years people have bought and sold on that understanding. . . . Let us now see what the Roumanian law has done. In the first place, it refuses to recognise rights of property unless they are established in a certain way, and this under penalty of confiscation. . . . In the second place, it nullifies rights derived from transactions which, under the Bulgarian *régime*, were held to be valid, the result again being—confiscation. Finally, it forgets that Bulgaria had abolished all forms of feudal tenure and vests the property of practically all the agricultural land in the State, as under the Turkish law. Having whipped a dead horse into life, it proceeds to bury it once more, but, for performing that trick, it retains for the Roumanian State one-third of the property, in money or kind; but when the Roumanian legislator charges exorbitant fees to do what had been done gratuitously twenty or thirty years ago, it looks very much like robbery. The whole thing would have been ridiculous had it not involved millions of pounds and the fate of thousands of families. But even after mulcting one-third of their property, the law does not guarantee to its victims a tranquil enjoyment of the remaining two-thirds. The State only promises to give them a certain number of acres, without undertaking to place them in possession of their old fields. Nothing can, therefore, prevent the authorities from keeping the most fertile land and distributing barren plots.

The Serajevo Crime.

In certain quarters there has been a tendency to hold Servia as a nation responsible for the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his consort. *The Morning Post* of Wednesday reminds us, in a leading article entitled "Austria and the Serbs," that as between the two countries the plotting has not always been on one side. The Agram trials of a few years ago "revealed to the world the nature of the intrigues by which the Austro-Hungarian bureaucrats were ready to attack the unity of the Serb race and the unscrupulous character of those who carried on these intrigues." It was resentment of such treatment as they received that led to the crime of Sunday.

Both the man who threw the bomb and the boy who fired the pistol were Orthodox Serbs of Bosnia. There is no need to look across the border to Servia for instigators of the crime. But it is the obvious cue of the bureaucrats of the class that arranged the Agram persecutions to point to Servia as the source of the trouble. The bomb-thrower if he had Bosnian accomplices whom he wished to screen would naturally admit a connection with Belgrade. There are no doubt excitable men at Belgrade, as in every place east and south of Vienna, where the Orient begins. But the politicians of Belgrade are far too well acquainted with the difficulties of Servia's position to be willing to increase them by promoting plots for assassinations in Austria. It is not a little remarkable that, according to the telegrams, all of which come from and through Austrian territory, the first consequences of the assassination have been anti-Serb riots in that most Serb of Serb countries Bosnia. The Moslems and the Catholics are said to have attacked the Orthodox Serbs, to protect whom a state of siege has been proclaimed in Sarajevo.

Intrigue at Durazzo.

The Outlook (June 27) publishes a very important communication, dated Durazzo, June 14, from a special correspondent. The letter (which is headed "Albania: The Attempt to Stampede King William: International Intrigues") sheds a flood of light on the situation in Albania. The writer, discussing the attitude of the two countries chiefly concerned, says:—

Austrian policy throughout the Balkan crisis has been criticised in many quarters, notably in England. It is, therefore, the more pleasant to be able to record a conviction that in Albania Austria is playing fair. Her *amour propre* is involved, and she believes that if the Albanian experiment fails she will look foolish and suffer loss. Consequently her interests and the cause of Albanian nationalism at the moment coincide. . . Now let us examine Italy's conception of her duty towards Albania and its King. In the beginning she caught Essad Pasha early when he went on tour, kept him long in Rome, and applied such heavy blandishments that he has since been, beyond all question, simply her instrument. Whether or no Italy's original object was—as it now obviously and openly is—to get rid of a German prince as quickly as possible and put forward her own candidate is not clear, but it is plain that, from the outset, she was at least determined to discredit the new ruler. Essad Pasha was instructed to keep him in the tightest of leading strings. Both Essad and Mr. Castoldi, the King's Italian adviser, informed him continually that the country was in the most dangerous condition, and that free movement was impossible. On no account was he to be seen abroad at all unless accompanied by Essad; and sometimes when the King wished to go out Essad was engaged! Then came the "insurgent" movement, magnified in Italian accounts into a dangerous rising of Albanians against the King. There followed the very necessary arrest of Essad for complicity in the insurgent movement, but when he had been safely got aboard an Austrian warship he was surrendered to the Italians. They did not desert their tool, for Essad is now in much honour in Rome. The arrest of Essad is the one great popular act of King William's still short reign. Whatever the insurgents may be "up" about now, it is clearly not about Essad, and the King's cause is gathering strength.

It is stated that the Italians deliberately set themselves to create a panic. But:—

When neither King nor Queen was convinced by these alarms, recourse was had to threats. In the afternoon the [Italian] Minister said that he would withdraw the Italian sailors forming the Palace guard, as all must be got on board. The Italians had now so worked on everyone's nerves that even the Austrian Minister failed the King, and agreed that it was time to leave the Palace. So at 4 p.m. the King and Queen finally consented to go on board. The King returned before 7 p.m., having spent less than three hours on the yacht. But the Italians had attained their object, which was to involve him in discredit. They were quite willing to play the coward themselves if only they could appear to have infected him with fear. The deception was soon exposed, as Mr. Lamb, the English Control Commissioner, accompanied by his German colleague, quietly walked out into the country and met the "dangerous rebels."

The writer maintains that the Dutch officers are performing a difficult task "cautiously and well," but are hindered by the intrigues of the Italians, which even go so far as intercourse with the insurgents.

Articles to Note.

"Politics and British Trade in the Near East," by Captain Dixon-Johnson; "A Footnote to the Balkan War," by J. Mavrogordato; "The Albanian Seacoast," by E. Aubry, in *The Asiatic Review* (July).

"The Anglo-Russian Pacification of the Near East," in *The Outlook* (June 27).

"The Finances of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan," by Percy F. Martin, in *The Financial Review of Reviews* (July).

"Albania," in *The Manchester Guardian* (June 27).

"Through Arid Greece to the Green Isle of Corfu," by Richard Curle, in *The New Age* (June 25).

"The Foreign Office Bag," by Lucien Wolf, in *The Graphic* (June 27).

"The Albanian Tangle," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in *The Fortnightly Review* (July).

"The Principal Lesson of the Balkan Wars," by Sir Max Waechter, in *The Nineteenth Century* (July).

"The Dual Monarchy and the Balkan Wars," by Joseph Szebenyel, in *War and Peace* (June).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE OTTOMAN ASSOCIATION AND ITS WORK.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Assuredly most of your readers will agree with me in heartily thanking you for opening your columns to all shades of opinion—a privilege which those of us (at least) who differ from you occasionally value very highly.

I note that Mr. Field, of the Ottoman Society, avails himself of this privilege to attack members of the Ottoman Association, and one in particular who, writing in your issue of May 8, said truly that England on the whole was silent on the atrocities of the Balkan wars. The *people* seemingly were silent, because the Press, with a few honorable exceptions, was muzzled. But our distinguished military critic and writer, "Linesman," writing in 1913, said: "We take shame on our country that she has joined in the conspiracy which would inveigle Turkey into embracing her own infamy—*i.e.*, to yield before she is beaten—and has joined in the howl of execration against Turkey never mistaken since she began to lose." "Linesman" was able, by the sheer force of his personality, to make his protest against this howl of the Liberal Press (which is *not* the people's Press, but which is owned by capitalists) and a Jingo Press which exists to create war scares and spread the war fever on behalf of the armament companies. The one daily Labour paper in England was not established when the Tripoli and the Balkan wars broke out. Our Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, now tells us, in a recent speech, that it is in the power of the Press to create the diplomatic atmosphere, and to say how much should be possible and how much impossible, etc. Just so, and just what we should expect from Sir Edward Grey. This the people realise, and do not intend in the future to accept the dicta of the capitalists who control the Pressmen. In support of this assertion, note the result of the recent French Parliamentary elections and the revolt in Italy. And may I say here that Mr. Field might surely leave the criticism of fellow-workers and friends of Turkey to others, while proceeding with the work in hand? By that I mean helping the Turks to consolidate their country and to ward off the encroachments of Russia, who has established herself in Northern Persia and Teheran (with the acquiescence of our weak and irresolute Foreign Secretary). What will prevent her from encroaching upon India? It will be remembered that Peter the Great's injunction to future statesmen was that it must always be the object of Russia to harass Persia, to increase her influence over the plain of Iran, to push her way to the Persian Gulf, and thus ultimately to secure that vast district and the Levant. British co-operation is sought and desired just so long as it suits Russian ends. The work of the Ottoman Association is on behalf of humanity, irrespective of race, colour or creed, and a work of patriotism to many who believe that the integrity of the Ottoman Empire is indissolubly bound up with the integrity of our Empire. And, moreover, it is a work to save us from being merely a nation of shopkeepers, the docile servants of a cosmopolitan capitalist.

In an article summarising the findings of the report of the Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Carnegie Peace Fund, Professor Th. Ruyssen tells us (see *La Paix par le Droit*, Paris, May 14, 1914, pp. 273-285) that the second Balkan war takes us back not merely to the darkest periods of the Middle Ages, but to primitive ages. Abominable excesses were committed, innumerable acts of violence upon women, and horrors, such as the violation of wounded and dying young Bulgarian and Moslem girls by Greek soldiers. One instance: The daughter of a Bulgarian priest, Theo. Staeff, was carried off, and he himself was colported about the village two days after his eyes were gouged out, and then killed with others. Other victims were mutilated and some were crucified, and it is fully established that all the Greek bishops were accomplices, if not the actual instigators, of the outrages at Drama and Kavalla—and these, if you please, aspire to supersede the tolerant Turks in the Ottoman Empire. For the sake of British reputation my compatriots must cease to pretend and ask for sympathy for these worse than savage Hellenes and Slavs in the Balkans.—Yours, etc., MARGARET ROBINSON.

20, Sutherland Place, London, W., June 7, 1914.

THE ISLANDS OF THE ÆGEAN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—In your issue of the 5th inst. a certain Dr. Ant. Nakis, writing from Salonika, takes Mr. C. Mayo to task for his letter of the 8th ult. I feel perfectly sure that Mr. Mayo can well reply for himself, but I cannot resist calling the attention of your readers to the following remarks contained in Dr. Nakis's letter:—"As for his (Mr. Mayo's) remarks about naval matters, he proves himself so inexcusably ignorant of the facts as not to be worthy of contradiction. But I wish to inform him that Greece's naval superiority is exclusively due to her excellent seamanship; that the Turks possessed two more big (*sic*) warships than the 'Averoff'; and that if the solitary cruiser of the enemy was able to range for some time over the Eastern Mediterranean, and, finally, to take refuge in the Red Sea, it was because the only other Greek cruisers were older and slower than she. Mr. Mayo says nothing about the blowing up of the Turkish cruiser by the torpedo No. 11 in Salonika Harbour, and seems to have forgotten that the 'Averoff' served as a cork to the Dardanelles."

I would venture, in the first place, to ask Dr. Nakis precisely what he means by "two more big warships"? Does he *intend* to mean "two warships, *each bigger*"? Personally I admit that the expression leaves me in the dark as to its meaning. I would, however, mention that the "Averoff" is a modern vessel and completely outclassed the old Turkish warships "Haireddin Barbarousse" and "Tourghout Reis," two ships purchased from Germany and of quite an earlier generation.

Dr. Nakis's reference to "torpedo No. 11" is diverting. Is the Greek Navy so poorly equipped that they number each individual torpedo? Probably Dr. Nakis means torpedo *boat* No. 11. (Second inaccuracy.)

Dr. Nakis refers to a Turkish *cruiser* having been blown up by the said "torpedo." It unfortunately happens that it was only a small *gunboat*, and, having personally seen her in Salonika Harbour, I am unable to consider that her destruction was such a gigantic triumph for the Greek Fleet as Dr. Nakis suggests. (Third inaccuracy.)

In view of all the above errors in *his own* letter, I therefore think it rather a pity that Dr. Nakis has chosen to pose as a naval expert and to make such scathing remarks about Mr. Mayo.—Yours, etc., ARTHUR P. TULLY.

Constantinople, June 15, 1914.

UNREST IN ISPAHAN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I am a Persian, a real Persian, in whom there is no guile. I love my country as much as any patriotic Briton loves his own land; but, unfortunately, since the granting of the Constitution (Mashroota) things have been practically in a state of anarchy. The internal conflicts that were the result of this false Constitution opened the way for the anarchical Kurd to rebel against his heretic Shah, and to massacre his helpless subjects who were not Orthodox Moslems, but were Shiahs, or Christian *Giaours*. It was lawful for a fanatical Kurd to loot their properties and perpetrate any kind of outrage upon them. How can we forget that dreadful sight when the wild Kurds of the Mangoor and Mamash tribe swept away the Shiah villages of Dashaghit and Rashakhan of Dol Mahal? After they had finished their fiendish work there, they rushed down to the plains of the Urmia district, intending to plunder the two famous Christian villages of Takia and Ardishay, but were repulsed, thanks to the presence in the village of three well-armed young men from a distant village, who put to flight this force of 400 men, after killing fourteen and wounding many more!

Personally we have had experience of the cruel and tyrannical *fedayis*, who not only collect money by force from the citizens of Tabriz, but also commit crimes worthy to be ranked with those of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Persian Mashroota meant the existence of these facts. Then thanks be to Allah, who sent us the Russian troops, who brought us peace. As long as the Russian flag waves in Azerbaijan so long shall we enjoy peace, and until our own Government has sufficient force to keep order within its borders the evacuation of Azerbaijan by the Russian troops will bring absolute ruin in our province. Then we shall repeat the proverb our forefathers used to use: "The cup is the same cup and the basket the same basket."—Yours, etc.,

Tabriz, June 7, 1914. AMIN.

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Victoria Institute, held on the 8th of this month in the hall of the Society of Arts, Bishop Welldon read a paper on "The Supremacy of Christianity," in one part of which he said that he resented the tendency to class all religions together as if they were alike manifestations of the same human spirit seeking after the Divine spirit. He suggests also that the gulf between East and West could only be bridged by Christianity.

I wish to speak for the East and to say that such statements are without value, and that the sentiment which dictates them will bridge nothing.

Christianity is all right, but who and where are the Christians? Islam, for instance, according to the Bishop, cannot be classed with Christianity; but who and where are better men than the Sufis of Islam? Only Christian saints; but how do we know these, and where are we to find them?

I do not say that saints only should people this wide world; the worldly element will ever remain in the majority, and will soon give the saints short shrift; but I do assert with much regret that Christianity is not a living force in Europe, and elsewhere it is no better than its surroundings, as the Balkan and Mexican wars have demonstrated.

Therefore the need of the age is not a theorising about religion, but a promotion of such works as are dictated by the Spirit and the formation of characters which reflect that Spirit.

It is, however, the great reign of Democracy now, and everything and every sentiment seem to be at a lower—what is called a "practical"—level, a business level. This will not make for Christian supremacy, and our saying that it does will convince neither Jew nor Gentile.—Yours, etc.,

Cricklewood, June 9, 1914. A. S.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. July.	1914. June.		1332. Shaban	5674 Tamus
3	20	Friday	9	9
4	21	Saturday	10	10
5	22	Sunday	11	11
6	23	Monday	12	12
7	24	Tuesday	13	13
8	25	Wednesday	14	14
9	26	Thursday	15	15

To-day is the birthday of H.I.H. Seif-ed-din Effendi, son of the late Sultan Abdul Aziz Khan, who was deposed in May, 1876, and brother of the Ottoman Heir Apparent.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the accession of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, who succeeded his brother, the late Sultan Murad Khan, on Shaban 10, 1293, or August 31, 1876.

Monday, June 23 (O.S.), is the birthday of H.H. Prince John Constantinovitch of Russia, the husband of Princess Helena, daughter of the King of Servia.

Monday, 12 Shaban, is the birthday of H.I.H. Ibrahim Tewfik Effendi, a nephew of H.I.M. Mohamed Reshad Khan, and eighth in the order of succession.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Eitel Friedrich of Prussia, nephew to the Queen of the Hellenes.

Wednesday, June 25 (O.S.), is the anniversary of the election of H. M. Tsar Ferdinand as Prince of Bulgaria by the Grand Sobranje in 1887.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduchess Joseph née Princess Clotilde of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the sister of H.M. the Tsar of the Bulgarians.

Thursday, Shaban 15, is the birthday of H.I.H. Rukie Sultana, daughter of H.I.H. Mehmed Salah-ed-Din Effendi, and wife of Damad Abdul Medji Bey.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of his Majesty the King on Monday.

Admiral Sir A. Berkeley Milne, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, in the battle cruiser "Inflexible," arrived at Constantinople last Friday.

Prince Mohammed Ali Pasha (brother of the Khedive) has arrived in London and is expected to stay for a week.

H.R.H. Prince Nicholas of Roumania has been for the past few days staying in Constantinople, where he had an audience of His All-Holiness the Œcumenical Patriarch.

Sir George Barclay, H.B.M.'s Minister at Bucharest, has gone on leave, and Mr. A. Akers Douglas, First Secretary, is acting during the absence of his chief.

It is announced from St. Petersburg that H.R.H. Prince Carol will make a long visit to the Russian Imperial Family in Italy.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (June 28): T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Roumania returned from Constanza to Bucharest on Tuesday last week.

The British Ambassador to Madrid, Sir A. H. Hardinge, has been visiting Spanish Morocco and Tangier.

Mr. Ronald Graham, Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, leaves Egypt on July 7 for England to spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Moss were to have left Alexandria for England on Wednesday.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the Servian Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has arrived in London from Washington.

Dr. Ruffer, President of the Egyptian Quarantine Board, is now in Europe on leave.

Djemal Pasha, the Ottoman Minister of Marine, has accepted the invitation of the French Government to attend the French naval manœuvres, and will shortly leave Constantinople.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (June 29): The new Roumanian Military Attaché, Major Dimitrescu, has been received in audience by Crown Prince Alexander. Prince Paul, King Peter's nephew, who is at present studying at Oxford University, will come to Belgrade for the holidays.

In consequence of the death of H.H. George II., Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, the Roumanian Court has gone into mourning until July 10.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, Senior Inspector of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, has left Egypt for Hungary and will stay for some time at the inland watering-place of Bad Postgen.

Dr. Alfred Eid has arrived in Paris from Cairo.

The marriage of Miss Mary Eid to Mr. Rosario Bassoul, of Beyrout, took place in Cairo last week.

The engagement is announced between Herbert Chavasse Squires, Medical Department, Sudan Government, and Hilda Margaret, youngest daughter of Sir Henry and Lady Norbury.

Last Sunday the Russian Minister in Bucharest, Mr. Poklevski-Koziell, gave a banquet to the Commander and officers of the 5th Roschiori (Red Hussar) Regiment, of which the Tsar was made Honorary Colonel on his recent visit to Constanza. The Commander and a commission of officers will shortly proceed to St. Petersburg to present to the Tsar his colonel's uniform.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in August, at Sydney, New South Wales, between Richard Cecil Moser, of the Public Works Ministry, Cairo, Egypt, only son of C. E. Moser, Philbeach Gardens, and Enid, youngest daughter of H. E. Russell, of Creebank, Killibilli Point, Sydney, New South Wales.

Armenians of London entertained Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton at the Hotel Cecil last Friday night, on the occasion of their marriage. About 100 guests were present, and the Rt. Hon. G. W. E. Russell presided. Amongst the speakers were, the Bishop of Hereford, Sir Edward Boyle, Mr. C. Roden Buxton, M.P., Mr. Aneurin Williams, Mr. J. Whitehouse, M.P., Mr. A. P. Hacobian, Mr. Aram Raffi, M. T. Nazarian, Mr. Arthur Symonds, and Prof. Hagopian. The list of guests included Lady Boyle, Sir T. F. Buxton, Mrs. Percival (wife of the Bishop of Hereford), Mr. Philip Morrell, M.P., and many others.

Mr. T. A. F. Critchley, the manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Alexandria, left last week with his family for England.

The Egyptian Army annual dinner will take place at the Grafton Galleries on Tuesday next. Members should notify their intention of dining to the Treasurer, Egyptian Army Dinner Club, care of Messrs. Cox and Co., Charing Cross.

The Ottoman Red Crescent Society of Constantinople and the Turkish Empire, under the patronage of H.I.M. the Sultan and the hon. presidency of H.I.H. Yussuf-Izz-ed-Din Effendi, has opened a branch in London at 35, Mildmay Chambers, Bishopsgate, E.C. (temporary offices). H.H. Tewfik Pasha, Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James, is the hon. president, Mundji Fikri Bey, Turkish Consul-General in London, is the president, and Mr. Leon Zorayan is the hon. secretary and treasurer.

Colonel Frederick Henry Swinfen, the Senior Military Knight of Windsor, who died last week at the age of 84, served in the Crimean War. He was wounded at Balaclava, where he took part in the charge of the Heavy Brigade, and was also present at the Siege of Sebastopol. He had the Crimean medal with two clasps, as well as the Turkish medal. The funeral took place last Friday with full military honours.

Major-General Sir Luke O'Connor, V.C., K.C.B., who has been appointed colonel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, served in the Crimea. He was one of the centre sergeants at Alma, and for his gallantry on that occasion, he received his commission, the Victoria Cross, the medal with two clasps, the Sardinian and Turkish medals, and the 5th class of the Order of the Mejidieh.

Colonel L. C. Sherer, who retires on retired pay from half-pay list, accompanied the expedition to Dongola in 1896 as a special service officer, being mentioned in despatches, and receiving the Egyptian medal and clasp, and the Queen's medal.

Vice-Admiral Charles Matthew Buckle, a Crimean veteran, who died on May 8 last, left estate of the gross value of £47,821, of which the net personalty has been sworn at £47,607.

WHERE TO STAY.

LAUSANNE-OUCHY (Switzerland).

SAVOY HOTEL.
Near the lake, with splendid park.

CECIL HOTEL.
In the town and 5 minutes from the station.

Two First-class Family Hotels.
High-class Cuisine. French Chef.
J. SUMSER, Manager-Proprietor.

Sofia (Bulgaria).
GRAND HOTEL BULGARIE
(opposite the Royal Palace).
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Mrs. Peter Ralli's dance, postponed from June 3, is taking place on July 8 at 11, Hyde Park Gardens.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (June 12):—

Mr. Percy White, the novelist, with Mrs. and Miss White, are staying at Troodos for the summer.

The marriage of Mr. C. D. Fenn, Assistant Secretary to the Government, and Miss B. Lawford, took place quietly at Limassol on the 6th ult.

The following departures on leave have taken place:—

Captain C. W. Orr, Chief Secretary, and Mrs. Orr and children.

Captain Fleury, Local Commandant of Police, Famagasta, Mrs. Fleury and family.

Mr. I. C. Macaskie, President, District Court, Famagasta, and Mrs. Macaskie.

Mr. C. S. Cade, Commissioner of Nicosia, and Mrs. Cade.

Major W. Durham Hall, Chief Commandant of Police, Mrs. Durham Hall and family.

Mrs. Thorne and child.

Mr. J. Ferguson Pollok and Mr. C. D. Hay.

Professor Flinders Petrie, F.R.S., has been elected president of the British Constitution Association for the ensuing year.

Princess Andrew of Greece last week gave birth to a daughter at Corfu. The baby Princess will be called Sophia.

The Tsar of Russia has conferred upon Prince Antoine Bibescu the Cross of Grand Officer of the Order of St. Stanislas.

His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty the Emperor Francis Joseph has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of St. Stephen of Hungary upon his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, to whom the insignia of the Order were handed by H.E. the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador last week in Constantinople.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The Council of the University of Liverpool have approved the acceptance by Professor John Garstang, D.Sc., of an invitation from the Sudan Government to be their Hon. Adviser to the Service of Antiquities of the Sudan.

Shukri Bey, of the Ottoman Foreign Office, has been appointed Consul at Dedeagatch in New Bulgaria.

Mr. P. A. Stanojevitch has arrived in Bucharest to take up his appointment as First Secretary at the Servian Legation, *vice* M. Svilokositch, nominated Consul-General in that city.

General I. G. Phasile Pasha, formerly of the Ottoman Army, has been appointed Albanian Consul in Belgrade.

Mr. Walter Alexander Smart has been appointed H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Mazagan.

Our Roumanian Correspondent informs us that the following changes have been made among Roumanian commercial attachés: M. Raducan Popesco, Attaché at Constantinople, has been transferred to Antwerp; M. G. Moroiano, Attaché at Vienna, to Milan, for Italy and Switzerland; M. St. Lupashco, Attaché at Smyrna, to Marseilles.

The Senators C. F. Robescu, C. Cociash, I. Plessia and G. Ghitzesco have been elected Vice-Presidents of the new Roumanian Upper House.

Captain D. H. Thorburn, Cameronians, has been appointed for duty with the Egyptian Army.

Brevet Major A. W. F. Baird, Gordon Highlanders, has been selected for service with the Egyptian Army.

Captain G. A. D. Harvey, R.A.M.C., has been seconded for service with the Egyptian Army.

Suleiman Serri Bey, formerly Mutessarif of Kerkouk, has been appointed Mutessarif of the Sanjak of Sparta.

Ali Kiami Bey has been appointed Ottoman Consul at Veles (Kuprulu), in Servian Macedonia.

Jean Tueni Bey has been appointed first secretary to the Turkish Embassy in London. He was lately secretary to the Turkish Embassy in St. Petersburg.

Saad-ullah Bey has been appointed Ottoman Consul-General at Skoplje (Uskub) in Servian Macedonia.

The first of the two Government ex-officio directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has been appointed in the person of Rear-Admiral Sir Edmond J. Warre Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., of the Government's Oil Commission.

According to a Reuter's telegram from Athens, Mr. Diamantidis, the new Minister of Communications, took the oath yesterday and assumed office.

Major von der Goltz, son of Marshal von der Goltz Pasha, has arrived in Sofia to take up his duties as German Military Attaché.

Captain R. D. Barber, Army Service Corps, has been placed under orders for service in Egypt.

The command of the Fourth Battle Squadron, First Fleet, was on Wednesday transferred from Vice-Admiral Sir C. J. Briggs to Vice-Admiral Sir Douglas A. Gamble. The flag of Vice-Admiral Briggs was struck in the battleship "Dreadnought" at sunset at Portland on Wednesday, and replaced on Thursday by that of Sir Douglas Gamble, whose flag was last flown as Rear-Admiral in command of the then Sixth (Mediterranean) Cruiser Squadron.

According to *The Albanische Korrespondenz*, H.H. the Mpret of Albania has appointed Mehmed Bey Konitza, who was one of the delegates of the Provisional Government to London during the peace negotiations, to be Minister of Finance.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

DRAY.—On June 25, at Efford Cottage, near Lymington, the wife of H. R. Dray, Egyptian Civil Service, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

SPARROW—KING.—On June 23, at All Saints', Margaret Street, W., by the Rev. E. A. Hawkins-Jones (brother-in-law of the bridegroom), assisted by the Rev. H. F. B. Mackay, vicar, Clayton Stallard Sparrow, of Cairo, only son of the late Charles Edward Sparrow and of Mrs. Sparrow, of South Norwood, to Hilda Rachel Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred King, of Lisbon.

CAMPLIN—WOODS.—On June 20, at St. Mildred's Church, Lee, Kent, by the Rev. G. Henry Lawrence, M.A., Vicar of Inglescombe, Bath, cousin of the bride, assisted by the vicar, the Rev. J. V. C. Farquhar, M.A., John Camplin, of Mamoura, Ligne de Rosette, Egypt, elder son of Robert Camplin, of St. Andrew's Lodge, Lockport, Manitoba, and late of Newby, Westmorland, to Muriel Agatha Sylvia, younger daughter of the late William Henry Woods and of Mrs. Woods, of Winnthorpe, Lee, Kent.

BATTYE—RODOCANACHI.—On June 23, at All Saints', Binfield, by the Rev. R. Bevan, vicar, Percy, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Battye, of 29, Sloane Court, to Elsie, second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michel Rodocanachi, of 58, Westbourne Terrace.

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FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1914.

COTTON IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

Cotton, hardly known to the civilised nations of the West two hundred years ago, has been described as the central feature of the world's modern commerce. The industry is one of the chief sources of Great Britain's wealth, and no less than seventy million pounds are spent annually on the raw material required to feed British mills. Of the twenty-one million of centals of cotton imported into this country three-quarters come from America; Egypt supplies less than a fifth; other foreign countries and British possessions supply the remainder. In these circumstances the failure of the American crop in any one year may seriously embarrass the industry, and it is only natural that manufacturers should be anxious to see new fields developed. Thanks to the activities of the British Cotton Growing Association, increasing attention is being paid to the potentialities of various British colonies and dependencies as cotton-growing centres. Egypt has, of course, passed beyond the experimental stage. Cotton cultivation has been practised systematically since 1821, and although little is known regarding the stock then introduced or the subsequent stages that led up to the better types associated with the Egyptian product, the fact remains that within recent years Egypt has maintained as regards relative yield and quality the premier position amongst cotton-producing countries. The average value of its imports to the United Kingdom last year was £4 7s. per cental of a hundred pounds; American cotton averaged less than three pounds. But the possibilities of Egypt in regard to cotton are restricted by a variety of considerations. Already practically a third of the total cultivated lands is under that crop, and expansion must depend upon the extension of drainage. In this connection an interesting paper was contributed by Earl Kitchener at a recent session of the International Congress of Tropical Agriculture. Towards the end of 1912, he pointed out, about eight hundred acres of absolutely waste land at Biala in the Delta were taken in hand. The land was so heavily impregnated with salt that "for ages" nothing had grown upon it; but after the introduction of a scientific system of irrigation and drainage it was within a year in a condition to be handed over to fellaheen to be prepared and planted with rice. A satisfactory yield was obtained, and it was found that the land had not gone back in any way. Cotton is now being grown in this area. Reclamation crops will still be necessary, and it remains to be seen whether the cotton will yield level crops. But a start has been made at an expenditure which is remunerative both to the Government and the fellaheen. One and a-half million acres of this waste salt land exist in the Delta, and the success of the experiment holds out the prospect of an enormous increase in the land that can in time be profitably put under cotton.

Compared with Egypt, the potentialities of the Sudan as a cotton-producing country open up still brighter prospects for the industry. With suitable irrigation vast tracts of land will be available for the cultivation of the plant, and in order that the necessary irrigation work may be carried out the Imperial Government, as is known, has sanctioned the issue by the Sudan Government of a loan for three millions sterling. When the works now in course of construction on the Blue Nile are completed the Gezira plain will be able to take up the tale of Egypt's cotton success, with a type as good as the Egyptian, and harvested at a time when cotton is only being sown in Egypt. It is not sufficient, however, merely to hand over to the fellaheen land suitable for cotton cultivation or even to start him with seed to boot. If the high standard set in Egypt is to be maintained, scientific methods of cultivation must be inculcated. After a certain period of years, about seven, Lord Kitchener pointed out in the course of his paper, deterioration sets in, and scientific research has to be continuously employed with a view to re-creating those types of cotton which have given the name and fame to Egyptian cotton which it so rightly bears. The successful development of the industry depends on serious attention being paid to certain points. Among these Lord Kitchener included the renewal by purer strains of the cotton seed in the country, the regulation and improvement of irrigation and drainage, the proper cultivation and manuring of the land and rotation of crops, and the waging of incessant war against pests. Moreover, instruction has to be imparted in such a way that it stands a chance of being acceptable to the fellaheen and capable of assimilation by them. It says much for the paternal solicitude of the Egyptian Government that its efforts in this direction have hitherto met with marked success. The creation of the new Ministry of Agriculture is further evidence of the importance attached to this work.

When the dependence of Egypt upon its cotton crops is borne in mind it is difficult to refrain from pointing the moral of the British Occupation. Cotton growing, as we have seen, has been systematically prosecuted in the country for nearly a century, but it is only within recent years that it has assumed the importance which it now enjoys as a national asset. To improve upon its present position, indeed to maintain it, cotton cultivation requires that the efforts of the fellaheen should be directed and supervised at every turn. If we wish to see the fate of national industries when left to the unaided instinct of a peasant population in the face of competition on scientific lines, it is only necessary to turn to the record of tea and silk in China. Egypt and the Sudan, indeed, lack the advantages with which China in years past dominated the world's trade in these two products. The land has to be prepared by expensive irrigation works for cotton crops, and it will hardly be maintained that the reputation of the fellaheen for unremitting industry stands as high as that of the Chinese. Egypt's success as a cotton country depends on the maintenance of its financial prosperity, in order that the preliminary works may be undertaken at Government expense. It depends also, as we see from the fact that the cotton plant deteriorates, on scientific research at experimental stations, and again on the experience thus gained being placed at the disposal of the fellaheen in a practical manner. Politicians in the Legislative Assembly who are tempted to chafe at being kept in leading strings will do well to bear in mind that eloquence does not constitute the whole art of government. Too often their success as speakers causes them to be carried away with the idea that the details of administration count for nothing. These details, on the contrary, are the essential part of government in a country which not only lacks knowledge and experience, but is ill-supplied with the resources necessary to enable it to meet the commercial and industrial competition of more favoured lands.

THE PUBLISHER would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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THE PASSING OF THE PICTURESQUE.

By H. C. Lukach.

There has lately been issued under the auspices of the Foreign Office a publication of an interest which, at first sight, its title and appearance would scarcely seem to promise. It is the revised edition of a compilation bearing the not very enticing designation of "Treaties of Commerce and Navigation between Great Britain and Foreign Powers, wholly or partially in force on December 31, 1912"; yet there lies amid its thousand odd pages a very world of humour, pathos, and picturesqueness. Chronologically, the earliest of its contents is a Treaty of Peace and Commerce concluded in 1654 between his Highness the Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland and her Most Serene Royal Majesty the Queen of the Kingdom of Sweden; the latest, a protocol between Great Britain and Colombia, signed in August, 1912. Between 1654 and 1912 there have been many changes in the status and methods of nations which this book mutely registers; the spacious days of Cromwell and Christina are succeeded by an age more efficient, perhaps, but sadly more prosaic. Powers once mighty yield pride of place to States then small, or non-existent; the imaginative amenties of old-fashioned diplomatic correspondence make way for terseness and precision.

The book is a melancholy commentary on the decay of the picturesque in official phraseology. Let us glance at a treaty concluded in 1857 between Queen Victoria and his Majesty whose standard is the Sun, the Sacred, the August, the Great Monarch, the Absolute King of Kings of all the States of Persia. The plenipotentiaries of the high contracting parties were respectively Lord Cowley and "His Excellency the Abode of Greatness, the Favourite of the King, Ferokh Khan, Ameen Oolmoolk, the Great Ambassador of the Mighty State of Persia, the Possessor of the Royal Portrait and of the Blue Cordon, the Bearer of the Diamond-studded Girdle, etc., etc., etc."

One would give much to know the significance of the "etc., etc., etc."; but mark the contrast with a later treaty signed in days when the Standard of the Sun had become dimmed, in an era of Belgian Treasury and Swedish gendarmerie. There is no word here of *cordon bleu* and Diamond-studded Girdle; the second Persian plenipotentiary is described *tout court* as "le Sieur Joseph Naus, Ministre d'Etat."

China provides us with no less striking a parallel. The Treaty of Nanking was signed in 1842 by Sir Henry Pottinger and
the High Commissioners Keying, a Member of the Imperial House, a Guardian of the Crown Prince, and General of the Garrison of Canton; and Elepoo, of the Imperial Kindred, graciously permitted to wear the insignia of the first rank, and the distinction of a peacock's feather;
that of Tientsin in 1858 by Lord Elgin and
the High Commissioners Kweiliang, a Senior Chief Secretary of State, styled of the East Cabinet, Captain-General of the Plain White Banner of the Manchu Banner Force, Superintendent-General of the Administration of Criminal Law; and Hwashana, one of His Imperial Majesty's Expositors of the Classics, Manchu President of the Office for the regulation of the Civil Establishment, Captain-General of the Bordered Blue Banner of the Chinese Banner Force, and Visitor of the Office of Interpretation.

In these latter days the Chinese statesman wears a bowler hat rather than a peacock's feather; the counterpart of his Majesty's Expositor of the Classics has an American degree.

Still more significant is the preamble to the Turkish Capitulations of 1675, which run as follows:—

SULTAN MEHEMED. MAY HE LIVE FOR EVER!

Let everything be observed in conformity to these Capitulations, and contrary thereto let nothing be done.

The command, under the Sublime and lofty Signet, which imparts sublimity to every place, and under the Imperial and noble Cypher, whose glory is renowned throughout all the world, by the Emperor and Conqueror of the Earth, achieved with the assistance of the Omnipotent, and by the especial grace of God, in this:

We, who by Divine grace, assistance, will, and benevolence, now are the King of Kings of the world, the Prince of Emperors of every age, the dispenser of Crowns to Monarchs, and the Champion Sultan Mehemed, Son of Sultan Ibrahim Chan, Son of Sultan Ahmed Chan, Son of Sultan Mahomed Chan, Son of Sultan Murad Chan, Son of Sultan Selim Chan, Son of Sultan Solyman Chan, Son of Sultan Selim Chan.

The most glorious amongst the great Princes professing the faith of Jesus, and the most conspicuous amongst the Potentates of the nation of the Messiah, and the Umpire of public differences that exist between Christian nations, clothed with the mantle of magnificence and majesty, Charles the Second, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland (whose end terminate in bliss! (i)), having sent an Ambassador to the Sublime Porte in the time of our grandfather Sultan Murad (whose tomb be ever resplendent!) of glorious memory, and full of divine mercy and pity, with professions of friendship, sincerity, devotion, partiality, and benevolence, and demanding that his subjects might be at liberty to come and go into these parts, which permission was granted to them in the reign of the Monarch aforesaid, in addition to various other special commands, to the end that on coming and going, either by land or sea, in their way, passage and lodging, they might not experience any molestation or hindrance from anyone.

He represented, in the reign of our grandfather Sultan Mehemed Chan (whose tomb be ever resplendent!), to our just and over-shadowing Porte, his cordial esteem, alliance, sincere friendship, and partiality thereto. As such privilege, therefore, had been granted to the Kings and Sovereigns of France, Venice, and Poland, who profess the most profound devotion for our most eminent throne, and to others between whom and the Sublime Porte there exists a sincere amity and good understanding, so was the same, through friendship in like manner, granted to the said King; and it was granted him that his subjects and their interpreters might safely and securely come and trade in these our sacred dominions.

The Capitulations of sublime dignity and our noble commands having been, through friendship, thus granted to the Kings aforesaid, and the Queen of the above-mentioned kingdom (i.e., Queen Elizabeth) having heretofore also sent a noble personage with presents to this victorious Porte, which is the refuge and retreat of the Kings of the Kings of the world, the most exalted placed, and the asylum of the Emperors of the Universe (which gifts were graciously accepted), and she having earnestly implored the privilege in question, her entreaties were acceded to, and these our high commands conceded to her.

It is to be feared that the sublimity of the sublime and lofty Signet is less universally conspicuous in these days.

It is interesting to observe the gradual disappearance of religious invocations from the headings of European treaties. The early treaties were habitually concluded "in the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity." I can find no example here of that pious custom subsequent to a treaty of 1826 between George IV. and his Most Christian Majesty the King of France and Navarre, Charles X. How different is the attitude of the devout Siamese King, "incomprehensible to the head and brain, the sacred beauty of the royal palace, serene and infallible," who dutifully invokes "the powerful Lord, who is in possession of every good, and every dignity, the God Boodh, who dwells over every head in the city of the sacred and great Kingdom of Si-a-yoo-tha-ya."

Much more there is in this fascinating volume: the proud and stately signature of former Kings of Spain, "*Yo el rey*, I the King"; the permission granted by the Sultan of Turkey to the Padishah of England to buy two cargoes of figs and raisins "for his own kitchen, at Smyrna, Salonica, or any other port of our sacred dominions, in fertile and abundant years, and not in times of dearth or scarcity"; the prohibition of United States vessels from touching "at St. Helena so long as Napoleon Buonaparte is there." But there is one document which has been omitted; or else my memory fails me and Great Britain was not a party to it. It is a Proclamation in which a Polynesian monarch announces to his subjects the ratification of an arrangement with some European Power. After enjoining on his people the due observance of all its provisions, he concludes: "And if you fail to obey my commands I shall be annoyed."

(i A subtle aspiration to the effect that he may die a Moslem.

THE NEAR EAST.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	July 2..	97⅛—⅜ p.t.
Athens	June 29..	25·14 drs.
Bucharest	July 2..	25·50—25·58½ lei.
Constantinople ..	July 2..	109¼—110 pi.
Sofia.....	June 29..	27·12—27·20 leva.
Teheran	July 1..	55½ krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Balkans in general, and Roumania perhaps in particular, have been very prominent of late in the public eye. Not once nor twice the diplomacy of King Carol and of his late Minister of the Interior, Mr. Take Jonescu, have materially assisted the cause of peace. While the other Balkan States are more or less exhausted or slowly recovering from the effects of their struggle with Turkey and one another, Roumania is the only one who has been able steadily to develop her resources and her territory *sans coup férir*. Only forty-seven years ago, when King Carol ascended the throne, there were no railways, no roads, and no industries to speak of in the country. Now there are 2,310 miles of railway, and Roumania exports annually 3¼ million tons of cereals and 2,000,000 metric tons of oil. No one knows the mineral riches of the Carpathians, but oil is found everywhere, and the harbour of Constantza has been equipped at the cost of millions for handling and lading ships with "liquid fuel." But in order to develop her resources Roumania needs capital; and to attract capital strenuous endeavours are being made to induce people to come and see for themselves. With this end in view a booklet has been issued by the Roumanian Travel Bureau, of 1, Charing Cross, London, W.C., setting forth briefly some few of the attractions of Roumania and the best ways of getting there. Bucharest, the capital, is only 53 hours by rail from London, and the single fare, first-class, *viâ* Calais, is but £11 5s. The scenery, particularly in the Carpathians, is magnificent, and biggest attraction of all to those who really wish to do something more than "trip" superficially through the country, the language to anyone who knows a little Latin and French is comparatively simple.

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According to a recently published Consular report a fall of 67,000 tons in the imports of British coal into the Piræus has to be chronicled for 1913, while the importation of German coal has increased by over 16,000 tons. At such a rate of progression it is of small avail that the German imports amounted only to twenty-five per cent. of the British. The British figures decreased by some twenty per cent. of their former total, while the Germans went up by over thirty per cent.

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According to the latest available figures it appears that the Roumanian revenue is showing a healthy upward tendency, and that on the old basis of taxation. The total income for the thirteen months ending May 31 (O.S.) (June 13), 1914, amounts to £22,402,400, which is an increase of £565,680 on the figures for the last similar period, and is no less than £950,120 in excess of what had been anticipated in the budgetary statement of the Minister of Finance.

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During the month of May Bulgaria exported cereals, mainly maize, to the value of 32,250,000 francs (£1,290,000), and imported goods to the value of 32,800,000 francs.

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The Consular report for the year 1913 on the trade of the district of Patras, comprising the Morea and the provinces of Aetolia and Alarnania, has been issued.

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The agreement between the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the British overnment with regard to Persia has been followed by the granting of further oil concessions in Mesopotamia. According to telegrams from Constantinople, the Turkish Government has at last consented to grant the lease of the oilfields in the Baghdad and Mosul vilayets to an Anglo-German syndicate. This syndicate, so far as is known, is composed of Mr. D'Arcy on the one hand, who obtained the original promise of the concession in question and of that in Persia, and of the Deutsche Bank and the Anglo-Saxon Company on the other. Mr. D'Arcy, who, it is believed, has the Anglo-Persian Oil Company behind him, will hold 50 per cent. of the shares in the new concern; the Deutsche Bank will hold 25 per cent., and the Anglo-Saxon Company, which is believed to be a commercial *nom-de-plume*, or at least a financial bantling of the Shell, 25 per cent. The districts to be worked are extraordinarily rich in oil, and it is satisfactory to know that the concession has not fallen entirely into the hands of the Germans, who claimed prior rights. There is one danger, however, to be guarded again. Although British capital will predominate in the new company, success may only be obtained at the cost of another flourishing British industry—that of oil-engines. These engines, although they consume very small quantities of fuel in proportion to the power developed, are dependent on a cheap and plentiful supply of fuel to be an economic success. If the Baghdad and Mosul oilfields are to be worked as an Ottoman monopoly, and if monopoly prices are to be charged, the rapidly increasing prosperity of Mesopotamia must be seriously imperilled.

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The correspondent of *The Times* in Teheran paints a gloomy picture of the finances of Persia. Ever since the departure of that robust financier Mr. Shuster things have been going from bad to worse, and are now said to be *in extremis*. The Imperial Bank of Persia has informed the Ministry of Finance that for the present it is impossible to continue to honour Treasury drafts. During the month of May the *Gendarmerie* expenses were not fully met, and last month belated payments of hardly appreciable amounts pointed to a complete cessation of payment at no very distant date. Meanwhile, the coronation of the new Shah and all the expenses that such an event entails is drawing near, and Persians are wondering whether part of the £50,000 just advanced by Great Britain can be earmarked for coronation festivities.

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The Anglo-Persian Oil Company is to be congratulated on the Government's choice of Rear-Admiral Slade as one of the official directors who are to join the board in virtue of the recent agreement. Rear-Admiral Sir Edmond Slade has great personal experience of the Gulf and of the adjacent oil areas. When Commander-in-Chief in Persian waters, as well as in the days of the Commission over which he presided, the new director acquired an intimate knowledge of that part of the world and gained great personal influence with many of the local rulers and other personages of importance. In addition to these qualifications, Rear-Admiral Slade has a thorough understanding of the needs and methods of the vast commercial enterprise which he is now to control on behalf of the taxpayer.

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In view of the curious way in which people persist in talking of Kasr-i-Shirin as having been transferred to Turkey I should like to point out once more that only a small section of the district surrounding the town of that name has been excluded from Persia. This section is usually known as Chiasurkh. The rest of the district of Kasr-i-Shirin itself, as has been stated recently by the Persian Minister, remains in Persia. It seems to me that some of the critics of the Government's plunge into Anglo-Persian oil were so eager to criticize that they jumped at the statement in the *Sind Gazette* without making inquiries as to the actual course of the new frontier—if they even knew that it had recently been changed—or working at an atlas to see what they were talking about or where it was. In any case it is now known that no pipe-line is to be built from Chiasurkh to Baghdad—and I have good authority for saying that a pipe-line from any part of the Kasr-i-Shirin field—whether from the Persian or the Turkish section—is not likely to be built immediately. There are other and more accessible fields within the concessional area, and it must be remembered that the Anglo-Persian Company is to be run purely on business lines in the future as in the past, in spite of the fact that the Government is interested in its operations.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 27.

The Lighterage Corporation.

Since I referred in my letter of May 23 to the memorandum signed by all the British shipping agents in this city anent the Lighterage Corporation, action has been taken in this matter by all the various institutions representing shipping interests.

The Union Permanente des Délégués du Commerce Etranger supported the British memorandum, which it had translated and communicated, with its own views on the subject, to the various heads of diplomatic missions. The International Chamber of Foreign Shipping has held several meetings and maintained the views expressed in the memorandum. The British Chamber of Commerce is also acting in the matter, and I understand that arrangements were made for a deputation of London and Liverpool owners trading to the Levant, including Messrs. Wilson, of Hull, to visit the Foreign Office on June 23, but the visit has been postponed in order to obtain the opinion of Mr. Waugh, H.M. Consul, who arrives in London on the 29th. Delegates of shipping interests appointed by several Embassies to assist at the meetings of a sub-commission sitting under the presidency of Sir Richard Crawford to regulate the means of transport in this port made it a condition at the first meeting that the right of foreign shipping companies to own lighters, and to increase their numbers as circumstances require, shall be maintained; and on the sub-commission declaring that this question was outside their attributions, asked for an adjournment of the meeting to consult their colleagues. I understand that their action was approved by the Chamber of Shipping convened in the meantime, and the various delegates have reported their action to their respective Embassies. I believe they have put forward some further proposals, but I am not in a position to give these.

Projected Law on Trade Marks.

I reported at some length in my letter of May 9 on the subject of the imitation of a well-known mark of a British cotton goods manufacturer, which mark, with a trifling alteration, an enterprising native had registered as his own. The trade mark of this British manufacturer had been known in Turkey for a period of fifty years, but it had, unfortunately, not been registered by the rightful owner.

As bearing on the points raised in the particular case cited above, it is of interest that a law on trade marks has been drafted by the Ministry of Commerce, and is likely to come before the present session of the Ottoman Parliament. I believe that this projected law is also being examined by the Commission of Dragomans of Embassies. It is somewhat early to say whether the law in question will be able to pass this short session, or what alterations may eventually be made in it before it becomes law, but as showing the spirit in which it is drawn up I will quote from several of its articles.

Article 1 defines what will be considered as trade marks, and includes names or denominations having a special form, emblems, stamps, designs, vignettes, reliefs, illuminated words, letters, pictures, figures, and any other signs which may serve to distinguish manufactured articles and is affixed on these.

Article 2 requires that if the trade mark is to consist of a portrait, an instrument in proper form giving the party's consent to its use must be produced, and a similar consent of the majority of the heirs, if the party whose portrait is to be so used is dead. In the absence of any heirs the adoption of the portrait of a deceased person is subject to the approval of the Minister.

By Article 5 the use of H.M. the Sultan's autograph (Toughra), as well as the Imperial Arms, or names or titles of departments, or bodies, or associations, or words indicating the species, quality, or origin of products (unless presented in some special form) is prohibited. Article 6 forbids the use of designs or inscriptions contrary to public morals. Article 10 is to the effect that at the time of the registration of a mark, the Government will only take into consideration the prescriptions of Articles 1, 2, 5, and 6, and will proceed to no other examination. If this Article remains as at present worded the act of registration is purely declaratory, but Article 11 bears on the subject and is of very considerable importance. It states that no one can claim the right of ownership of a mark, and consequently cannot take action against an imitator, unless he has completed the formalities of registration. The fact of registration does not imply that all the requirements of the law have been fulfilled, and that the mark is the property of the person in whose name it is registered, nor can the rights of the proprietor of a non-registered mark be usurped, if such mark has been in use during three consecutive years in the Ottoman Empire.

Article 13 makes it clear that foreigners and Ottoman subjects whose business or industry is established abroad may benefit by the provisions of the law, if reciprocal treatment is granted in that country where the foreigner or Ottoman subject is established.

It seems to the writer that the articles quoted above would tend to remedy some of the defects of the present law and its interpretation by the Ottoman Courts.

Posts and Telegraphs.

The receipts of this Department for the months of April and May of the present year, just published, show marked increases compared with the previous year, as follows:—

April.	1914. £T.	1913. £T.
Post Office	28,700	22,400
Telegraph Department	39,400	27,700
May.		
Post Office	28,300	21,000
Telegraph Department	35,000	31,700

The receipts of this Department for the first quarter of the present fiscal year are just a trifle more than 30 per cent. greater than during the corresponding period of last year.

Biscuit Factory.

A local firm which has been manufacturing fancy biscuits in this city for some few years back is now laying down an important and up-to-date plant, the plans and specifications for which have been approved by the Ministry of Commerce. I would here mention that the Board of Trade returns show the exports of biscuits and cakes from Great Britain to Turkey to have grown from £21,607 during 1909 to £31,986 in 1911, and to £40,634 in 1913. French makers have paid more particular attention to this market of late, and it may be that their trade in biscuits shows even better results than our own. Anyway the greater portion of this trade will not be affected by any local factory.

The Grafsa Railway in Tunis, with 360 kilometres of track under traffic, announces its receipts for 1913 as 11,400,000 francs, against 10,000,000 in 1912. The Bona-Guelma Railway in Algeria, with a system of 1,425 kilometres, took 22,500,000 francs in receipts in 1913, against 19,200,000 in 1912.

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THE RECUPERATIVE POWERS OF BULGARIA.

The following extracts from the forthcoming report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia (Mr. W. B. Heard) are published by *The Board of Trade Journal*:—

No figures of the trade of Bulgaria in 1913 are as yet available; but it is natural to anticipate that they will have dropped to a very low level. During most of the year the Dardanelles were closed, and the traffic through Servia was wholly or partially suspended. The Danube river traffic, however, except for a short period during the second war, continued throughout the year. It was only towards the close of 1913 that trade began to show some signs of revival. The situation of the commercial and industrial classes, however, is not as unfavourable as might be expected. Owing to the cessation of imports, merchants were able to clear off their old stocks at remunerative prices, and are now rapidly replenishing them. Certain industries ceased work until the end of the war and undoubtedly suffered loss. Others, however, such as those producing leather and woven materials, were actively at work all the time supplying equipment for the Army.

Consular advices from Rustchuk report a considerable trade turnover in the autumn. Business men there stood the strain of a whole year's suspension of trade, and the burden of Government requisitions surprisingly well. No important failure occurred, and firms were able to satisfy their creditors by partial payments and the renewal of acceptances. Since September, 1913, the banks at Rustchuk have done very well, after a long period of stagnation, and three local banks have since paid dividends of from 8 to 10 per cent. Foreign commercial travellers (not British) have of late been particularly active, and are obtaining large orders for the replenishment of the merchants' stocks.

The acquisition of West Thrace, with its rich tobacco growing districts and its harbours on the Ægean, should in time prove an advanatgeous exchange for the territory lost to Roumania. The new territories are being settled, as far as possible, with Bulgarian refugees from Macedonia, of whom there are over 100,000 in the country, and a sum of £200,000 has already been set aside for this purpose. The economic condition of the Bulgarian population is sound and prosperous. The harvests of 1912-13 were well above the average, and every branch of agriculture has advanced with rapid strides of late years. In 1913 the crops were harvested with complete success by the woman and those of the men who were unfit for military service. Owing to the shortage of rolling-stock and the low prices of cereals prevailing abroad, but little grain had been exported up to the end of the year. The exportation of these accumulated stocks will greatly ease the economic and financial situation.

The cession of the Bulgarian Dobruja to Roumania will be severely felt by the kingdom, and in particular by the Port of Varna. This district, originally a pastoral region, had become, since 1877, one of the chief corn-growing regions in the kingdom. Its average exports amounted to 20 per cent. of those of the whole of Bulgaria (including 50 per cent. of the beans and 15 per cent. of the tobacco grown in the country). Its pastures still produced a large proportion of the wool and dairy produce of the kingdom. Fifty per cent. of the agricultural machinery imported at Varna was destined for the Dobruja. Banks, schools, etc., had sprung up everywhere, and the prosperity of this region had been growing rapidly with the increase of railway and harbour development at Varna and Baltchik. By the loss of this district, Varna will suffer severely. Much money has been spent of late years on the construction of this port. The available accommodation was insufficient for its growing trade, and the extension of its quays and the erection of fresh warehouses has been for some time in prospect. Now it seems doubtful whether these works will be carried out, as in a few years the opening of an Ægean port will still further diminish the trade of Varna. Its importers can hardly find compensation for lost markets along the line of the Varna-Sofia Railway, where other distributing centres have already been established.

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COTTON IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

Lord Kitchener's Views.

Lord Kitchener presided on Monday at the morning session of the International Congress of Tropical Agriculture at the Imperial Institute. Addressing the Congress towards the close of the session, he said he thought they might claim that both as regards relative yield and quality, Egypt had maintained the premier position for many years amongst cotton-producing countries. It was a very interesting study to follow the evolution of the different characteristic types of cotton which had proved to be specially adapted to the climatic and soil conditions of the valley and Delta of the Nile since 1821, when this cultivation was commenced by the first Khedive of Egypt. Unfortunately, deterioration invariably set in after a certain period of years, and scientific research had to be continuously employed with a view to re-creating the types of cotton that had given the name and fame to Egyptian cotton which it so rightly bore.

The successful development of an agricultural product such as Egyptian cotton on a proportionately large scale demanded constant care, and the new Ministry of Agriculture fully realised the importance and responsibility of the task it had in hand, not only as regards Egypt, but also to all those large manufacturing centres that use Egyptian cotton. The successful development of this industry in Egypt depended on most serious attention being paid to the following points:—(1) The renewal, by purer strains, of the cotton seed in the country, which was liable to deterioration every seven years; (2) the regulation and improvement of irrigation and drainage; (3) the proper cultivation and manuring of the land and the rotation of crops; and (4) the waging of incessant war against insect pests.

In a country like Egypt scientific agricultural methods must, in order to be acceptable to the fellaheen, be suggested in simple form for assimilation by them. Prejudice and apathy in these matters were gradually being replaced by a more intelligent interest in the benefits attached to the observance of scientific principles. It might be of interest if he mentioned an example of what could be done by treating Egyptian soil in a scientific manner, and how the value of such methods might be brought home to the fellaheen by practical demonstration. Towards the end of 1912 about 800 acres of absolutely waste land at Biala were taken in hand. The land was so heavily impregnated with salt that for ages nothing had grown upon it. Before the experiment began the distribution and percentage of salt were carefully measured all over the area. A scientific system of irrigation and drainage was laid out on the land, at a cost of £10 an acre, and it was then handed over to the fellaheen in five-acre plots for cultivation. They had to clean and level their plots, which were made over to them on a special tenure, practically becoming their property after repayment of all expenditure and a very small rent. Last year the land was washed and a crop of rice was grown, giving a satisfactory yield. After the rice crop the salt distribution was again taken, by the same system of measurement as before the work had begun. In this case, to the great astonishment of the fellaheen cultivators, a permanent result had been achieved in one year, which under the ordinary system prevailing in this country would have taken three to four years to accomplish, and even then, with inadequate drainage, the land would have been liable to go back to its original state. It would no doubt have been better to have continued the washing and grown another rice crop this year, but owing to the shortage of water throughout the country it was impossible to allow this to be done. Cotton was now, therefore, being satisfactorily grown on a fair proportion of that area, and it was hoped it would bring in from £15 to £20 an acre. When it was considered that there were about 1,500,000 acres of equally waste salt land in the delta waiting for development by drainage, the value of this experiment could be appreciated.

The opening up of a new field for the production of Egyptian cotton in the Sudan was a matter of the highest importance. The results of experiments in growing cotton on the Gezira plain had proved that a fair yield of good quality Egyptian cotton could be produced there at a time of year when there was no special demand for water in Egypt for the harvesting of cotton in the Sudan synchronises with the sowing of cotton in Egypt. Thus a great future was in store for the Sudan as soon as the irrigation works on the Blue Nile now being undertaken were completed, enabling the vast area available for cotton cultivation to be fully developed.

At the same sessions cotton cultivation in Egypt was discussed in a paper prepared by Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist to the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt. The area under cotton in that country, wrote Mr. Dudgeon, had increased annually until 32.6 per cent. of the total cultivated lands were under that crop. Extension of the cotton area was limited owing to the insufficient drainage of the lands in many parts, rendering it compulsory frequently to introduce reclamation crops, such as rice. The difficulties occasioned by the incompleteness of the original drainage scheme had made the position with regard to the undrained lands almost impossible of amelioration. The salt lands in the north were capable of reclamation, but the lands were not expected to yield level crops of cotton. Although small effect had been yet caused by the introduction of cotton into a rotation of two instead of three years as previously, it was not recommended to increase this frequency, which would result in a diminution of food crops, and a probable deterioration in the yield of cotton itself. It was improbable that there would be a permanent decline in the quality of the cotton crop in the near future.

CROPS IN SYRIA AND CYPRUS.—II.*

Favourable Outlook for 1914.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, June 10.

The estimated exports for Tripoli are:—Beans, 2,000 tons against 1,000 tons last year; wheat, 6,000 tons against 400 tons in 1913; peas, 2,000 tons against 1,000 tons in 1913; barley, 15,000 tons against 12,000 tons in 1913; and dari-seed 3,000 tons against 500 tons in 1913. As regards wool, the estimated exports for the coming year are about 8,000 bales against 6,000 bales in 1913, of which about 1,000 bales were shipped to the United Kingdom, and the balance to the United States. The total exports of lemons and oranges last year exceeded 200,000 boxes, shipped chiefly to Odessa. An appreciable increase is hoped for in 1914.

Latakia.—The principal article of export is tobacco. The forecast for the forthcoming crop, which is exported almost entirely to London, is about 12,000 bales against 8,000 bales in 1913. Next in importance to tobacco comes the bean crop, which is estimated at about 1,800 tons for Latakia against about 800 tons in 1913; and about 1,200 tons against about half of this quantity for Jablé and Banias. The wheat crop has been adversely affected by the copious rains in April, and about half a crop, as compared with last year, is expected. The prospects of the barley crop are, on the other hand, fairly good; and about 2,000 tons are expected to be available for exportation. The crops of peas and dari-seed are also expected to be much better than those of last year, thanks to the copious spring rains.

Alexandretta.—Since the construction of the Rayak-Aleppo Railway *vid* Homs and Hama this port, in regard both to exports and imports, has fallen into almost complete inactivity. Its exports in grain and wool are confined to a few hundred tons per year. From Sweidieh, a neighbouring port of the district, about 500 tons of dari seed have lately been shipped to Malta intended principally for England, and there remains a balance of about 300 to 400 tons. It is expected that the export movement at both Alexandretta and Sweidieh will be brisker than last year. No particulars are yet to hand, but the general rainfall and improved economic conditions, thanks to the increased activity that the Alexandretta-Osmania branch railway of the Baghdad Railway has created, cannot fail to have a healthy effect on this district.

Special mention should be made of the orange crop, which is exported principally from Payas and Dortyol, which are situated close to Alexandretta, to Constantinople and Odessa. The average exports are about 500,000 small boxes, half the size of the Tripoli and Jaffa box. The production is increasing, as elsewhere, and unless the crop is spoiled by bad weather a total export of about 600,000 small cases may be expected for the coming year.

Mersina.—The staple product of this district is cotton. Although no trustworthy forecast can yet be made, the crop for next year is expected to be about 150,000 bales—that is to say, about 30 per cent. more than last year. This increase is chiefly due to the extensive cultivation of the cotton plant in the Adana district. Cotton is ousting grain, and the grain exports from Mersina have been decreasing in proportion to the increase of the cotton exports. In the region of Mersina, Tarsus, and Adana the cereal crop is poor, but in Djeihan, Osmania, etc., it is said to be fairly good. The barley crop is estimated to be about 10 to 15 per cent. less than last year, and wheat 25 to 30 per cent. less. The oat crop, which formerly used to be exported from Mersina in thousands of tons, is practically nil. On the other hand, the sesame seed crop is expected to be about double that of last year, or about 12,000 tons. Mersina exports also unwashed wool, and the total quantity exported annually is about 300 tons.

Cyprus.—A "bumper" crop of about 80,000 tons was confidently expected, but the appearance of blight has seriously discounted these sanguine expectations. It seems to be almost certain now that the total crop will not be more than 50,000 tons. Judging from the following particulars to hand of the crops of the Famagusta district, which is the principal grain district, there seems to be, on the whole, an improvement on last year's yield. The quality of the barley this year is very good.

	Total of crops for 1913.		Estimate for 1914.
Wheat	120,000	quarters	40% less
Barley	90,000	"	About same quantity.
Vetches	7,777	"	25% more
Oats	9,000	"	20% more
Linseed	90	tons	About same quantity.

Although no particulars have yet come to hand about the grape crop, which is an important agricultural product of Cyprus, as considerable quantities of wine and raisins are exported abroad, yet it may be inferred from the good rainfall in the spring that the yield will exceed that of last year. Total exports in 1913, wine 800 T., raisins 3,000 T.

Recent reports announce that the cool weather, that has recently prevailed in the Island, has revived the carob trees, and enabled them to resist to a certain extent the ravages of the new disease. Indeed, the locust bean crop in the Famagusta district is expected to be about 7,000 tons, against 5,000 tons last year.

According to reports received from the interior, it would seem that the crops in the region of Aleppo, Homs, and Hama do not promise so well as was at first expected. The unusually cold weather that prevailed about the end of April seems to have affected adversely the fields of barley, and of wheat, in the hilly regions. On the other hand, the prospects of the crops are quite favourable in the plain of Antioch, at Amouk, and on the coast line. It is said also that the prospects of the dari crop in the region between Sweidieh and Alexandretta are very good, and that the brisk export movement to the United Kingdom from Arsous and Sweidieh will be at last resumed.

It is reported that the pea crop at Latakia is excellent. The harvest will begin about the end of this month, and the crop is estimated at about 2,000 to 2,500 tons, against 1,500 to 1,800 tons last year. It is expected that Jablé and Banias will export about 1,200 tons.

The crop of vetches is also said to be quite abundant, but the largest part will be for local consumption, and only about 1,000 to 1,200 tons will be available for export.

Owing to favourable weather conditions, the prospects of the dari crop continue to be good, although no trustworthy forecast can be made before the middle of next month.

* The first part of this article, dealing with the crop outlook in Jaffa, Haifa, Sidon, etc., appeared in our issue of last week.

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EGYPTIAN CO-OPERATIVE SYNDICATES LAW.

Explanatory Government Note.

(From a Correspondent.)

The proposed law for the institution of Co-operative Agricultural Syndicates, which the Government wishes to introduce, is at present before an extraordinary committee constituted for the purpose by the Legislative Assembly. In view of the great amount of discussion, to which this measure has given rise, and the uncertainty which has been somewhat freely expressed in competent circles as to the exact intentions of the Government, the explanatory note which the latter has now drawn up and which it has attached to the bill, is interesting.

Complement of Five Feddan Law.

The Government points out that in all other agricultural countries Co-operative Agricultural Syndicates are a necessity, and that in Egypt they have become more so, since they constitute, as has been so often pointed out in The Near East, the natural complement of the Five Feddan Law. This latter measure, the object of which was to afford some protection to the small agricultural land owner, has had for result the restriction of the borrowing power of the small cultivators; for their crops constitute to-day the sole security that they can offer for loans.

Need for Legal Basis.

The object of these Syndicates is to enable the cultivators to obtain the funds, and other necessaries, which they require for the development of their property, and the intention underlying the elaboration of this measure has been to facilitate their formation by assuring to them the credit indispensable to their existence. The note explains that these Syndicates depend entirely for their operations on the obtaining of funds at reasonable terms from financial establishments, but that to obtain these funds the Syndicates must inspire the fullest confidence. For this they require the moral support of the Government; for the latter has ascertained that the chief financial establishments would refuse their assistance, more especially would not grant loans at reasonable rates to these Syndicates unless they were assured that the latter had been established on a stable basis from the legal as well as the financial point of view.

Principle of State Approval.

Hence the reason why it has been laid down in the law that the Government's authority must be obtained for the creation of these Syndicates, and for the contracting of the loans required by them. Such authority can only be given after the object of the loan and the statutes and financial position of the Syndicates have been inquired into, and a Syndicate has every interest in allowing these investigations to be made when it is created, for it will enable it to inspire the banks from the very outset with the confidence without which it cannot exist, whilst the fact that the application for a loan is authorised by the Government will facilitate the obtaining of the money. Other considerations justify the principle of State approval, which is admitted in the case of limited liability companies. Just as the latter have to inspire confidence because they appeal to the public credit, so also Co-operative Agricultural Syndicates must obtain the confidence of the rural population, seeing that the law permits them indefinitely to increase their membership. Moreover, it is quite possible that the statutes of a Syndicate may fulfil the requirements of the ordinary codes and yet not conform to the ideas of co-operation, wherefore State approval is absolutely necessary.

Unlimited Liability.

In the matter of the liability of members, it is pointed out that the need to consolidate the credit of these societies has required that this liability should be unlimited. This is the principle followed in most countries where these Syndicates exist, the idea being that as the ordinary resources of the societies are too restricted alone to inspire confidence, an additional guarantee had to be offered in the solidarity of the members, which moreover ensures the efficient administration of the funds, since the members conscious of their personal responsibility naturally will pay particular attention thereto.

Government Intervention.

With regard to the Government's relations with the Syndicates, to which some objections have been raised, no action will be taken with regard to the employment of the proceeds of loans contracted. The Government will limit its intervention to giving its consent to the contracting of loans, in which connection it will confine itself to an investigation into the financial position of the Syndicate at the time of its foundation, or of the contracting or renewal of a loan. (This auditing of accounts is really a service rendered to the Syndicates, seeing that the number of competent accountants in Egypt is restricted.) It will also afford its assistance to the Syndicates in regard to making public their requirements, and any advice which they may require in connection with the introduction of new remunerative agricultural industries, the market prices of foods, the various qualities of manure, seeds, and agricultural implements, etc.

Question of Reserve Fund.

Certain objections have been raised anent the provision laying down that each Syndicate must devote 50 per cent. at least of its profits to the constitution of a reserve fund, and regulating its distribution in case of dissolution. It is pointed out that the object of the fund is not solely to provide for contingencies. It is hoped that by its means the Syndicate will gradually succeed in dispensing with all outside assistance, and that in time it will become self-dependent, and no longer have to have recourse to banks. Consequently, every provision which tends to protect this reserve fund must be beneficial to the Syndicate, and assure its development and its future, whilst as regards the distribution of the fund in the event of dissolution of the Syndicate, the restrictions imposed are absolutely necessary in order to restrain the cupidity of certain members who might be tempted to force a dissolution in order to divide up the funds, as has happened in other countries, where such restrictions had not been laid down.

Council of Delegates.

A Council of Delegates from the different Syndicates of the Province is to be formed in each Province. Its mission will be to advise on questions of common interest. It will also have the effect of setting up between these Syndicates an intercourse which cannot fail to be to their mutual advantage.

Compulsory Dissolution.

The law gives the Government the power to dissolve any Syndicate which devotes itself to objects other than those laid down by the law, and it accords to every Syndicate thus dissolved the right to appeal to the Council of Ministers. This has evoked much criticism, and the note replies to the questions raised as follows:—

"It must not be supposed that the Government will make an arbitrary use of this power to the prejudice of the Syndicates. It is indeed obvious that the Government, which is doing its utmost to encourage the creation of these Syndicates and to procure for them all manner of assistance, will only have recourse to this extremity if it appears imperative, not only in the interest of the district where the Syndicate in question is operating, but also in that of all the Syndicates which are in need of the public confidence. That this power will be used in a reasonable manner is guaranteed by the right accorded to every society condemned to dissolution to appeal to the Council of Ministers, whose decision will be final.

"It is not possible to argue that in that case it would have been better to give the judicial authority the right to pronounce the dissolution, for such a provision would take that authority out of the domain of its ordinary attributions. Indeed, if a Syndicate concerns itself with politics, or other questions likely to affect public security, the exact appreciation of such a fact could in no wise come within the jurisdiction of the Courts.

"Moreover, the Government does not expect that the least objection will be raised to the power which it has reserved to itself in this respect; no one will admit that such organisations, whose *raison d'être* is essentially economic, may depart from the object for which they have been created, such a departure being likely to give rise to the most regrettable consequences. Moreover, it is to be foreseen that the Syndicates themselves will not commit any act which will force the Government to have recourse to such an extreme measure."

Finally, the Government draws attention to two points. First, the fact must not be overlooked that the provisions of the new law are not obligatory for all Co-operative Agricultural Syndicates already created or that may be created in the future. Such societies will retain complete liberty of action, the law dealing only with those who willingly submit to its provisions in order to obtain the advantages which it assures them. Secondly, the Government formally declares that, in granting personal status to Syndicates created in accordance with the present law, it in no wise intends to prejudice either directly or indirectly the personal status which any of these societies acquire under the existing codes.

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USES OF RUBBER.

Fourth International Exhibition.

The fourth International Rubber Exhibition which is now being held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, reflects the greatest credit on Miss Fulton, the secretary, and Mr. Manders, the manager. Some hundreds of exhibits have been brought together, and no one interested in tropical products—particularly rubber and cotton—can afford to miss the exhibition.

To the initiated it is difficult to see how the world, even if we all wore goloshes, can consume yearly so much rubber. Every district which has pretensions to heat and moisture seems to produce it in overflowing quantities. No wonder there is a slump in the market, and that the supply greatly exceeds the demand. Moreover, the initial cost of production is, comparatively speaking, costly. All manner of ingenious devices are exhibited to show to what manifold uses rubber may be put. The North British Rubber Company has a room entirely furnished with rubber. Everything in it "except the electric globes and the ink" is of rubber. Rubber carpet in an art green; rubber coverings to the chairs and sofa; rubber bindings to the books. Even the tables are all-rubber, or rather all-vulcanite, of a lustrous black, and capable of taking on a polish as of ebony, that should make them dear to the housewife's heart. Commercially, however, it is doubtful whether vulcanite furniture could ever be a success. Vulcanite by weight is expensive, and although the tables and chairs were as if clamped to the floor, so steady were they, they were also immensely ponderous.

One of the most interesting features of the rubber trade is the immense business which is done in reclamation. New rubber from the point of view of durability is of small use, until it is mixed with some other substance, and one of the substances very widely used is old rubber. The Provodnik Company of Riga make a speciality of this kind of work, and handle something like 100,000 pairs of goloshes in a day; while their annual output of reclaimed rubber is 4,000 tons a year.

One of the most interesting exhibits is that of the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Co., Ltd., which shows some rubber-covered wooden blocks which were laid in the Old Kent Road. The traffic at this spot is one of the heaviest in London, and is estimated at 90 tons per square foot per hour of the twenty-four hours. The wooden blocks surrounding the rubber ones wore while the experiment was in progress from ⅛ in. to ¼ in., but the rubber blocks hardly show any sign of wear.

It is suggested that this system may revolutionize our system of road-making. If it does it will immensely increase the dangers of the streets. And even to know that rubber shares are soaring will be poor compensation when caught at the Bank or Piccadilly by a juggernaut of a motor-bus which has stolen up unbeknown behind you.

The Exhibition, however, is not entirely devoted to rubber. One particularly interesting section shows the product of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Chief among these is cotton, and in view of Lord Kitchener's recent speech these exhibits aroused especial interest. There is also a particularly well-organized section devoted to the Belgian Congo, and there is an interesting series of photographs, one of which has for its gruesome subject the swallowing of an immense pig by a comparatively small, but most elastic python.

INSURANCE IN GREECE.

In his recently issued report on the trade of the Piræus in 1913 Mr. Consul Norcop says that about twenty-five years ago three Greek insurance companies commenced operations in Greece. Owing, however, to bad management, two of these suspended payment. The Greek Government then passed a Bill for the protection of persons insured. Its provisions proved so stringent that several British companies withdrew, but it is hoped that as peace and order have been restored those companies will return. Foreign insurance companies intend to open up general agencies in Greece. Fire insurance is said to have good prospects of succeeding, owing to the solid structure of the buildings and the creation of modern fire brigades.

ROUMANIAN EXPORTS FOR 1913.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

June 14.

The figures for the exports from Roumania during the past year have only lately been published by the Ministry of Finance. Cereals to the amount of 86,424 tons less were exported in 1913 than in 1912, the cause being doubtless the lack of means of transport during the Balkan war. For the exports of flour, bran, etc., the figures for last year show an increase of 69,847 tons over those for 1912.

In the exports of petroleum and its derivatives the increase was about 133,700 tons. A comparison of the exports of petroleum, etc., with the production of raw oil (which amounted to 1,885,225 tons in 1913, as against 1,807,000 tons in 1912) shows that nearly 50 per cent. of the petroleum produced is consumed in the country, which is a measure of the importance of oil fuel in the native industries.

Great Britain is the largest buyer of petroleum, etc., in 1913, taking 100,000 tons residues, 89,000 tons refined oil, and 30,000 tons benzine. France is more interested in benzine, and she imported last year 76,000 tons benzine and 34,000 tons refined oil. In the same period Italy purchased nearly the same quantities of benzine and refined oil as France, and also 76,000 tons residues. Germany imported in 1913 benzine 71,000 tons and refined petroleum 31,000 tons. Austria-Hungary bought 41,278 tons residues, Turkey 56,000 tons petroleum, Egypt 97,000 tons refined petroleum.

The figures for the exports of building timber were 13,710 less, for the exports and of logs 34,814 less, than in 1912. Austria-Hungary took 192,069 tons fir poles, Turkey 25,000 tons building timber, Holland 30,000 tons building timber, and Egypt 38,000 tons building timber.

As a whole, the export figures for 1913 are higher than for the previous year.

ROUMANIAN POSTAL CONVENTION.

The Moniteur Officiel has published the text of the postal, telegraphic, and telephonic conventions between Roumania and the following countries :—Servia, Greece, Montenegro, and Bulgaria.

According to the conventions the postage rates for mails addressed from Roumania to places in these countries and *vice versâ* are as follows :—

Letters, 10 cms. per 20 grammes or fraction; postcards, 5 cms.; printed matter, samples, and business papers, 5 cms. per 100 grammes or fraction. Parcel post : Servia, 1 fr., of which 50 cms. are for Roumania and 50 cms. for Servia; Greece, 50 cms. for Roumania, 50 cms. for Greece, and 25 cms. for transit; Montenegro, 50 cms. for Roumania and 50 cms. for Montenegro; Bulgaria, 1 fr., of which 50 cms. are for Roumania and 50 cms. for Bulgaria. Parcel post in transit, 25 cms. Postal orders, 10 cms. for each 25 frs. or fraction.

Unprepaid items to pay double postage, and those insufficiently stamped to pay double the deficiency. Correspondence between the Foreign Ministers, Ministers Plenipotentiary, and Consuls of the contracting parties is free.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Abdul Hamid Bey Shedid, formerly manager of the Banco di Roma at Cairo, has been appointed Inspector-General of that bank for the Orient.

The Egyptian Gazette reports that the question of the drainage of Hadra lake is again being taken up by the Alexandria Municipality, and the committee, which is negotiating with the Daira in reference to the widening of the Aboukir road, is to be invested with wider powers so as to be able to negotiate with the Daira on the subject of the drainage of Hadra lake.

The importation of coal into Egypt during the period January 1 to June 18 amounted to 752,711 tons, as against 638,067 tons in the same period last year.

Shannon, Ltd., have received an order from the Egyptian Government for a large number of vertical filing cabinets and over 300 card index cabinets. The qualification tests of strong construction, first-class material, easy running of drawers, etc., were passed successfully by the company in competition with numerous other applicants.

It is expected that the new high-road between Haskovo and Gumurjina will be opened for traffic by the middle of July. Arrangements are being made for a service of motor-'buses between Old and New Bulgaria by this route.

The road between Philippopolis and Xanthi has been repaired and is now open for motor traffic. It is understood that the mails will be conveyed by motor-car between the Old and New Bulgaria.

According to *The Echo de Bulgarie*, direct taxation in Bulgaria during the first five months of 1914 produced 19.692.290 leva, as against 5,830,753 leva in 1913, 10,763,134 leva in 1912, and 9,821,408 leva in 1911.

According to the *Oesterreichisch-Ungarische Konsular-Korrespondenz*, Vienna, trade is showing signs of improvement at Salonika. There is a fair demand, it is reported, for colonial commodities, lumber, leather, packing paper, cotton, thread, glassware, ordinary earthenware, and haberdashery. On the other hand the sale of cottons and clothing is somewhat restricted at present.

The revenue derived by Greece from the Petroleum Monopoly in 1913 amounted to 5,065,448 drachmas, as compared with 5,024,595 drachmas in 1912 and 5,048,370 drachmas in 1911.

Exports of flour from Roumania in April, 1914, were as follows :—Albania, 28,000 kilos; England, 1,062,000 kilos; Austria-Hungary, 528,027 kilos; Belgium, 69,750 kilos; Egypt, 883,139 kilos; Germany, 113,000 kilos; Greece, 1,325,215 kilos; Italy, 60,000 kilos; Holland, 46,750 kilos; Turkey, 2,579,309 kilos.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

According to the *Gazette Financiere*, the various Ottoman railways have with few exceptions shown a substantial increase in their receipts for the beginning of May over those for the similar period of last year. These figures go far to prove the recuperative power of commerce in Turkey, and it is greatly to be hoped that this favourable start will not be vitiated in the near future by another outbreak of hostilities :—

RECEIPTS.

Line.	No. of miles open to traffic.	1913.	1914.	Increase or Decrease.
Week ending, May 13.				
Orient	355	£166·58	£318·25	+ £318·25
Haidar-Pasha-Angora	360	£553·35	£641·63	+ £87·28
Eskishehr-Konia	278	£319·88	£317·22	− £2·66
Arifieh-Adabazat	6	£816·64	£1,041·19	+ £224·55
Baghdad	183	£113·59	£113·59	—
Ten days ending, May 20.				
Smyrna Kassala	323	£799·39	£799·39	− £——·9
D.H.P. narrow gauge	155	£492·32	£575·26	+ £82·94
D.H.P. standard gauge	208	£330·35	£613·28	+ £282·83
Homs-Tripolis	65	£583·37	£1,043·81	+ £460·44
Soma-Pandenna	115	£226·15	£255·18	+ £29·03
Week ending, May 23.				
Smyrna-Aidin	369	£5,600·99	£8,781·15	+ £3,180·16

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Baghdad. June 7.

The state of the market is by no means satisfactory just now. Rates of transport to Hamadan and Kermanshah have fallen, but those markets are fully stocked with Russian goods and goods brought in from the North, where security reigns. This hits Baghdad rather hard, and general merchandise suffers in consequence. The market is much overstocked with sugar, and much has been sold at a loss.

The crops are reported as excellent, and when they are got in the agriculturist should have money to spend freely, which will benefit trade very considerably.

Odessa. June 28.

More rains have fallen during the last few days, and the crop prospects are said to be generally good, except in the neighbourhood where the winter cereals are stunted and partially withered by the previous drought.

Bucharest. June 28.

The reports of the wheat crop are much more reassuring than they were a week or two ago. Not so much damage has been done by the late rains as was at first thought. The mildew has altogether disappeared. The area sown is much larger than last year, and the farmers expect to make a profit, as the harvest promises to be excellent.

Maize has, in fact, benefited from the rains, and the signs point to a record maize crop.

Sofia. June 30.

The harvest in the Gumuldjina district has been in full swing since June 7. The wheat is abundant and of good quality. The vineyards, the maize, and the other summer sowings, thanks to the regular rainfall this year, are in excellent condition. Tobacco sowing has already begun, and as the ground is in a nice moist condition, the tobacco cultivators are very optimistic and expect abundant crops.

The price of silk cocoons at Souflon varies from 4.35 frs. to 4.65 frs. the kilogram. The price in the district of Gumuldjia is lower, but according to the Ministry of Agriculture the cocoons from this district are actually of a finer quality.

The following are extracts from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Homs. June 17.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for May:—

The crops seem safe, and it is asserted that the barley crop will be 10 per cent. better than last year's. There is no advance to record in the wheat crop. There is no longer any fear of the appearance of rats and other rodents, which last year ravaged the crops in some parts west of the Orontes. In general, the outlook is satisfactory.

This favourable crop prospect has encouraged business during the month. Stocks of cereals of last year's crop have been sold at good prices. Native tissues have also been exported in fair quantities.

Imports have not been so active as expected, as the principal articles (manufactures, colonial produce, etc.) have risen in price. Merchants have preferred to draw on existing stocks in expectation of a drop in prices.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for week ending June 19:—Our market has been again very active, with sales amounting to 104 cases at last week's full figures—viz., 14s. 9d. to 16s. 3d., as to quality. To-day's closing figures are:—For current, mixed grades, 9 per cent. (average), 13s. 6d.; for Carahissar druggists, 10 per cent. (average), 14s. 6d.; for Carahissar druggists, 11 per cent. (average), 15s.; for Carahissar druggists, 11½ per cent. (average), 15s. 9d.; for Yerlis, as to quality, 14s. 6d. to 16s. 6d. The latest estimate of our crop is 8,000 cases, which fact by this time should have brought down prices fully 2s. per pound under above quotations. The arrivals to date are 141 cases, against 95 at same date last year.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 2nd.

Sugar.

The market continued quiet this week, the demand, however, is very slow, and stocks difficult to move in spite of the low prices. Beet is steadier with only moderate business passing for August at 9s. 4¼d. to 9s. 5¼d., September 9s. 5¾d., October-December 9s. 6d., December 9s. 6¼d., and January-March 9s. 7¾d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Refined, English is steady but moves slowly that refiners evidently reduced prices to help the situation. Cubes No. 1 prompt 18s., No. 2 17s. 6d., Granulated fine 16s. 3d., and standard 15s. 9d.

Coffee.

The market remains almost in the same position as last week. Only moderate supplies have been offered at auction meeting, a fair demand at about steady values. Common qualities were slow of sale. Prices are for Santos 50s. to 56s., Jamaica ordinary 58s. to 65s., Guatemala 65s. to 85s., East India small 70s. to 75s., Nicaragua, foxy, 55s. to 60s., Costa Rica ordinary to mid. 70s. to 85s., Mocha 88s. to 100s.

Currants.

Market business has been moderate, principally confined to smalls and medium bold Zante, which latter is now considered cheap. Sales of Panaritz have also been made at full prices. The threatened bad weather in Greece does not seem to have developed to any important extent, and the attitude of holders would lead to the supposition that the growing crop is going on satisfactory. Prices are Provincial 23s. to 23s. 6d., Amalias 24s. 6d., to 26s., Patras 27s. 6d. to 30s., Gulph 28s. to 31s., Vostizza 32s. to 36s., Islands 26s. to 30s., and Smalls 25s. to 33s.

In Liverpool the demand is somewhat slow, but still there has been a quiet business passing; and duty paid clearances continue satisfactory, being 6,674 tons since January 1st up to end of last week, against 6,915 tons for the same period last year.

Sultanas.

The market generally is quiet and somewhat easier. This may be attributed to a temporary absence of consumptive demand, and not to any alteration in the general position. The recently reported closing of the port of Smyrna seems to be only of a temporary measure, a steamer, however, has left with a moderate cargo, and the fruit she brings is expected to be of good quality, and to afford some relief to the market in this respect. The reports from Smyrna with regard to the growing crop are, as usual, of a contradictory nature, but by reliable authorities the crop is estimated as not likely to be more than 40,000 tons, and possibly less.

Figs.

The prices mentioned for bags of natural new crop, September shipment, are very high, most merchants refusing to risk selling at any reasonable price. Some quantities, however, have been sold.

Seeds.

Linseed is inactive, London, Calcutta spot and afloat quoted 50s. 9d., July-August 51s., August-September 51s. 9d., September-October 52s. 3d. Rape seed is quiet, brown Cawnpore July-August 51s. 3d., and Yellow Guzerat ditto 56s. Cotton seed is neglected. London-Egyptian July is offered at £8 6s. 3d., August £8 7s. 6d., November-January £8 10s. per ton. Canary seed, Turkish quoted 92s. to 96s.

Oilcakes.

Egyptian Cotton cakes in store are offered sparingly at £4 15s. 3d. to £4 17s. 6d., but there are sellers for June-July shipments at £4 12s. 6d. to £4 13s. 9d. ex-ship terms, with English makes at £4 17s. 6d. to £5, and Bombays at £4 2s. 6d. to £4 5s. per ton. Linseed cake has little demand, but with limited supplies of foreign and a strong attitude of home manufacturers the market is well supported. Fine seedy Calcuttas are quoted at £7 15s. to £7 17s. 6d. ex ship for arrival, and best quality Russian make at £7 13s. 9d. to £7 15s. ex quay. London-made sell quietly £7 17s. 6d. to £8.

ROUMANIAN TEXTILE MARKET.

(By Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

Textiles in New Roumania.

The demand for textile goods in the newly acquired territory is stated to be extremely active of late, and many Bulgarian warehousemen have disposed of the contents of their premises to Roumanians recently settled in the district. The textile factories in this country have very largely benefited from the improved demand. Depôts have been cleared out completely, and new orders are keeping employed up to their full capacity the machines both of the cotton and wool consuming factories.

Trade in Yarns.

These improved conditions have also had a satisfactory influence on the yarn business. Apart from the very cheap yarns, which are spun in the country itself, Roumania is a large consumer of raw material for large factories, as well as for domestic use. The principal countries supplying combed yarns, the demand for which is increasing steadily, are Saxony first, then Austria and France, though both of the latter are a long way behind the first. Cotton yarns are supplied by Great Britain, Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Germany. In vigorgne yarns Germany holds the field practically alone. Italy attempted during the past season to compete in this line, without, however, any appreciable success.

Woollen Goods.

Printed flannels are supplied chiefly by Great Britain and Italy, as well as by Austria, Germany, and Belgium, though the two first are far ahead of the others in quantities. It may be noted that only of late years has Italy come to the front in this class of goods, which had been hitherto practically a monopoly of Great Britain's. The trade in woollen materials for ladies' costumes (jacquards) which formerly were imported solely from Bohemia and Saxony, has now got almost entirely into the hands of Italian competitors, and during the past year especially Italy secured practically the whole business. Woollen goods for trouserings are still furnished by Germany (Saxony and the Rhine provinces), whilst Bohemia has an appreciable share of this trade, in spite of the strong Italian competition. It is worthy of remark that in earlier times the supply of this line of goods was entirely in British hands. We now supply only the very finest cloths, and these in retail lots.

Dress Materials, etc.

In ladies' dress materials in general the trade hung somewhat; only at the end of the year orders began to be made more frequently. For the more fancy lines of goods both for ladies and gentlemen the demand was unusually lively during the past year. Needless to say, in this line France was far ahead both in quantity and quality. In silk goods the Swiss and Lyons factories did most business in the finer sorts, whilst Germany also made herself felt, and one German firm secured large orders not only in silk ribbons but also in every class of ribbon. This trade was formerly a speciality of France.

Shirts and collars are obtained—in spite of the competition of the local factories—principally from Germany and Austria. A very few only now come from Great Britain, though this was not formerly the case. But there is no reason why we should not regain our footing in the market if it were properly worked.

ALBERT SINGER
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EXPORT OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, June 26.

Prices are down and speculators are demoralised. The industrial demand is good, but transactions in the new crop are unimportant. The difficulties that have arisen in America, regarding the importation of Egyptian cotton, have exercised a depressing effect here. Having regard to existing conditions it cannot be said that the present level of prices is low, since the average price of the 1913-4 crop has been 18 9-32 tallaris, as compared with 17⅞ the previous year. If speculation has not been marked, it is because with prices as they are speculators, as a whole, have found little encouragement to set the ball of speculative purchases rolling. Speculation, therefore, cannot profit by the present state of affairs, and a rise in prices can only be brought about by adverse factors. And that is why the market is irregular and nervous.

Cotton seed is in increased demand owing to speculative purchases which are uncovered.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. November, 18⅛, January, 18¼. Exchange, three months' date, 96⅛.

	This week.	Same time. 1912-13.	Same time. 1911-12.
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	3,500 ..	600 ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,601,296 ..	7,453,109 ..	7,352,928
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	Nil. ..	3,750 ..	4,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	201,140 ..	199,727 ..	198,500
Shipments to Manchester	5,500 ..	Nil. ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	217,415 ..	200,362 ..	222,800
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	5,500 ..	6,250 ..	5,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	416,414 ..	386,118 ..	367,333
Shipments to U.S. America	Nil ..	600 ..	2,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	82,003 ..	121,500 ..	111,175
Shipments to all parts	11,000 ..	10,600 ..	11,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	916,972 ..	907,767 ..	899,809
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	1,123,000 ..	894,000 ..	700,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to June 24, 1914.

	1913-14	1912-13.	1911-12.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	201,140	196,038	194,155
" Manchester	211,915	200,362	222,800
Total Shipments to Great Britain	413,055	396,400	417,155
Shipments to France and Spain	115,762	110,451	100,876
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	200,910	185,512	178,367
Shipments to Russia	71,134	63,774	64,065
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,116	805	987
Total Shipments to Continent	389,922	360,542	344,295
Shipments to U.S. America	82,003	120,870	109,175
Ditto to India and Japan	20,992	19,372	17,644
Total Shipments to all parts	905,972	897,184	888,269
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,930	Cantars. 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

June 24.—"City of Oxford."
June 25.—"Merchant Prince," Manchester.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—As anticipated, there has been only a very limited demand for Egyptian spot cotton, and the little business put through has generally been for deferred delivery. The medium grades of Upper Egyptian have been in some request, and reasonable priced staple cotton of this variety is becoming scarce. Outside this the demand has been featureless. Quotations are reduced 10 points for all qualities, except Good and below in Sakellarides and Joanovitch, which are only 5 points lower, Estimated sales, 1,300 bales.

A special supplement of 56 pages on "Trade Products of the British Empire," is issued with the July number of *The Chamber of Commerce Journal*. The supplement is a very comprehensive statistical survey of the resources of the British Empire as a supplier of foodstuffs and raw materials for British industries. Foreign sources of importance are also noticed.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, July 1.

The general state of affairs in our market has shown no improvement during the past week, and continued inactivity has prevailed from day to day. The inquiry has not been plentiful, and offers that have come round have been too low to be practicable to sellers. Production has been much larger than the clearances, and some big concerns in both spinning and weaving districts have stopped part of their machinery in order to relieve the accumulation of stock somewhat. Many sellers, weary of waiting in vain for orders of any weight, are already looking forward to the coming holidays as a relief, after which, it is hoped, when the new cotton season begins, there will be a revival in demand generally. Prices in raw cotton have shown very little change, and the fluctuations have not been more than a few points a day. Fairly satisfactory reports have been circulated with regard to both the Egyptian and the American crops, and the weather in the Egyptian belt is said to have been on the whole satisfactory. Trade for the Near Eastern outlets has been as bad as ever, and the present uncertain state of that part of the world has not encouraged cloth buying on any large scale; in fact, piece goods have been sold with more difficulty than for some time back. Egypt has also been in an unsettled condition, especially as regards money coming in, and buying for that outlet has been considerably checked. India trade has been unimportant, and sales have been few. China business has been featureless from day to day, although prospects have continued brighter. The home trade has now entered upon a slack period of the year, and distribution has not been active. The lot of the average yarn seller has been anything but a happy one, and home American spinnings have dragged in demand at practically unaltered quotations. Export numbers have moved off very slowly for the Near East. Bolton counts have been steady in price, but the turnover has been of small extent.

SUDAN COTTON.

The following is an extract from the paper on "The Work of the British Cotton Growing Association," by Mr. J. Arthur Hutton (Chairman of the Council), read at the Third International Congress of Tropical Agriculture, at the Imperial Institute, on June 23 :—When the Association commenced operations there were no economic means of transport to the interior of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, but as soon as the Suakin-Berber Railway was completed in 1906 the Association offered to do what they could to assist, but they were informed that their help was not required, and no further steps were taken in the matter. In 1909 the Egyptian cotton crop was an absolute failure, and it became evident that one must look elsewhere for an addition to the supply of cotton of the Egyptian type, and the Association again began to make inquiries as to the possibilities of the Sudan. On October 13, 1910, Sir William Mather gave an important address at the Manchester Town Hall on the cotton possibilities of the Sudan, and the Association then decided to take up 5,000 shares in the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, which was far and away the most important cotton growing firm in the Sudan. The Association appointed a representative to join the board of directors of the syndicate, and subsequently took up a further 4,000 shares.

The Sudan Government had commenced an important practical experiment at Tayiba to prove whether cotton could be grown on the Gezira Plain with irrigation between July and March, and they wisely handed over the management to the syndicate. In view of the great importance of the question, and with the object of acquiring more definite information on the subject, the council decided in 1911 to send out a deputation, and representatives of the Association visited the Sudan in January, 1912. The deputation were most deeply impressed with the cotton possibilities of the Sudan, and they were particularly struck with the excellent quality of the cotton which was being grown there. Their report has been published in full, but the results of their investigations may be summarised as follows :—

1.—Tokar : Good possibilities of producing 10,000 to 20,000 bales of cotton of fair quality in the immediate future.

2.—Khartoum and North : Moderate prospects of producing 5,000 bales or more of high-class Egyptian cotton in the immediate future, with further possibilities of increase if an earlier maturing and more robust type of cotton can be established.

3.—Gezira : One of the finest cotton propositions in the world. There seems to be no reason why in the next few years one should not raise annually 50,000 bales or more of really high-class Egyptian cotton, with the prospect of the production increasing to 250,000 bales within ten or fifteen years, and with further possibilities later on of a production of 1,000,000 bales or more.

4.—Rain-grown Cotton : The prospects in the Sudan of producing very large quantities of cotton of American type are most encouraging, and in some ways better than those in either Northern Nigeria or Uganda. There is land enough to grow millions of bales, but the future must depend on sufficient population, efficient Government supervision, and the requisite commercial assistance for buying and ginning.

5.—Gedaref and Kassala : There are considerable possibilities in these districts for both rain-grown and irrigated cotton.

There is not the least doubt that the Tayiba experiment was an eminent success, and the council therefore decided to press the Government to do all in their power to push on the development of the Gezira Plain with all possible speed. The establishment of cotton growing is a slow business at the best, and many years must elapse before any new field can be expected to produce 100.000 bales annually even under the most favourable conditions. Considering that Lancashire consumption is over 4.000,000 bales per annum. and considering also that the world's demands for cotton are growing rapidly every day, it is evident that the question is one of the greatest urgency. The association were convinced that the Gezira Plain was the only new field where one might expect an appreciable quantity of high-class cotton in a reasonable time, and on January 23, 1913, a deputation from the association waited on Mr. Asquith and urged that the Government should guarantee the interest on a loan of £3,000,000 to be raised by the Sudan Government for the construction of irrigation and other works in the Sudan. The Government soon afterwards introduced the necessary legislation in Parliament, and it is hoped that the loan will shortly be issued and operations commenced with the least possible delay. We can at any rate congratulate ourselves on the fact that Lord Kitchener has taken up this important question with his well-known zeal and energy, and I think we can safely leave the matter in his hands.

TEXTILES AT BEYROUT.

In his report on the trade and commerce of Beyrout and the coast of Syria for 1913, Mr. Vice-Consul H. C. Hony says :—'British textiles still hold their own against all foreign competition, although this competition is becoming more acute, especially from Italy. Since the Turco-Italian war that country has been very active in this market, chiefly in grey tweed cloth, Oxford prints, yarn, and flannelette. The long credit given by Italian manufacturers helps the demand for their goods, although it is not to be denied that they sometimes suffer from this.

Italy competes in yarn of the coarser qualities, Nos. 4 to 12, while the British quality from No. 12 to 32 is considered better. India sent about £25,000 of coarse yarn. The imports from Italy include black tweed cloths of various qualities, which find an easy sale on account of the fastness of their dye.

Spain has been supplying for the last two years a kind of Oxford print to the annual amount of £12,000."

There is at present a good demand for shoemakers' thread in Bulgaria. These threads are mainly provided by Italy, and are supplied in balls of three different qualities, selling at 2.40 frs., 2.45 frs., and 2.60 frs. per kilok. c.i.f. Varna, with six months' credit. Cotton fustians are also much sought after. They mainly come from Italy, their annual importation into Bulgaria representing the value of 200,000 frs.

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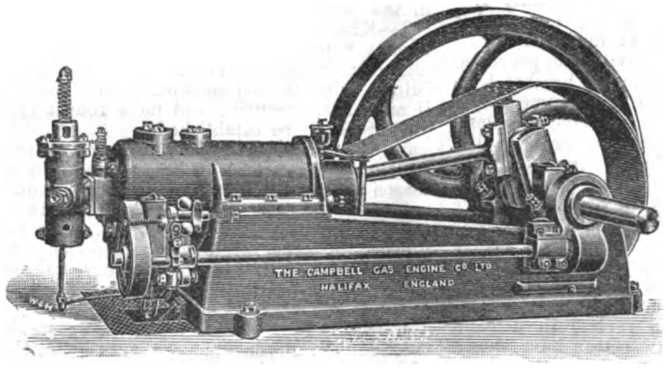

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Engineering Notes.

Prahova Port Works.

Our Belgrade Correspondent informs us that the *Servian Correspondence* reports that the British contractors now in Belgrade with the former Servian Minister in London, Mr. Cheda Mijatovitch, are endeavouring to obtain the concession for the construction of the port of Prahova on the Danube. This is the port at which the projected Danube bridge will connect the Roumanian with the Servian railway lines. The journal adds that the Government has not yet come to a decision in regard to the port concession.

Servian Railways.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (June 28):—There is reason to believe that negotiations with good prospects of success are being carried on with a French financial group for a loan, and it is expected that it will be for an amount of from four to five hundred million francs, which will be used for railway purposes and for military equipments. Meantime a large quantity of rails bought in France have arrived in barges at Semendria, whence they will be forwarded by rail to Nish, in order to be placed on the new line Knjaschovatz—Nish, which forms part of the Danube-Adriatic line, commencing at Prahovo, near Negotin, on the Danube.

A Gearless Motor-Car.

A complicated machine is always looked upon with a certain amount of scepticism in the East, and in selecting a machine of any kind the buyer does not forget the existing scarcity of efficient repairing shops and of skilled mechanics in his district. This consideration is studied more or less by foreign manufacturers in their efforts to gain the Eastern markets; and as to machinery and mechanical devices generally, they have found that simpljicity of construction brings the best sale results. It is well known that the complicated gear of a motor-car has often dissuaded an Oriental buyer from purchasing what he admired and coveted. A gearless car, therefore, such as we describe below, or other of similar design, should find an excellent market in the East if properly introduced.

The car we refer to is of a quite recent design, extremely simple, easy to manipulate, and low priced. Its system of gearless transmission is based on a driving plate of special alloy, connected to the engine shaft, and a friction rim composed of compressed fibre held on a cross-shaft that connects to the rear axle by means of chains. This arrangement eliminates the necessity of the usual clutch, and accordingly renders the driving of the car much simpler. Changes in speed are effected by the shifting of the fibre-rimmed wheel along the cross-shaft so as to press nearer or farther from the centre of the alloy driving disc. Thus any ratio in speed can be secured between the engine driving shaft and the cross-shaft by this simple means. A lever is provided for separating the driving plate from the fibre-rimmed disc, so that the car can be stopped while leaving the engine running. One of the outstanding features of this gearless transmission is claimed to be a great economy. The life of the fibre-rim, under normal conditions, is between 3,500 and 5,000 miles, while the cost of renewal is exceedingly low—it is claimed to be less than the cost of the grease that would be required in the ordinary gear transmission to cover the same distance. The extreme simplicity of this transmission, and the absence of many complicated parts, tend towards low maintenance cost, since there is the least possible opportunity for derangement and repairs; and it also enables the average owner to readily understand the mechanism and make such simple repairs as may be necessary. This gearless transmission possesses the important advantage of offering a greater range of ratios between the engine speed and that of the driving wheels than can be secured from any other form of transmission.

Roumanian Railways.

Our Bucharest correspondent writes: On July 28 a very important adjudication will be determined here for the undertaking of the construction of the railway line between Craiova and Bucharest, via Caracal. The estimated cost is sixty million francs (£2,400,000), and the length of the line to be constructed is 200 kms. This new line will shorten the route to the Orsova frontier by 51 kms., and the time taken on the journey by about 3 hours. An additional advantage is that the line will run through a very fertile agricultural country, which has hitherto suffered from the absence of rail transport facilities.

The recently completed Servian Railway line to Pratovo (opposite to Gruia on the Roumanian bank of the Danube) was opened for traffic last week. For a short time two passenger trains only will run each day. This line is in connection with the Trans-Balkanic line, which will link the Roumanian railway system with the Adriatic.

It is proposed to construct a railway bridge over the Danube, by means of which the Roumanian and Servian railway systems will be linked up. In connection with this project Mr. Cottescu, the Director-General of the Roumanian State Railways, accompanied by several Roumanian and Servian engineers, has left for Gruia, his object being to decide upon the exact spot where the Romano-Servian railway bridge is to cross the river. The bridge will shortly be begun, and it is expected to be completed in two years. Mr. Cottescu will also inspect the route of the line which is to be constructed from Craiova to the bridge-head. This work will also be taken in hand at no distant date.

The railway authorities are making arrangements for regular through services of goods trains in every possible direction in order that the damage sustained by goods transferred from one train to another shall be minimised. This is good news, especially for importers, to whom the question of settling the frequent claims for deterioration was a grave vexation which will now be practically abolished.

Bulgarian Railways.

The management of the Bulgarian State Railways will shortly call for tenders for 25 locomotives and 500 railway wagons. The estimated amount of the contract is 5,000,000 frs. (£200,000).

For Beet Cultivators.

There have been several inquiries recently from Governments and landowners in the Near East interested in the progress of sugar beet cultivation for modern implements specially adapted for that purpose. In Roumania, South Russia, and other neighbouring regions the average sugar beet grower is making use of the ordinary implements that he uses for the cultivation of other crops, but for such operations as digging the beet-root, lifting it, cleaning, etc., he uses methods that are not only inefficient, but are also causing considerable damage to the root. To assist such growers official inquiries are being made for modern implements as used in other beet-root cultivating countries. Most of the implements or machinery used by some of the large sugar beet growers in the Near East are of French, Belgian, or German construction; but there are similar improved and new designs of British construction which we believe would be more acceptable if they were properly introduced. Some time ago we described in these columns a new beet-root digging, stripping, and cleaning machine, and we now describe another—a new lifter and cleaner, which will interest sugar beet growers in the Near East.

The Beet-Lifter and Cleaner.

This machine is specially constructed to lift and clean beet-roots with ease and with the minimum of abrasion and loss. It is on the double disc principle, and is said to give the best results when operating upon rows of beet from which the leaves have been previously stripped. Two women in ten hours, with specially shaped spades, easily remove the leaves from over two acres. When three rows of beet have been cleared in this fashion the machine can be started to work. Two horses (perhaps three of the small size used in the East) are sufficient for its operation, whilst one man without previous experience can guide them and attend to the machine at the same time. The discs penetrate the ground at converging angles, and it is said that, however long the root may be, it is completely lifted. Nothing is left behind in the soil, and it is claimed that the weight of produce per acre when lifted by this machine is nearly one ton more than when dug by hand. Moreover, none of the roots are bruised or cut. There is a rotary drum at the rear of the machine which it is claimed to clean the beets better than chain harrowing, and has the further advantage of saving the labour necessary for that implement's employment.

TENDERS INVITED.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*] 8

[*Further information concerning tenders marked (B) can be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*]

EGYPT.

Shoes.—Tenders are invited by the Municipality of Alexandria for the supply of 950 pairs of shoes of semi-military type. August 4. (B.)

Forage.—Tenders are invited by the Municipality of Alexandria for the supply of 932,352 kilogs. of barley, 724,662 kilogs. of white straw, and 41,342 kilogs. of bran. July 24. (B.)

Diaries.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of 3,050 diaries (1,500 in Arabic, 700 in English, and 850 in French). August 1. (B.)

Ghafir Clothing.—Tenders are invited at the Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the supply of 34,000 suits of Ghafir clothing for the Stores Department. August 15 (L.).

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Shipping Intelligence.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY'S REPORT.

The "Big Ship" Era.

(By Our Port Said Correspondent.)

A striking feature of the report of the Suez Canal Company's directors for the year 1913 is the recognition of the "big ship." The usual statistics have been freely quoted as showing a decrease in tonnage and receipts, but for present purposes the following figures may be noted as evidence of the new order of things in the Eastern shipping trade.

	1912.	1913.
Number of vessels passing through the canal	5,373	5,085
Total tonnage	20,275,120	20,033,884
Average tonnage	3,774	3,940
Receipts (about)	£5,600,000	£5,200,000

It will be seen that notwithstanding the decrease in the number of vessels passing through the Canal, the average tonnage has risen considerably. Of the total number of vessels using the Canal during the year 44 per cent. were steamers exceeding 4,000 tons, and 5 per cent. steamers exceeding 6,000 tons, as compared with 22 per cent. and 1 per cent. respectively ten years ago.

The company announces, simultaneously with the issue of its report, that the maximum draught of water for steamers using the Canal will be increased, from January 1, 1915, from 29 to 30 feet. This should not come as a surprise to readers of The Near East, as this further concession was foreshadowed in these columns a few months back.

It is announced in the directors' report that to maintain this standard, the depth of the Canal will be increased to 33 feet throughout, and operations will shortly be commenced to increase the depth to 39 feet. This should result in a corresponding increase in maximum draught, which, in the near future, should be extended to 36 feet.

In connection with the safe handling of larger steamers several other progressive works are foreshadowed. The Canal will be widened in the south, where strong currents are prevalent, to 200 feet; while at the northern end several of the mooring stations are being widened to allow larger vessels to pass in safety.

NEW P. AND O. STEAMER.

The P. and O. Company's new steamship "Kaisar-i-Hind" was successfully launched on June 28 from the builder's yard at Greenock. She has a gross register of 11,400 tons, is 520 ft. long by 61 ft. broad by 32.2 ft. beam, and will have accommodation on five decks for 315 first and 233 second saloon passengers. The sixth deck, the boat deck, will be used for recreation purposes for the passengers. The vessel will be driven by two sets of quadruple expansion reciprocating engines, developing 16,000 horse-power. The passenger cabins will include a limited amount of *en suite* accommodation in the shape of *cabines de luxe* and bedrooms, with bathroom attached. It is anticipated that the vessel will be ready for sea in September, having meantime completed her outfit and run her official trials. She is intended more particularly for the company's mail and passenger service between London, Marseilles, and Bombay, and is scheduled to make a maiden departure from London for Bombay on November 20 next.

Jaffa is now considered free from plague, and special restrictions against shipping from that port have been suspended in Egypt.

BLACK SEA FREIGHTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, June 28.

There has been no change during the week in the stagnant condition of the freight market, except, perhaps, that even lower prices have been accepted in a few instances to expedite completion of cargoes. One steamer loaded her last 500 tons for Rotterdam at 5s., and another the same amount for the same destination at 4s. 6d. Both these boats were chartered at 7s. The scarcity of spot cargo continues, and the arrivals from the interior are of trifling amount.

The nominal standard rate for the moment is 5s., and it is possible to berth two steamers for Rotterdam and Hamburg respectively at that price, but as soon as they have been berthed the rate is sure to decline to 4s. 6d.

Nicolaieff remains in the same depressed condition, and very little cargo is offering. As the Weser pays a slightly better rate than other markets, a steamer has been put on that berth at 6s., while another has difficulty in obtaining a full cargo for Rotterdam at rates varying from 5s. 3d. to 5s. 9d. There will be no demand to speak of for tonnage in the Bug port before the appearance of the new crop.

At Kherson there is scarcely any cargo offering, and there is no standard rate to quote. Novorossisk shows a little more activity than any other Black Sea port, owing to its better supplies of grain. Several steamers have recently loaded there at 6s. for Rotterdam, 6s. 9d. for the Weser, and 6s. 6d. for Hamburg. At Theodosia nothing is doing, and nothing will be done before the new crop is in hand.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—Left Liverpool for Constantinople June 21. "Esneh."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria June 27. "Hathor."—Alexandria-Liverpool. Left London June 21. "Karnak."—At Liverpool. "Khephren."—At Batoum June 22. "Meroe."—At Liverpool June 23. "Moeris."—At Alexandria June 20. "Sebek."—Left Glasgow for Alexandria June 27. "Siptah."—Poti-Liverpool. At Constantinople June 16. "Tanis."—At Liverpool.

Anchor Line.

"Castalia."—At Manchester June 26. "Circassia."—At Bombay June 26. "Elysia."—At Glasgow June 27. "Italia."—At Leghorn June 25. "Massilia."—At Marseilles June 27. "Olympia."—Left Bombay for Liverpool June 24. "Scindia."—Birkenhead-Bombay. Left Port Said June 28.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—Left Liverpool for Braila June 26. "Barnesmore."—At Liverpool June 29. "Barrowmore."—At Piræus. "Cranmore."—At Galatz June 5. "Edenmore."—Left Sulina for Galatz June 24. "Fenmore."—At Rotterdam March 9. "Foylemore."—Left Sulina for Tyne June 28. "Gorsemore."—At Galatz June 27. "Heathmore."—Kustendje-Antwerp.—At Galatz June 5. "Incemore."—At Antwerp June 22. "Kenmore."—Sulina-Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar June 28.

Prince Line.

"Corsican Prince."—Manchester-Alexandria. Left Malta June 26. "Creole Prince."—At Syrian Coast June 10. "Egyptian Prince."—Odessa-Liverpool. Left Malta June 26. "Italian Prince."—At Alexandria June 15. "Kaffir Prince."—London-Alexandria. Left Malta June 26. "Merchant Prince."—At Alexandria June 25. "Norman Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria June 26. "Orange Prince."—At Alexandria June 24. "Soldier Prince."—On Syrian Coast June 26. "Tudor Prince."—At Manchester June 21. "Trojan Prince."—At Manchester June 22.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—Left Bombay for London June 27. "Arcadia."—At Bombay June 27. "Candia."—Calcutta-London. Left Port Said June 28. "China."—Left Aden for Bombay June 28. "Delta."—Shanghai-Bombay. Left Singapore June 26. "Devanha."—At Bombay June 22. "Nore."—At Calcutta June 24. "Nyanza."—At Calcutta June 10. "Persia."—London-Bombay. Left Brindisi June 29. "Salsette."—At Bombay June 19. "Sicilia."—London-Calcutta. Left Aden June 25.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—London-Bombay. Passed Gibraltar June 25. "Chantala."—At Bombay June 16. "Chinkoa."—London-Calcutta. Left Bombay June 24. "Chyebassa."—Calcutta-London. Left Colombo June 22. "Culna."—London-Bombay. At Karachi June 22. "Malda."—At Calcutta June 7. "Mongara." Left London for Calcutta June 27. "Nevasa."—At Calcutta June 19. "Neuralia."—London-Calcutta. At Madras June 28. "Tokada."—At Calcutta May 9. "Tanda."—London-Calcutta. Left Port Said June 26. "Varela."—London-Calcutta. At Karachi June 29.

Ellerman Line.

"Assiout." — Liverpool - Alexandria. Left Malta June 26. "Asturian."—Left Malta for Maryport June 25. "Belgravian."—At Ancona June 26. "Bosnian."—At Alexandria June 12. "Britannia."—At Rodosto June 23. "Castilian."—Swansea-Malta. Left Gibraltar June 23. "City of Cambridge."—At Liverpool. "City of Khios."—Liverpool-Smyrna. Left Syra June 26. "City of Oxford."—Left Alexandria for Liverpool June 24. "Italian."—Liverpool-Mediterranean. Left Gibraltar June 26. "Mardinian."—At Constantinople June 29. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Persian."—Left Tyne for Malta June 30. "Venetian."—Algiers-Syra. Left Malta June 17.

SERVIAN DEVELOPMENTS.

Italian Enterprise.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

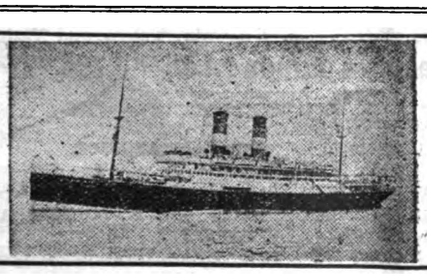
Belgrade, June 29.

A group of Italian financiers and contractors is expected here this week in order to investigate on the spot several enterprises which have been offered to them—namely, the exploitation of forests and coal mines and the erecting of factories.

Two other Italians, contractors to the Italian Government, have been here lately and bought over 4,000 horned cattle for export to Tripoli. When the shipping and harbour arrangements at Salonika are completed, it is expected that there will be a lively trade in the export of cattle to Italy, Egypt, Malta, and other ports.

An arrangement has been concluded with the Orient express passing through Belgrade four times weekly to take the mails, simple and registered letters only, in the journeys going both north and south. The contract is for five years.

A report to the *Politische Correspondenz* from Belgrade announces that a group of English financiers under the leading of M. Mijatovitch, formerly the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has applied to the Servian Ministry of Commerce for permission to establish an Anglo-Servian bank at Belgrade. The share capital will be 20,000,000 francs (£800,000), and the bank would undertake large public works, particularly in the districts of New Servia.



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General Agents for Greece and the Levant—
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PATRAS - PIRÆUS - ATHENS

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NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - - - - Dr. 20,000,000
RESERVES - - - - „ 13,500,000

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

BRANCHES:

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante.

GOVERNOR - - - - - ———
SUB-GOVERNOR - - - - J. EUTAXIAS.

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State Bank of Emission. *Established 1879.*

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,800,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,800 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 65,000

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Miniah, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - „ 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Ispahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BABBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI.
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU, C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH. MOSCHUNA.

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Company Notes and Reports.

Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, for the year to April 30 last, to be presented at the meeting on the 8th instant, states that after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, the returns show a satisfactory improvement on those of the preceding year, the profits of hotels being £30,651, an increase of £7,033. After providing for the annual charges payable in London the accounts show a profit of £26,086. From this has to be deducted debenture interest £3,529, and reserve for depreciation £5,612, leaving £16,945, which with the balance of undivided profit brought forward, £4,017, makes £20,962. The directors propose to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £2,711. During the year £9,981 has been expended out of revenue on maintenance of buildings, gardens, plant, fixtures, and furniture at the hotels. The expenditure on capital account has been £7,327, of which £6,423 was on buildings and £904 on plant.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the year ended March 31, to be presented to the seventeenth ordinary general meeting on July 13, at Winchester House, E.C., states that the modified conditions of the contracts with the Government of Egypt were signed in Cairo on March 7. The modifications took effect from April 1, 1913. As a result of the sale of the Cairo Helouan Railway and its dependencies to the Egyptian Government and of the consolidation of the company's system of light railways, the balance-sheet, etc., are presented in a greatly modified form. During the year an additional 32 kilometres have been opened, making a total of 1,003 kilometres (say, 623 miles) open and working at March 31. The Biela Baltim line is now completed and surveys have been undertaken for the Sah-el-Hagar to Berimbal extension. The revenue account shows: Gross receipts, £255,927; average mileage open, 618; average receipts per mile per year, £414 2s. 5d.; average receipts per mile per week, £7 19s. 3d. The coaching traffic shows a satisfactory improvement, the number of passengers carried being 7,319,663, as compared with 6,974,927 for the previous year. The gross receipts were £156,244, as compared with £148,047 for the year ended March 31, 1913, an increase of £8,197. The average per mile per week being £4 17s. 3d., as compared with £4 15s. 6d. for the previous year. The improvement in goods traffic has also been satisfactory. During the year 968,576 tons were lifted, as compared with 958,916 tons lifted, the gross receipts being £91,559, an increase of £8,773. The total expenditure under the head of working expenses was £154,681, as compared with £142,841. The ratio of actual expenses to gross earnings was 60.44 per cent., as compared with 60.15 per cent. The balance of expenditure to make up the 64 per cent. of the gross receipts required by Government, under the new conditions, to be spent on maintenance and improvement of the lines, has been carried to a suspense account for expenditure in subsequent years. The net earnings from all sources aggregated £92,134, which, with interest and dividends earned, amounting to £2,518, and the balance brought forward from 1913, gives a total of £113,261 to be dealt with. After providing interest on debentures and all fixed charges, a balance of £76,733 remains. The Board recommends the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference share capital for the year ended March 31, 1914, which will absorb £52,039, leaving £24,694 to be carried forward.

Egyptian Agricultural.

The report of the Egyptian Agricultural Company, Limited, for the year ended March 31 last, submitted at the meeting on June 29, states that the work at the Agricultural estates has been steadily continued throughout the year. The cotton crops were excellent, and realised good prices. The tenants generally have done well and are contented. Owing to an unusually low Nile the prospects for the current year are less promising, but if there should be a set-back it will probably only be temporary. At Atfeh (2,154 feddans) the capital outlay during the year was £E2,814, against £E5,235 the previous year. Good progress was made both in reclamation and in improving the accommodation for cultivators. The area let in 1912-13 was 866 feddans for £E3,134, and in 1913-14 980 feddans for £E3,740. The area thus far let for 1914-15 is 1,028 feddans for £E4,288. The managers report that if they can succeed in obtaining an improved water supply the whole of the estate will now quickly come under revenue producing crops, when its value will be greatly enhanced. At Chaba (2,042 feddans) the capital outlay during the year was £E4,614, against £E3,971. Much work has been done in canalising, in improving the drains, and in the building of tenants' dwellings. These latter are already attracting native cultivators to settle on the land. The area let in 1912-13 was 289 feddans for £E1,159, and in 1913-14 381 feddans for £E1,280. The area thus far let for 1914-15 is 565 feddans for £E2,157. The managers report that the property made a very distinct advance in 1913, and the tenants prospered as in no previous year. At Dekerness (4,019 feddans) the capital outlay during the year was £E5,926, as against £E6,263. The area let in 1912-13 was 110 feddans for £E436, and in 1913-14 98 feddans for £E392. The area thus far let for 1914-15 is not yet ascertained. This estate is at present only in the initial stage. The managers report that "the new pump is now beginning to make itself felt," and a considerable area of land has been well washed. Had there been a better supply of water reclamation on an extended scale could have been undertaken. They say that the general surroundings, apart from the company's operations, are greatly improved, as the Government are dredging the two main drains and have constructed a bridge, which gives much better access to the property. The purchaser of the Chaba property has altogether failed to carry out his agreement, and steps have been taken to enforce a claim for damages, the result of which is still awaited. He has paid a further sum of £3,500 in respect of the Dreaga purchase referred to in the last report, but much of the interest is still unpaid, though it is hoped it may shortly be arranged for. Only a small sum has been realised during the year from the "outside assets," but every effort is being made to get in the remainder, though the process is a slow one. The principal item consists of valuable building land near the centre of Cairo, for which no sufficient offer has yet been obtained. Meanwhile it has been necessary to obtain temporary advances in order to meet the outlays necessary on the estates. The Egyptian Assets Realisation, Limited, referred to in the last report, have not yet succeeded in realising enough even to recoup the advances they made. The resident director, Mr. Bonham-Carter, is doing his utmost in the matter, but has been greatly hampered for want of the information and assistance he had looked for when he took these assets in hand. The profit and loss account shows a nominal surplus of £1,955, which has meanwhile been carried to the credit of "realised deficit." It includes interest in arrear on the Dreaga purchase, most of which is at present unpaid. Should this interest, now and in future, be regularly paid, the financial position of the company will be greatly improved. The gross receipts from the estates were in excess of the previous year, but a larger proportion of the fixed charges for taxes, maintenance and administration have been charged this year to revenue, in order to avoid unduly burdening the capital outlay.

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General Office and Library Furnishers, with the Largest Stock in the City of London.
38, "Su-tall" House, Fore Street, London, E.C.

Nestor Gianaclis.

The report for 1913 of Nestor Gianaclis, Limited, presented at the fourth annual general meeting at the offices on June 26, states that the debentures drawn for payment August 1, 1913, have been duly paid and one year's debenture interest has been paid and charged to profit and loss account. The sale of Nestor Gianaclis Boston business has been completed and the proceeds brought into the year's accounts. The Frankfort company has made a small profit, which it has been decided to utilise in reduction of installation expenses, consequently no dividend has been declared upon these shares, but the directors are informed that the company is progressing very favourably. After deduction of all charges, including income-tax to December 31, 1913, writing off the year's proportion of debenture expenses and sundry depreciations in the Cairo accounts, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, there remains a balance of profit amounting to £19,030, from which is deducted £951, being 5 per cent., carried to reserve account. Adding the balance, £18,078, to the £3,374 brought forward from last accounts gives a balance on profit and loss account of £21,452, of which the directors have decided to distribute £17,997 for dividend, as follows:—On cumulative preference shares at 5 per cent., £15,000; on ordinary shares at 1 per cent., £2,997, carrying forward £3,455. The report of the auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., states that except that £271 has been written off at one of the branches, no provision has been made in the accounts for writing down goodwill. They have no means of ascertaining the market value of the investments other than the Crédit Foncier bonds. The book debts taken over from Mr. Nestor Gianaclis at December 31, 1909, and not yet collected, are guaranteed by Mr. Gianaclis. The redemption of £2,340 of the debentures on August 1, 1913, and debenture interest for the five months from that date have not been charged against revenue.

NEW COMPANY.

Moreni and Bordeni Oil Syndicate Limited.

A private company with the above title was registered on June 15 by Hargreaves and Joblin, 7, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C., with a capital of £10,500, in 10,000 preference shares of £1 each and 10,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. The objects of the company are to acquire and work oil-bearing lands, to search for mineral oils, etc. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than four) are to be appointed by the subscribers. Qualification, £1 shares. Remuneration, £100 each per annum (£50 extra for the chairman). The registered office is at 65, Bishopsgate, E.C.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to April 30, 1914 (new style January 14 to May 13, 1914):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, April	1914	2,627,614	2,521,488
Do. do do	1913	2,338,698	2,166,323
Estimated Receipts for 4 months (Law of Control)		9,633,333	3,566,666
Actual receipts for 4 months	1914	13,442,646	10,115,332
Do. do. do.	1913	9,917,237	8,108,678
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1914	+ 3,809,312	+ 6,548,666
	1913	+ 283,904	+ 4,542,011

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).

MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.

MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 600,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, August 6.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
A Mining Shares the next carry-over is July 7.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Wed., July 8	Thurs., July 9	Fri., July 10
Mon., July 27	Tues., July 28	Wed., July 29

LONDON, July 1.

There is no improvement to report in markets. Everything remains idle. The hot weather and the indecision in regard to Ulster have driven the speculator out of the House. Numberless new issues have made their appearance, but very few of them have been subscribed. Liebig's have been borrowing on short-dated notes at 6 per cent. and Grand Trunk of Canada at 4½. The Province of Quebec asked for a million at 4½, and the Manila Railway offered some attractive 5 per cent. guaranteed bonds at 90. The Stuposian Oil Field and the Arizu Estates seem companies to be carefully avoided.

Money Easier.

The Money market is now easy. There was a small rush at the end of the month, but rates are now low, and it is probable that the Bank of England will lower the official rate to 2½ per cent. The Bank of France will also lower its rate as soon as the new national loan is safely out of the way.

Internationals Steady.

The Foreign market is quite steady, and prices show very little alteration. The murder of the heir to the Austrian throne was taken calmly by all the Bourses, and it seems unlikely that any complications will ensue. Austrian rentes are quoted 84. Bulgarian Fives are 101 and the 4½ per cent. are 92. Egyptian Unified have been dealt in at 99½. French rentes are 85. Greek Fours remain at 53. Hungarians are steady at 82 and Turkish Unified are called 81.

Home Rails Idle.

Home Rails are idle. Traffics are good considering the state of trade, but there are no buyers about. The Scotch labour agitators talk very big about a national strike, but the Stock Exchange considers most of this talk to be bluff. Undoubtedly, the best things to buy are Great Western, Great Eastern and Great Northern. In each case the interim dividend is likely to be maintained.

Yankee Prospects.

The troubles of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton have affected the Baltimore and Ohio. On the other hand, the certainty that Union and Southern Pacific will both maintain their usual dividend has hardened the quotation in these stocks. There is not likely to be much rise in Yankee rails until the rate decision is published. Crops are good and the railways, although 1913 was a bad year, will probably have good traffics in the autumn.

Rubber and Oil.

Plantation has fallen below 2s. 3d., and the share market is dull. Perak dividend has been reduced from 35 per cent. to 17½ per cent. Sapong has come out with a loss on the year's trading. Bambrakelly has not done well and Jasin (Malacca) is also disappointing. On the whole the rubber market looks tired. Oil shares are dull, but prices generally have been maintained. The Baku report is very encouraging. But the directors have very wisely decided to pass the dividend, and conserve their resources. The Roumanian Consolidated continues to give us very good news concerning the development of its various plots, and the shares keep very hard. No explanation is given of the falling off of the Egyptian output for the past week. The market took the loss of 1,000 tons very quietly, and the price of Anglo-Egyptian B did not move.

Mines Dull.

The Mining market remains dull. Modders continue to be bought, and there has been some small movement in Chartered on the tale that Sir Abe Bailey is beginning to buy the shares. Tanganyikas have also been moved up. The Canadian market continues to be rigged, and Copper shares have hardened a fraction.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market Marconis are offered steadily, and the price falls each day. Millar's report is fairly satisfactory, and the dividend has been increased to 6 per cent., but Argentine Iron and Steel issues a disastrous report, and the capital is to be scaled down. The San Antonio Land scandal has assumed very serious proportions. We have not heard the last of this unfortunate business.

Egyptians Dull.

The Egyptian market continues to follow the rest of the House. There is very little business doing, and it is almost impossible to either buy or sell shares, the quantity of stock offering is so small. National Banks have been done under 14, but a fair business has been transacted. Agriculturals are a fraction under 4, and here again there has been a moderate amount of trade. The deferred are 280. Land Banks are 6⅜ nominal, and the deferred 40. Bank of Abyssinia are 5s., and show no change on the week. Delta Light Railway Prefs. are 8½, and the deferred are quoted 1½ nominal. Delta Lands have been picked up in small lots, and the price has now hardened to 9s. 6d. A well-known firm of brokers have been advising their clients to purchase these shares as a lock-up. Beheras have hardly been mentioned during the whole week, and the price has sagged to 8½. The preference are 4⅜. Union Foncière are still 1⅛. Alexandria Water have been dealt in at 12½, but Aboukir Lands are weaker at from 20s. 6d. to 21s. There has been some buying of United Lands at 1s. 9d., and a few small parcels have changed hands at this figure. Trusts are called 5s. Salt and Soda are 15s. New Egyptian are 10s. 3d. ex dividend of 9d. Markets are 23s. Khedivial Mail prefs. are 3⅜ nominal, and the ordinary are 10s. Daira Sanieh are 3s., and Associated Cotton Ginners are ¾ nominal.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
ALEXANDRIA, June 26.

Share Market.

A certain improvement in the situation is noticeable, due to the lessening of the tension between Greece and Turkey. The gold that has been used in lifting the crop is now returning to Alexandria, where there is plenty of money available, and we are still shipping gold to London, whence it will return to us next November for the requirements of the next crop.

Egypt's foreign trade shows signs of steady progress. During the first five months of this year exports amounted to £E13,668,539, as compared with £E12,601,915 in 1913, or an increase of £E1,066,624; while the imports for the same period amounted to £E11,684,054 as compared with £E10,955,659 in 1913, an increase of £E728,395 for the five months. These figures bear witness to the extraordinary productivity of the country and its large purchasing power.

Indo-Egyptian Bank.

It was anticipated that Egyptian capitalists would have subscribed the greater part of the capital of £800,000, but with the exception of a few strong pan-Islamists they have declined to have anything to do with it.

Building Lands Co.

There has been a sharp rise in the price of this company's shares. This is due to the fact that the position of the company has improved as a result of repayments which have enabled the company to reduce its indebtedness to the bank. It is hoped shortly to redeem the securities of the company, which consist of Tramways d'Alexandrie shares, in order to distribute the proceeds amongst the shareholders of the Building Lands Co.

Bank of Abyssinia.

The gross profits for the last financial year amount to £E22,824, but owing to the depreciation of silver, the profits are balanced by the losses. The situation of the bank is not likely to improve sufficiently to warrant thoughts of a dividend until the railway from Jibuti reaches Adis-Abeba, and thus renders communication with the sea more easy. And that will hardly be before two years.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 2,282 tons (last week 1,845 tons), of which Hurgada 89 tons (last week 120 tons).

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—Telegram, dated Campina, June 26: "Bordeni well No. 24 commenced flowing yesterday while fishing, still flowing. Production until noon to-day was about 350 tons."

BAGHDAD RAILWAY.—Net profits for 1913 amounted to 1,147,032 frs., against 1,111,626 frs. in 1912. A dividend of 5 per cent. is declared, 87,551 frs. is placed to reserve, and 309,480 frs. carried forward.

BALIA-KARAIDIN MINES.—The net profits for 1913 amounted to £T190,490, as compared with £T157,778 in 1912. A dividend of 35 frs. is declared on the old shares, and of 15 frs. on the new shares.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.—The dividend for 1913 of 21.60 frs. per share is payable on and after July 4.

CAIRO WATER COMPANY. — Receipts for May amounted to £E19,783, as against £E18,972 during the same period last year.

EASTERN BANK.—The subscribed capital of the Eastern Bank, Limited, has now been increased to £1,500,000 by the issue to shareholders of 50,000 new shares of £10 each at a premium of 15s. per share. The reserve fund is also raised from £30,000 to £55,000.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—The annual ordinary general meeting will be held in Hall No. 43, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on July 13.

HAIDAR PASHA PORT.—The net profit for 1913 amounted to 1,466,871 frs., as against 1,408,157 frs. in 1912. The dividend is maintained at 8 per cent.; 400,000 frs. are set aside for renewals, 37,474 frs. placed to ordinary reserve, and 322,130 frs. carried forward. The capital has been increased from 8 to 16 million frs., 2 millions of the new shares having been issued September 1, 1913.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL COMPANY.—Holders of Preference Share Warrants to Bearer are requested to lodge at the offices of the company, London or Alexandria, the talons attached to Preference Share Warrants to Bearer for 1, 5, 10, and 20 shares, in exchange for which new coupons will be delivered.

MERSINA-TARSUS-ADANA RAILWAY. — The total receipts for 1913 amounted to £T69,638, as against £T72,248 for 1912. Net profit £T24,688. The dividend (now payable) on the preference shares is fixed at 6 per cent., and that on the ordinary shares at 3 per cent. £T7,736 is devoted to the redemption of preference shares. Rent to the Anatolian Railways is increased to £T5,952, and £T1,767 is carried forward.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN. —Receipts for the week ended June 27 amounted to £8,634, an increase of £704 over the corresponding period of last year.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—The coupons and drawn bonds of the Three per Cent. bonds due on the 15th inst. will be paid on and after that date at the offices of Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Cablegram from Ploesti, dated June 29:—"Moreni well, No. 24, still flowing. Moreni well No. 17 flowing at intervals. Baicoi well, No. 1, has struck rich fountain source; yielded 50 tons in an hour before being capped; now engaged in fitting safety appliances."

ROYAL ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT.—The second drawing of bonds of the Royal Roumanian Government 4½ per Cent. Gold Loan of 1913 will take place on 1st prox. in Bucharest, when 1,289 bonds to the value of £46,213 4s. will be drawn.

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SALONIKA-MONASTIR RAILWAY.—Net profits for 1913 amounted to 444,888 frs., as compared with 960,275 frs. in 1912. A dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. is to be paid on the preference shares, and at the rate of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares. 7,577 frs. are placed to reserve, and a sum of 4,734 frs. is carried forward.

SOCIETE DU BEHERA.—Bearers of the Behera Company's debentures and preference shares coupons falling due on July 1 (Coupon No. 40 of debentures and Coupon No. 19 of preference shares), as well as the reimbursement of debentures that were redeemed at the drawing of May 29, will be paid at the following establishments:—In Alexandria, at the National Bank of Egypt; in Cairo, at the National Bank of Egypt; in London, at the National Bank of Egypt, 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.; and in Brussels, at the Société Belge de Crédit Industriel et Commercial et de Dépôts, 60, Rue Royale.

SOCIETE OTTOMANE D'HERACLEE. — Profits for 1913 amounted to 1,230,000 frs., as against 1,595,333 frs. in 1912. A dividend of 4½ per cent. is to be paid on "obligations à revenu variable," and 10 per cent. of the balance is devoted to amortisation of these shares.

TRAMWAYS LIBANAIS NORD ET SUD DE BEYROUTH.—The profits for 1913 amounted to 85,920 frs., as against 65,512 frs. for 1912. With the amount brought forward, the available balance is 265,000 frs., of which the sum of 92,447 frs. is placed at the disposal of the debenture-holders.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 7-20, 1914.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve { Gold	155,053,969		
Foreign bills payable in gold.....	56,642,000		211,695,969
Silver and other coins.....			1,022,952
Roumanian and foreign bills			191,004,498
Advances against Government securities	22,929,000		
Advances against Government securities on current account..	42,130,300		44,808,957
Of which there is an unused balance	20,250,743	21,879,957	
Loan of 15 millions to the State.....			11,924,059
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,997,162
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,825,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			4,042,281
Premises			6,716,430
Furniture and printing machinery			1,072,791
General expenses			1,535,579
Government and other securities deposited			124,170,867
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			128,423,000
Current accounts			20,678,615
Security accounts			22,831,952
Sundry accounts			6,913,594
Total Lei			805,664,583

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve.....	37,110,474
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,391,318
Notes in circulation.....	425,008,420
Interest and sundry profits	5,330,786
Current accounts and drafts at sight	10,546,926
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	252,593,867
Sundry accounts	57,682,792
Total Lei.....	805,664,583

Bank Rate, 5½ per cent.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The following was the position of the bank's encashments on May 31 last:—

	1913. £E		1914. £E
Existing Loans:—			
Category "A"	44,893	..	38,293
Category "B"	6,831,398	..	6,161,481
	6,876,291	..	6,199,774
Matured Loan Instalments:—			
Due	39,615	..	32,180
Falling due	1,348,132	..	1,176,675
	1,387,747	..	1,208,855
Perceptions:—			
Outstanding on Jan. 31....	653,334	..	704,977
Balance	566,052	..	596,007
Encashed	87,282	..	108,970
Matured Loan Instalments:—			
Encashed	15,080	..	5,014
Total encashments of instalments due	102,362	..	113,9

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. June 24.	Latest prices. July 1.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	103
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902 ..	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	82	82
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	—	98½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	95
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	—	93½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99⅛	99¼
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	84½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	58
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	57	58
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	56
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	80	78
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	74	73
Montenegro 5 % Loan	88	87½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	91½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	85	84½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	84½
Do. 4 % Unified	81	81
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70	69½
Do. 4 %, 1909	70	70½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4 13/16	4⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	—	79½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	—	85
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens.....	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	—	3⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6½
National Bank of Egypt	14⅛	14
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer ..	8½	8½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	—	97
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	18	18
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	—	87
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	—	101
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	89
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	—	2⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	—	¼
Béhéra Co.	9	8½
Do. Pref.	—	4⅝
Building Lands of Egypt	—	¼
Daira Sanieh	—	3/-
Do. Def.	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	9/6
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	99½	—
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust .	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜
,, ,, Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9¼
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	95xd
New Egyptian Co.	10/6	9/9xd
Sidi Salem Co.	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 7/16	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	—	97
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1½
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	1 3/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	96
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.....	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	—	87½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	—	£194½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2¼
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.....	1 3/16	24/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	—
Eastern Petroleum	5/6	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	5/3	5/6
Oilfields Finance Corporation..	1/16	⅛
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	26/9	27/6
Shell Transport.....	5⅜	4 11/16
Suez Oil	6/6	—

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. June 25.	Latest prices. July 2.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	612	609
Canal de Suez Shares.....	4985	4900
Do. do. Jouissance	4280	4320
Do. do. Founders	2300	2300
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	729	725
Crédit Franco-Egyptien.....	161	155
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv...	470	470
Do. do. rev. var. ..	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ % ..	448	452
Do. do. do. Act.	203	201
Land Bank of Egypt	161	162
Mines Balia-Karaidin.....	484	441½
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	130	134
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs...	506	507
Do. do. Ord. ..	38	37
Do. do. Pref. ..	41½	40
Tabacs Ottomans.....	450	441
Turkish Unified Con.....	81.42	81.20
Do. 4 %, 1894.....	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896.....	462	462
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904.....	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908.....	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909.....	357	357

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	June 18.	June 25.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	320	336.25
Do. do. Priv...	230	215
Do. do. Cap..	115	75
Do. do. Div. ..	86.50	79.50
Anglo-Belgian Co.	13	15
Cairo Electric Railways Cap...	127	134
Do. do. Div...	155	160
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	457.50	452.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	67	66.75
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	418	418.50
Do. Priv.	526.25	535
Do. Div.....	143.25	142.75
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb..	344	344
Do. do. Cap..	45	50
Do. do. Fond.	88.75	99.50
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	67.50	67
Do. do. Div.	42.50	47.50
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1330	1330
Do. do. Ord.	491	491
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap. ..	220	220
Do. do. Div. ..	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	292.50	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.....	315	315
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94..	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95..	395	365
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	95	99.50
Do. do. Div.	91.25	90.50
Tramways du Caire Priv.	510	512.50
Do. do. Jouiss.	540	540
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	188.75	205
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	15.50	18

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	June 19.	June 26.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.452	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.450	Fcs.451
Do. do. Shares	£14 18 0	£15 4 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.05	£T.6.10
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.411	Fcs.393
Heraclée, Société d'.....	Fcs.155	Fcs.155
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.97	Fcs.97
Do. do. Ord.....	Fcs.95	Fcs.95
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34	Fcs.34.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %....	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.28	£T.28.10

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	June 17.	June 24.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord..Fcs	—	—
Do. Do. Def..Fcs.	—	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail..Lst.	3½	3⅜
Alexandria Water Co. .....Lst	12½	12½
Banque d'Athènes ....Fcs	65	65
Banque d'Orient .....Fcs.	97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt..Lst.	⅜	⅜
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New..Fcs.	47	48
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.Fcs.	—	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord..Fcs.	—	—
Do. Do. Def.....Fcs.	—	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord..Fcs.	748½	748½
Do. Do. Def...Fcs.	—	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886..Fcs.	341½	340½
Do. Do. 1903..Fcs.	269	271
Do. Do. 1911..Fcs.	271½	268
Eaux du Caire Capital ....Fcs.	108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance..Fcs.	180	180
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co...	12/-	12/-
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler..Lst.	—	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord. ...Fcs.	—	—
Do. Do. Found. ..Fcs.	—	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord..Lst.	2 3/32	2 3/32
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile..Lst.	—	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord. ..Fcs.	—	—
Do. Do. Def. ..L.E	—	—
Industrial Building Co.....Lst.	33/32	33/32
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord. L.E.	—	—
Nile Land & Agricultural ..Lst.	¼	¼
Nungovich Hotels .....Lst.	2	2
Port Said Salt Association..Sh.	18/4½	18 6
Société du Behera Ord. ....L.E.	8⅜	8⅜
Do. Do. Pref.....Lst	4 7/16	4 7/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref. Fcs	93	93
Do. Do. Def...Fcs.	80	80
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old..L.E.	—	—
Do. Do. New..L.E.	—	—

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بانق عثمانی

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

Head Office: **GALATA**
Branches - - **STAMBOUL and PERA** } **CONSTANTINOPLE.**

ALEXANDRIA. PORT SAID. CAIRO.

London: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C. Paris: 7, RUE MEYERBEER.

Manchester: 25, PALL MALL.

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Mr. ARTHUR NIAS, Director-General. Mr. LOUIS STEEG, Director-General-Adjoint. Mr. W. A. MALTASS, Director.
M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CARTALI, } Sub-Directors.

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London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

EUROPE.
Adrianople
Cavalla
Dedeagatch
Drama
Gumuldjina
Janina
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adazia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Aziz)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
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Ordou
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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 166.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Talaat Bey, the Turkish Minister of the Interior, has added to his reputation as representing the enlightened section of the Ottoman Government by the straightforward attitude which he has adopted in regard to his mission to Asia Minor. He found a very serious state of affairs, and has had the courage to say so. The gravity of the situation has been established. What is not known, and perhaps may never be known fully in Western Europe, is the real extent of the sufferings inflicted upon the Greeks. Many of the refugees fled in anticipation of what would be their fate if they remained in their homes or villages; but the Turkish population found enough victims for their campaign of outrage and elimination. Only the timely arrival of Talaat Bey appears to have prevented still more terrible excesses. He has curbed the blood-lust of the Turks in Asia Minor, and has given assurances of Turkey's intention to make such amends as are in her power, and as far as possible to restore the *status quo ante*. It remains to be seen whether Talaat Bey will be allowed by his fellow-Ministers and the extremists of the Committee of Union and Progress to give effect to his promises. Unless the punishment of the ringleaders among the perpetrators of the excesses and of the authorities who connived at their work is carried out with a thoroughness which is not usual in similar circumstances in Turkey, the Porte will once more have disappointed its best friends. Responsibility for the policy which led to the forcible expulsion of the Greeks is not restricted to a few subordinate officials in Asia Minor. It is shared in far higher quarters, and if the Turkish Government wishes to "save its face" abroad it must be prepared to lose some of it at home.

The conciliatory replies sent by the Porte to the Greek Notes on recent events in Asia Minor hold the field for the moment, and have created a good impression. But feeling in Greece has probably been roused to too high a pitch to allow the Government to be put off with fair words. Unless Turkey follows up Talaat Bey's promises with definite action, the tension between the two countries will not be relaxed. The situation is without doubt a difficult one for the Porte to cope with, even with the best intentions. If it is going to employ its ingenuity in order to extricate itself from an embarrassing position with as few amends as possible, the outlook will become serious. In reply to interpellations in the Turkish Chamber, Talaat Bey pointed out that in order to allow the Greek emigrants to return to their homes the Mohammedans who now occupied them would have to be turned out; while to provide for the quarter of a million of Mohammedans from Macedonia in remote parts of the Empire, the Porte would require a sum of money amounting to twenty million sterling. The force of this argument will not be lost upon the Greek Government; but it can hardly be expected to acquiesce in the present state of affairs merely because the excesses in Asia Minor have been carried out on a scale too great to allow full amends by Turkey. For the moment we can but hope that the attitude of Talaat Bey reflects a change of policy on the Turkish Government—a tardy recognition that resort to oppression and massacres neither pays nor argues sound statesmanship. So little is needed to enable the Porte to summon to its aid all that Europe has to offer for the development of Asia Minor on lines that must ultimately leave the Balkan States far behind the Ottoman Empire in prosperity and material resources; but its present policy has the effect of continually postponing the realization of that bright future, and of bringing nearer the day when the logic of events may prevent any Power from offering resistance to the partition of the Turks' possessions in Europe and Asia.

Prince William of Albania has been credited once before with the intention of abdicating, and it was subsequently stated that such an idea had never been entertained by him for a moment. It is possible, therefore, that the present reports of his impending abdication are equally false. They may have originated in the departure of the Princess and her children from Durazzo. But there can be no valid reason why the Princess should remain in that unhealthy port during the summer months. In normal circumstances July would hardly have found Prince William himself there. It would be straining the conception of duty to pretend that the Princess and the children ought to continue to endanger their health in the face of the heat and insanitary conditions now to be met with in Durazzo. If Prince William is not contemplating abdication, he must be credited with some courage and persistency. No improvement can be recorded in the situation in Albania. The body of insurgents which has made itself responsible for the beleaguering of Durazzo is said to have agreed to a ten days' truce with the Government; but elsewhere Albanian bands hostile or indif-

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ferent to the Durazzo régime continue to dominate the country and to occupy various towns. Further complications have been introduced by the arrival of the time for giving effect to the Corfu Convention. The Epirotes, at the instance of the International Commission of Control, undertook to recognize the Albanian Government in return for certain concessions. For the moment, however, the Albanian Government does not recognize itself, and the Epirotes are naturally unwilling to throw in their lot with the Durazzo régime and so court hostilities with the insurgent bands. On the other hand, the essence of the Corfu Convention was that they were to accept the sovereignty of Albania's ruler as that of a Christian monarch. If the insurgents win the day and Prince William has to make way for a Mohammedan ruler, the Epirotes argue, the Corfu Convention becomes null and void; for they will certainly not place themselves under a Moslem ruler. Meanwhile, the Powers, fearful lest anything done in the interests of Albania might prove of advantage to one of their number, maintain their policy of inaction, and allow the situation to go from bad to worse.

The United States Government has dispensed with the services of its unconventional Minister at Athens, and unless an American newspaper engages Mr. Williams as its correspondent the world may lose the second instalment of his views on Albania. Meanwhile, he has contrived to deliver himself of such unmeasured strictures upon the Albanian situation that one is left with the impression that the only thing which can be worse than the muddle in that country is Mr. Williams's attempt to set it right. An independent opinion, well informed, might have proved of value to the Concert of Europe if communicated through the proper channels. Mr. Williams's method of stating his views not only prevented serious attention being paid to them, but challenged the accuracy of the information on which he had based his embittered judgments.

A welcome restraint has been shown both in Roumania and Bulgaria in discussing a regrettable incident which occurred near Kemanlar on the frontier recently ceded to Roumania. The two versions differ in detail; but the facts established are that a collision took place between Roumanian and Bulgarian soldiers, as a result of which one Roumanian was killed and another wounded on Bulgarian territory. A joint commission has been appointed to hold an inquiry, and no doubt the incident will be kept within its true proportions. Both the Roumanian and the Bulgarian Governments are anxious to preserve correct relations between the two countries. Certain actions on the part of Roumania in adapting the administration of the new territory to her own requirements have been resented by her Bulgarian subjects and in Bulgaria. The attention of King Charles and Queen Elizabeth was called to particular grievances on the occasion of their recent visit to the Dobruja, and these, no doubt, will be remedied in due course. The land policy introduced by the Roumanian Government into the new territory offers a more serious problem; and if persisted in it can only be hoped that the actual administration of the law will prove more humane and reasonable than the provisions as worded in the statute book.

As the welfare of the Balkans depends largely on the judicious expenditure of funds for development purposes, the conclusion of fresh loans is a matter of importance for all the States. Bulgaria has now concluded her negotiations with the German banks, and the contract has been ratified by the Sobranje. The amount of the loan is £20,000,000, redeemable in fifty years at 5 per cent., the price of issue being 84. Bulgaria is to receive the sum of £4,800,000 at once, and the balance of half the total amount before the end of the year. The second half of the loan will be issued within two years. The money is required for the construction of railways and ports. As a *quid pro quo* the German banks are given a concession to construct the Porto Lagos line with a guarantee of 10 per cent. profit on the capital, and the right of developing the coalfields at Pernik conjointly with the Bulgarian Government.

The accuracy of the report that the Somaliland Mullah is advancing on Burao is denied. If the report proves true the British Colonial Secretary will have a personal grievance against this troublesome chieftain. Somaliland shares with certain other countries the fate of not being *terra grata* with the British Government. It may do what it likes and its inhabitants may do what they like, provided nothing is heard of them. In accordance with this policy the late Mr. Corfield was allowed to raise a camel corps, and to harass Dervishes so long as he did nothing to attract notice. When an engagement was fought that could not fail to be reported, the taboo on Somaliland was rudely destroyed and some explanation of the situation became necessary. Mr. Harcourt, as we know, blamed Mr. Corfield, who lost his life in the successful action against the Mullah, and upheld the officers and officials who executed a hasty retreat to the coast. Somaliland, as far as British purposes were concerned, was to be reduced to a narrow strip of coast line. At the same time the Colonial Secretary administered a soporific to Parliament and the British public. "The Mullah," he pointed out, "is an old man in an advanced stage of dropsy, physically unable to move himself . . . with a little patience and a little endurance we may see Somaliland a comparatively peaceful country." Unfortunately the patience appears all on the British side, the endurance all on the Mullah's, and peace nowhere. The recent report that an army airship might be requisitioned for service in Somaliland indicated that the news from the interior was not satisfactory. Further activities on the part of the Mullah, if unchecked, will encourage him to attempt more serious raids on the coast town, while the lot of the friendly natives whom we have abandoned to the Mullah's tender mercies will become still more parlous. As an expedition against the Dervishes is not desirable, the only practicable alternative is a mobile force, such as was formed and led by the late Mr. Corfield, but strong enough to harass the Dervishes, if they come within striking distance, and so to make them more inclined to keep out of reach.

The political situation in Persia threatens to become almost as desperate as that of Albania. Another defection from the Cabinet is reported in the resignation of Vosouk-ed-Dowleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The date of the Shah's coronation approaches, and if to a non-existent Parliament has to be added an exiguous and divided Cabinet the unconstitutional outlook becomes far from satisfactory. As was to be expected, the action of the British Government in connection with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has not been allowed to pass unchallenged in Russia. The revision of the Anglo-Russian Convention is not merely regarded as a possibility, but is now demanded in certain quarters as a necessity. It is urged, however, that such a revision must not be "one-sided." Russia will, no doubt, press for a *quid pro quo*, and it will depend on the statesmanship of the two Governments whether consideration is to be paid to Persian interests or whether Russian policy is merely to be dictated by the interests of concession-hunters. If certain Russian journals are to be believed, the British Government's oil deal is likely to have far-reaching political effects.

THE PUBLISHER

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 5.

Talaat Bey's Return.

The Minister of the Interior has returned from the Province of Aidin, where he has been engaged for the best part of three weeks in the energetic restoration of order. According to information from well-informed quarters, the Minister confesses that till his arrival the situation had been a dangerous one. Very grave peril of a general fanatical outbreak existed, owing to the original failure of the local authorities to repress the excesses of the Smyrna Press, which seems to have fanned the flames of religious discord, and to the consequent belief of large numbers of petty employees, gendarmes, minor officials, and rough elements both among the local population and among the "muhadjirs" that the Government desired something more than the development by pacific means of Moslem commercial and other resistance to Greek penetration. Having taken this line of reasoning, the elements in question proceeded to interpret the supposed desire of the Government, and what certainly was and is the desire of the Union and Progress extremists, into action. Their action took the form of the more or less forcible expulsion of Greeks from certain localities, while in others the mere threat of attack drove the Greek population in panic to the sea coast. In some cases, notably at Phocea and Serekeui, horrible excesses were committed; but the arrival of Talaat Bey put a stop to the overture which heralded a massacre. It is to be hoped that any officials or employees of the State who have really been guilty of murder and rape will receive an exemplary punishment. In the meanwhile, thanks to Talaat's efforts and the more conciliatory conduct of the Hellenic Government during the last fortnight, the Porte seems to have escaped from a serious and dangerous situation with far less hurt than could have been anticipated. It is to be hoped that the lesson will not be forgotten, and that the Central Government will henceforth teach its provincial subordinates and the extremist politicians, who are its often compromising supporters, that they must refrain from initiating semi-revolutionary movements on their own account.

Results of the Greek Emigration.

It is hard at present to form any idea of the financial loss caused by the emigration of some 130,000 Greeks from Asia Minor and Thrace. The writer has heard estimates of a loss to the revenue of over £T400,000; but it is difficult to form any idea of the truth, all such estimates being based on very imperfect data. Business at Smyrna has also suffered, and in some districts it will be difficult to get the crop in owing to the shortage of Greek labour. There has, moreover, been quite a series of cloud-bursts in Northern and North-Western Anatolia during the last fortnight. These have done further damage to the crop, notably in districts of Soma, Balikessir, and Trebizond, where there has been an anti-Greek campaign and an exodus of Greek peasants. At Tsharshamba, near Trebizond, the extent of the damage done amounts, so the local Press says, to £T100,000, and there has been much loss of life. Even in parts of the plateau of Anatolia, which is usually dry enough, and where drought is more feared by the cultivator than flood, there has been too much rain. It will be interesting to see how the authorities will regard the situation in a fortnight's time, when it will be possible to form some idea of the extent of the damage to agriculture caused by (1) emigration and (2) by rain. In Thrace the crops promised well according to the latest news to hand.

Priest or Politician?

Negotiations between the Porte and the Œcumenical Patriarch have been resumed, and it is hoped that the Greek schools and churches will soon be opened. It is very doubtful whether the action of the Patriarch in closing them was either wise or solely inspired by a desire to improve the situation of the Orthodox Church. Not to put too fine a point on it, there can be little doubt that Hellenic rather than Ottoman Greek influences have swayed the Holy Synod of late, and that the Patriarchate has consequently suffered. At present the Church is much criticised by a considerable section of Ottoman Greeks on account of its policy in the recent crisis. These critics, many of whom are Turkish-speaking Greeks who are less amenable to Hellenic influences than the Greek-speaking community, roundly say that the Holy Synod has been altogether the instrument of Hellenic ambitions, or rather of the ambitions of Hellenic extremists, and that the neglect by numerous Metropolitans of the counsels of Russia was a grave error. The Russians have from the beginning urged the Patriarchate to regard the Greco-Turkish question purely from the Church point of view, and to abstain from demonstrations which can only injure the prestige and the best interests of the most ancient branch of the Orthodox Church, the Mother Church of Eastern Christianity. It is to be hoped that the Patriarchate will eventually be induced to retire from the position which it has taken up. The Porte may be relied on to make withdrawal easy.

British Naval Visit.

The terrible crime at Serajevo naturally prevented the full programme of entertainments in honour of the visit of Admiral Sir Berkeley Milne on board the "Inflexible" from being carried out. The British Admiral was the bearer of a letter from King George V. to the Sultan, who presented him with a gold watch decorated with brilliants. After the dinner at the Palace on Sunday night, the dinner which was to be given to the Admiral and his staff, and to which numerous members of the Ottoman Government had been invited, had to be altered to a purely unofficial and private entertainment. Sports were held at Moda on Monday; and a cricket match between H.M.S. "Inflexible" and an All-Constantinople team skippered by Mr. H. C. A. Eyres on the Saturday ended after an exciting finish in a narrow victory for the home team, owing to the sporting manner in which the "Inflexible's" captain declared his second innings closed after leading on first knock, so as to give the homesters a chance. The visit closed with a reception of the British colony on board the "Inflexible," which was largely attended. A number of Turkish military and naval officers were invited thereto, and they greatly admired the design and proportions of this splendid battle-cruiser. The "Inflexible" left on Wednesday for Marmaris, where the Mediterranean squadron will hold its regatta.

The comments of the Turkish Press concerning the situation created by the Serajevo horror are studiously vague. The general impression is that we are entering on a period of Austro-Servian tension, and that at any moment the death of King Peter of Servia or of the Montenegrin King may bring about that union of Servia and Montenegro which the Austrian Press assures us will be opposed by the Dual Monarchy by force of arms.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 2.

Lord Kitchener and India.

Once again Egypt is perplexed and anxious. On Friday last *Al Mokattam* published a special cable quoting *The Daily Mail* as having been informed from an official source that Sir Francis Bertie's tenure of office in Paris, which under ordinary circumstances should come to an end next August, will be extended until April, 1915, when he will be succeeded by Lord Hardinge, whose place as Viceroy of India will in all probability be taken by Lord Kitchener. What reliance is to be placed in the latter part of this statement? This is the question that each is asking the other. Twice before—in November and December last—has the same news come into circulation, though not in so authoritative a manner as now, and on each occasion its accuracy has been denied, the last time most categorically. Although *The Daily Mail's* statement bears out what I wrote you in my letter of Nov. 27 last, one is perhaps justified in feeling somewhat sceptical as to its reliability, seeing that in the first place the passage referring to Lord Kitchener is not as definite as that dealing with Lord Hardinge and Sir Francis Bertie, and in the second place the precarious position of the Home Government would, one would think, militate against the taking of such a decision as the one referred to so far ahead.

Nevertheless, most people are disposed to credit the news, and nearly everyone admits that Lord Kitchener's promotion to India is but what had been expected; for although—for many reasons, apparent and otherwise—a change in Agent in the near future would be very regrettable, it has all along been felt that, in so far as Lord Kitchener was concerned, the requirements of Egypt would have to be subordinated sooner or later to the greater claims of the Empire. As I wrote you on a previous occasion, the situation requires the directing hand of a strong man to-day, just as much as it did three years ago; for although matters may be very much improved from the point of view of political unrest, the country is now committed to a series of reforms, the benefit of which might easily be jeopardised by any slackening of the reins. Indeed, it is the general opinion that if Lord Kitchener's services are for Imperial reasons required in India, his successor should be a strong man with personal prestige and full support from London, and that his appointment should be accompanied by an assurance that no new experiments in policy are to be imposed on him.

If, however, the statement published by *The Daily Mail* is but a summer "canard," the sooner it is officially contradicted the better; for the periodical circulation of these rumours can do no good either to the persons concerned or to Egypt, since they must necessarily encourage the setting up of obstacles to the efficient execution of the policy laid down, and tend to have an unsettling effect on the country. Indeed, it were well if an official statement on the subject could be made as soon as possible, the present state of uncertainty being far from satisfactory.

Abaza Pasha Returns to Politics.

The event of the week next in importance is the return of Ismail Pasha Abaza to the arena of Egyptian politics. He has consented to stand as a candidate for the Legislative Assembly for the Hehia constituency, from which his brother was recently unseated as a result of an election petition. The Abaza family is one of the best known in the country. In the past it was a veritable power in the land, and even to-day, although, thanks to the energy and activity of Hassan Pasha Hassib, Mudir of Sharkia, its hold over the fellaheen has been considerably weakened, it still retains a certain amount of influence. Abaza Pasha will be best remembered for the part he played in the famous discussion in the General Assembly four years ago on the Suez Canal Concession, and it was mainly owing to his personal influence that the proposal was rejected. Since then he has not figured so prominently in politics, and at present he is Director-General of the Khedivial Wakfs of Kavalla and Thassos, to which he was appointed by the Khedive. Abaza Pasha is a Nationalist by politics, though he has never, as far as is known, been a member of the Nationalist Party. He is a most able man and a most eloquent speaker, and it is expected that if he succeeds in entering the Legislative Assembly he will challenge Saad Pasha Zaghlul for the leadership of the Opposition, in which case his presence in the House may prove to be very beneficial to the country. Abaza Pasha is to be opposed by Mustapha Pasha Khalil, another wealthy notable, who it may be remembered entertained on a most lavish scale a large party of naval officers on his estate at Shirshima during the visit of the British Fleet last November.

The Protest Against the Press Law.

The correspondence exchanged between the Khedive and a number of English journalists, when the latter protested to his Highness against the Egyptian Press Law, has just been published here. It seems a thousand pities that people who are so noted for their intelligence should display such patent ignorance of the circumstances of the case which they have taken up. Egypt without some means of bridling the local Press would become an impossible country. We have already tasted of the sweets of a free Press in Egypt; and none of those who went through the experiences of the first decade of this century, and who followed with an unbiassed mind the course that events took then, would wish to return to such a state of affairs. No doubt the existing Press laws are not as satisfactory as they might be, and some adjustment might be found beneficial without creating any dangerous situation. But there is a wide margin between a complete repeal such as is advocated by the signatories of the above-mentioned protest and an adjustment of the laws. The complete change in tone and the remarkable rise in standard of the vernacular Press during the past four years are the greatest justification that could be found for the maintenance of a Press Law in this country, and only those local journalists who find it irksome to restrain their venomous pens are in favour of the re-institution of a free Press.

The Nile Flood.

News of the Nile flood appears to be more satisfactory, and rotations in Lower Egypt have been reduced from twenty-four to twenty-one days, with one day instead of two days' stoppages. I have been authorized to state that all the rumours that have been in circulation are unfounded, and that the various predictions made are absolutely unreliable, since even with the data and records available the irrigation authorities cannot foretell the date or size of the flood, until about fourteen days before it actually makes its appearance.

Another Senussi Visitor.

It is announced that Sayed Hilal El Senussi, the youngest brother of the Grand Sheikh, has left Jarabub, travelling eastward, and that he is coming to Egypt. Whether he will actually come to Alexandria is not known—the latest news is that he has crossed the frontier—but there seems little doubt that both his and his cousin's journeys have some political object, possibly not unconnected with the position in Tripoli. It is said that the Senussi is annoyed at Egypt having allowed Italy to pass camels and horses into Tripoli, and that he is making representations to this effect to the Egyptian Government. If he does protest he will doubtless be informed that it is not Egypt's business since peace has been made between Italy and Turkey, and Tripoli belongs to the former; and he will probably be advised to accept the peace terms offered him from Rome. From news that reaches me, it appears that the Senussi is no longer in a position to put up much of a resistance to the Italians.

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THE EGYPTIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

A Review of the First Session.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 19.

During its first session, which opened on January 22 and closed on June 17, the Legislative Assembly held forty-five sittings, some of short and others of long duration, the average being about four hours per sitting. At first glance this does not convey an impression of great industry, but it must be borne in mind that ten days had at the very outset to be sacrificed to the elaboration by a special committee of rules and regulations, without which the debates could not proceed; that a week was lost during the Ministerial crisis, when in the absence of the Ministers no business could be transacted; and that for eleven days pending the examination by the various Committees of the Bills submitted by the Government the Assembly had no work to do. In other words, the session for working purposes was reduced to one of under four months, giving an average of three sittings per week, which is, perhaps, as much as one can fairly expect from a body which is composed for the most part of men who have important private interests, and which, owing to the administrative calls on the Ministers' time, cannot sit in the forenoon.

But although to the outer world the Assembly's labours were restricted to forty-five sittings, this in nowise conveys a correct impression of the work actually done. The greatest credit is due to the eight Committees that had to examine and report on every Bill, every motion, and every petition presented to the Assembly. Day after day the members composing them met for the purpose of hearing evidence, discussing the questions at issue, and finally drawing up reports that eloquently showed how closely the various projects had been studied. Special mention should be made of the report on the Wakfs Budget (Pious Foundations), which constituted a model of lucidity and common sense. As an example of what work fell upon the shoulders of these Committees, I may mention that the Petitions Committee alone had to examine and report on no fewer than 644 petitions presented by various members of the community.

The Work Done.

The business actually done by the Assembly has been by no means inconsiderable. In addition to drawing up the regulations for its own guidance, it approved of the General and Wakfs Budgets for 1914-1915, and passed the highly important Bills:—Court of Criminal Appeal, Co-operative Agricultural Syndicates, Weights and Measures, Filling in of Birkets (Provincial Marshes and Pools), Destruction of Boll-Worm, Creation of Higher Commercial Schools, besides several laws making alterations in the Criminal Codes. This is no mean list, and the measure of the assistance given by the Assembly, and especially by the Committees, may be gauged from the fact that in a great many instances the amendments proposed were accepted and incorporated in the projects by the Government, and that on at least one occasion a measure was withdrawn at the instance of the Assembly.

Growth of an Opposition.

It is much to be regretted that the excellent impression created by these results should have been marred by the exceedingly acrimonious discussion that arose on the question of the acting Presidency of the Assembly, the raising of the question of the legality of the creation of the Wakfs Ministry, and by the regrettable incident during the debate on the Birkets Law.

For some reason or other the Said Cabinet was not looked upon with favour by a certain section of the House, which set itself to oppose everything proposed by the Government. Full advantage was taken of this attitude by interested circles, and even after the Said Ministry fell the Opposition continued for some time to give proof of its steady growth. Not that there is any real animosity towards the present Premier and his colleagues, but there have been factors at work, some of them personal, which have strengthened rather than weakened the Opposition. A good deal of this opposition has also been due to the initial inexperience of the majority of the members, who no doubt felt strange in their new surroundings, and so fell an easy prey to the influence of certain of their colleagues, who were more practised in the subtle art of political controversy and very often had their own axes to grind.

In this connection it must be placed on record that the nominated members, with one or two notable exceptions, have proved highly disappointing. Had they possessed the energy and talent that was naturally expected of them, and had they taken the part in the debates which by right fell to them, much of the opposition would have collapsed. It might, indeed, never have arisen, for the simple reason that it would have been disarmed by the support which the Government would have received.

A Mistaken Attitude.

No one wishes to see the Legislative Assembly become a mute institution for the formal approval and passing of the Bills which the Government proposes to introduce. There is, however, a wide margin between such a condition and the opposition set up in the heart of the Assembly during the past session. Opposition is as necessary in a legislative body as competition is to trade. But due regard for circumstances and a sense of proportion must be maintained. And this has not characterized the opposition in the Legislative Assembly. Those responsible for its creation have not borne in mind that the delegates are not called upon to form parties, as is done in European Parliaments; that, indeed, the Legislative Assembly is not a Parliament with power to decide who shall administer the country, but that it constitutes purely a consultative body with certain, as yet, very limited powers. The Opposition members have all along made a point of forcing their views on the Government, and when the Government has declined for excellent political and other reasons to accede to those opinions, they have adopted an attitude of righteous indignation.

The Future.

Making due allowance for what is after all in most cases a first appearance in public life, and assuming that the work in Committee may be taken as a fair sample of what the average delegate is capable, one cannot regard this first session as altogether unsatisfactory. Indeed, it has shown that the Assembly on balance contains elements that are distinctly promising. Valuable contributions have been made by members during debate, and latterly a decided impatience has been shown with the methods of the Opposition.

Much relief might be obtained from the tediousness and undue protraction of the debates if the suggestion made, I think, by Gallini Pasha Fahmy were adopted. He proposed to forbid any member to speak more than three times during any debate on any particular subject. The suggestion as made is, perhaps, somewhat too general, though in view of the loquacity of some of the delegates it is fully justified. It might with profit be adopted with the provision that this limitation does not apply to the Premier, the Minister interested in the subject under discussion, and the President and reporter of the Committee which has had to examine the Bill in question. If some such provision were inserted in the rules of procedure, and those members who broke away from the Opposition at the end of the session do not return to their obstructive tactics, there is every reason to expect that the next session, which begins on November 1, will show a marked improvement on the one just closed.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Port Said, June 25.

The Regatta.

The annual regatta organised by the Port Said Rowing Club was held in the harbour on Saturday last in the presence of a large number of onlookers. The course extended over 2,000 metres, and the principal event of the day was a race for the Prince d'Arenburg Cup, presented by the president of the Suez Canal Company. The cup was won for the two past years by the Alexandria International Club, and as a win for them this year would gain them the cup outright considerable interest was taken in the event. Four boats started, and after a most exciting contest the race was won by the Cercle d'Aviron of Ismalia from the Alexandria Club by three yards.

There were several other events, including races for canoes and four-oared boats, and after an afternoon's keen sport the rival teams adjourned to the Casino Hotel to a banquet given in their honour by the Port Said Rowing Club. A ball following in the evening provided a fitting conclusion to an enjoyable and sporting day.

British and German Warships.

The German Dreadnought cruiser "Goeben," which has been staying in port here during the past few days, is said to be the largest warship in the Mediterranean. The British cruiser "Pelorus" arrived from the Persian Gulf on Monday, homeward bound, and an unusual sight was witnessed in Port Said when British and German sailors fraternised in their leisure moments in shop and café.

SUDANESE ANTIQUITIES.

The Institute of Archæology, University of Liverpool, is holding a special exhibition of antiquities discovered at Meroë during the past five seasons in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly (by permission of the Council), from Tuesday, July 7, to Saturday, July 25, inclusive, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The subjects shown will include decorated pottery vases, sculptures and inscriptions, objects of faience and of bronze, intaglio rings, jewels, gold treasure and coins, copies of frescoes, plans and photographs, etc.

The recent excavations prove the importance of the city whose glory was at its height during the period known as the Middle Meroitic period, B.C 300 to B.C 1. The earliest remains date from the sixth or seventh century B.C., and consist of the original portions of one of the Royal palaces, the Sun Temple, and other buildings; this year's work has, however, decided that the enclosing walls of the city date from the beginning of the Greek period, about the third century B.C., when the city underwent replanning, and Egyptian characteristics disappear under the newly imported influence. One of the most striking instances of this is the sudden change in the funerary customs. The Egyptians, who, we know, from 4,000 years before Christ had always buried their dead, now adopted cremation and burial within the city walls. This year's excavations in the north-east area have brought to light an enclosure at the back of the later palace, to the east, which extends as far as the main wall of the city, and was used as a cemetery for the ashes of the dead, the crematorium having been discovered between the Palace and this cemetery with its flues and hearth.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Athens, July 1.

The Purchase of Warships.

The formal authorisation by the American Legislation of the sale to this country of the "Idaho" and the "Mississippi" was anxiously awaited here, and the news that it was actually granted was received with real relief. Ease of mind thus assured, for a time at least, the country can now turn to peaceful pursuits. The Government has telegraphed its thanks to Mr. Wilson, and the entire Athens Press makes itself the interpreter of the national gratitude to the United States President, who by his personal intervention is considered to have secured peace to Greece.

The acquisition of these two vessels—which will in all probability be renamed "Kilkis" and "Lemnos"—will certainly assure supremacy in the Ægean to Greece for the time being, but when the "Sultan Osman" and the "Reshadieh" are added to the Turkish Navy the artillery of the latter will be superior to that of the Greek Navy. The Ministerial journals minimise this superiority as far as possible—emphasising the better training, greater skill, and higher courage of the Greek sailors, and so forth—and conclude that the Turkish fleet, even when it has been strengthened by the two Dreadnoughts mentioned will not venture outside the Dardanelles or indulge in a battle that might prove its undoing. The Opposition Press, on the other hand, deplores the inferiority of the Greek Fleet, even after the purchase of the two American vessels—which, chiefly because of their slow speed (16 knots against the 22 knots of the Turkish Dreadnoughts) will never be able to take the offensive—and attacks Mr. Venizelos for not purchasing the Brazilian Dreadnought. But, as I have pointed out before, even had Mr. Venizelos bought the "Rio Janeiro," that would only have given Greece naval superiority for a short time; for Turkey, being richer than Greece, would construct more large vessels, while this country ought to be bound by the limits imposed upon it by the state of its finances.

The entire Opposition Press accuses the Government of high treason, because it does not attack Turkey while there is still time and before she receives her Dreadnoughts, and it is suggested that the islands ought to be annexed immediately, since that would lead to a settling up of accounts with Turkey.

The Turkish Note and Greek Reply.

The complementary declarations made by Ghalib Bey to the Athens Cabinet have brought about a change in the impression first produced by the Turkish Note. By these declarations Turkey has promised, in addition to a cessation of the persecutions, the reinstatement in their homes of the Greeks still remaining on the Asiatic coast, and proposes the exchange of other emigrants who wish to change their country and of their properties. This exchange of properties, according to the Turkish proposal, would be subject to valuation by a mixed Commission; and though doubts are entertained as to such a Commission ever arriving at any definite conclusion, the Greek Government, wishing to show a conciliatory spirit, has accepted the proposal in principle. It made certain reservations, however, especially regarding the exchange of urban populations, demanding that note should be taken of their own wishes, so that those of the Greek emigrants who would be ruined if forced to leave the country, may be permitted to return to Turkey.

Finally, the Greek Note draws a sharp distinction between the Turkish emigration from Macedonia and the Greek exodus from Asia Minor, and denies that the former can have provoked the persecution of the Greeks, as the Turks claim. The Greek Note concludes by reciprocating the Turkish Government's hope that "henceforward nothing may occur to injure the good relations between the two States." These, say the Greeks, are very fine words, but the realisation of the hope depends entirely on Turkey. In fact, people here ask what guarantees Greece can have that similar per-

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secutions and expulsions will not take place periodically in the future, followed each time by the same fine promises and excuses; so that the Ottoman Empire will gradually be cleared of Greeks. The Ministerial Press urges that Greece should press for a prompt settlement of her account with Turkey; and since the island of Sasseno has been already handed over to Albania there is, they say, no reason why Greece should not carry out the will of the Powers, annex Chios and Mytilene, hand over the other islands to Turkey, and demand effective guarantees in favour of the Greeks in Turkey.

NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, June 26.

The King's Birthday.

The King's Birthday was kept with due ceremony here on the 22nd inst., and as the date happened to fall on the eve of the departure of Government for Mount Troodos it provided a fitting wind-up to the Nicosia season. The day was kept as a public holiday, and was marked by official functions at each of the six principal towns, but at Nicosia, as being the seat of Government, it was naturally celebrated with special éclat.

A Te Deum service was held at the Phaneromeni Greek Orthodox Church at 9 a.m., followed by another at the Roman Catholic Church half an hour later, both of which were attended by a number of English officials and residents. A special service took place at the Anglican Church of St. Paul's at 10.30 a.m., at which his Excellency the High Commissioner and Lady Goold Adams were present, and shortly afterwards a levee was held in the Legislative Council Chamber, which drew a large gathering of officials and leading personages to pay their respects to the High Commissioner. Those present then adjourned to witness a parade of the Cyprus Military Police, and the proceedings terminated in a *feu de joie* and three cheers being given for his Majesty the King.

In the evening a large reception was held at Government House, when all the different communities were represented. The San Sofia Mosque was brilliantly and beautifully illuminated, and the Public Works Department is to be congratulated on the fine and festive appearance of the Konak and Government House.

There has been at Nicosia a welcome revival this summer of cricket. Quite a number of players have been regular in attendance at practice, and several matches have been played. The popularity of the game has fluctuated a good deal for some years past, and it is satisfactory to find that this year it has again attracted a fair share of attention.

There has been much talk of late in regard to the possibility of abandoning the present premises of the Nicosia Club. There had been anxiety owing to the contemplated erection of buildings which would have overlooked the club grounds. Happily the project seems to have been relinquished, and it is a relief to present members, as no doubt it will be to the many past members who have pleasant memories of the present building, to learn that matters have been satisfactorily arranged, and that after all no change of premises will be necessitated.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 5.

A "Progressive" Demonstration.

Last Monday, the anniversary of the outbreak of the Balkan War between the Allies, the Left, or Russophil party (the "Broad" Socialists, Radicals, and Agrarians), organised a demonstration; and University students, labourers, and a few other citizens formed a procession, which bore Socialist flags draped in black through the streets. In front of the statue of the Russian Tsar Alexander II., and opposite the Sobranje building the crowd halted, and speeches were delivered by students representing the Socialist, Radical, and Agrarian parties, and also by the three leaders of those parties, and deputies in the Sobranje. All the speakers condemned the personal régime and monarchism as responsible for the wars, and especially for that of a year ago.

The Serajevo Tragedy.

The sad news of the dastardly murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his consort at Serajevo was received here with sincere regret, and all the Bulgarian journals with the exception of the ultra-Russophil *Balkanska Tribuna* and the *Zarya* had published articles expressing sympathy with Austria-Hungary and the aged Emperor, and strongly condemning the abominable crime. The King and Dr. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, called upon the Austro-Hungarian Minister here, Count Tarnovski, to express their sympathy; and the former telegraphed to the Austrian Emperor, and the latter to Count Berchtold on behalf of the nation and the Government.

The Loan Negotiations.

As one consequence of the murder, the negotiations for the Bulgarian loan, which were on the point of completion last Monday, were suspended for a few days; but on Wednesday they were resumed, and it is understood that the agreement was actually signed yesterday, and that it will be submitted to the Chamber for approval to-morrow. It is further stated that the first instalment of the loan, £4,800,000, has already been forwarded by the lending banks, and is at the Banque de Credit here, ready to be paid over to the Government as soon as the loan is voted by the Sobranje.

Amongst the privileges accorded to the German banks are: the construction of the Haskovo-Portslagos line and the construction of a port at the latter place; the construction of the Dupintza-Gornia Jumaya line and the Galrovo Siolirvo-Soothcha-Plevna line, with 10 per cent. on the capital invested; and a share in the exploitation of the Government's coal mines at Pernik.

Greco-Bulgarian Relations.

The new Greek Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Naoum, arrived here yesterday, and called upon Dr. Radoslavoff, who is Foreign Minister *ad interim*, to whom he expressed the desire of the Greek Government for the resumption of friendly relations between the two countries. The same desire has also been expressed by Mr. Passaroff, the Bulgarian Minister to Athens, who arrived in that city yesterday.

A Roumano-Bulgarian Incident.

On the 1st inst. two Roumanian soldiers, accompanied by four Turkish labourers transporting wood, were found by the Bulgarian frontier guard on Bulgarian territory, some 200 metres beyond the frontier. The Bulgarians told them to withdraw, whereupon one of the Roumanians seized a Bulgarian's rifle, and the other Bulgarian promptly raised his rifle and shot him. The second Roumanian, who also raised his rifle, was also fired upon and wounded. Yesterday the Bulgarian Government sent a Note to the Roumanian Government expressing regret for the unfortunate incident, and announcing its readiness to appoint with the Roumanian Government a joint Commission to inquire into the affair and fix responsibility for it.

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 4.

Roumania's Independent Policy.

The rumour regarding a meeting of the Roumanian, Servian, Montenegrin, and Greek monarchs, which originated in Athens, finds neither confirmation nor credence here. Nor is the idea underlying it regarded with any favour in this country, for it is generally considered that such a meeting would in no way strengthen the Peace of Bucharest, while by excluding the ruler of Bulgaria it might create feelings the reverse of peaceful. Moreover, it is most unlikely that Roumania will bind herself in any form of a general Balkan Alliance. She will rather pursue that independent policy which has been so useful and successful of late in maintaining peace amongst her fiery neighbours.

The Serajevo Tragedy.

The news of the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his Consort was received here at first with open scepticism, but when its truth was recognized the doubt turned to very genuine regret and indignation. "That is Servia's work!" was a very general exclamation.

The Archduke was regarded as a sincere sympathizer and friend of the Roumanians of Transylvania, who hoped that great things would take place on his accession. Now those hopes are dashed to the ground, for the late Archduke was the only friend they had in higher circles. Apart from this he was regarded as a good friend to this country, and those who still retain some friendship for Austria regret his death for political reasons, apart from personal considerations. Both Houses adjourned on Monday as a mark of sympathy. The Crown Prince represents King Carol at the funeral, and to-day a requiem service is to be held, at which the King and Queen, the Ministers, and the Diplomatic Corps will be present.

The Sinaia Season.

Sinaia is now filling up. Most of the foreign Legations have moved there, and the King and other members of the Royal family will take up their residence there next week. The Casino is open, the management promises a varied programme of entertainments, and play has commenced most actively. In spite of this—or should we say because of it?—a number of villas remain unlet, which seems to indicate that Bucharest society no longer cares for the place now that it has been converted into an indifferent copy of Baden-Baden and Homburg in the old days. In fact, an unusually large number of Roumanians are going abroad this year, Sinaia and Constantza having lost all attraction for them now that they have become such haunts of the gamblers.

Bucharest, July 5.

A Frontier Incident.

On Wednesday an unfortunate affair occurred on the new Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier, when a party of Roumanian officers and soldiers who, assisted by a number of Turkish workmen, were engaged in marking out the new frontier line, were suddenly fired upon by some Bulgarian soldiers at close range. One Roumanian soldier was killed outright and one severely wounded. The Roumanians were unarmed at the time, being engaged only in surveying and delimiting the frontier. Representations have been made to the Bulgarian Government. According to the Press, this is not an isolated case of the Bulgarian frontier guards using their arms.

Help for Albania.

On Thursday a party of eighty volunteers, under two officers, left for Durazzo. Many of these volunteers are Albanians of the Bucharest colony, which has subscribed a large sum for the equipment and travelling expenses of this party. Another party, numbering nearly 500, is expected to depart in a week or ten days.

NOTES FROM PERSIA.

(From An Occasional Correspondent.)

Ispahan, June 21.

State of the Roads.

For the moment quiet prevails on the Ahwaz-Ispahan road owing to the activity of Sardar Jung, who has proved himself an able administrator. This does not mean, however, that the Kuhgelus are discouraged, or that a repetition of the raiding to which they are so prone will not take place. It means merely that effective repressive or preventive measures have driven them away from the caravan road temporarily: any relaxation of effort will at once cause a recurrence of disorder.

In the Bistagoon district near Ispahan we have trouble of a different nature. There Riza Khan Joozani is in question, and as he is apparently protected, or recognized, by the Russian Consular officials, his case presents political as well as civil difficulty.

The Coronation Postponed.

The Coronation has been postponed from July 21, the date originally fixed, to September 18. The difficulties in connection with the event are perhaps more political than financial. It is hard to conceive of the enthronement of the young Shah without the assembly of the Mejliss, before which the declarations necessitated by the Constitution will have to be made; but the elections are still in the initial stage, and as far as the Province of Azerbaijan is concerned are out of the question. The same may be said, with the same emphasis, of the greater part of Persia within the Russian sphere. We have yet to learn how this constitutional difficulty has been obviated.

The Nizam-es-Sultaneh has actually left Teheran to take up his governorship, and is nearing Sultanabad. Presumably his conditions have been accepted.

"KING'S BIRTHDAY" AT MESHED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, June 24.

King George's birthday was celebrated by receptions and garden parties in the British Consulate-General on June 22 and 23. The first day was for officials, and the second for merchants. The grounds were in very fine order, and the lawns, trees, and flowers presented a most beautiful appearance. The main entrance and the Consulate building were decorated with the flags of ten nations, and many small flags fluttered over the main avenues. Cosy corners were prepared on the various lawns, and the large reception tent was pitched on the lawn nearest the main entrance, with avenues marked by flowers leading into it. Here the Consul-General and Staff, in full uniform, received the guests, while the Russian Cossack band, stationed on one of the lawns at a little distance, furnished music, and the staff of servants dispensed refreshments. Men only were present. The guests on the first day, numbering a hundred or more, included the Governor-General and suite, Persian officials and grandees, the Russian Colonel and officers, and all the English and foreigners. Everyone seemed in his happiest mood, and the company broke up reluctantly just before dark, on the band playing "God save the King."

The second day was an equally pleasant occasion, with a large company of the merchant classes present. One feature of this day was the reading of a really beautiful original poem by Mirza Hassan Shirazee, entitled "The Birthday of His Majesty George V., King of England and Emperor of India," in which he lauded the glorious reign of the King, whose prosperous dominions extend round the world, bounded on one extreme by the North Pole, and on the other by the South Pole, and whose subjects enjoy peace and quiet and every advantage and blessing.

In choosing of a Turkey carpet there are three main points to be studied: the design, the colouring, and the texture, and all these can be carried out in their entirety by native work; though, of course, numbers of special patterns are sent from Europe, and many copied from ancient carpets from Syria, Persia, and elsewhere. The colouring in former days was entirely from vegetable dyes and of little variety, but now since the introduction of aniline dyes several hundred gradations of colour are available. The texture depends on the fineness of the workmanship and the nature of the wool. The differences in this respect indicate the various qualities—such as Oushak, Koula, Akhissar, Giordis, and so on, which take their name according to the district in which they are manufactured.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE HAIFA VICE-CONSULATE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I think it is imperative in the interests of his Majesty's Government to draw attention to the following facts:—

Last week I repeatedly applied to the British Vice-Consulate here for the attestation of the signatures of two local doctors on a certificate of which I am in great need. I was informed that his Britannic Majesty's representative was absent, and I would have to await his arrival on Tuesday, the 23rd instant. Tuesday came, and the Consul did not arrive. I subsequently applied to the Acting Vice-Consul in charge, and explained to him the necessity of having my affairs completed. I endeavoured, in vain, to persuade him to perform the formality. My arguments were futile. He refused on the ground of his inability to execute the required business in view of his not being authorised to transact affairs of a notarial nature. I wondered what sort of function was he authorised to execute.

Onlookers, who have the interests of his Britannic Majesty's Government at heart, cannot but deplore this state of things as altogether unbecoming to the prestige and dignity of Great Britain. Many complaints, I understand, have been made lately on account of the continual absence of the Consul at this town, and the non-appointment, during his prolonged absences, of a suitable deputy. As things are, much inconvenience may be caused to those who happen to apply to the Vice-Consulate for the execution of some business or other.

I wish it to be understood that I do not make any reflection on the British Vice-Consul himself, who, in his capacity as a non-salaried Consular Officer, is only required to give adequate time to the execution of his Consular functions. His Consular duties are naturally of secondary importance to him.

I understand, by the way, that the British Vice-Consulate at the port of Haifa has no dragoman. I ascertained that, on the other hand, the other foreign Consulates here have, in addition to the salaried dragoman, two honorary ones. An efficient well-paid Consular staff is, therefore, essential at Haifa, and an increase in the personnel at the Consulates elsewhere is desirable.

How long, I wonder, is the British Government going to maintain the hitherto non-salaried Consular post in this flourishing port? Other foreign countries have long ago created salaried Consular Offices here, and have eventually profited greatly. Will not his Majesty's Government realize, after all, the folly of overlooking this point? May I confidently hope that this significant matter will receive the attention of the British Government in the immediate future?—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

INTERESTED ONLOOKER.

Haifa, Palestine, June 25, 1914.

ISLAM AND THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR.—I have read Mr. Biddlecombe's letter dealing with one of my articles on "Islam and the Twentieth Century."

Mr. Biddlecombe has taken "polygamy" as the main subject of his letter, and from this very fact it is apparent that he has read but one of my series of articles. In one of my articles I stated that the Koran does not order polygamy, but allows it—the distinction is important. Even with this permission a caution is given: "Be just to all your wives." To a civilized man living in a civilized country life is so complex, its necessaries are so varied, its phases are so many, that it is next to impossible for justice to be done to a second wife. It is only to persons living on a high social plane that I refer when I say, "I cannot name one man who has more than one wife."

It seems childish to argue that polygamy thrives to a much greater extent amongst educated and civilized people than amongst the semi-barbarian tribes. The evidence of one's eyes is sufficient to disprove it. My friend gives me a list of semi-civilized peoples, and asserts that polygamy has grown to be an institution amongst them. I quite agree. To them more wives means more riches. This fact alone shows the wisdom embodied in those words of the Koran which do not command but only allow polygamy.

With regard to my statement *re* illegitimacy, I do not know if my friend's statement with regard to the cities he mentions is correct. If it is, then surely it is due to the negligence of the Turkish Government. It is through mistakes of this type that foreign prostitutes, drawn from France, Russia, England, Prussia, not to mention many other places, find shelter in Turkey. It is this that is the real source of this illegitimacy, and its source is Europe. Is this Islam's fault? Islam, by limiting society life and ordering women to be womanly, has created a system of prevention in Turkey. In London, on the other hand, it is with shame that we see young girls walking the streets at midnight. Venereal diseases are common in almost any city of importance in Asia Minor. This dread scourge, too, we owe to the prostitutes coming from other countries. Indeed, the very word for it, "feenghee," means "French" or "foreign."

I do not wish to go any further into this none too pleasant subject. I will not do more than refer to the social scandals so common in the high society life of modern Europe.

My critic also asserts that I paint Islam as I should like it to be. I wrote an article some time ago on the reform of Islam, and in it I appealed for a return to the real, the true, and the simple Islam, as founded by Mohammed. The Islamic Empire is ruled by ignorant men and fanatics. Its progress has been stopped. I respectfully advise Mr. Biddlecombe to read "The Spirit of Islam," by the Right Hon. Ameer Ali, and "The Preaching of Islam," by Professor Arnold. These two will help him to look with more sympathy and understanding on the doings of Mohammed's followers.

My friend also talks about the temporary marriages of the Shia sect. By our law such a marriage is not legal. I ask his opinion of that fashionable institution of the civilized Christian world—the mistress.—Yours, etc.,

13, Prince's Square, W. M. SAADI BEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—In your issue of April 3, under the title "Islam and the Twentieth Century," I read a letter by Mr. S. H. Biddlecombe, of Ispahan, Persia, who, in controverting Dr. Saadi Bey (with whom I have no communication or acquaintance), puts forward some baseless arguments against Islam, and doubts that Islam is and will be everlastingly a living force for good.

Mr. Biddlecombe's pessimistic and baseless statements concerning the Mohammedan world do not merit contradiction. But, as a Moslem by birth and experience, I maintain against him that the world-wide religion of Islam has from the very beginning been not to the detriment but for the betterment of society—a truth which has been proved over and over again by many great thinkers of different nations during past and present centuries.

Polygamy and bigamy are primitive customs, and were practised ages before Islam, and are practised still by many non-Moslems in all parts of the world. Nevertheless, they are better than promiscuity and prostitution, such as exist in many parts of the Christian world, as I can prove from an intimate knowledge of the social and moral life of many parts of Europe and America. Islam sanctioned polygamy only where it took the place of less civilised marriage customs. A glance at history and evolution will remove a great deal of misunderstanding about Islam. The philosophy of the sacred law of polygamy can easily be grasped, and the necessity cannot be denied for this simple reason: In the struggle for existence, in war and industry, 95 per cent. of the loss of life is amongst men. In my opinion the best antidote to the enlightened habits of prostitution and white slavery is the barbarous custom of polygamy.

Mr. Biddlecombe's statement about "the thousands of prostitutes who throng many of the larger Mohammedan cities" is a gross exaggeration.

If a Moslem, Christian, or Jew misbehaves himself it is not fair to lay the blame on his religion. No recognised religion in existence has permitted wickedness or vice. The defects in the lives of Mohammedan peoples are attributable to the fact that they are not true Moslems. On the other hand, the pressure of capitalists from Christian lands in contributing to the political and economic development of these peoples has forced them to neglect the commands of the Great Prophet, and to some extent to imitate some of the dangerous and evil habits of Christendom, especially those of Paris.

Our Christian friends object to Islam on the ground that it has been spread by the sword. But how does this objection stand in the light of the massacres by Christians—Italians, Bulgarians, Servians, Greeks, French, and Russians—in Tripoli, Thrace, Macedonia, Albania, Morocco, and Persia? Then consider the intolerance and oppression of the Christian Government of Russia, the bombardment of the great golden dome of the most sacred shrine of Ivan Reya, the hanging of Moslem preachers and the Constitutionalists, the annihilation of villages and tribes, the burning of men, women, and children in Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, I would ask Mr. Biddlecombe to allow us to abandon prejudice on both sides, Moslems and Christians alike, and to seek truth for the sake of humanity.—Yours, etc.,

M. S. HOSEYN KHAN.

The Young Men Mohammedan Association, Teheran,
May 25, 1914.

THE BALKAN COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Balkan Committee, held at the House of Commons last week, a manifesto was drawn up stating that in view of the present disturbed relations between the Balkan States the Committee desires to suggest that the Governments of Bulgaria, Greece, Roumania, Servia, Albania, and Montenegro should summon a conference to discuss means whereby the civil and religious disabilities of the alien minorities in their several territories may be diminished by mutual concession, and the conditions of the refugees relieved by generous measures of repatriation with compensation for property abandoned.

The Committee urges that the Great Powers should make a declaration that they will decline to give recognition to the Treaty of Bucharest and the new territorial acquisitions until they are satisfied that real efforts are being made by the Balkan States themselves towards the realization of conditions of justice for all the populations within their dominions. It further urges that the Powers should take steps to vindicate the authority of the Concert of Europe by insisting on the immediate and peaceful transference to Greece of the Ægean Islands assigned to her by the Treaty of London; and, finally, it protests against the ruthless expropriation of Greeks from Asia Minor and Bulgarians from Thrace, and calls upon the Powers to warn the Porte that the inevitable result of the resumption of her old policy of cruelty towards her subject populations will be another war.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ART IN ANCIENT EGYPT.*

Probably no living writer is better qualified to deal with Art in Ancient Egypt than is Sir Gaston Maspero, who combines an intimate knowledge of his subject with a lightness of touch that is somewhat rare in the Egyptologist, and who, thanks to his long tenure of the post of Director of the Service of Antiquities in Egypt, enjoyed unique opportunities in regard to the collection of material. What admirable use he has made of these opportunities the really wonderful collection of illustrations suffices to show at once. The value of the accompanying letterpress becomes apparent only upon a closer examination.

To attempt to do justice to the author's views in a short notice such as this would be futile; so would the attempt to criticise them. To do either one would have to write a veritable essay on the subject. Fortunately, however, Sir Gaston's views are generally well known; and though we need not always agree with them, we can always admire the way in which he sets them before us. In this instance he develops his arguments largely by means of his illustrations, which are remarkably well chosen and arranged; and as he never loses sight of the fact that the art of a people and the life of a people are bound up together, the book provides us with a wonderfully vivid picture of life in the Nile Valley in the early days of its civilisaton. We are shown, too, how inseparable were the art and religion of the ancient Egyptians; how the requirements of religion shaped and moulded the art of the nation; and how when the religion passed away the art necessarily passed with it. The Memphite, Theban, and Saite periods are all dealt with in turn—Sir Gaston considers the second as the most vital; the architecture of temple, tomb, and palace is most interestingly discussed; and ample justice is done not only to those minor arts in which the Egyptians admittedly excelled, but also to the sculpture and wall paintings. In short the ground is well covered, and the bibliography which is given at the end of each section will enable the student who wishes to follow the subject still further to do so.

The book is one that every traveller to Egypt who wishes to understand the art that flourished there fifty centuries ago should take with him; while to the less fortunate individual who is unable to visit the land of the Pharaohs in person its wealth of illustrations and its sympathetic letterpress will render it hardly less valuable. The volume is in all respects worthy to take its place with the others of the "Ars Una" series, which is high praise indeed.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co. have prepared a catalogue of works on African philology, price 6d., which includes grammars and dictionaries of an immense variety of tongues, among them being Amharic, Berber, Kabyle, Tigrina, Tamachek, and two forms of Ethiopic.

"La Ceramique dans l'Art Musulman," by M. Henri Rivière, has been published in two volumes by the Librarie Centrale des Beaux Arts, Paris. It contains one hundred coloured plates representing specimens of the pottery produced in various parts of the Moslem world. M. Gaston Mignon contributes an introduction. The price is 625 frs.

"The Balkan Wars, 1912—1913." By Mr. J. G. Shurman, has been issued by Humphrey Mulford at 4s. 6d. net.

We have received a selection of the latest batch of the Wayfarers' Library. Anyone who wishes to possess and enjoy at a moderate cost some of the best things in modern English literature will find in this library a never-failing source of delight.

BOOK RECEIVED.

The Lure of Islam. By C. Prowse. (Sampson, Low, Marston and Co. 6s.)

* "Art in Egypt." By Sir G. Maspero. General History of Art. (Heinemann, 6s. net.)

A CARPET DISTRICT IN ASIA MINOR.

BY R. F. L. BAILLY.

Carpet-making is one of the few industries that the Turks can justifiably claim as their own. The peculiar merit attaching to the true Turkey carpet is too well known to need much comment, but probably few of its users can picture to themselves the conditions under which it is manufactured and the striking contrasts presented from its first inception in its native village to its final resting-place in the dwellings of the well-to-do.

Oushak, a town in Asia Minor, 150 miles from the coast, and now reached by railway in some ten hours, is one of the chief centres of the industry. The streets present the usual straggling and indeterminate aspect of the inland Turkish town, but in the houses there are several hundred looms continuously at work. The poor man owns, perhaps, a single loom, worked by his wife and children during the winter months, but comparatively rich men often control a hundred looms or more.

On two or three occasions the writer was the guest of one of the larger proprietors, a rotund old Turkish gentleman, one of the chief local magnates, both of the town and of the carpet industry—in fact, the head of one of the carpet families. His younger brother, one Achmet, was the hereditary dyer of the family—a fact well impressed by the variegated hues of his arms, which underwent chameleon-like changes of colour from day to day, according to the particular dye of the moment.

It may be mentioned here that the dyeing of the wool is practically the only stage in the carpet manufacture in which the male element takes part, the rest of the work being done by women and girls. It is very probable that the stability of the industry in Turkey is due to this fact. The skilled labour, being done in their own homes by women and girls, produces the minimum conditions of cheapness, and as the transport of a finished carpet is a mere fraction of its value, they can be produced at a good profit even in far remote districts.

Looking into almost any house in Oushak, you will find a carpet in some stage of progress. One enters, perhaps, a mud hovel some 20 ft. by 15 ft., with a bare mud floor, a piece of tile acting as a charcoal brazier, a baby or two slung in a hammock made of an old sack, a few pots and pans, and then the loom, on which is slowly evolving a magnificent carpet to adorn a palace. The loom itself is a rough frame of wood, a log above and a log behind, the stretched interlacing strings forming the skeleton of the carpet.

Seated on the floor, some five to ten little girls are hard at work, tying innumerable knots, cutting the wool for each knot from overhanging balls of coloured wool. Each little girl has her allotted space of some two feet, and as each row of knots is completed it is patted and pushed down by a wooden comb, the teeth of which fit between the strings. A very good worker can do two square feet a day, depending, of course, on the fineness of the texture. The knot-tying is carried on with incredible rapidity, and little dabs and dots of colour appear as if put on with the slow movement of a paint brush. It is wonderful to see the design gradually creeping up from this chaos of knots. A woman superintendent overlooks the whole, very often keeping the design in her mind entirely from memory, though for the more complicated carpets a coloured picture of the design, or merely one corner of it, is hung up for reference. To the European eye the surroundings look comfortless, yet all the workers seem very happy, and chatter gaily.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Albanian Situation. July 6.

Lord Lamington asked his Majesty's Government whether, in view of the declaration made by Sir Edward Grey last week that no more British troops would be landed in Albania, he would state what steps would be taken to safeguard the independence of that country—an independence which we were so largely instrumental in setting up—and whether he could state what was the present position of Colonel Phillips.

Viscount Morley: I would most willingly give the noble lord all the information that he would like to have if it were possible, but I am sure he is well acquainted with the complexity of the matter which he has approached in his question. It involves both a very important and vital Cabinet question, and also, what is even more important, a great and complex international question. As to Colonel Phillips, he is, by the choice of the Powers, in command of the International Force in Skutari. The question of the extension of his authority over a larger area than he now controls is clearly a question involving a great number of international considerations. It might mean a large increase of the force now there composed of detachments of, I think, all the Great Powers except Russia. Any step taken in regard to the extension of the area controlled by Colonel Phillips would be very serious. Sir Edward Grey laid down the whole position no farther back than last Monday. The thing is to be summed up in a sentence: British interests in Albania are not of a nature to warrant anything like a special British initiative. All fears as to British lives not being safe are guarded against by the presence of one of his Majesty's ships at Durazzo.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Naval Mission to Greece. July 3.

Mr. Molteno asked the First Lord of the Admiralty the names, numbers, and ranks of the naval officers constituting the mission which was sent to Greece.

Mr. Churchill: The information asked for is as follows:—Officers lent to Greece: Rear-Admiral Mark E. F. Kerr; Commanders H. S. Cardale, R. G. H. Henderson, A. L. Strange, G. P. Leith, R. C. Hamilton, G. A. Wells; Lieut.-Commander (as Acting-Commander) S. J. Meyrick, Lieut. H. D. Gill, Acting-Lieut. R.N.R. (Royal Flying Corps) C. P. Pizey, Engineer-Captain (retired) J. H. Watson, Engineer-Lieut. G. W. Cannan, Assistant-Paymaster A. C. Winter, Gunner F. J. Moon, Gunner (T) G. Prince; also a constructor and a naval store officer.

Officers Lent to Turkey.

Answering a similar question about Turkey, Mr. Churchill said that the following officers had been lent to Turkey:—Rear-Admiral A. H. Limpus; Lieuts. F. Elliott, G. W. Hallifax; Commander (retired) Arthur Truscott; Commander A. L. Ashby (relief appointed); Engineer-Lieuts. G. W. Le Page, G. Moore; Staff Paymaster A. E. Stack; Naval Instructor H. H. Holland. Additional retired officers had also been lent as follows:—Captain E. H. Edwards; Lieuts. V. Marryat, W. P. Koe, H. Finch-Dawson (to replace Commander Ashby), E. L. B. Boothby.

Trans-Persian Railway. July 7.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, considering that the main object of the proposed Trans-Persian Railway was to secure through overland communication between Europe and India, the option which his Majesty's Government were considering for a line of railways in Persia, connecting with the Russian railways in the north and ending in Persian territory at or near the sea in the south, would provide for this line being commenced simultaneously at both ends; and whether the construction from the south end northwards would be carried out on an Indian gauge and the construction from the north end southwards on a Russian gauge, so that when the question of linking with Indian railways came up for consideration there would be no difficulty in providing that Indian goods should have the same facilities of entry into Persia from the south without break of gauge that Russian goods would have in the north, and thus of securing equality of treatment for the commerce of both countries.

Sir E. Grey: It is our desire that construction should begin simultaneously at both ends, but we cannot prevent railways from being begun in the sphere of Russian interest, or stipulate that none should be begun there before British capital is prepared to make railways from the south. As regards break of gauge, the question was considered with the Indian Government, and for strategic reasons it was held that there should be a break of gauge when this railway entered the sphere of British interest, but for commercial reasons we have not stipulated that there should necessarily be a break of gauge in any railway connecting the North of Persia with the coast, so that Indian goods landed at a port could be carried into any part of Persia without break of gauge.

Mr. Morrell: When is it proposed to begin the work on this railway, or is the project actually under consideration?

Sir E. Grey: It is in just the same state as I explained the other day. What is under consideration now is whether the option shall be applied for which will enable surveys to be made for the making of the railway, but the question of whether the railway could be begun has not been settled. The other conditions will be agreed to subsequent to the option.

Colonel Yate: Is it finally settled, then, that goods coming up from India by the railway are not to have entry into the neutral sphere of Persia without break of gauge?

Sir E. Grey: No. I said that if they enter at a port outside, on the edge of the sphere of British interest, they would be able to come into Persia from south to north without break of gauge.

Colonel Yate: But those entering by the railway would not be able to——

Sir E. Grey: The hon. and gallant gentleman is raising very hypothetical questions. If the railway was subsequently continued to make a junction with the Indian railway, as at present laid down, the condition of the Indian Government is that there should be a break of gauge when it enters the British sphere.

Anglo-Persian Oil Scheme.

On the report stage of the resolution authorising the acquisition of capital in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Mr. Gretton criticised the Government policy, and complained that the First Lord of the Admiralty had never told the House at what price he would have been forced to buy oil in consequence of the operation of the trusts. The whole matter was covered in a veil of impenetrable secrecy, which was contrary to the traditions of the House.

Mr. G. Lloyd said they had never had an answer to the question as to whether the Indian Government had been consulted, and he wanted to know whether the War Office had been consulted before the contract was concluded, and whether the Board of Admiralty were unanimous in regard to the oil contract.

Mr. Churchill: The Board of Admiralty were and are unanimous that this contract is of paramount importance.

Other members having spoken, Mr. Churchill said he felt he could not, by answering all the questions that had been put to him, present the argument for the Anglo-Persian contract in any manner which would do justice to the subject equal to that contained in the argument in which he originally submitted it to the House. If any of the objections that had been raised were accepted by the House unquestionably they ought to drop the whole business, but he did not believe they would drop a proposal offering prospects so promising and assured. He had been asked why he did not disclose the price that they had paid and were paying under other contracts. It had been the custom approved for many years that Admiralty contracts should not be made public. There was no secret as between the Minister and Parliament, but as between Parliament and the interests of the public service. Granting all the disadvantages that had been urged, although they were absurdly exaggerated, where else than in Persia could they find an alternative source of supply at the present time? There was no other area of supply which offered advantages comparable with those existing in Persia. Our forces in the Mediterranean were being strengthened, for we should have before long a squadron of eight battleships there, and there was no reason for supposing that we should be confronted in the Mediterranean alone. But if necessary the Cape route could be used, and this would only mean two more cargoes in transit.

On the House dividing the report was agreed to by 228 to 48.

Greco-Turkish Relations. July 7.

Sir J. D. Rees asked if the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had received any representations from the London All-India Moslem League concerning his action with regard to the present attitude of Greece towards Turkey; and, if so, what answer had been returned to such communications.

Mr. F. D. Acland said that Sir Edward Grey had received such a communication. The Committee of the League would no doubt inform the hon. member of the terms of his reply if they thought fit.

The Turco-Persian Frontier.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would state what are the provisions of the Anglo-Turkish Agreement of November, 1913.

Mr. Acland: I presume the hon. member refers to the protocol respecting the Turco-Persian frontier which was signed at Constantinople last November by the British, Russian, and Persian Ambassadors and by the Grand Vizier of Turkey. I propose to lay this document with the other Agreements which have recently been under negotiation between Great Britain and Turkey and Great Britain and Germany in regard to various questions concerning Asiatic Turkey and the Persian Gulf as soon as I can. It is undesirable to lay any of these documents separately. I understand this is also the view of the Turkish Government with regard to publication.

The Situation at Muskat.

Sir George Scott Robertson asked the Under Secretary of State for India whether he could say what was the present position of affairs at Muskat? Had the fighting ceased? Had the rebels been defeated effectually? Had any of his Majesty's ships been actively engaged recently, or had any of his Majesty's Indian military forces been engaged at all up to date?

Mr. C. H. Roberts replied that there had been little change in the situation at Muskat. It would not be correct to say that the rebels had sustained effective defeat. None of his Majesty's ships had been actively engaged since the incidents of May 21. British Indian troops had not been engaged.

Kasr-i-Shirin.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Foreign Secretary whether the Persian Government had acquiesced in the award of Kasr-i-Shirin, or the Chiasurkh district, to Turkey.

Sir Edward Grey: Kasr-i-Shirin has not been awarded to Turkey; as regards Chiasurkh the answer is in the affirmative.

Armenia's High Commissioners. July 8.

Mr. Aneurin Williams asked whether Messrs. Westenenk and Hof had now taken up their duties as High Commissioners in Armenia; and what were the powers conferred on those gentlemen by the Porte.

Mr. Acland: According to my latest information the gentlemen in question have arrived in Constantinople, and will shortly take up their appointments. I cannot say whether they have yet proceeded to the scene of their duties. I am unable to make any communication with regard to their powers beyond that they will have control of justice, police and gendarmerie, as I have not yet received the official intimation from the Turkish Government.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Our Cairo Correspondent's reference this week to the latent rumours concerning Lord Hardinge's tenure of office as Viceroy of India, in connection with *Al Mokattam's* publication of a statement made in *The Daily Mail* on that subject, is a reminder that people have come to regard Lord Kitchener as the only possible successor to the present Viceroy. If, however, we are to accept current reports, a surprise may be in store when Lord Hardinge leaves India. For some time there has been a persistent rumour to the effect that Mr. Asquith would not look askance at the reversion of the office were he offered it, and though the Premier is, perhaps, one of the last people in the world that a speculative public would associate with the Viceroyalty, he is, at any rate, in a position to make his desire effective, and, if he really does wish to go to India, there is no obstacle in his way.

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Some of the reports of the "demonstration" that took place in Sofia on the anniversary of the outbreak of war between Bulgaria and her former allies appear to have been very much exaggerated. In fact, many of them show inventiveness unusual even in regard to "news" of the Balkans. As a matter of fact, I am informed by a trustworthy correspondent, the demonstration was an insignificant kind of affair, noteworthy chiefly because the principal orators, taking full advantage of the immunity assured to them by their position as deputies, delivered speeches of extraordinary violence. These oratorical efforts, however, appear to have defeated their object by their very lack of restraint; and the crowd of sightseers who gathered round the small body of actual demonstrators refused to take the whole affair seriously at any price. In these circumstances the rumour, boldly launched from one quarter, that Tsar Ferdinand was so impressed by the demonstration that he was thinking of abdicating in favour of Prince Boris, was, to say the least, rather ridiculous.

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I gather from a correspondent that the improvement in the treatment of Greeks in the Anatolian coast lands is less real than the friends of peace in the Ægean would wish. Up-country Greeks and members of isolated communities are still exposed to treatment which leaves them only a Hobson's choice between extermination and expulsion. My informant expresses his opinion that the expulsion of the Greek population of Turkey has been decided upon, an opinion which, I may say, is widely shared by resident observers and by many who have abundant opportunities of being well-informed. The Turk appears to have weighed the danger of tolerating in his own dominions the presence of two million Greeks who are incited against his rule by the propagandists of Hellenism and the preachers of the Great Idea, and that of depriving himself of the greater part of the commercial classes and most important taxpayers in his country. That he should have chosen the latter as the minor peril shows either that Hellenism is regarded as a very real menace by the Ottoman, or that he has not read aright the lessons of Roman history to be drawn from the parable of the Belly and the Members. Or perhaps he expects the Armenian to take the place of the Greek and so put an end to collections for the Hellenic Navy among Ottoman but Greek-spirited subjects.

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On July 13, 1878, the deliberations of the Berlin Congress on the Eastern Question came to an end, and the Treaty of Berlin was signed by the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Germany, Austria, France, Russia, and Turkey. By Article XXXIV. of the Treaty the independence of Servia was formally recognised by the Powers. Monday next will be the thirty-sixth anniversary of the establishment of Servian independence under the sanction of international law. The Padishah, whose writ had long ceased to run in what had once been the pashalik of Belgrade, whose *de facto* sovereignty there was a thing of the past, now surrendered his *de jure* overlordship. After four hundred years of subjection to an alien yoke, the Servian nation could again call itself free in face of the world. On the following August 22, Prince (afterwards King) Milan proclaimed the independence of his principality in Belgrade. Since then the annals of Servia have been too often stained with blood. But well-wishers of the country may be permitted to hope that the wild-cat crop of picturesque tragedies has been gathered in, and that a worthier harvest may be reaped from the good seed which has been and is being sown.

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The Berlin correspondent of *The Times* announced a few days ago that the German Orient Society has published a report on the excavations it has been carrying out at Assur—which is to-day Kalat Sherghat. He added that "the most interesting finds were a temple of Astarte, which the archæologists ascribe to the end of the fourth millenium B.C., and five sarcophagi of the Assyrian kings, apparently the first ever discovered in Babylonia." Of course, Assur is in Assyria, not Babylonia; but that is a detail. The main point is that the Germans, who have been at work on the mounds of Kalat Sherghat ever since the beginning of the century, have made a remarkable haul, to which their patience and perseverance well entitle them. The site is a large one. Layard, who dug there for a short time, describes the principal mound as "one of the largest ruins with which I am acquainted in Assyria," and gives its height above plain level as nearly 100 ft., and its circumference as 4,685 yards. It was from this site that he obtained the black basalt statue of Shalmaneser II., which is now in the Nimrod Central Saloon of the British Museum; and on leaving the work he wrote: "I have little doubt . . . that many objects of interest . . . exist in the mound." It has been left for the patient, plodding Teuton to prove the correctness of this opinion.

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Of course, Layard was in no wise to blame for the abandonment of the site; for, as he wrote, he "renounced the further examination of these ruins with regret." His work in Assyria and Babylonia was that of the pioneer; and in that capacity he and the other English excavators and explorers accomplished great things, as the German archæologists, who have reaped where they sowed, are ever ready to acknowledge most generously. But it hardly redounds to our credit as a nation that we have left this field of scientific research so much alone as we have done during the past fifty or sixty years. It is, of course, primarily a matter of financial support: we have plenty of good men capable of excavating any site creditably; but the funds to keep them in the field are not forthcoming. All the money we can afford for excavating—and it is little enough—seems to go to Egypt, the Sudan, Athens, and Rome. I should like to see Babylonia and South Persia receive attention.

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Having now had an opportunity of reading the complete text of the amazing statement made by Mr. Williams, the American Minister to Greece and Montenegro, regarding Albania, I am not at all surprised to learn that his country shows no reluctance to lose Mr. Williams's services as its diplomatic representative. Quite frankly, I consider that his statement (I refer to his first indiscretion) does credit to his heart, but diplomatists are usually supposed to possess heads as well as hearts, are they not? With a good many of his criticisms I am in entire agreement; but really Mr. Williams ought to have remembered that on subjects so sacrosanct as the European Concert and the ways of European Diplomacy no mere man should venture to express any opinion at all. Moreover, the famous statement appears to me to contain not only many glaring examples of bad taste, but also a good many inaccuracies. For instance, when he says: "Prince Wied has no more right than I have in Albania," Mr. Williams forgets that the Prince went there by invitation of the Albanians, while he himself appears to have gone by invitation of—Mr. Williams.

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In a letter to *The Westminster Gazette*, a correspondent tells how the late Mr. Chamberlain, "after the failure of the Round Table Conference . . . . spent a winter in Egypt"; and how, breaking his homeward journey in Paris, he remarked to the then British Ambassador, the late Lord Lytton, "I have come back from Egypt a 'Jingo.'" The correspondent adds:—

> Of course, as a member of Mr. Gladstone's second Administration, Mr. Chamberlain did not like our having to occupy Egypt, and after the occupation was, to use his own words, "forced upon us," he "looked forward to an early, it might be even an immediate, evacuation.
>
> What he saw, during his stay in Egypt, of the reforms already effected by British officials under the inspiring direction of Lord Cromer (then Sir Evelyn Baring) caused Mr. Chamberlain to completely change his mind regarding the extended occupation, and possibly this was also the beginning of his career as an Imperialist.

Be that as it may, it is certain that Mr. Chamberlain took a strong interest in Egypt, and I well remember a story concerning him that was told me by a well-known Egyptologist. This was to the effect that when Mr. Chamberlain was leaving Egypt, an Egyptian notable went on board the steamer to bid him "Good-bye"; and the famous statesman, who had seen much of the Egyptian referred to during his stay in the country, said quite frankly: "Good-bye, sir, I hope we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you at Westminster as one of the Egyptian members in an Imperial Parliament." A bold saying, but typical, I think, of the man.

CORSAIR.

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OF PRIESTS AND PATRIARCHS.

By H. C. LUKACH.

Of the factors which govern the life of peoples in the Turkish Empire and its lost provinces the religious is admittedly one of the most vital. The native inhabitants of European Turkey are not classified by race for administrative purposes; they are divided into *millets* or "nations," which rest on a basis religious rather than racial. Moslems, of whatever race they may be, compose the *millet* of Islam; the Christian subjects of the Porte form separate *millets*, according as they acknowledge the Patriarch of Constantinople, the Pope, the Bulgarian Exarch, the Armenian Katholikos, or the Protestant Vekil as their ecclesiastical superior. As a result of this system, and of the fact that to each *millet* a measure of autonomy is given, the Churches in Turkey are not only spiritual refuges, but the rallying grounds of national aspirations; the head of a Church is not only a spiritual chief, he is also a political ethnarch. It is thus immaterial that the ethnologist in the Balkans is not infrequently baffled; his place is taken by the prelates and clergy, who influence the results of the religious census. The ubiquity of the Eastern ecclesiastic, and his varied activities, render a study of his habits and foibles both instructive and diverting; it is a field which offers a profitable return to the observer. In the matter of erudition, for example, the greatest contrasts may be observed among the Orthodox clergy. There are monks in Mount Athos who are men of the world, zealous students of the financial Press which guides them in the Stock Exchange operations to which they are addicted. On the other hand, I have known Abbots in various parts of the Levant whose signatures consist of the imprint of the abbatial thumb, smeared with ink, the all-saintly-and-erudite ones being strangers to the arts of reading and writing. One Abbot in particular, who died about eight years ago, was unable so much as to say his prayers, but employed a sort of whipping-boy for the purpose. The Abbot sat in his chair, the boy stood beside him and spouted the prayers, and the Abbot's vicarious devoutness was universally pronounced to be edifying and satisfactory. His brother and successor, the present Abbot, is, however, a man of some culture, having once been a schoolmaster; he makes, moreover, a most excellent liqueur, so that he is in all respects a pillar of the Church. His only peculiarity is a failure to apprehend the functions of a mosquito-net. In winter, when there are no mosquitoes about, the holy man puts down his net and sleeps inside it for warmth; in the hot weather, when the mosquitoes begin to swarm, the net is removed.

If we find simplicity in signatures exemplified in the Abbot's thumb, so do we find the converse in the official signatures of Orthodox Patriarchs. These are indeed fearful and wonderful things, requiring close on half an hour to be completed; and when they are achieved I defy anybody to decipher their subtle and tortuous sinuosities. What they would become were Patriarchs to subscribe their full titles is indeed difficult to contemplate, for the titles of Patriarchs outrun in length and sonority those of the mightiest of kings. Thus, His Beatitude of Alexandria is known as "The Most Blessed and Holy Pope and Patriarch of the Great City Alexandria, and of all Egypt, Pentapolis, Libya, and Ethiopia; Father of Fathers, Pastor of Pastors, Archpriest of Archpriests, Thirteenth Apostle and Oecumenical Judge"; he of Antioch as "The Most Blessed and Holy Patriarch of the Divine City Antioch, Syria, Arabia, Cilicia, Iberia, Mesopotamia, and All the East, Father of Fathers and Pastor of Pastors"; while the Coptic Patriarch rejoices in the designation of "The Patriarch of Egypt, Jerusalem, the Holy City, Nubia, Abyssinia, the Five Western Cities and all the Preaching of St. Mark." The Oecumenical Patriarch goes one better. He is the only Eastern prelate entitled to be called "The Most Entirely Holy"; but this has not prevented the holders of that office from suffering, in the course of history, from a distressing absence of security of tenure. In a recently published catalogue of the Patriarchs of Constantinople[1] we find the following remarkable statistics. Of 328 vacancies between A.D. 36 and 1884:—

One hundred and forty were by deposition, forty-one by resignation, three Patriarchs were poisoned, two murdered, one beheaded, one blinded, one drowned, one hanged, one strangled; so that only 137 closed their term of office by a natural death. In the circumstances it is surprising to read that one Patriarch, Kallinikos III., died of joy on hearing of his election in 1726. The frequency with which deposition is resorted to is, in fact, the predominant characteristic of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. Many Patriarchs have had two, three, four, and five reigns; one, the celebrated Cyril Lucar, had as many as six. The result is that there are almost always a number of ex-Patriarchs of Constantinople languishing in exile, intriguing for their restoration and for the removal of their supplanters, and hoping for better times. Their usual resort is now some monastery of Mount Athos; in former times it was the island of Prinkipo, where their number was such that they found it necessary to build a large, commodious house, adorned with spacious gardens, for themselves and their successors; in other words, a residential club for deposed Oecumenical Patriarchs. But singular as have been the vicissitudes which have befallen Patriarchs, only one such prelate, I believe, has had the strange experience of being enrolled as a Janissary. The episode occurred in the latter half of the eighteenth century, in the reign of Sultan Ahmed IV., in the following circumstances:—

The Armenian Patriarch, who resided at Constantinople during the late war (*sc.*, with Russia), having created a suspicion, by some expressions in his sermons, that he was a Roman Catholic at heart, the Armenians complained to the Grand Vizier, and obtained an order to send him to the galleys; but the Patriarch, being apprized of his danger, immediately sent for a colonel of the Janissaries, to whom he made known his situation, and prayed to be enlisted into his company, which was accordingly done the same day, and he invited the colonel, with the rest of the officers of his regiment, to dine with him at his house the next day, which happened to be Sunday. He officiated as usual, and upon coming out of the church he found one party of Janissaries ready to conduct him to the galleys and another to protect him, but the former instantly retired upon hearing from the latter that the prelate was a *Yengi-cheri*, a new Janissary, and their officers joined the company at dinner, where they were all very merry at the expense of the Grand Vizier, whose order to arrest the Patriarch was the subject of ridicule.

In view of the fact that the higher clergy of Eastern churches are recruited almost exclusively from the ranks of the monks, there is a marked difference in many respects between the regular and the secular clergy. While a few persons may enter monasteries in order to retire from the world, the majority of the monks are eager and ambitious spirits, whose aim is precisely the reverse. But the village *papas*, who must be married, and is thereby deprived of the hope of promotion unless he should chance to become a widower, is a rude and unpretentious person, principally occupied in seeking to supplement his meagre pittance for the support of his numerous brood. No task, however menial, is beneath his dignity; indiscriminately he ploughs and preaches, celebrates the liturgy, and tills his field. In a village I know of the priest darns the linen which his wife, who is a laundress, washes; in another village, in the Cyprus mountains, I have seen a priest, with his ragged cassock tucked in his baggy blue breeches, and with his high black cap, working as a labourer in an asbestos mine. In his leisure hours the *papas* sits in the coffee shop with his fellow-villagers and smokes his hubble-bubble; he makes no claim to be treated with especial deference in virtue of his priestly office, either by his flock or by anyone else. It will, therefore, be readily understood that no resentment was evoked whenever the document which I quote below was received; it was the form for burial permits for Christians, issued by the Muftis in Turkey from 1695 to 1808:—

"You old priest of evil basis! Wearer of the tar-coloured garment, bearer of the mitre of Satan,[2] and deprived of access toi the Throne of Grace.

"It is reported that infidel ——, son of infidel ——, one of your abominable lot of disbelievers, has become *mürd*,[3] and although his abominable carcass is denied reception even by the soil, yet what remedy, what remedy, what remedy?[4]

"In order that the noxious stench of it should be done away with, you are to take the corpse outside the town, dig up a ditch, and then cast it thereinto, cover it up with earth, trample, beat it down, and come back, you old priest!"

(1) C. D. Cobham. "The Patriarchs of Constantinople." Cambridge, 1911

(2) *i.e.*, the cassock and priest's cap.

(3) *Mürd olmaq* is a contemptuous phrase in Turkish, meaning "to die," which is applied only to Christians. It corresponds more or less to the French word *crever*.

(4) *i.e.*, what remedy is there for the evil?

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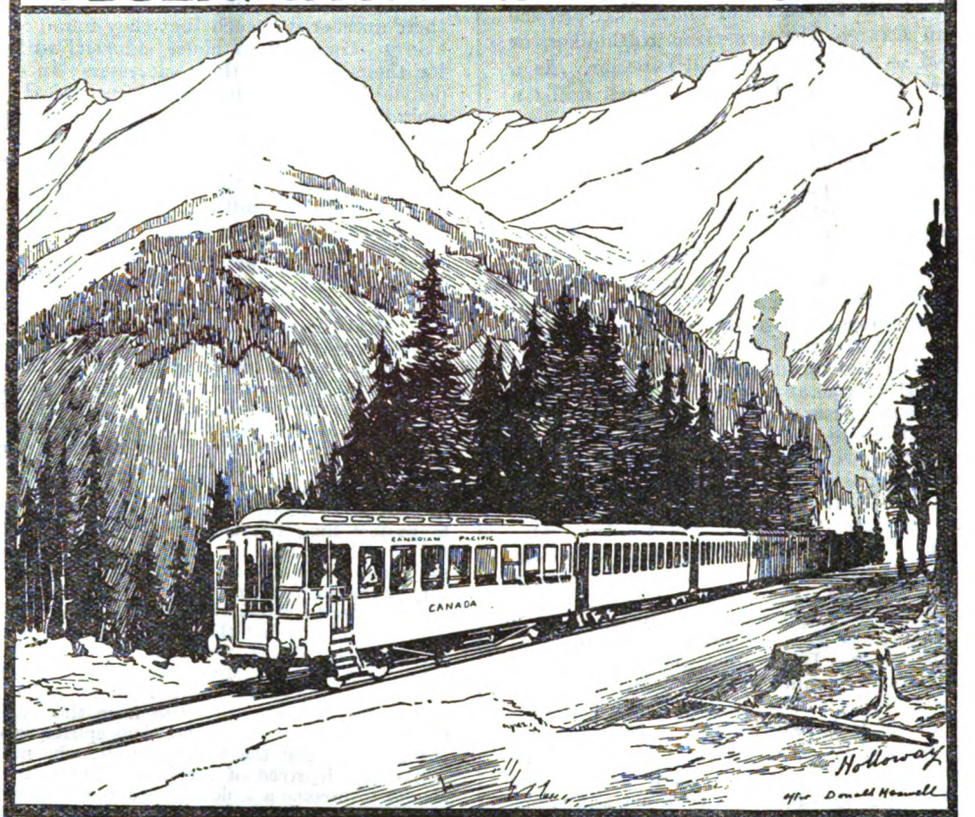

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Russian Encroachment in Persia.

We quote below from a vigorously phrased note on the Persian problem, which appears in *The Nation* (July 4):—

Persia has never had her chance, and that chance she will never have unless this Russian policy of encroachment is reversed. It has gone far, and the worst aspect of the case is that the Persians themselves have become demoralised. We have always thought that her national existence could have been saved before the expulsion of Mr. Shuster, if, instead of aiding and even proposing his dismissal, our diplomacy had been willing, at need, to check Russian aggression by some effective but pacific step, such as the stoppage of the streams of capital by which our finance is assisting Russia's internal development. For Russia, money is a necessity, and Persia is only a luxury. We should welcome even now a firmer tone and a strong effort to save Persian independence from the wreck. But this would mean a complete reversal, under British pressure, of a policy which Russia has steadily pursued for many years, and it would require a longer spoon than Downing Street has used for a decade.

The Dual Monarchy and Servia.

A leading article in *The Morning Post* (July 6), under the heading "Austria and Servia," discusses the bearing which the tragedy of Serajavo has on the relations of the Dual Monarchy and Servia. We quote below:—

It would be rash to pretend to know what the statesmen who surround the Emperor think. They are, at any rate, well aware that a policy of expansion would involve serious risks. It would arouse strong dislike in Russia, and, if the Russian Government were disposed to take action, would conjure up that European war which statesmen have everywhere made sacrifices to avoid. It would overthrow the whole of the recent settlement in the Balkans. It would hardly be found acceptable by Italy except upon terms which have been supposed to be most repugnant to Austro-Hungarian statesmen. For an advance of Austrian forces into Servia would hardly be watched in inaction by Italy, which would expect then to establish herself in part of Albania. Thus it might seem that an Austro-Hungarian attack upon Servia was an adventure fraught with great peril both to the Dual Monarchy and to the peace of Europe. The impression was that the Emperor refused to permit it on more than one recent occasion when troops were mobilised and great expense incurred, and that Count Berchtold thought it contrary to the best interests of the Monarchy. On these previous occasions there were in the Press of Vienna and Budapest violent articles directed against Servia, and the infamous Agram trial was regarded as an attempt to create a case against Servia in the event of a war against that country being undertaken. The charges now made against Servia suggest that there is to be a repetition of the attempt to bring on the war that has been, as it seemed wisely, postponed. It is to be hoped that this interpretation of symptoms will not be justified by events.

Goldsmiths of Old Egypt.

In the course of an article ("The Power of the Past") which he contributes to *The Daily News* (July 3) Professor Flinders Petrie pays the following tribute to the goldsmiths of ancient Egypt:—

Now and again some striking example comes to light of the marvellous work that has been done thousands of years ago, and compels us to see how the taste to devise and the ability to execute has been quite as good in those remote times as it has ever been since. The jewellery which London is now admiring at University College shows that 5,000 years ago the art of the goldsmith was as delicate and as perfect as it has been at any later time. The gold is joined with a minuteness and finish which cannot be exceeded; the art of gold-soldering was already perfect, and it had been perfect even 2,000 years earlier, at the very beginning of all written history. The smooth fitting of long sliders proves how true and precise was the construction and how clean the handling of the work. The cutting of hundreds of minute pieces of inlay of hard stones needed the greatest skill; so small are they that they can only be handled now by lifting them clinging to a wetted needle. The drilling of long thread-holes through hard cornelian and other stone beads requires long patience and care; rarely is a crooked hole found. Another art, which is usually credited to a much later age, was also fully known—that of making patterns by minute globules of gold soldered on a plate. So delicate were these that eighty tiny pellets go to a single inch, yet they were attached with faultless regularity to form a design. A modern master goldsmith could not say how this could have been done on a cylindrical surface.

An Armenian Original.

"Evelyn Westwood" contributes to *The Morning Post* an amusing character sketch, under the heading "Krikor's Progress," which purports to be the veracious and eventful history of "my servant Krikor," an Armenian peasant. Being, "one fine day, convinced of the limitations of the village of Divrik in the Vilayet of Sivas as a sphere for his budding activities, and fired, no doubt, by the natural desire of youth to see something of the world, he set out and proceeded to Chamurkeuy." His sojourn there was rudely disturbed by the "Chamurkeuy massacres of evil memory" from which he barely escaped with his life. Unhappily:—

Grand Cairo had a demoralising effect. Evil ways were learnt from Berberine fellow-servants, and, feeling his booted feet at last on soil free from the dominion of the Terrible Turk, he relaxed much of his mediæval subservience. He began by abandoning the picturesque practice of retreating backwards from my presence, increased my misgiving by having the audacity to suggest a rise in wages, and put the culminating touch to his iniquities in the unthinkable shape of a cap—a greasy, shabby, disreputable English cap of the coster persuasion—in which I surprised him parading offensively in the Opera Square at the third hour of the day. We have now happily emerged from the contaminating atmosphere of Cairo, and Krikor, his wild oats duly sown, has resumed the hated fez, and settled down into the semblance of a semi-respectable—though always seedy-looking—member of society. Wars and rumours of wars divert his thoughts from the village of Divrik, and an educational visit to the Cinema Pathé, where Red Indians, in all their blood-curdling reality, were displayed for the first time before his dazzled eyes, has for the present driven from his head all idea of seeking fortune in a continent inhabited by beings ten times more unspeakable than mere Bashi-Bazouks.

In spite of his seedy appearance, his ignorance of the uses of soap, his horde of unpleasant relations, and his lack of the "European conception of a moral sense," Krikor has his good points as a gentleman's body-servant:—

Krikor is typical of his race. He is willing and industrious, absolutely noiseless in his movements (on account of his rooted objection to the boot habit), never utters a complaint, and—except in the matter of hard cash—strictly moderate in his appetites. With other primitive uses he has long discarded that of the old stocking, and now banks with the Crédit Foncier. He keeps his old mother and at least one sister-in-law in the Back-of-Beyond, has emigrated three kinsmen to America, and will doubtless die the possessor of a row of villa residences in the suburbs of Divrik. Some day, I suppose, he will realise that Red Indians are a fast dying race, only good for frightening naughty Armenians at cinematograph shows, and, fortified with pickings from my language and wardrobe, set his sails for one or other of the two continents which he has not yet visited.

"Spanish Jews in Turkey."

The Times' Spanish Supplement (June 29) contained a very interesting article on "Spanish Jews in Turkey," by Mr. S. P. Cockerell. Thousands of the Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492 by Ferdinand and Isabella, found refuge within the Turkish Empire—in Constantinople, Salonika, Cairo, and Barbary. As to those who found their way to Constantinople:—

They were given settlements on the Golden Horn, at Hasskeui, and Balat, and there the great Jewish colonies of Constantinople are still established. At Hasskeui there are to be found to-day 20,000 Spanish Jews still clinging to their religion and to the language which their forefathers brought along with them from Spain. There are no buildings of antiquity or historical interest in Hasskeui, except the Synagogue de la Señora, which some attribute to Doña Gracia Mendez—that great Jewish Señora from Spain, whose nephew, Don Joseph Nasi, was to rise to be Duke of Naxos under the Sultan Selim I. The main street, if such it can be called, is full of booths and crowded with men; few women are to be seen. Fruits of all kinds, melons, pomegranates, tomatoes, pistachios, and apples mingle their colour in the bright scene of red fezzes, mellowed tatters, and the gilding of the Eastern sun, and the baker tempts the passer-by with "roscas" and "buñuelos" piled up on trays outside his shop. There are 20,000 Jews, too, in the district of Balat, and another 30,000 are scattered in the districts of Kuskundjuk, Haidar Pasha, and Kuru Cheshme, which are included in the wide area known as Constantinople.

There are also 90,000 Jews at Salonika, the most interesting of whom are the Moslem Jews or Dunmehs. There are three sects, of whom the writer says:—

These three curious sects are mistrusted by true Musulman and true Jew alike, because to the former they appear only half Musulman, and the latter only half Jew. They have nevertheless survived, and the "Dunmehs" still number 10,000 souls, of whom 6,000 reside in Salonika. They reckon among their number Djavid Bey, the present Turkish Minister of Finance. They live beneath a shroud of mystery. Though in the seclusion of their homes they may still talk Spanish, in public they feign not to understand it; though they preserve their Spanish family names, they hide them; their women veil, their windows are latticed; they sometimes go to the Mosque, and are indeed officially regarded as Musulmans.

Articles to Note.

"The Blow at Austria," in *The Nation* (July 4).

"Foreign Politics and Affairs in Persia," in *The Economist* (July 4).

"Catholic Victims in Albania," by Elizabeth Chonstitch, in *The Tablet* (July 4).

"The Women of Egypt," by E. Almaz Stout, in *The Daily Chronicle* (July 7).

"Through Greek Eyes: Interview with Greek Premier," in *The Financial Times* (July 8).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. July.	1914. June.		1332. Shaban	5674 Tamuz
10	27	Friday	16	16
11	28	Saturday.....	17	17
12	29	Sunday	18	18
13	30	Monday	19	19
	July.			
14	1	Tuesday	20	20
15	2	Wednesday	21	21
16	3	Thursday	22	22

To-day, Shaban 16, is the birthday of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid.

Sunday is the birthday of his Majesty the King of Servia.

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince John.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Adalbert of Prussia, nephew of the Queen of the Hellenes.

Monday is the birthday of Princess Louise of Battenburg, sister of Princess Andrew of Greece.

To-day is the birthday of H.H. Princess Aminah Hanum, the eldest daughter of the Khedive.

Monday, Shaban 19, will be the anniversary of a triple wedding in the Ottoman Imperial Family. On that day in 1306 (April 20, 1889), T.I.H. Zekie Sultana, daughter of the then Sultan Abdul Hamid, Saliha Sultana and Nazime Sultana, sisters of the Heir Apparent, were married respectively to Damad Nur-ed-Din Pasha, Damad Ahmed Pasha, and Damad Khalid Pasha, son of Marshal Dervish Pasha.

Tuesday will be the anniversary of the reception of H.H. the Duchess Jutta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz into the Orthodox Church in 1899, just before her marriage under her new name of Militza to the Crown Prince of Montenegro.

Wednesday will be the anniversary of the wedding of H.R.H. Princess Beatrice of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, sister of the Crown Princess of Roumania, to H.R.H. the Infante Alfonso d'Orleans of Spain.

Sir Louis Mallet, H.B.M. Ambassador to the Porte, celebrates his birthday to-day.

H.M. the Queen of the Hellenes, accompanied by T.R.H. Princess Eirene and Prince Christopher of Greece, honoured H.E. the Hellenic Minister and Madame Gennadius with their presence at luncheon at the Hellenic Legation on Monday. Some prominent members of the Greek community had the honour of being presented to her Majesty and of remaining to luncheon. Mlle. Contostavmos and M. Theotokis were in attendance.

Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse, with her sons, Princes Wolfgang, Philipp, Richard, and Christoph, left Cronberg, in the Taunus, on Monday for Eastbourne. Her Royal Highness is the sister of the Queen of the Hellenes, and will return to Germany with her Majesty at the end of the month.

H.M. the Dowager Queen Olga of the Hellenes will probably remain in London as the guest of H.M. Queen Alexandra until about the end of this month.

According to the Constantinople Correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, H.I.H. Yussuf-Izz-ed-Din Effendi, heir-apparent of the Sultan, has accepted the invitation of the Emperor William, conveyed in an autograph letter, to witness the forthcoming manœuvres of the German army.

A Memorial Service for the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the Duchess of Hohenberg was held last Friday morning at the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Westminster. Prince Arthur of Connaught attended on behalf of the King, and Queen Alexandra was represented by Earl Howe. The Turkish Ambassador, the Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius, the Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Parkington, the Prime Minister and Sir Edward Grey were amongst those present.

The latest reports concerning the health of H.M. King Peter state that the "cure" which he is taking at Vraniska, has been so beneficial that he has already got rid of his rheumatism and is able now to go for long walks in the mountains.

The report that Dr. Chvostek, the Austrian specialist, had been summoned to Servia to attend King Peter has been semi-officially denied in Belgrade. Dr. Chvostek, it is added, has gone to Belgrade for purely personal reasons.

Prince Calodinovitch, of Roumania, is now staying in London.

Earl Kitchener was amongst the guests entertained at dinner last Friday night by Lord and Lady Charles Beresford at 1, Great Cumberland Place.

Sir Reginald Wingate, who left Karlsbad on the 4th inst. for town, is leaving London to-day for Knockenhair, Dunbar.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (June 26):—His Excellency the High Commissioner and Lady Goold Adams leave to-day for a three days' camping tour in the Pitsillia on their way up to Mount Troodos.

Our Port Said Correspondent writes (June 25):—Mr. Milne Cheetham, C.M.G., Councillor at the British Agency in Cairo, arrived at Port Said on Tuesday by the P. and O. s.s. "Egypt," and proceeded to Cairo. Mr. Cheetham is acting as Minister Plenipotentiary and Agent during Earl Kitchener's absence.

Admiral Robinson, Director-General of the Egyptian Ports and Lights' Administration, left Egypt for Europe on Friday last on two and a-half months' leave of absence.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald left Port Said last week by the P. and O. steamer.

Sir Joseph Saba Pasha has left Egypt for Carlsbad.

Mr. Walter Bond, vice-president of the Native Court of Appeal, left Cairo last week en route for Europe.

Sir William Garstin was amongst the guests entertained at dinner by the Right Hon. the Speaker and Mrs. Lowther at the Speaker's House last Friday night.

Lord Colum Crichton Stuart and Dr. Scott Moncrieff were among the passengers from Alexandria in the ss. "Karnak," which arrived at Marseilles on the 1st inst.

Dr. Douglas Dunlop, LL.D., Adviser to the Ministry of Education, Cairo, has arrived at Oban, N.B.

Writing on June 28, our Haifa Correspondent says:—Dr. Donald A. Coles, Director and Medical Officer of the Jerusalem and the East Mission in Haifa, Palestine, accompanied by Mrs. Coles and other members of the Mission Staff, leaves for England to-day, on the s.s. "Prince Abbas," for the summer.

Monsignor Stanley, Bishop of Emmaus, has arrived in London from Rome.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the Anglican and Foreign Church Society, held at the Church House, Westminster, on Monday afternoon, the Bishop of Gloucester referred to the retirement of the Bishop in Jerusalem (Dr. Blyth), and said that it was very largely owing to his wisdom, tact, and judgment that the Anglican Communion held the place it did in Palestine and the East.

Turkhan Pasha, the Albanian Premier, arrived at St. Petersburg from Vienna yesterday.

Essad Pasha arrived in Paris on Monday from Italy.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (July 5):—Mr. Mélot, the Belgian Minister in Athens, will go on leave on the 7th inst.

Fuad Sultan Bey has arrived at the Hotel Metropole from Cairo.

Skander Pasha Fehmy has arrived in London.

Lady Roper Parkington, the wife of Sir John Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, gave a reception at Claridge's Hotel on Tuesday night. Amongst the guests were H.E. the Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius, Sir John and Lady Bland-Sutton, and Sir Edward and Lady Boyle.

The annual meeting of the Balkan Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 15, at 2.45 p.m., in the Conference Hall of the Central Buildings, Westminster. The chair will be taken by Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and the meeting will be addressed by the

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Right Hon. Viscount Bryce, Mr. J. D. Bourchier, Sir Arthur J. Evans, Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., and others.

Mrs. Peter Ralli gave a dance on Wednesday night at 11, Hyde Park Gardens for her daughter, Miss Alexandra Ralli. Among the guests were H.E. the Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius, Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli, and Lady Inchcape.

Baron de Ward, of Constantinople, has recently arrived in London.

Jean Tueni Bey, the newly-appointed First Secretary to the Turkish Embassy, has arrived in London, and entered upon his duties this week.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 5):—Next Thursday, Mr. M. G. Ristitch, the Servian Minister in Bucharest and the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, who has been appointed to another post, will be received in farewell audience by King Carol. Mr. Bratianu, the Prime Minister, will leave in a few days for a "cure" at Reichenhalle. Mr. Take Jonescu, the leader of the Democratic Conservative Party, will leave on Wednesday for London, and later will go to Aix-les-Bains.

Dr. Denison Ross, C.I.E., lately Officer-in-Charge of Records of the Government of India, has joined the staff of the British Museum as Keeper of the Stein collection of Central Asian Antiquities.

Captain W. V. Cole, who has been promoted to that rank in the retired list, was a sub-lieutenant of the "Monarch" during the Egyptian War of 1882, receiving the medal and star for his services.

The Egyptian Mail reports that the employees of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank in Cairo have decided to make a presentation to Mr. Cookson, the retiring manager, who is leaving after a long career in the service of the bank.

M. Jules Vedrines, the famous airman, whose recent visit to Cairo created a good deal of stir, is expected to return to Egypt shortly.

The Rev. Edward B. Haskell, D.D., and family have moved from Salonika to Philippopolis, and their address henceforth is American Mission, Sahat Tope, Philippopolis, Bulgaria.

The Orient reports that Dr. Edward P. Case, of Erzeroum, had a narrow escape from serious injury on June 8. On his return from the house of a patient, he was violently thrown from his horse, and suffered a severe concussion of the brain and a scalp wound reaching the bone and requiring four stitches. Fortunately no bones were broken, and he made a rapid recovery after a day in bed.

The marriage took place on July 4 at Christ Church, Hampstead, of Mr. Ernest Gabriel Lomas, H.B.M. Vice-Consul, Rabat, Morocco, and Miss Emily Violet Fernau, daughter of the late Mr. George Fernau, of Heathside, Hampstead. Mr. Lomas was Acting Vice-Consul at Constantinople in 1905.

The marriage arranged between Captain Leonard Kirke Smith, D.S.O., the Royal Scots, attached to the Egyptian Army, fifth son of Mr. Francis P. Smith, of Barnes Hall, Grenoside, Sheffield, and Miss Vera Hicks, only child of the late Captain and Mrs. C. H. Hicks, will take place at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on Tuesday, July 14.

The death took place in the Frimley District Cottage Hospital, near Camberley, last Saturday night, of Rear-Admiral Edward Percy Ashe, of Longwood House, Camberley, owing to severe injuries incurred in a motoring accident. Admiral Ashe served on the "Thalia" in the Egyptian War of 1882, being rewarded with the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star.

The Cairo Correspondent of *The Times* telegraphed on July 6 that Dr. R. W. J. Pearson, acting director of the Abbassia Asylum, was found shot on the previous night. It is suspected that his death was due to an accident.

General Sir Laurence James Oliphant, who died at his residence in London on Monday night, aged sixty-eight, served through the Egyptian War in 1885.

A matinée in aid of the Greek refugees took place on Thursday afternoon last week in the Queen's Theatre before a full house. The amount received for the fund was over £1,000, of which £500 was sent as a special donation by H.M. Queen Sophia of the Hellenes. Among those present were H.E. the Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius, H.E. the Servian Minister, H.E. the Roumanian Minister, the Hellenic Consul-General and Mme. Stavridi, M. A. Rizo-Rhangabé (First Secretary of the Hellenic Legation), M. Georgevitch (Secretary of the Servian Legation), the Montenegrin Consul-General, and Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli. The programme included performances in Greek, French, and English. Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Miriam Lewes presented the melodramatic sketch "The Mask"; Mlle. Régina Flory appeared as a singer for the first time in England; Miss Marie Tempest sang French songs; Miss Lena Ashwell recited; Mr. Hayden Coffin sang; and other performers included Miss Phyllis Bedells, Mr. Ben Webster, Miss Helen Mar, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, and Mlle. Marie de Nys.

The Exhibition of water-colours by Mr. Benton Fletcher of "Egypt and its Temples," which is being held under the auspices of the Fine Art Society, at 148, New Bond Street, will remain open till July 14.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (July 1):—Yesterday Mr. Passarof, the newly-appointed Bulgarian Minister in Athens, arrived here, and to-day Mr. Naoum, the newly-appointed Hellenic Minister in Sofia, left for the Bulgarian capital. Mr. A. Schliemann, hitherto deputy to the Hellenic Parliament, has been nominated Hellenic Minister in Washington, and has left for Paris. Within a fortnight he will take up his new duties. Mr. Th. Ristitch, Secretary of the Servian Legation in Athens, has been transferred in a like capacity to Constantinople.

President Wilson has cabled his acceptance of Mr. Williams's resignation of his post as United States Minister to Greece.

During the absence of Mr. Ronald Graham, Morice Pasha, Director-General of Public Security, is acting as Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior.

Our Cyprus Correspondent informs us that Major W. N. Bolton, Commissioner of Limassol, has been appointed to act as Chief Secretary; Mr. E. F. Lucie Smith as Acting Commissioner, Nicosia; Captain A. Gallagher as Acting Chief Commandant of Police; Major G. C. Bayly, Commissioner, Paphos, as Acting Commissioner, Limassol; and Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Local Commandant of Police, Paphos, as Acting Commissioner in that district.

The Egyptian Gazette states that according to information received from Athens, Mr. Sachtouris, the Hellenic Consul-General at Alexandria, has been offered the post of Secretary to the Hellenic Embassy in Vienna.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 9d. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

MARRIAGE.

HARRIS—COCKE.—On June 6, at St. George's Church, Penang, Henry Gladstone, eldest son of Henry Alexander Harris, late of Constantza, Roumania, and Hester Mary, eldest daughter of the late Edmund William Cocke, Ealing, London.

DEATH.

HOBART.—On July 1, at Kassala, E. Sudan, Captain G. B. Hobart, York and Lancaster Regiment, attached to Egyptian Army, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel G. Hobart, late R.M.L.I.

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FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1914.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND SERVIA.

A fresh cloud has risen over the Balkans, raised by the pistol-shots which brought to a tragic end the lives of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his Consort. It was inevitable that the Serajevo crime should have stirred the people of Austria-Hungary to the extremes of indignation; inevitable too that, as the murder was committed by a Serb, such indignation should find vent in wholesale allegations against Servia. Relations between the two countries have never been cordial, and Servian successes as the result of two Balkan Wars have only helped to embitter them. Austria-Hungary has not yet become reconciled to the existence of a Greater Servia, which seems to interpose a still more formidable barrier in the way of the realization of the Austro-Hungarian desire for a port on the Ægean Sea. The Servians on their part, smarting under the recollection of many past grievances, have not been loth to emphasise the significance of the improvement in their national fortunes. Accordingly, when it became known that the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was the work of an organized conspiracy, it was natural to suppose that the plot had been hatched outside Bosnia. Conjectures and suspicions are easily converted into categorical assertions when public feeling is aroused, and long before any facts regarding the Serajevo crime could be elucidated, a section of the Austrian Press seems to have decided that the honour of the Dual Monarchy could only be vindicated by a declaration of war against Servia. While the danger of any further tension in the relations between the two States has to be admitted, we need not take these Press recriminations too seriously. The thoroughness of the arrangements for the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand point to a carefully elaborated conspiracy, and it may well be that its headquarters were in Belgrade or in some other town of Servia. This circumstance *per se* would not imply Servian complicity. Plots against the life of a Tsar have too often been hatched outside Russia without the connivance of the country where the conspirators have foregathered. If certain Serb subjects of the Dual Monarchy wanted to discuss their dastardly plans with a greater sense of security than might have been possible in Bosnia itself, they would not unnaturally betake themselves to Servia. The success of their machinations does not necessarily imply remissness on the part of the Servian authorities, still less any sympathy with the foul plot. Somewhat tardily the Austro-Hungarian Government seems to have impressed this view upon its bellicose Press, and reminds it in a semi-official communication that no concrete proofs have yet fixed upon Servia guilt or complicity in the Serajevo crime.

It is right that the origin and details of the plot should be probed to the bottom. Far too grave a blow has been dealt to the monarchy, and the possibility of too serious an anti-dynastic movement has been revealed to justify half-measures. We can hardly suppose that the Servian Government will not lend all the aid in its power to enable the truth to be learned; but it may well resent the reckless insinuations of which the Austro-Hungarian Press has been guilty before even an investigation into the origin of the conspiracy could be instituted. Servia will also feel aggrieved by the demonstrations and excesses that have disturbed the public order in various parts of Austria-Hungary. Orthodox Serbs have in every case been the victims or objects of popular opprobrium; but there is no indication that the Austro-Hungarian authorities have not done all within their power to check these outbreaks and to keep the peace. The fact that chief among the rioters have been Catholic and Moslem Serbs must give the Servian Government "furiously to think." The Balkans would not be the Balkans if every country did not see visions or dream dreams of the glorious revival of an empire that was once its own. But memories of Dushan must begin to grow dim once more when the murder of the heir to the Hapsburg throne can fling the Serbs at one another's throats. Both the interests of Servia and those of the Serbs under Austro-Hungarian jurisdiction will be better served by evidence to the effect that the Serajevo crime was the work of a small band of malcontents. If the principle of *cui prodest?* be applied, it will be difficult to find any considerable community that could hope to benefit from the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. We may, therefore, hope that the result of the investigations now being carried out will be to vindicate Servian innocence and to reassure the people of Austria-Hungary who have been so sorely tried in the misfortunes that have befallen their dynasty. Such a result will not only dissipate the small cloud which has appeared over the Balkans, but will also remove a danger to the peace of Europe as a whole. The recent upheaval in the Balkans has made Russia and Austria-Hungary more than ever watchful of one another's movements; and the latter country must be well aware that the mention of war with Servia, even though it be made only in an irresponsible Press campaign, must just now cause Russia to prick up her ears.

The course to be adopted by the Servian Government so long as its policy continues to be directed by the wise statesmanship of Mr. Pashitch is clear. Any inclination to resentment at the unjust attitude of the Austro-Hungarian Press will be suppressed, and the Government of the Dual Monarchy will be met half-way in its natural desire to sift the conspiracy to the bottom. No civilised Government has any interest in simplifying political assassination or in preventing the conspirators from being brought to justice. Above all, the Servian Government at the present time has a strong interest in maintaining correct relations with its powerful neighbour. The temporary abdication by King Peter of his sovereign rights during his stay at a Servian watering-place, the difficulties that have arisen between the civil and military authorities, the political crisis which has led to the dissolution of the Skupshtina—all these circumstances must prompt the Servian Government to exercise its best endeavours to prevent complications in the foreign relations of the country. Servia does not stand alone among the Balkan States in wishing to avoid war except for a very serious cause. If her alliance with Greece against Turkey imposes any corresponding obligations upon the Greek Government in the event of Servia being engaged in war, Greece's influence must also necessarily be on the side of peace. It is significant of the explosive material still to be found in the Near East how lightly the thoughts of the different peoples turn to war in spite of their severe experiences during the last two years. But between the rattling of the sabre and the deliberate declaration of war we believe a wide gulf will generally be found to have been fixed. It remains the duty of Europe as a whole to see in each case that this gulf is not bridged.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	July 9..	97⅛—¼ p.t.
Athens	July 6..	25·16 drs.
Bucharest	July 9..	25·50—25·58½ lei.
Constantinople ..	July 9..	109⅜—½ pi.
Sofia	July 6..	27·12—27·20 leva.
Teheran	July 8..	55·85 krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We publish to-day, as a part of our usual issue, a supplement dealing with the commerce and financial resources of Servia. Next week we hope to publish a similar supplement dealing with Bulgaria, and the week after one dealing with Roumania. Month by month we hope thus to be able to set before our readers in an up-to-date form the progress and commercial possibilities of these vigorous young States which, the horrors of war now overpast, are able to turn their attention to the development of their natural resources. In the introductory article which we publish on Servia from the able pen of Mr. Percy F. Martin, it will be seen that the openings for British capital in that country are almost unlimited, and it is the same throughout the Balkan Peninsula. We hope that by this monthly survey of the Balkan States some assistance may be rendered to our readers who wish for information, and that the importance of the Near East as a market for British goods may be more fully recognized.

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The new Greek ministry, the Ministry of Communications, is to commence work next week, I understand. Mr. Diamantidis, Greek technical delegate on the Paris Conference, is to be at the head of the new department, and his extensive acquaintance with railways and their workings should certainly qualify him to make a success of the undertaking. Now that Greece is extending her railways, and is shortly to be linked up with the European system, the post will be no sinecure; but the opportunities of doing good service will be numerous, and Mr. Diamantidis is to be congratulated on his appointment.

***

Roumania, as I mentioned in these notes last week, has opened a Travel Bureau in London. Now a correspondent writes that the Greek Government intends to found at once a "Society for Foreigners," to be known as the "Hetairia ton philoxenon." This Tourists' Bureau is to receive a subvention from the Government of £200 a year, and will be under the direct patronage of the Royal family. Chief among the aims of the Bureau is to improve existing hotels and to erect new ones on the best modern principles. Those who have visited Greece will fully appreciate and applaud this last-mentioned object. Except in the larger towns the "hotels" of Greece can only be compared to the equally unpleasant "hotels" of Spain. Whether tourists will appreciate being met at stations and personally conducted "à la Cook" is another matter; but, in any case, we wish the "Hetairia ton philoxenon" success and congratulate the Greek Government on its enterprise.

***

Lord Charles Beresford once said that building battleships was cheaper than making war, and the Greek authorities must have had this maxim in mind when they purchased the two American battleships, the "Idaho" and the "Mississippi." At the same time, viewed from a purely business standpoint, the price paid seems to have been excessive. The two vessels were completed in 1908, so that they are both more or less out of date; their estimated cost, complete, was £900,000 to £1,000,000. It is stated that Greece has paid to the Navy Department at Washington no less a sum than £2,500,000. Compared with the cost of a fresh war, however, this sum is a mere drop in the bucket, and Mr. Venizelos must be congratulated on his bold policy of thus insuring against war, even if the premium is a heavy one.

***

The June issue of *The Quarterly Trade Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States has now reached me; and I am glad to learn from an editorial note that there is a good prospect of this most useful publication being converted into a monthly in the near future. This is the more satisfactory because the prospect is admittedly due to the support accorded to the *Journal* by its advertisers; which seems to indicate that the British merchant and manufacturer who is out to do business in the Near East is beginning to realise the importance of advertising. Another point on which I congratulate the *Journal* is the fact that it is now printed in London, with the result that its general appearance is greatly improved.

***

The *Journal* is full of good things that I should like to quote, but for the time being I must content myself with a reference to two points touched upon by the Chamber's Athens representative. He reports that "recently an order for 50,000 complete uniforms with overcoats was placed with a well-known British agency at Athens, but the clothing 'ring' in England made the order impossible of execution in that country owing to the artificial inflation of prices. Consequently the order was withdrawn and public tenders were invited, with the result that the business went to an Austrian firm at a price at which it will be almost impossible to fulfil the specification as to quality of material." This paragraph obviously affords food for reflection to the British clothing contractor; and it seems to me that it no less obviously contains a hint which the Athens Ministry of War would do well to take. The Chamber's representative states that since the French Quartermaster-General and his assistants have been replaced by Greek officers, "Germany and Austria are coming to the front, and *cheapness will be the first consideration.*" The italics, which are mine, convey, I fear, a pitiful truth.

***

The second point to which I refer, shows, however, that our countrymen are not going to be driven off the field without a struggle. One British firm "has just secured a good order for saddlery," and another "is well in the running for a supply of motor lorries for the Ministry of War." The last-mentioned firm, by the way, appears to have shown enterprise of an altogether unusual description as far as British houses are concerned. It had a lorry specially constructed to meet the Greek specification, and sent it out, accompanied by an experienced man, to its Athens agents. This is distinctly refreshing, especially having regard to the gloomy views expressed on the subject by the writer of the article "Automobilism in Greece," which appeared in our Engineering Supplement recently; and the firm in question undoubtedly deserves all the luck it looks like getting.

***

An indisputable proof of the great natural resources of the Balkan States is the rapid advances commercially which they have made since the beginning of this century. The case of Roumania is remarkable. The total exports from that country, which in 1899 were valued at less than £6,000,000, had increased to more than £24,000,000 in 1910, that is to say, they were more than quadrupled in eleven years. An outstanding feature of this rapid development is the growth of exports to Egypt. In 1899 this trade was insignificant. In 1913 the total imports into Egypt from Roumania, according to statistics of the Egyptian Customs, amounted to 28,291,861 frs. (£1,131,674). The chief articles of export are timber, flour and petroleum. Of the total imports of petroleum into Egypt 90 per cent. is from Roumania, the Roumanian product having replaced that of Russia and America, while Roumanian flour has driven from the field the French, Russian and Italian article.

***

The importance of the Roumanian flour-milling industry has often been referred to in the columns of The Near East. I see that Major Baldwin, H.M. Consul-General at Galatz, states in his report for 1913 that in Galatz and Braila alone the present output is 1,000 tons a day. According to the report, every year new mills are being built and old ones are increasing their capacity. From what I know of British millers I do not suppose they would relish the prospect of Roumanian competition. As things are there is little fear of that, for no regular line of ships running direct to London from Roumanian ports exists, and all flour destined for the United Kingdom has, therefore, to be transhipped at Antwerp or Rotterdam, with the consequence that freights are increased. But the British millers' poison is the British milling engineers' meat, and it is greatly to be hoped that the latter are alive to the opportunities which should offer themselves in Roumania for selling their machinery and plant and recommending their special "systems" to the Roumanian miller.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 4.

Great Britain's Trade with Turkey.

The Board of Trade has just issued the first volume of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries for the year 1913, compared with the four preceding years," containing details of the trade exchanges with different countries. Notwithstanding the decrease in the total exports from Great Britain to Turkey during the year 1913, compared with the two preceding years, a study of this publication, so far as the trade exchanges between the two countries are concerned, conveys some very interesting facts. The total increase in Great Britain's exports to Turkey during 1913 as compared with 1912 amounted to £370,000, and to over £1,700,000 as compared with the record year, 1911. The decreases in the enumerated exports during 1913 compared with 1912, as published in the monthly returns, were known to amount to £275,000 in cotton piece goods, to £150,000 in cotton yarns, and to £125,000 in woollen and worsted tissues. In the detailed returns just published there are naturally other articles which show decreases, and to these I may return at a later date. I wish at present, however, to call attention to quite a long list of exports, which for some years have shown a marked and steady upward tendency, and which, even under adverse conditions, not only again hold their own, but, in quite a number of cases, are actually in excess of the record year, 1911. The latter I have marked with an asterisk. I take the risk of again being charged with a fondness for statistical displays by some who are not averse from copying tables of figures, the separation of which from a volume of 700 pages has necessitated no small expenditure of time and labour. The values are given in pounds sterling:—

—	1909.	1911.	1913.
Apparel, waterproofed	13,257	13,599	16,270*
„ not waterproofed, men's and boys' clothing	5,609	22,170	19,185
„ other sorts	4,505	8,165	6,279
Arms, ammunition, percussion caps	3,904	2,985	4,317*
Bags and sacks	28,915	28,096	32,280*
Biscuits and cakes	21,607	31,986	40,634*
Blue	5,573	5,575	7,533*
Boots and shoes	15,145	61,048	54,229
„ „ „ of rubber	5,476	4,532	14,199*
Butter	938	1,131	1,846*
Coal, manufactured fuel	29,510	23,663	30,673*
Cocoa, preparations of, confectionery containing chocolate	4,592	6,150	6,441*
Cordage, total of	17,806	12,905	19,561*
Cotton yarn, grey	303,607	229,788	256,020*
Cotton piece goods—			
Bleached	1,041,891	1,346,872	1,263,034
Dyed in the piece	787,473	1,154,110	830,459
Cotton hosiery	2,832	4,427	4,983*
Cutlery	8,392	10,413	15,193*
Electrical goods and apparatus	4,470	16,640	58,377*
Hardware, hollow-ware, not enamelled	13,641	12,271	14,019*
Hardware, hollow-ware, of tinplate	13,239	14,621	16,209*
Jute manufactures, unenumerated	2,034	3,521	2,847
Leather manufactures, unenumerated	3,258	5,857	6,447*
Linen, piece goods	18,602	37,623	32,218
Machinery—			
Sewing machines, parts thereof	28,598	71,344	82,921*
Textile	27,533	31,009	42,758*
Electrical machinery, unenumerated	31,964	53,152	79,609*
Total of	193,248	375,274	322,914
Belting	6,753	11,441	9,241
Medicines, quinine	858	2,577	5,197*
„ unenumerated	13,625	17,938	20,135*
Metals—			
Wrought Iron, unenumerated	6,693	16,740	19,891*
Galvanised sheets	15,517	32,335	45,177*
Iron pipes and fittings	2,898	4,505	4,359
Bedsteads	31,194	50,918	35,522
Manufactures of steel	10,629	28,586	64,922*
Total of iron and steel	152,084	274,147	309,895*
Tin, manufactures, unwrought	49,138	46,430	54,013*
Oil, pure linseed oil	10,437	15,618	13,612
„ linseed, not pure	3,808	8,514	6,175
Oilcloth, for furniture covering	10,156	16,438	14,889
Painters' colours, unenumerated	15,730	20,278	21,078*
Painters' colours, total of	20,492	23,103	24,318*
Paper, cardboard	—	1,078	2,982*
Provisions, unenumerated	3,089	5,770	6,465*
Soap, household and laundry	15,808	18,634	30,398*
Soap, total of	18,070	22,263	35,412*
Spirits, perfumed in bond	2,031	2,395	2,738*
Sugar, refined and candy	142	8,651	8,292
„ confectionry., hard	5,570	9,127	12,658*
„ confectionry, soft	3,365	7,266	14,498
„ confectionery, containing no other ingrdints.	2,585	5,758	8,951*
„ total of confectionery, jams, etc.	17,914	31,656	40,056*
Wood, furniture	9,514	9,792	10,023*
Woollen and worsted yarn, total of	47,984	94,639	64,650
Woollen and worsted manufactures, woollen tissues	59,112	81,581	75,357
Woollen and worsted manfacturs., hosiery, other than stockings and socks	15,517	24,964	27,995*
Woollen and worsted manufactures, smallwares, unenumerated	13,119	19,253	17,780
Parcels post	34,621	45,997	48,701*
Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.			
Leather, dressed	6,540	9,493	19,172*
Coffee, raw	21,512	35,827	48,323*
Tea, total of	10,658	17,504	35,970*

Trade of Trebizond.

A Consular Report on the Trade and Commerce of the Vilayet of Trebizond for the year 1913, just published, states that local industries are of little importance, the making of silver filigree work in Trebizond and of linen cloth at Rizeh being the only two worthy of notice. There are also a number of small tanneries.

According to the statistical tables, to which undue importance must not, however, be attached, as they are compiled from private sources of information and are, therefore, only approximate, there was, as compared with the year 1912, a decrease of about £187,500 in the value of imports. It should be noted that the importation of food-stuffs is still a large one. In the value of exports there was an increase of about £129,500. A very large increase in the number of animals exported is chiefly responsible for this. As regards trade with the United Kingdom there were decreases of about £20,000 in imports and of £17,900 in exports. It is, however, almost certain that owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate information, especially in the case of articles imported in comparatively small quantities, the value of imports from the United Kingdom is understated.

The chief imports from the United Kingdom are cotton goods and yarns, woollen yarn, sewing cotton, copper, tin, drugs and chemicals, tinned fish and preserves, biscuits and confectionery, waxed cloth, bedsteads, safes, machinery, oils and paints. The United Kingdom has also a share in the importation of the following:—Spices, woollen goods, old clothes, canvas, galvanised iron pipes and sheets, iron and enamelware, starch, candles, and soap.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

COMMERCIAL & AGENCY CO. OF EGYPT, LTD., Alexandria & Cairo.

BULGARIAN BUDGET FOR 1914.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 5.

The Budget for 1914 was introduced into the Chamber on Friday by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Tontcheff. Expenditure is estimated at 251,340,499 frs. (£10,053,619), and revenue at 251,345,070 frs., showing an estimated surplus of 4,571 frs. The Army Estimates are put down at 52,972,503 frs. It is possible that the discussion of the new Budget will not have terminated by July 13 (June 30 O.S.), and the Finance Minister, therefore, asked the Chamber to grant a provisional credit for one month to cover expenditure during July (O.S.). The delay in the introduction of Budget was explained by the two General Elections and by the negotiations for the loan.

Mr. Tontcheff dwelt on the economic resources of Bulgaria which were chiefly agricultural. In the year 1911, before the Balkan Wars, 4,000,000 hectares were under cultivation, as against 3,000,000 hectares in 1907, and 2,000,000 hectares in 1905. In six years, therefore, the area under cultivation had doubled. Imports and exports, in particular of flour, showed large increases; bank deposits were steadily growing; the revenues of the State had almost doubled during the last ten years; and recent Budgets had shown a considerable surplus. All these signs, said Mr. Tontcheff, pointed to a peculiarly healthy state of the national finances.

Cost of the War.

The public debt now stood at 627 millions of francs, of which 600 millions had been incurred as a result of the wars. The revenue for the year was coming in well, the total received by the Exchequer for the first five months being 82 millions of francs. Bulgaria had suffered heavily by the loss of the Dobrudja, but it was hoped that the revenues from the newly acquired territories, where the tobacco in particular was of great value, would compensate for this loss.

GOLD IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 5.

It is often asserted that this country must be rich in minerals by reason of its position, but that hitherto its resources have not been worked owing to lack of initiative and capital.

As is well known, when the Romans first came to Dacia they were attracted by the gold brought from the Dacian rivers, which were regularly worked by the inhabitants, and from which large quantities of gold were obtained. Indeed, the legend of the Golden Fleece is said to have its origin in the then long and difficult voyage from Greece to the foot of the Carpathians. The origin of the Golden Fleece itself doubtless may be found in the fact that the gold was packed in sheep skins, which, after having been used a number of times, were burnt to obtain the gold dust remaining in the wool.

Several attempts have been made in modern times to work gold mines in Roumania, hitherto without much success. On the Hungarian side of the mountains, however, the mines yield a certain though modest profit. M. Gaillac, a French resident, who has occupied for some years an estate at Valea lui Stan, in the Valcea district, finding traces of gold on it, set about working the discovery systematically but quietly. The venture has been rewarded, for a rich vein has been struck, which appears to run for a long distance. Since the beginning of the work 40 kilos of gold have been obtained, and a few years ago M. Gaillac, at the command of King Carol, who had heard of the find, and was much interested was received in audience, when he presented to his Majesty a medal made from the first gold found.

M. Gaillac suggested that some 20 and 10 franc pieces, as well as "Salbe" (the coins worn by Roumanian peasant women to decorate their hair), should be struck from Roumanian gold to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the King's accession, which falls in 1916. The King readily gave his approval.

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The Situation in the Sudan.

Bernard Pasha's Report.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 30.

At the beginning of this month I was able to give you the final figures of the Sudan Account for 1913. These enabled a fair idea to be obtained of the financial and economic situation of that country. More definite information is now available from the report of the year's working written by Colonel Bernard Pasha, the Financial Secretary, who has so ably assisted Sir R. Wingate to administer the Sudan, and to bring it to its present condition. His views on the situation and the future outlook confirm the remarks which I made when I communicated the final figures for 1913.

Bernard Pasha points out that for the second year in succession the Sudan has suffered from a low flood and a poor rainy season. The flood of 1913 was, as is now known, one of the worst on record; and whilst in the provinces of Halfa, Berber, Khartoum, and the White Nile, much land on which crops were grown in normal years was left uncultivated, in Dongola none of the basin lands received any water at all. As concerns the rain-area, the fall in Kordofan, Kassala, and the more southerly provinces was good, but in Sennar and the Blue Nile, "the great grain producing lands of the Gezira," it was poor.

As a result it is to be feared that a loss in the number of oxen used for cultivation will ensue, whilst although an abundant harvest in Kordofan made up in a measure for the shortage in the north, the price of grain remained very high. It is not surprising to read that the prosperity of the population in the Gezira and the north has received a temporary set back, and that "in spite of a steady development of trade in the southern provinces, business has suffered from the general depression and from the feeling of unrest brought about by the war in the Balkans."

The Financial Secretary draws attention to the fact that the circulation of silver, which is an indicator of the state of trade, since it constitutes the greater part of the currency, has contracted. Whereas in 1911 and 1912, £E190,000 and £E170,000, respectively, had to be imported to move the crops, and the maximum Treasury balance in 1912 was £E215,000, in 1913 no outside assistance had to be obtained, and the Treasury balance attained £E330,000. But although primarily this decrease in circulation, despite the undoubted increase in the amount used in the southern provinces, is due to the unfavourable climatic conditions and to the diminished exports of gum—this commodity dropped by 4,500 tons last year and the price remained low owing to the large stocks still held in Europe—a secondary cause may, in Bernard Pasha's opinion, be found in the opening by the National Bank of Egypt of branches at El Obeid, the gum centre, and Wad Medani, the chief town of the grain producing district of the Gezira. "The introduction of credit transactions by these branches, and the use of gold, small notes and other forms of paper money must to some extent restrict the employment of silver." In this connection it is to be noted that the inhabitants in the less civilised regions are beginning to appreciate the use of money, and for their own produce and labour are now taking cash in preference to trade goods.

Trade Returns.

The trade returns show a slight reduction as compared with those of 1912—£E3,294,962 as against £E3,340,548. Imports rose from £E1,967,429 to £E2,109,776, food-stuffs and cotton-goods being mainly responsible for the increase. Exports, however, declined from £E1,373,119 to £E1,185,186, owing to the low price of gum and the smaller quantities exported. On the other hand cotton exports rose from £E139,185 to £E152,497, whilst those of cotton seed increased by £E5,278 to £E21,097.

This latter is a very welcome feature and it is interesting to note that in Kassala "there appears to be a growing interest in the cultivation of cotton," the crop being 7,000 cantars as compared with 6,000 cantars in 1911-12, and that the Tokar crop reached 36,454 cantars, a slight increase over that of the previous year. What is more to the point is that the quality was excellent, the two higher grades obtaining better prices than Egyptian f.o.f. Bernard Pasha writes that the experimental work carried on by the Government at Tokar has apparently instilled into the cultivators a desire to adopt better methods of cultivation. "The chief drawback to Tokar as an area for cotton growing is the element of uncertainty as to the direction which the flood will take, and the consequent impossibility of being assured that land . . . will continue to receive sufficient water to mature the crop." This last year the Khor Baraka, watered 53,000 feddans at Tokar, but a very large portion could not obtain sufficient for maturing the crop, which would otherwise have been much larger. Both at Tokar and Kassala the difficulty can only be overcome by the construction of irrigation works, and at the former point the question is now being studied by the Irrigation Department.

The Guaranteed Loan.

Referring to the Sudan Guaranteed Loan, the Financial Secretary makes the interesting statement, that £500,000 has already been raised and that a commencement has been made therewith with the construction of the Gezira irrigation works, and he takes the opportunity of aptly remarking that "the benefit which these works will be to the country could hardly be more strikingly demonstrated than at the present time, when the inhabitants of the fertile districts to be embraced in the scheme of irrigation are suffering so severely from a failure in the rains upon which in the past they have been entirely dependent for raising their means of subsistence."

Although, as the report says, the future, from a financial point of view, is not free from anxiety, and a continuation of the recent climatic conditions would bring about a situation of real difficulty, the fact that in a year like the past one the revenue was collected without difficulty, and that there was only £E30,000 of arrears at the close of the account, together with a study of the advance made in past years, point to the present being but a transitory set-back, so to speak, and justify a feeling of confidence and hope in the capacity of the Sudan to make even more marvellous progress than it has done in the past.

The Revenue.

Some interesting details are given in the section dealing with the revenues. The total area under cultivation in 1913 was 2,303,000 feddans, as against 1,937,000 feddans in 1912. Of this, 130,000 feddans were irrigated by artificial means from the river, 123,000 feddans by river flood and 2,050,000 feddans by rainfall. Whilst the two former areas do not differ very much from those similarly irrigated in 1911, the rain-irrigated area has increased by 40 per cent. in the two years and by 25 per cent. as compared with 1912. This explains, therefore, the great increase in the Ushur Tax.

A detailed table attached to the report shows that tribute was levied on 1,519,694 animals, and animal tax on 2,245,724 animals. Almost all these came under the category of livestock, and this indicates what an opening for export trade the Sudan possesses in this respect. Already no inconsiderable traffic is carried on with Egypt, and it is interesting to note that last year two consignments of live cattle were, for the first time, shipped from Port Sudan to Malta.

The Traders' Tax.

In the course of his report, Bernard Pasha gives some interesting details regarding the Traders' Tax, which was imposed last year, and which has aroused so much controversy in the Sudan. It was introduced because "in the past all direct taxation was borne by cultivators and owners of land and cattle, and the trading community as a class have contributed practically nothing to the Revenue in the way of direct taxation." Since the majority of native traders keep no proper books, it was not possible to get them to produce a proper trading account. It was, therefore, decided to divide traders into classes, according to their assessed annual profits, and to tax them on a sliding scale, which worked out, for profits under £E100 at 2 per cent. or less, profits between £E100 and £E300 at about 3 per cent., profits between £E300 and £E600 at about 4 per cent., and profits over £E600 at 4 per cent.

A Board consisting of not less than two Government officials, with two or more traders sitting as assessors, sits in each assessment area. Every trader is asked to make a declaration of profits for the period of assessment. If his declaration is accepted, the tax is assessed forthwith. If it is rejected, or if he prefers to make no declaration, the Board itself proceeds to assess his profits and to fix the tax payable accordingly. Traders have the right to appeal against the Board's assessment.

Exemptions for the purposes of assessment are allowed for agricultural profits, profits arising from a mining lease granted by Government, profits below £E24 per annum in amount, and rent derived from land or buildings.

During 1913, 7,288 traders were assessed and £E7,906 was collected from the tax; 3,573 traders with profits below £E24 per annum were exempted. Considerable leniency was exercised in applying the tax in view of the traders not being used to it.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 3.

Share Market.

Large sums of gold, which the close of the cotton season has set free, are still being shipped. During the last fortnight £450,000 has been exported to London. Leading securities, as, for instance, those of the Agricultural and National Banks, have been in small request. On the other hand there has been an active business done in the shares of the Building Lands Co., and the Cassa di Sconto. The value of the shares of the Cassa di Sconto is from 90 frs. to 100 frs. They are actually quoted at 49 frs., so that there is a considerable margin for a rise.

Greco-Egyptian Agreement.

The Greco-Egyptian Commercial Agreement is to be signed this week. The provisions do not differ to any great extent from the old treaty, and the modifications that have been made are, in the main, in favour of Greece.

Comptoir Belge Oriental.

This company has a capital of 1,000,000 frs., of which 625,000 frs. have been paid up. It is mainly concerned with the importation of chemical manures, metal goods, building materials, coal, etc. Agencies have been opened in the principal centres. Last year's trading showed a gross profit of 223,775 frs., and a dividend on the ordinary shares of 6 per cent. was declared.

L'Auxiliaire Immobiliere d'Egypte.

During 1913 this company showed a profit of 108,737 frs., of which 5,337 frs. was placed to reserve, and 101,400 frs. distributed in dividends to the preference shareholders, making a dividend of about 6 per cent. The company, which has a capital of 4,800,000 frs., was established to finance the development of the important property of the Société Centrale Immobilière du Caire.

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For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Alexandria. July 3.

The low Nile of 1913-14 has prevented the flooding of the high lands of Upper Egypt, and irrigation has had to be done by hand. As a consequence, nearly 400,000 feddans have remained out of cultivation. The production of corn, beans, lentils, and onions has shown a very large decrease. The cultivation of cotton and sugar-cane has not, however, suffered to any great extent from the lack of water. Although the onion crop for this year is only half that of last year, 420,000 cantars, as against 755,000 cantars in 1913, had been exported up to June 30. The rise in price—from 35 piastres per cantar in 1913 to 125 piastres—has largely compensated for the smaller output. This record price is due to the failure of the Spanish crop. Onions this year have yielded as much as £E100 per feddan.

Owing to the restrictions placed by Government on the rice growing, the acreage under cultivation this year has fallen to 35,000 feddans, compared with 200,000 feddans in 1913. The favourite varieties sown have been those known as "Fino," "Sultani" and "Ain el Bint." The Nile flood is expected to be early this year, and it is hoped that it will be possible to plant 100,000 feddans with Japanese rice about July 15. If the Irrigation Department forbids the sowing of rice until after this date, the variety known as "Sabeimi" will be sown. This variety ripens in 100 days after sowing, whereas Japanese rice takes four months, and the Egyptian varieties, "Fino" and "Ain el Bint," five months.

"Sabeimi," which has risen to 175 piastres the ardeb, has more than doubled in value, on account of the brisk demand for seed.

The following information is extracted from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Mosul. May 31.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for May:—

The optimistic reports concerning the cereal crops are confirmed day by day. It is generally agreed that the barley harvest will be from 25 to 30 per cent. in excess of last year's, and at the same time the wheat crop is estimated as 100 per cent. above that of 1913, regarded as a good year, in spite of the appearance of locusts.

In view of the excellent crop outlook, the prices of cereals, which had already dropped appreciably, maintain a reasonable level. With regard to the wool market, during the month a lively note has prevailed and prices have risen.

Balikesser. June 25.

The following are extracts from the report for the months of May and June:—

The lack of snow and frost has ruined the winter sowings of opium in a great part of our district, and the heavy rains, which last several weeks, have damaged the prospects of the spring sowings. The harvest, which is beginning, is poor, the yield being estimated at 300 coffers, against about 600 in 1913.

The reports concerning the crops of cereals and cotton are favourable, and the yield is said to be satisfactory.

The commercial outlook has been dull during the period. The cattle and corn markets have been weak. Imports have been paralysed by the boycott of the Christian element.

Busreh. June 13.

The market continues calm, in spite of the satisfactory character of the crop reports. This state of the market is due to the abstention of exporters of cereals from purchasing deliveries or making advances to farmers and holders of corn. This abstention has intensified the money stringency, and has put a check on business transactions. A recovery is not to be expected until the exportation to Europe of some score of thousands of tons of cereals has restored the economic equilibrium of the country. In view of the abundant harvest, it is expected that within two months from now that quantity will be drawn from our market before the shrinkage of the rivers in the interior.

Already, in consequence of the rise in the prices of barley on the European markets, export houses here have bought up all the available stocks, estimated at some 1,500 tons.

PERSIAN AND TURKISH PRODUCE.

In their June report, received this week, Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartleet report:—

Asphaltum.—Egyptian.—No change to note. Value nominally 70s. per cwt. Syrian character has been selling steadily full values. Gum Ammoniacum.—No demand for this gum at present. Values unchanged, but stocks have materially increased. Prices asked are 70s. for good pale free drop, 60s. for blocky, and 50s. for low seedy quality. Gum Assafoetida.—Market dull and inactive, no transactions of any kind. Stock consists mostly of low grades, stuff which is not wanted at present. Good pale free qualities might attract attention. Gum Arabic.—Egyptian.—This gum remains in a somewhat stationary position, without much business doing on this side. Crop news is bad according to advices received, and offers from the Sudan are sparse. The latest figures which have been quoted are about 37s. 6d. c.i.f. On the spot 40s. is asked. Persian Insoluble.—This market has been almost cleared of stock. For arrival we are sellers of new crop at 17s. c.i.f. for ordinary Bushire sorts. Gum Tragacanth.—This month business has been extremely quiet with no enthusiasm amongst buyers. From all quarters we hear the same dismal report that there is no trade, and all we can advise sellers to do is to be patient and wait their time for a better demand to spring up. Good white Bagdad descriptions are scarce and wanted. Gum Mastic.—Rather more inquiry, and some business has resulted both on the spot and to arrive. Value 2s. 6d. per lb. Galls.—Since our last sales have materially fallen off. Blues are scarce on the spot. We are buyers for arrival at 46s., but sellers are asking 48s. Greens are unsaleable, and can be bought very cheaply at 42s. 6d. per cwt. Whites are quiet, 40s. at 42s. 6d. being about spot value. Opium, "Soft Shipping."—As we have not yet received samples of the new crop from Constantinople and the old crop being practically exhausted, sales have been of a very retail character at 21s. for fine and good 18s. 6d. per lb. Persian.—Considerable business has taken place during the month, owing to the reason above stated, and if holders continue to accept present prices we can look for a continued demand. Prices to-day being:—Good to fine 17s. to 18s., second quality 16s. to 16s. 6d., and inferior 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., according to quality. Senna.—Alexandrian.—No change to report, consumers appear to be well supplied. Demand extremely slow. Pods have been sold at very full values. Scammony Root.—No change.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending June 26:—The sales this week on our market amount to 68 cases at 14s. to 16s. 6d. per lb. as to quality and crop. So long as this active demand continues we cannot give hopes of any decline, notwithstanding that it is now generally accepted that our crop will reach the high figure of 8,000 cases. A protracted absence of demand may bring down prices 10/15 pence lower, but should we have, for the world's consumption of Turkey opium, 9,000 cases, during 1914 and 1915, as it has been during the past twelve months, then a decline is not possible, for in that case we must expect very important weekly sales, which will maintain the position. The arrivals are 238 cases, against 258 at same date last year.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 9.

Sugar.

The Beet market has been quiet and more or less easier, but the decline in many cases has since been recovered, and with moderate business passing the market is closing steady for August 9s. 4d., October-December 9s. 5d., January-March 9s. 7d., May 9s. 9d., f.o.b. Hamburg Refined, English is rather quiet, only moderate trade passing at previous prices. Foreign, Refined, has been slow of sale, but prices remained fairly steady, July first marks, granulated, offered at 11s. 5½d., August, 11s. 6d., October-December 11s. 5½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Say's cubes July 14s. 10½d., loaves 14s. f.o.b. Paris, German and Austrian cubes prompt 13s. 5½d. to 13s. 9d.; Crushed 13s. 3d. f.o.b. Hamburg.

Coffee.

The market is fairly active, and prices well maintained. At the auctions 4,757 bags were offered which went off slowly at steady prices. Costa Rica low mid. to mid. sold at 75s. to 78s. 6d., bold 80s. 6d. to 81s. East India small 65s. to 67s., low mid. to mid. 68s. to 73s., bold 73s. to 78s. 6d. Guatemala ordinary to fine, ordinary 54s. 6d. to 64s. 6d., low mid. to mid. 68s. 6d. to 73s. 6d., bold 73s. 6d. to 77s. 6d. Nicaragua good to fine ordinary foxy 55s. 6d. to 58s., fine coloury 83s.

Seeds.

The market remains quiet and more or less unchanged. Linseed is dull and easier. London-Calcutta spot and afloat is quoted 50s., July-August sold at 50s. 6d., August-September 50s. 9d., Sept-October 51s. 3d., La Plata spot, Hull, sold 46s., July-August 47s. 3d. A limited business is passing in Rapeseed, which is dull and easier inclined. Brown Cawnpore July-August 50s. 6d., Yellow Guzerat ditto 55s. 6d. and Ferozopore July-August, new terms at 49s. 9d. Cotton seed is inactive, London-Egyptian quoted July, £8 3s. 9d., August £8 6s. 3d., and November-January £8 8s. 9d. per ton. The market for Canary seed presents no fresh feature, demand is small, but prices, and especially for Turkish, are very firm, owing to restricted supplies. Haricot beans are quiet and without much alteration.

Oils.

Linseed oil is rather quiet, spot pipes, landed, offered at 24s. 10½d., and barrels ditto 25s. 3d. Rape oil ordinary brown naked sold at 30s., refined casks 31s. 9d. Cotton oil is in slightly better demand, crude spot quoted 28s. 9d., refined sweet 32s. to 35s., and ordinary pale 28s. 6d. Roumanian, Russian, also American Petroleum is quoted spot 7¼d. and water white 8¼d. per gallon.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes:—There is no improvement in the consumptive demand, which continues extremely small, but values generally are well maintained. Fine seedy Calcutta sold at £7 16s. 3d., to £7 17s. 6d. ex steamer for arrival; best quality Russian make offered at £7 15s. to £7 16s. 3d. ex quay. London made finds a moderate demand at £7 17s. 6d. to £8. Cotton cakes.—Although Egyptians are coming fairly freely, they are disposed of before arrival, and there are buyers now at £4 13s. 9d. to £4 15s., ex ship for June-July shipment, with spot parcels at £4 15s. to £4 17s. 6d., ex quay. Bombay makes are firm at £4 5s., and English £4 17s. 6d. to £5.

Decorticated Cotton Cakes and Meal went off rather more freely at £7 13s. 9d. to £7 15s. per ton ex dock.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 3.

After signs of a rally, prices have again fallen. The market in futures has, however, been very active, and export firms have made large purchases in futures in order to cover foreign sales. Uncovered sales are very small, and it is therefore unlikely that there will be a permanent rise in prices.

The Egyptian crop continues to make satisfactory progress. Owing to the mildness of the last few days enormous numbers of eggs have been laid by the cotton worm. Thanks to the prompt measures taken by the authorities, the fields have, however, been cleared, and it is not thought that the worm will have gained hold. Dealings in the new crop are very restricted. The banks are making practically no advances to merchants for the purchase of the new cotton from the interior, and growers are experiencing great difficulty in selling their crop in advance. Owing to the large stock of cotton already in Alexandria, it seems that spinners are in no hurry to make provision for their future needs.

Price of cotton seed is firm, but the amount exported is small.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—

Market steady. November, 18⅛, January, 18⅛. Exchange, three months' date, 97½.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	4,500 ..	1,500 ..	3,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,605,681 ..	7,454,667 ..	7,255,767
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	2,750 ..	3,000 ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	203,890 ..	202,477 ..	198,500
Shipments to Manchester	Nil. ..	2,750 ..	5,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	217,348 ..	203,010 ..	227,627
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	12,750 ..	6,750 ..	7,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	429,281 ..	395,138 ..	374,678
Shipments to U.S. America	2,500 ..	1,000 ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	84,503 ..	122,500 ..	111,175
Shipments to all parts	18,000 ..	13,500 ..	12,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	935,022 ..	921,125 ..	911,980
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	990,000 ..	797,000 ..	609,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to July 1, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	201,140	199,727	198,500
" Manchester	217,348	200,362	222,800
Total Shipments to Great Britain	418,488	400,089	421,300
Shipments to France and Spain	116,643	110,980	101,787
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	203,926	187,695	179,760
Shipments to Russia	72,344	66,914	66,971
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,116	835	987
Total Shipments to Continent	395,029	366,424	349,505
Shipments to U.S. America	82,003	121,500	111,175
Ditto to India and Japan	21,502	19,694	17,829
Total Shipments to all parts	917,022	907,707	899,809
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars 7,424,206

Steamers Sailed.

June 24.—"City of Oxford." June 25.—"Merchant Prince," Manchester. July 4.—"Bosnian."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—The demand for Egyptian spot has shown little improvement compared with the two preceding weeks, sales amounting to 1,600 bales against 1,300 bales last week. Spinners will only buy for their immediate requirements, and although in certain qualities, notably medium grades Sakellaridis and White Cotton, the selection has become restricted, prices have been on the easy side, and buyers have been able to trade on what appears to be a reasonable basis. Quotations are raised 10 points for all qualities.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, July 8.

There have been very few signs of improvement in the market during the past week. In both yarn and cloth there is much irregularity in quotations, and the prices taken depend a good deal upon the position of individual sellers. Machinery in both spinning and weaving is not being run at full stretch, and in one way and another producers are striving to cut their losses. A definite attempt is now being made to organise short time in American spinning, and it is thought that the proposal of the Masters' Federation to stop the mills for three weeks before the end of September will be adopted. Manufacturers of cloth will probably make their own arrangements as to stopping looms. There is no particular new feature with regard to the Egyptian cotton crop. Prices are rather steadier, but most of the advices are favourable to the growth. Prices in American cotton are easier on the week, and the plant in certain sections seems to be doing rather better. Our foreign trade in cloth for the month of June, according to the Board of Trade returns, shows a distinct falling off as compared with last year, the takings of India being decidedly smaller. Yesterday and to-day a few more offers have been met with in piece goods for Bombay and Calcutta. Here and there sales have been arranged, but very low prices have had to be taken. China continues unsatisfactory, and most of the bids are altogether too low. No improvement can be recorded in the amount of business offering for Egypt. Financial matters continue to retard progress, and merchants are afraid to commit themselves to orders of any importance. For the Levant a dragging demand has been experienced. Goods are backing up in Manchester owing to customers abroad not being in a position to accept deliveries against old contracts. There has been very little doing in printing cloths, and the Burnley holidays this week have been very welcome. Here and there a little more inquiry has been met with in light fabrics. Shirtings have not been altogether neglected. As is usual at this time of the year, the home trade has been quiet. American yarns for home use have been purchased in small lots from day to day. Prices, when tested, show much irregularity. The outlook for spinners remains poor, and it is hoped that the short-time policy will bring relief. There has not been much workable business offering in yarn suitable for shipment abroad. Bolton spinnings have not been active, but late rates are fairly well held.

SUDAN COTTON.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for May of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government :—

A Red Sea Province report for May states :—Tokar.—The yield of the cotton crop up to date this season amounted to 19,753 kantars of 315 rottles (142 kilos) as compared with 36,455 kantars last season. This big falling off is attributable to the fact that the Basin was so very poorly watered. New banks, etc., have been made this month, and it is confidently expected that the flood this year will be forced to spread eastward as well as westward, and so flood a large area of land. According to a Kassala Province report for April, up to the end of the month 983 kantars Afifi and 16 kantars of American were sold. A Berber Province report for May states :—A considerable quantity of cotton has been sown on the Government farm at El Damer. It is hoped in the coming year to make the farm something of a centre for demonstrating and pushing improved methods. So far the Ashmuni sown has germinated far better than the Darmali American, while the Zeidab American has germinated worst of all, perhaps owing to the excessive amount of lint on the seeds. Brown and green caterpillars appeared on some young lucerne during the month, and locusts have been seen in most places since the 15th, though not in sufficient numbers to be destructive.

BIG CAIRO FAILURE.

The Egyptian Gazette of June 29 reports that the well-known Cairo firm of A. Sednaoui and Co., trading as manufacturers in the Hamzaoui, and composed of a sleeping partner and Messrs. Antoine, Tewfik and Aziz Sednaoui, ceased payment on June 15, 1914.

"Through Mr. Ferro, lawyer," the *Gazette* adds, "this house deposited its balance-sheet on June 27 with the commercial greffe of the Mixed Tribunal at Cairo, in order to obtain the benefit of a "concordat préventif." The firm states that the filing of its balance-sheet has taken place as the result of a series of losses sustained by the bad condition of trade. The assets amount to about £E42,400 and the liabilities to about £E36,400, that is an excess of the former over the latter of £E6,000 including capital of £E10,000, of which £E4,000 was lost in administration. The assets are composed of £E4,900 in merchandise, £E13,500 in property, £E23,600 in various credits, cash £E100, and in deposit £E900—altogether a total of about £E42,400."

SUDAN MARKETS REPORT.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for May of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government :—

Gum.—During May 2,431,654 kilos. of gum, valued at £57,693, were exported viâ Port Sudan, and 1,037 kilos., valued at £15, were exported viâ Halfa. During the four months, January to April, 1914, 5,786 tons of gum were carried on the Kosti-El Obeid railway, as against 5,211 tons during the same period of last year.

A Kordofan Province report for May states :—The gum season appears to have come to a premature end this year. The main reason for this is, it is thought, that the trees last year did not get sufficiently watered, and are rather lacking in vitality this year in consequence. In the latter half of April the amount of gum coming into the market in El Obeid fell off considerably. Some optimistic persons believed that this was owing to the price being low, which caused the Arabs to hold up the gum, and that when the price rose a lot would be put on the market. The price, however, during May has risen to almost unprecedented heights, but the amount coming into the market has been steadily falling. Only 19,314 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos.) have come into the market during the month, compared with 46,868 kantars in May, 1913, which, however, was the record month. According to a Karsala Province report for May the amount of gum imported and exported during the month at Gedaref was as follows :—3,224 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos.) Hashab and 710 kantars Talh exported; 2,210 kantars Hashab and 418 kantars Talh imported. At Mafaza 1,350 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos.) Hashab and 155 kantars Talh were exported and 1,160 kantars Hashab and 110 kantars Talh were imported. It is reported from the Sennar Province that the amount of gum put on the market in May was less than in April, 1,635 kantars. This is the result of collectors returning to clean and prepare their lands for cultivation.

A report for Nuba Mountains Province states that exports viâ Kaka, Upper Nile Province, during May amounted to 515 kantars—mostly Talh.

Live Stock.—A Berber Province report for May states that the sheep and cattle in El Damer market during the month totalled 4,031 and 296 respectively. A Halfa Province report states that 106 cattle, 2,619 sheep, 21 camels, 4 goats, 680 hides, and 3,305 sheep skins were exported in May. According to a Red Sea Province report for May 126 camels, 95 sheep, 330 hides, and 8,632 skins were exported during the month.

Cattle Disease.—The following fresh outbreaks of disease occurred during the month :—An outbreak of cattle plague in a small herd of cattle at Rahad, Kordofan Province. Pleuro-pneumonia appeared at Um Hiaia, White Nile Province, affecting six animals, three of which died and three were destroyed. All incontacts, numbering close on 3,000, have been inoculated. Disease in other centres reported last month is being satisfactorily dealt with.

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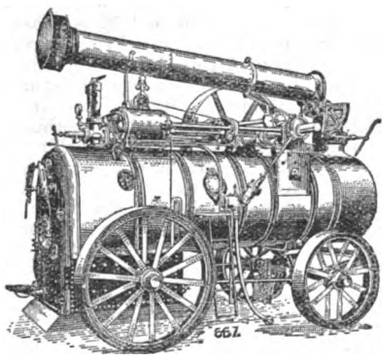

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Engineering Notes.

Motor Launches for Greek Government.

One of the two fast motor launches recently completed to the order of the Greek Government by Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Co., was on Wednesday moored off the Waterloo Bridge Pier, and inspected by a number of visitors. The vessels, which are painted white, are driven by twin Thorneycroft motors of their Z/5 type, giving a combined power of 140 b.h.p. and a speed of a little over fifteen knots. Their length is 50ft., their beam 8ft. 3in., and their depth 4ft. 9in. Their chief interest lies in the arrangement of the engine-room and accommodation. The machinery is amidships, and immediately aft of it is the wheel-house, which has been so designed as to give complete single-handed control of wheel, engines, and searchlight. Telegraphs also communicate with the engine-room. Forward of the engine-room is the even space with seats and lockers on either side, the seats being wide enough to be used as sleeping berths. The accommodation for officials is all arranged aft. In the stern sheets is a well-protected cockpit, fitted with a secondary steering wheel, and a twin engine-room telegraph that communicates with the wheel amidships. Forward of this is a large saloon fitted with sofa seats that can be converted into wide berths. The fuel is carried in two tanks that have a capacity of 140 gallons. Both vessels have successfully gone through their trials.

Central Gharbieh Drainage.

The Egyptian Mail reports (under date of July 2) that the portion of the Central Gharbieh Drainage Scheme which centres around Salahib, or Hamoul-Barrari as it is more commonly known, is practically completed. The great syphon, consisting of five steel pipes each 205 metres long, embedded in concrete, which will carry the Bahr-el-Tirah under the Salahib Drain, is finished. The lock through which boats will pass out of the Bahr-el-Tirah into the Drain (which is a navigable one with a depth of over three metres) is also completed. The Egyptian Delta Railway portion of the work, consisting of the provision of a steel swing bridge to carry the metals of the railway across the Drain, has been finished for some time.

The "Baltim" Station.

In connection with this drainage scheme, the *Mail* points out that the actual site for the pumping station is not at Baltim, but at or near Khasha, where Messrs. Wills and Son have erected the headquarters of the work in connection with the scheme which they have contracted to carry out. "We understand," adds the *Mail*, "that there has been some idea on the part of the Government to pitch the pumping station nearer the sea, not in the direction of Baltim, which is north-west from Khasha, but some five kilometres due north from the latter place. In such an event the refuse water brought up by the main drain, which it will be the business of the pumping station to dispose of, would have been pumped directly into the sea instead of into Lake Borrollos. This idea does not seem to have matured, however, and so far as we know the original plan of pumping into the lake will be adhered to."

Ramleh Drainage Works.

The work of draining Ramleh will be begun in about four months' time. At present the scheme is confined to the main collectors, which will eventually deal with surface water and sewage, but for the time being will only be used for rain water. Thus the continual deluges in the low-lying parts of Ramleh will soon be a thing of the past. The main scheme (says *The Egyptian Gazette*) will gradually be continued, as funds come in, until a complete system of drainage has been established.

Egypt's Oilfields.

Apropos of the theories, often advanced in the past, that the Egyptian oilfields had no future before them, and that the wells that had struck oil would not prove permanent, *Eastern Engineering* remarks: "Recent discoveries, however, suggest that the basis on which all these theories were advanced was false, and that the geology of the field was only very imperfectly understood. Some 7,000 feet of sedimentary strata have had to be added to the preconceived notions of the stratigraphy, and it is now admitted that the conditions on the shore of the Red Sea are much more similar to those in the vicinity of the Caspian Sea than was previously thought possible. At the same time, however, the indications suggest a more sporadic occurrence of oil in Egypt. The rocks, of the Miocene Age, which form the reservoir for the oil, are broken up into patches, and are liable to be invaded by water as the oil is withdrawn. Up to the present, however, every borehole which has struck oil has yielded a handsome profit before it has ceased to flow. The Miocene beds extend to a thickness of some 300 ft. as a maximum, and beneath them, it is held by some oil-well engineers, there are other rocks saturated with oil, which, when they are tapped, will yield a supply that will raise Egypt to the rank of a large oil producing country."

A Cement Substitute.

We are not accustomed to looking to Turkey for inventions, especially of a mechanical character; but the *Mechanical World* gives some particulars of a substitute for cement that is, it states, employed in Turkey, and has been found to give good results:—"When applied in exposed places, in filling crevices in waterpipes, covering joints in stone floors, in fountains, and for numerous other purposes where cement would be required. The mixture is as satisfactory in water as in exposed places, but it must be allowed to become thoroughly dry before it is submerged. It consists of slaked lime, linseed-oil, and cotton fibre. Generally a hollowed-out stone is used, although a flat, hard surface will answer, and the process is started by pouring the oil on a handful of cotton, after which the lime is dusted in. It is then kneaded until the whole is thoroughly mixed and about the consistency of dough. The more it is kneaded the better it becomes."

A New Electric Meter Device.

An electrical instrument has been developed that promises to be of considerable value to electric light and power companies, for it will enable them to sell current at two rates and to measure it at the rush and slack hours with the same meter. The device responds to a momentary slightly higher current wave than normal, and it shifts the meter from one rate of register to the other. Thus, when the lighting load is heaviest in the early evening, the meter is set to register at the high rate, but when the demand falls off after midnight, the wave impressed on the circuit shifts the meter to register at the lower rate.

TENDERS INVITED.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

[*Further information concerning tenders marked (B) can be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*]

EGYPT.

Drainage Works.—Tenders are invited by the Municipality of Alexandria for the construction of a drainage system for that town. The work comprises (1) the construction of a general system of sewers, (2) the erection of a pumping station at Kaïd Bey, and (3) the construction of a main outfall into the sea. Tenders may be made for the whole or for part of the work. Dec. 8.

Brass Buckles, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of brass buckles, studs, hooks, plates, etc., for bandoliers and belts. Aug. 17 (L.).

Galvanised Sheets, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of galvanised sheets, etc. Aug. 18 (L.).

Water and Dust Carts, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Municipality of Alexandria for the supply and delivery of twelve water carts to municipal pattern, three double four-wheeled dust wagons with patent tipping gear, two sanitary carts, twenty-five three-wheeled hand dust carts, six drain carts, for removal of sewage and gully trap matter (designs required), and three machine brushes (designs required). July 28 (B.).

Bitter Oranges.—Tenders are invited at the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for the supply of 20,000 bitter oranges. August 15.

MONTENEGRO.

Matches.—Tenders are invited by the Administration of State Monopolies, Cettinje, for the supply of matches required during the period 1914-17. July 28.

Military Cloaks.—Tenders are invited by the Montenegrin Ministry of War, Cettinge, for the supply of 5,000 military cloaks. July 19.

BULGARIA.

Copper Wire.—Tenders are invited by the Municipality of Varna for the supply of 3 tons of copper wire for electric lighting. July 20.

SERVIA.

Brass, Steel, Iron.—Tenders are invited at the Servian War Office, Kragujevatz, for the supply of brass in bands, extra hard steel, iron, cast steel, etc. July 20.

Spades.—Tenders are invited at the Servian Ministry of War, Belgrade, for the supply of spades and similar goods. July 23.

Sacks.—Tenders are invited by the Servian Ministry of War, Belgrade, for the supply of 10,000 sacks. July 16.

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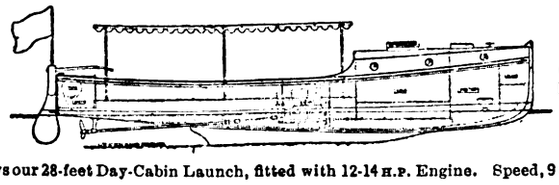
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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Our Belgrade Correspondent informs us that Servia intends sending delegates to the International Petroleum Congress, which takes place at Bucharest on August 13 next.

In his report for 1913 on the trade of the Piræus and district [Cd. 7,048-107] Mr. Consul Norcop says that the total indebtedness of Greece, including the new loan, amounts to £62,827,000, representing about £12 1s. per head of the inhabitants, while the annual charge for the service of the debt, including sinking fund, will amount to £1,487,000. The group issuing the new loan take it over at 87½, and the issue price is 93½, but, deducting stamp duties, the actual sum coming into the Greek Treasury will only amount to £8,560,000. Thirty years ago, when the population of Greece was less than 2,000,000, the loan of 1884, which was also of 5 per cent., was issued at 68½.

Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., Alexandria, report that 759,020 tons of coal were imported into Egypt between January 1 and June 25, as compared with 665,925 tons in the same period of 1913.

The U.S. Consul-General in Cairo reports to his Government that sisal growing is to be undertaken in Egypt. One cultivator in Behera Province is stated to have taken up 1,000 acres for planting this fibre.

According to the *Oesterreichisch-Ungarische Konsular-Korrespondenz* (Vienna), there is a good demand in Bulgaria for bicarbonate of soda. This product is imported from Great Britain in two different qualities, at £7 5s. 0d. per ton and £6 8s. 0d. per ton of 22 casks.

Eastern Engineering reports that with the object of economising the supply of irrigation water in the Nile Delta, the ordinary discharge outlets from the canals are being replaced by pipes of dimensions suited to the areas to be irrigated.

The Biskra-Tuggurt extension of the Algerian railways has been opened to traffic.

According to the *Oesterreichisch-Ungarische Konsular-Korrespondenz* (Vienna) the following articles and products meet with a ready sale at Bourgas (Bulgaria), viz. :—Cooking utensils in enamelware, bottles, writing and packing paper, furniture, hardware, cement, glucose, wire-netting, corrugated iron. Italy is greatly increasing her importation of cables and rope, thread and cottons.

According to the May report of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government, a report for April, received from the Bahr El Ghazal Province, states that 120 cocoa nuts were recently received from Jamaica as an experiment, but at present they show very little inclination to sprout, although the careful instructions as to their sowing sent by the grower were followed.

The construction of the road from Kirdjali to Gumurdjina is being actively pushed forward. More than 5,000 workmen are being employed, and it is hoped that the road will be completed towards the end of August.

In his inaugural address as president of the annual congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which is being held during this week at Blackpool, Lord Derby stated that Lancashire, through the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, had played a prominent part in the cure of Mediterranean Malta fever. In 1904 there were 320 cases of this disease and twelve deaths. In 1910-1911 there was not a single case, and in 1912 there were three cases.

Messrs. S. L. Behrens and Co., 16, Oxford Street, Manchester, have issued the following circular :—

"We beg to inform you that the shipping branch of the business carried on hitherto at 16, Oxford Street, under the firm of S. L. Behrens and Co., has this day been formed into a private limited company under the style of S. L. Behrens and Co. (Manchester), Limited, who will take over all pending contracts and will continue the business as before without change in the management and at the same address."

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—Left London for Alexandria June 30. "Chinese Prince."—At Tyne June 15. "Corsican Prince."—At Alexandria June 30. "Creole Prince."—Syrian Coast/Hull. Left Malta July 2. "Egyptian Prince."—Odessa/Liverpool. Left Malta June 26. "Georgian Prince."—At Tyne July 4. "Italian Prince."—Left Alexandria for London July 3. "Kaffir Prince."—At Alexandria July 1. "Merchant Prince."—"Alexandria/Manchester. Passed Gibraltar July 4. "Norman Prince." — Manchester/Alexandria. At La Goulette July 5. "Orange Prince."—At Alexandria June 24. "Sailor Prince."—Nicolaieff/Weser. Passed Gibraltar July 3. "Soldier Prince."—Left Theodosia for Novorossisk July 5. "Tudor Prince."—At Manchester June 21. "Trojan Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria July 5.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—Left Liverpool for Constantinople June 24. "Esneh."—Liverpool/Alexandria. At Gibraltar July 3. "Hathor."—Left Hull for Alexandria July 2. "Karnak."—At Liverpool. "Khephren."—At Batoum June 22. "Meroe."—At Liverpool June 25. "Moeris."—At Alexandria June 20. "Sebek."—Glasgow/Alexandria. Passed Gibraltar July 2. "Siftah."—Constantinople/Liverpool. Left Malta July 1.

Anchor Line.

"Castalia."—Left Liverpool for Bombay July 4. "Circassia."—At Bombay June 26. "Olympia." — Bombay/Liverpool. Passed Perim July 3. "Scindia."—Birkenhead/Bombay. Passed Perim July 4. "Perugia."—Palermo/New York. Passed Gibraltar June 29.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—Liverpool/Braila. Passed Gibraltar July 1. "Barnesmore."—Left Liverpool for Braila July 1. "Barrowmore."—At Salonica July 3. "Cranmore."—At Galatz June 5. "Dromore."—At Swansea July 2. "Edenmore."—At Galatz June 25. "Fenmore."—At Swansea July 5. "Foylemore."—Sulina/Tyne. Left Malta July 3. "Gorsemore."—At Galatz June 27. "Heathmore."—Kustendje/Antwerp. Passed Constantinople July 2. "Incemore."—At Antwerp. "Jessmore."—At Immingham. "Kenmore."—At Antwerp July 4.

Ellerman Line.

"Algerian."—Left Port Said, home, July 1. "Assiout."—At Alexandria July 3. "Bavarian."—Left Liverpool for Constantinople July 5. "Belgravian."—At Trieste July 3. "Bosnian."—Left Alexandria for Liverpool July 4. "Britannia."—At Palermo July 1. "Castilian."—At Ancona July 1. "City of Cambridge."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria July 5. "City of Khios."—At Constantinople July 3. "City of Oxford."—Alexandria-Liverpool. Passed Gibraltar July 3. "Italian."—Left Malta for Alexandria July 1. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Venetian."—At Constantinople June 29.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—At Constantinople July 3. "Caria."—At Constantinople July 7. "Cyprie."—Left Gibraltar July 5. "Ivernia."—Left New York for Mediterranean July 1. "Lycia."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean July 7. "Pannonia."—Left Patras for Trieste July 7. "Phrygia."—Liverpool-Fiume. Left Swansea July 4. "Saxonia."—At Fiume July 2 "Thracia."—At Constantinople July 7. "Tyria."—At Malta July 6. "Ultonia."—Palermo-New York. Passed Gibraltar July 7. "Veria."—At Liverpool June 29.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The seventeenth annual general meeting of the shareholders of The Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held at 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., on the 8th inst. Mr. E. A. Harrison presided in the unavoidable absence of Lord Claud Hamilton, the chairman of the company.

The representative of the Secretaries (Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, the Chairman said:—

"The accounts for the year ended April 30, 1914, disclose a welcome improvement on those of the previous year, the profits of the hotels showing an increase of £7,033 13s. 8d. The season was a little late in commencing; otherwise the improvement would have been still more marked. Shepheard's Hotel was, as usual, our chief source of revenue and stands at the head of hotel business in Egypt. The hotel (including the structure, furniture and fittings) has been maintained in a high state of efficiency. Notwithstanding the increasing influx of visitors to Shepheard's Hotel the "service de cuisine" and the comfort of the clientèle have been highly satisfactory. The management reports that its efforts have met with entire approval. At Ghezireh, after deducting sums received as compensation and for the sale of old materials, a net expenditure of £6,468 4s. 3d. has been made in alterations of the property rendered necessary by the Government acquiring a portion of the Nile frontage and in altering and considerably improving the internal arrangements of the hotel. The local directors report that the expenditure has been amply justified by the results. At Hotel Semiramis, which is carried on under the company's auspices, the receipts show a marked improvement, and this has been brought about by catering for the best class of the travelling public. It has also benefited by the overflow from Shepheard's Hotel and in other ways by its association with our hotels. The larger proportion of visitors to Egypt are in the habit of making their residence there during the spring months. It should be pointed out that the climate of Egypt in November and December is delightful and pleasant. The Nile service and all the amusements are available, and those visitors who would prefer to stay in Egypt at a less crowded season of the year might be well repaid by a visit during these two months. In spite of the increased cost of food and other items, the relative percentages of cost calculated on the gross takings show a satisfactory improvement. The sinking fund for the redemption of the debentures not being in operation any longer and having served the purpose of a depreciation fund while it existed, the sum of £5,611 16s. 2d. has been charged to profit and loss account for depreciation of plant. After this charge has been made and interest on loans provided for, there remains a profit of £16,944 16s. 9d. The amount brought forward was £4,016 17s. 4d., leaving available for distribution £20,961 14s. 1d. Out of this the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of five per cent. on the Preference and ten per cent. on the Ordinary shares, absorbing the sum of £18,250. leaving a balance of £2,711 14s. 1d. The company's freehold and leasehold land and buildings stand in the balance sheet at £193,750 13s. 6d., which figure represents the original cost plus additions from time to time, but deducting large amounts received from the sale of land. A valuation obtained in connection with the new loan of £75,000 placed the value of the company's property at a figure greatly in excess of the book-value. The unsecured liabilities of the company are very small, the greater part of the sundry creditors consisting of a claim for income tax, a large portion of which will not have to be paid if the appeal to the House of Lords which is now pending is decided in our favour. The Court of Appeal recently decided the case in favour of the company, and the Crown has given notice of appeal to the House of Lords. I cannot conclude without expressing the board's high appreciation of the able manner in which the hotels have been managed by Mr. Baehler and his staff. I now beg to move:—'That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1914, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted.'"

Mr. Charles Baehler (managing director) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously

The chairman next moved: "That dividends of 5 per cent. on the Preference shares and 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares of the company for the year ended April 30, 1914, as recommended by the directors in Egypt, be and the same are hereby declared payable on and after Wednesday, July 15, 1914.

This was also seconded by Mr. Baehler and unanimously agreed to.

The retiring directors, Mr. Charles Baehler and Sir William B. Peat, were re-elected, and Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co. were re-appointed auditors.

A resolution was also passed expressing the shareholders' appreciation of Mr. Charles Baehler's management of the hotels and of the assistance rendered by his staff.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of this company, held on the 7th inst., said that when the company was formed four years ago it was recognised that the year 1914 would be a critical one in its existence, because they knew that this year they would have to discharge four years' accumulations of debenture interest, amounting to £72,000, besides having to meet a heavy capital outlay. As recently as twelve months ago, when the weekly production dropped to 77,000 poods, owing to the loss of four of their best wells, and the shares fell in the market to 2s., against the present price of 4s., the position looked almost hopeless. Happily, however, by the skill, energy, and patience of the management at Baku, those four wells were restored to production, and their average weekly output recovered to over 100,000 poods. This, combined with the high price of oil, had enabled them to surmount their financial difficulties and to meet that day with a great burden removed from the company's shoulders. They had long recognised that the only possibility of restoring the undertaking to a condition of real prosperity lay in deep drilling, and at the present moment they had no less than five deep wells rapidly nearing a prolific oil source. Without those deep wells they might continue a humdrum existence, and even attain a certain measure of success, but if only two or three of the deep wells come up to their hopes they might easily see the company jump into a position of great prosperity. The capital expenditure for the year had been £63,950, about two-thirds of which was on wells account. From the production and sale of oil they had made £90,664 profit on the year. Sundry items of income in London brought up the total revenue to £93,241, which was reduced by administration charges and debenture interest to £68,796. Out of this they were writing off the whole of the expenses associated with the formation of the company, amounting to £52,172, and the remaining £16,624, which was too small a sum to divide, they were setting aside to reserve. With all these preliminary expenses written off and the big accumulations of debenture interest out of the way the next balance-sheet should present a much healthier appearance. The debenture trustees had in hand a sum of about £15,000, which would shortly be applied to the purchase of debentures. For nearly a month past the whole of the Baku oilfields, including their own, had been closed down owing to a general strike of the workmen. Their financial position was by no means unsound, and the physical condition of the properties would compare favourably with that of any other on the Baku field. On 88 per cent. of the production the company paid no royalties, whilst their properties were compact and economically worked; and, with a good production, they could make a handsome profit where many companies could not pay their working expenses. The shares of the company, as of nearly all other oil companies, he agreed were speculative; were it not for that they would not find Baku people ready to pay 4s. or 5s. each for them, as they were doing just before the labour troubles.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Limited, held on Wednesday, said the result of the year's operations was a profit of £106,810. The oil produced from their properties was 8½ million poods, or 140,000 tons, an average of nearly 3,000 tons per week. For the oil sold they had obtained an average price of about 42¾ kopecks per pood, or, say, 54s. per ton, which was rather better than the official average Bourse price for the year. Their profit equalled 17.61 kopecks per pood, against 6.01 kopecks in 1912, and 1.68 kopecks in 1911. Recently the price had dropped to about 35, from which the present strike had run it up again to 47½. He considered 35 kopecks a reasonable price and one at which any well-managed property should make a fair profit where the royalties were not too high. Russia possessed immense areas of rich oil lands which, in any other country, and even in Russia itself under intelligent and reasonable State regulations, would give a constantly growing production. What with royalties on crude and excise duties on refined oils the Russian Treasury took £10,000,000 sterling per annum out of the oil industry, or about £1 per ton all through. The Government seemed to discourage production in every conceivable manner. It allowed foreign oil to be imported duty free to compete with her own oil industry, but on machinery which would assist the development of her own oilfields she imposed the most prohibitive import duties. Nearly every other country admitted mining machinery free of duty. The capital expenditure in the past year had been £83,740, namely, £60,837 on lands, wells and buildings, and £22,903 on plant and machinery. Of the latter amount £17,382 was for new electric motors and oil and gas engines. Of the £60,837 laid out on the properties, no less than £54,490 was spent on wells. An attractive feature in the accounts was the substantial nature of the liquid assets, which amounted to £134,599. The liabilities had been enormously reduced in recent years, at the same time that they had written down the properties. The debenture debt was now only £100,905, or £28,075 less than it was four years ago. The Russian Government loan was now only half the original amount. On the whole, the liabilities were quite inconsiderable by comparision with the liquid assets, and altogether the company was in a sound financial position. Of the profit of £106,810 they had set aside £6,018 for debenture interest, £5,000 for taxes, £40,000 for depreciation, and £40,000 to general reserve. The remaining £15,791 was being carried forward—two-thirds, or £10,527, to the credit of the ordinary shareholders and one-third, or £5,264, to the credit of the holders of profit-sharing notes. There was no question of a dividend having been earned, even after making the most generous allowance for depreciation, and they had the money with which it could have been paid. Whatever doubts the directors might have had a month ago as to the expediency or otherwise of paying a dividend had been settled for them by the general strike throughout the Baku field which broke out on the 11th ult., and which still showed no signs of abating. Apart from the strike, they had still a somewhat heavy boring programme before them, if they were to complete all the new wells that had been started and to deepen all the old wells which were capable of being deepened. Besides this, they contemplated a considerable outlay for rotary and other drilling machinery and various innovations, which they hoped might have the effect of economising future capital expenditure, whilst expediting work and subsequently reducing production expenses. No report previously issued by the company had met with so little adverse criticism from shareholders as the present one, and in both the Press and the Stock Exchange the directors had been commended for not paying a dividend in face of the serious strike at Baku. He was sure that no Board of Directors with any sense of responsibility would have adopted any other course under similar circumstances.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Sir HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 600,000.
Reserve - - - - - 660,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING, HON. ALGERNON MILLS, SIR CARL MEYER, Bart., HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, August 6.

STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is July 24.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Mon., July 27	Tues., July 28	Wed., July 29
Tues., Aug. 11	Wed., Aug. 12	Thurs., Aug. 13

LONDON, July 9.

The market seems inclined to droop. This is a sad commentary on the state of nerves that the British public is suffering from. We were promised a boom if the Ulster question was settled and the French Loan a success. The latter has happily ended and the former looks as good as ever. Yet there is no boom, and the Stock Exchange, after having marked up prices all round has let them down again. The new issues are received languidly, but the South Indian trustee bonds were readily taken. Money continues cheap, and is likely to remain so for some months to come. Therefore, gilt-edged stocks should soon recover and may be safely bought.

Balkan Loans.

In the foreign market Paris, in spite of the immense success of the national loan, remains depressed. Berlin and Vienna are afraid of trouble with Servia, and it is said that the Servians are finding a difficulty in floating their new loan. Bulgaria has apparently concluded her arrangements with the German group. Egyptian Unified have been a good market all the week at 99¼. Bulgarians are quoted 82 and Greek Fours made up at 51¾. Hungarian Rentes have weakened to 79½ and Turkish Unified carried over at 81.

Rail Recovery.

In the Home Railway market the excellent traffic returns of the Great Western have at last had effect and the price is 115½. Midland deferred are 72 and Great Easterns have recovered to 49. The figures, taken as a whole, are reasonably good and there is plenty of room for a rise thoughout the whole list. Americans have been purchased, but there seems to be no steam behind the bull movement. Chesapeakes have been offered. The soundest stocks in the market appear to be Unions and Southern Pacific.

Rubber Dull.

Rubber shares are dull. The Malacca figures are very bad and the shares are much overvalued. Anglo-Dutch are offered on the trouble with the Government. The Ciceley dividend is cut in half but the reduced distribution will easily be paid for the current year.

Egyptian Oils Bought.

The Egyptian output was good and there has been some small buying of Anglo-Egyptian B, which are now quoted 1¼. Eastern Petroleum have also hardened to 8s., and Suez are now 8s. 6d. Spies were purchased on a good cable from the property stating that the water had been kept out of the new wells. This is very satisfactory. Mexican Eagles are steady, and Roumanian Consolidated continue to be purchased, the news being good.

Mining Relapse.

The Mining market, after having shown some signs of life, has now relapsed. Shamva report was not liked and the shares have been offered. Kyshtim, although it pays an increased dividend, disappointed the dealers. The main excitement in the Mining market has centred round the Kirkland group, in which the rig continues. We need hardly say that it is extremely dangerous to buy shares in this section, as the carrying-over facilities are practically non-existent.

Egyptians Fairly Active.

There has been a fair business doing in some sections of the Egyptian market. There seem to be always a few buyers about, but the difficulty is to find a seller. Egypt stands aloof, but Paris has been picking up a few shares and may come in a good buyer now that the national loan is out of the way. National Banks have been dealt in at 13 15-16, and Agricultural Banks have also been purchased, a fair business having been done at just under 5. Land Banks remain at 6¼, and Bank of Abyssinia at 5s. There has been some business in Delta Light Railway prefs. at 8½, and the deferred are quoted 1¼. Delta Lands have not been quite so active as they were last week, but the price remains steady round 9s. 6d. Behara have been offered, a small quantity of shares came on the market and the price dropped to 8¼. Union Foncière are now 1¼. Alexandria Water are still 12½, and Aboukir Land are called 21s. 6d. United Lands have been purchased at 1s. 9d. Salts are steady at 15s., but New Egyptian are a shade weaker at 9s. 6d. to 10s. Markets are 23s. 6d. There has been some enquiry for Khedivial Mail prefs. at 3⅝, and a few bargains have been done in the ordinary at 10s. Daira Sanieh are weak at 2s. 6d. Ginners are nominally ¾ and Charbieh Land 1¼.

Egyptian Hotels Report.

The Egyptian Hotels report is very satisfactory. These admirably managed concerns show a profit for the year of £30,651, or an increase of £7,033 on the year, and after paying debentures and London charges, and placing £5,611 to depreciation, 5 per cent. is paid on the preference, whilst the ordinary dividend is raised to 10 per cent. No one knows better than Mr. Baehler that in order to keep an hotel prosperous it is necessary that it should be up-to-date. It is therefore very satisfactory to see that he has spent out of revenue £9,981 on maintenance and £7,327 has been charged to capital account, being expenditure on buildings and plant. This money has, of course, gone in the improvement of the Ghezireh Palace. The Egyptian Hotels Company owns some of the best and most famous hotels in Egypt, and the preference shares are an admirable investment, whilst the ordinary on their present dividend look extremely attractive.

BULGARIAN FINANCES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, July 6.

The administration of the Bulgarian Public Debt has already remitted the necessary amounts to meet the sinking fund charges and interest on the various State loans for the next six months, and also for the municipal loans of Sofia and Varna. The total sum involved there, which amounts to 16,803,006.70 frs. (£672,120) has been taken exclusively from the regular Budget revenue.

The revenue receipts are steadily increasing. For the first four months of the present year the total reached 68,619,095 frs. as against 48,387,808 frs. for the same period in 1912.

COMPANY NOTES.

Deutsche Palæstina Bank.

Under the heading "Jerusalem the Golden," *The Financier* publishes a note in which it says:—The German Bank of Palestine, with headquarters in Berlin, is hardly answering the expectations of its founders, the accounts for 1913 presented last week to the shareholders showing an available surplus of only £85,622. After writing off allowances to the directors and employees, taxes and preliminary expenses—reducing the last-mentioned item to one mark—there remains a balance of £74,508, which is carried to a new reserve fund. The turnover of the institution has steadily diminished, and the commercial side of the business has practically been abandoned, the branches in the East having been closed. No man is a prophet in his own country, and the Chosen People appear to find larger profits abroad than on their own native heath.

Sucreries et Raffineries en Roumanie

The Sucreries et Raffineries of Roumania have decided to build another factory at Giurgevo on the Danube. The Roumanian Government has already consented to the sale of a plot of ground 70 hectares in extent, and the work of construction will be begun immediately. The new factory will have a capacity of 1,200 tons of beetroot a day, which it is hoped to raise to 2,000 tons. The factory will have access to the railway at two points, and beet will be brought to the works by water and road as well as by railway. If all goes well, it is hoped to start operations in the autumn.

United Tramways of Bucharest.

At the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the United Tramways of Bucharest, held on June 30, the chairman explained the causes for the poor results of last year's traffic. The horses belonging to the company had been requisitioned by the Government at the time of the mobilization of the army, and it was only when all fear of war had passed that they had been able to purchase a fresh supply and to begin to train them. Owing to this cause receipts for January had fallen by 20 per cent., but for April the decrease was only 0.89 per cent. The receipts for May showed an increase of 3¾ per cent. Up to June 20 a slight decrease compared with last year was shown, but this was due partly to bad weather and partly to the fact that the annual fair had ended on June 7 instead of on June 14, as in 1913.

NEW COMPANIES.

Castelli Carpet Company, Ltd.

A new company with the above title was registered June 27th, with a capital of £125,000 in £1 shares. The object of the company is to carry on the business of buyers, exporters and importers of, and dealers in, Turkish, Persian and other carpets, rugs, mats, linoleum, oil cloth, matting, floor coverings, etc. Minimum cash subscriptions, seven shares. First directors: F. H. King and H. I'Anson Jones, both solicitors, of 62, London-wall, E.C. Remuneration as fixed by the company. The registered office is at Salisbury House, London-wall, E.C.

Balkan States Development Trust, Limited.

A "private" company with the above title was registered July 1, by W. Webb, 27, Bessborough Street, Westminster, S.W., with a capital of £2,000, in 1,900 preference shares of £1 each and 2,000 management shares of 1s. each. The objects are to take over and turn to account any petroleum, asphalte, naphthaline, coal or oil-bearing lands, etc. The first directors are not named. W. Webb is first secretary. Remuneration, as fixed by the company.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

AGRICOLE ET INDUSTRIELLE D'EGYPTE.—The payment of the debenture coupons falling due July 1, July 15, and August 1, has been postponed.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah, production for the week ended 6th, 2,379 tons (previous week 2,232 tons); Hurgada, production for week, 90 tons (previous week, 89 tons).

CHEMINS DE FER ECONOMIQUES DE L'EST EGYPTIEN.—Payment of dividend on 3½ per cent. debenture coupon No. 34 is announced at the Banque de Paris el des Pays Bas.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for ten days ended June 20 amounted to £E6,672, a decrease of £E622, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

ETABLISSEMENT OROSDI-BACK.—The dividend proposed for 1913-14 is 14 frs. per share, as against 12 frs. for the previous period.

OTTOMAN 5 PER CENT LOAN.—The Imperial Ottoman Bank announces the payment of the bonds drawn for redemption at par of the Ottoman 5 per Cent. Loan of 1896.

OTTOMAN FOUR PER CENT. LOAN, 1894.—Payment is announced of coupon No. 41 and of 309 bonds drawn for repayment June 2.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended July 3 amounted to £8,479, an increase of £241 over the corresponding period of last year.

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PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—Receipts for the month of May amounted to 656,402 drachmai, an increase of 50,191 drachmai over the corresponding period of last year. Aggregate receipts from January 1 amounted to 3,451,242 drachmai, an increase of 352,613 drachmai over the same period of last year.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED. — Cablegram from Ploesti, dated July 6: "Moreni, Well No. 24 still flowing. Baicoi, Well No. 1 flowed 100 tons on Thursday; now shut down to complete tankage arrangements; looks very good."

RUMANISCHE A. ELEKTRIZITATS G.—The net profit for 1913 amounted to 125,539 marks, as against 71,949 marks in 1912. The dividend is fixed at 5 per cent. on the capital of a million marks belonging to the A.E.G., of Berlin.

TRAMWAYS D'ALEXANDRIE.—Receipts for May, 1914, amounted to 214,210 frs., as compared with 202,399 frs. in May, 1913. The receipts for the eight first months of the year 1913-14 amounted to 1,586,416 frs., compared with 1,524,875 frs. for the corresponding period of the preceding year, showing an increase of 61,541 frs.

TURKISH LOANS.—The Imperial Ottoman Bank announces the payment of the half-yearly coupons due July 14 and the bonds drawn for redemption at par of the Ottoman 5 per Cent. Loan of 1896, together with the coupons then due of the Four per Cent. Loan of 1901-5, Customs 1902, and 1904 Loans, also the coupons due July 14 of the Four per Cent. Loan of 1908, which are payable at the offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank and Messrs. Stern Brothers.

NOTICE.

SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA.

Notice is hereby given that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA will be held on Wednesday, the 15th July, at 4·30 p.m., at the Office of the Company, 10, Rue Adib, Alexandria, for the purpose of:—

The confirmation, in execution of article 30 of the Statutes, of the provisional resolution taken at the Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders held on June the 22nd, 1914, concerning the Convention by which this Company acquires the whole of the Assets of the Sidi Salem Company of Egypt, in payment of the balance of the latter's debt.

The text of this Convention can be seen at the Company's Office by shareholder's wishing to acquaint themselves with it.

Every shareholder holding 20 Ordinary shares or 500 Preferred shares has the right to attend the General Meeting provided that the shares be deposited in accordance with article 24 of the Statutes.

For the SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA,
THE BOARD.

Alexandria, 24th June, 1914.

(In London the shares may be deposited with the National Bank of Egypt, 3 and 4, Lothbury, E.C.)

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 14-27, 1914.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve: Gold ..... 154,891,577; Foreign bills payable in gold..... 56,642,000		211,533,577
Silver and other coins		1,009,553
Roumanian and foreign bills		190,835,052
Advances against Government securities	23,168,100	
On current account	42,654,500	
Unused balance ..	20,904,769 21,750,131	44,918,231
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,924,059
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,997,162
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,825,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,042,281
Premises		6,718,630
Furniture and printing machinery		1,072,605
General expenses		1,706,510
Government and other securities deposited		125,479,417
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		128,610,000
Current accounts		22,666,782
Security accounts		23,784,796
Sundry accounts		5,439,560
Total Lei		808,564,092

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,110,474
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,391,318
Notes in circulation	423,434,300
Interest and sundry profits	5,566,577
Current accounts and drafts at sight	13,047,121
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	254,089,417
Sundry accounts	57,924,885
Total Lei	808,564,092

Bank Rate, 5½ per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. July 8.	Latest prices. July 8.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	103
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	82	82
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	99
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	95	95
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99½	99½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	84½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881	58	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	57½	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	51½	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	56
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	78	78
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	96
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	72½	72
Montenegro 5 % Loan	86	87½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	91½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	78½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84½	84½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	84½
Do. 4 % Unified	81	81
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70	69½
Do. 4 %, 1909	70	70½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 1/16	5
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	79½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12½
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¾
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6½
National Bank of Egypt	14	14
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	—	98
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	18½	18½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	87
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	101
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	89
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	62
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	—	¾
Béhéra Co.	8½	8½
Do. Pref.	—	4½xd
Building Lands of Egypt	—	⅛
Daira Sanieh	—	2/3
Do. Def.	—	¾
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	40
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/3	9/6
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	1½
" Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9 7/8
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	96½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	9/6xd
Sidi Salem Co.	—	⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	⅞	1 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1,9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	97
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1½
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	1 5/8
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅜	1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	96
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mts.	—	87½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	—	£194½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2½
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/-	24/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	8/-	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	5/3	5/-
Oilfields Finance Corporation	1 1/16	31/32
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	27/-	27/-
Shell Transport	4 3/32	4 3/32
Suez Oil	8/-	8/-

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. July 2.	Latest prices. July 9.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	609	594
Canal de Suez Shares	4900	4885
Do. do. Jouissance	4320	4329
Do. do. Founders	2300	2300
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	725	733
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	155	160
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	260
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	452	444
Do. do. do. Act.	201	203
Land Bank of Egypt	162	160
Mines Balia-Karaidin	441½	452
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	134	133
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	507	505
Do. do. Ord.	37	38
Do. do. Pref.	40	40½
Tabacs Ottomans	441	428
Turkish Unified Con.	81.20	81.30
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	462	484
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	357	357

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	June 25.	July 2.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	336.25	300
Do. do. Priv.	215	136
Do. do. Cap.	75	62.25
Do. do. Div.	79.50	35
Anglo-Belgian Co.	15	15
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	134	136.50
Do. do. Div.	160	160
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	452.50	449.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	66.75	60
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	418.50	430
Do. Priv.	535	542.50
Do. Div.	142.75	145
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	50	58
Do. do. Fond.	99.50	79
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	67	61.25
Do. do. Div.	47.50	47.25
Esbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1330	1380
Do. do. Ord.	491	491
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	307.50
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	315	312.50
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	365	360
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	99.50	98.25
Do. do. Div.	90.50	81
Tramways du Caire Priv.	512.50	514
Do. do. Jouiss.	540	547
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	205	195
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	18	175

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	June 26.	July 3.
Anatolian Railway 4½ % Debs. I.	Fcs.453	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. Shares	£15 4 0	£14 10 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.10	£T.6.05
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.393	Fcs.392
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.155	Fcs.156
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.97	Fcs.113
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.95	Fcs.107
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34.50	Fcs.34.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.28.10	£T.29

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	June 24.	July 1.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3⅜	3⅜
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12⅜	12 1/16
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	65
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	97½
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. ⅜	⅜
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 48	49½
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Ce. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	748½
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886	Fcs. 340½	340½
Do. Do. 1903	Fcs. 271	268
Do. Do. 1911	Fcs. 268	268
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance	Fcs. 180	180
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/-	12/-
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2 3/32	2 3/32
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E. —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. 31/32	31/32
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ½	½
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2	2
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 18/6	18/6
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8⅜	8⅜
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4 1/16	4 1/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 93	93
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 80	83
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New	L.E. —	—

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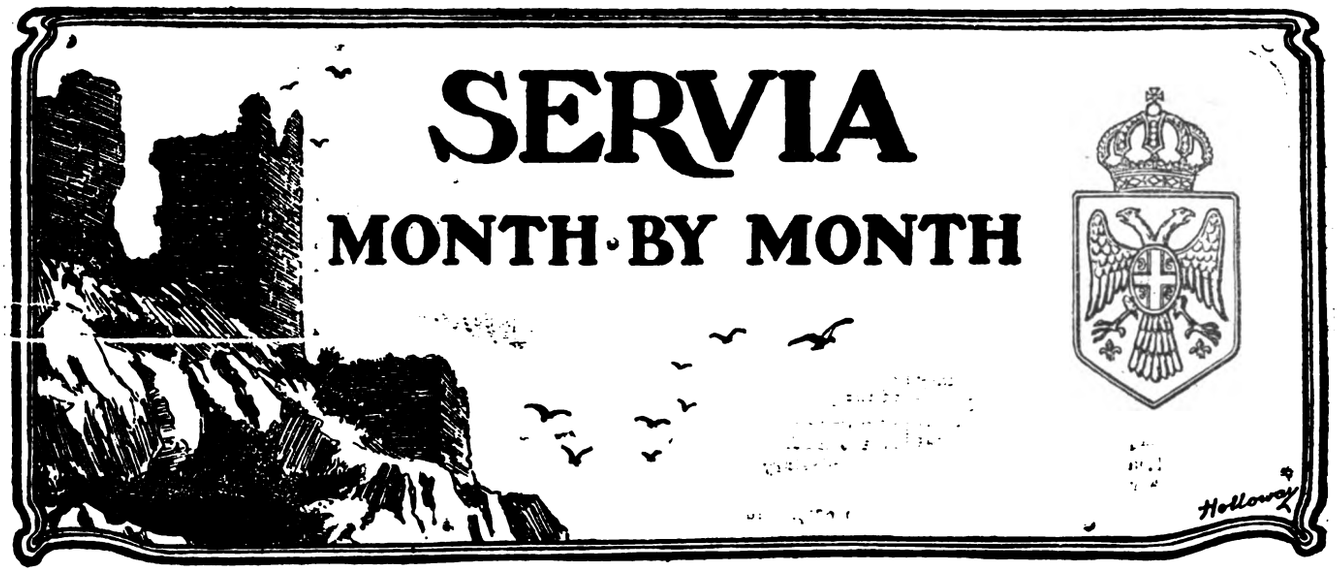

AN APPRECIATION: By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

Considerable public attention at the present time is being directed to the kingdom of Servia, partly on account of the regrettable illness of the King—one of the most picturesque figures in Europe—and partly by reason of important pending financial arrangements in which English financiers may not improbably take a hand. As the head of the famous Kara Georgeovitch, King Peter has fully maintained the reputation of his house, a house which rightly should have suffered no interruption in its occupancy of the throne of a country whose history it had done so much to build up. No one can read of the heroic deeds of the Kara Georgeovitch, whether they be those of the great leader, Georg Czerny—surnamed Kara Georg or "Black George"—between the period of 1804 and 1813, or those of his son Alexander, between 1842 and 1858; or, yet again, of those of his grandson, the reigning King, without entertaining an intense admiration for a patriotic race possessed of great powers of endurance, pluck, and determination.

If the history of Servia has been stressful, it has likewise been intensely romantic and even pathetic; it has proved something less dreadful than Voltaire's scathing description of history in general—"qui n'est que le tableau des crimes et des malheurs."

The whole population of Servia a year ago was officially given as 5,000,000, which, if correct, would prove that the Servian race has increased to the extent of one and a-half million since 1900. Inasmuch, however, as over 70,000 males were killed or seriously wounded during the late Balkan War, these figures need revision. Assuming, however, that the number of inhabitants as stated is correct, the proportion to the square mile would not be large in view of the fact that the country now includes the whole of "Old Servia" (consisting of the greater part of the vilayets of Macedonia), the outcome of recent military operations. To secure this extra territory it has cost Servia, besides the loss of so many of her brave sons, the sum of £18,000,000.

Fully 90 per cent. of the people of Servia live in the country, the towns—of which there are but a dozen ranking as of any importance—absorbing 500,000 inhabitants at the most. Next to Belgrade, the capital, the largest town is that of Nish, with 25,000 people; Kraguyevatz, which claims a population of some 18,500, comes next; after which rank Leskovatz, with 14,300; Pozharevatz, with 13,450; Shabatz, with 12,100; Vranya, with 11,500; and Pirot, with 10,800.

The Industrious Serb.

One seldom observes an idle person in Servia; not only do the women work strenuously from dawn to long past sunset, and the children, so soon as they can toddle, are taught to do something with their small hands, but the men find continual employment in farming land, breeding cattle, and tending their vineyards. In the towns there is, perhaps, less industrial animation, which, however, is compensated for by the extreme exhilaration prevailing in political circles. Every man and every boy seems to consider himself a second Stephan Dushan, and would hardly blush for shame even if his record were as sanguinary as that of the merciless subjugator of Macedonia and Albania.

A serious drawback to the advancement of Servia is occasioned by the fact that she cannot live upon terms of amity with anyone of the different neighbours who surround her—with the Hungarians, who, just across the Danube, continually grimace at and threaten her; with the Bulgarians, with whom she was quite recently engaged in deadly war grip; with the Montenegrins, notwithstanding that the King's wife was a Montenegrin princess (Zorka, one of the six daughters of King Nicolas); with the Albanians, with the Roumanians, or with the Greeks. Although this lack of neighbourly friendliness is in no way the fault of the Servians—as they will assure you with fervour, and with many protestations of their brotherly love for all of their neighbours—the fact reflects disadvantageously upon the trade and commerce of the kingdom, which depends for much of its prosperity upon the number of pigs and the amount of the agricultural produce and animal products which it can dispose of to its neighbours, or to other foreign customers who—by reason of Servia's geographical position—can only be reached through those neighbours' territories.

With more amicable relations in existence, and with mutual interests as an incentive, Servia should become one of the more prosperous Balkan nations. Her swine are the finest to be found in the whole of Europe—the Servians declare "in the whole of the world," and they are probably right—her maize is the heaviest, her wheat is among the best, and her honey is certainly the most delicious. In all of these, and some other, products a considerably larger trade might be enjoyed if better relations could be cultivated and maintained with the neighbouring Balkan peoples, and if the inhabitants themselves thought a little less about making war and rather more about cultivating their naturally rich and productive country.

An Heroic People.

Perhaps any but a war-like sentiment could hardly be expected among a heroic race whose every national ballad is a rejoicing over some sanguinary victory, or a lament over some crushing defeat. The earliest Servian literature—bombastic and panegyrical as it is—gloats over the warlike deeds of former riotous kings and martial bishops—of exploits attributed to Kings Radoslaff, Vladislaff, Urosh, Dragutin, and of an Amazonian queen named Helena. Down through the ages of this country's rich literature the same theme prevails even during the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries when Slavonic letters were supposed to have reached a high pitch of culture. The Serbs, who date their history as a nation from 638 A.D., show during the past twelve hundred years hardly any diminution in their spirit of pride and independence, nor of their quickness of temper and inability to brook any kind of control, while their love for making war is apparently unquenchable.

As men of affairs the Servians are almost simple, but very honourable. Commercial intercourse with other European nations has, so far, in no way contaminated them, and in the majority of transactions the word of a Servian ranks higher than the bond of a great many other people. Once a pledge is given, it is as strictly adhered to as if the promise had been legally inscribed, solemnly sealed, and duly witnessed; the Servian, as a rule, does not understand breaking his word, but he is an adept at breaking heads.

Trade with Britain.

To those living at a safe distance the Servians appear to be a most desirable people with whom to carry on business relations. And yet the amount of trade conducted between them and ourselves amounts to a very insignificant total. Moreover, it is one which is becoming less as time goes on, while commercial transactions with other nations tend to become larger. Thus we find that in the year 1910 the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to £342,631; in 1911 they dwindled to £320,028. On the other hand, substantial increases were recorded by such countries as Germany—which stands at the head both of the import and export list—Austria-Hungary, Turkey, France, and Italy. For the eight years between 1902 and 1910 Austria-Hungary provided 40 per cent. of the total Servian imports, and took nearly one-half of her exports; but later on a destructive tariff war broke out between the two neighbours, a circumstance which naturally affected the trade of both. Germany profited vastly by this misfortune, as Germany usually does when her commercial rivals fall out.

The total trade of Servia, even in abnormal times, such as have been passed through latterly, exceeds £20,000,000 annually, and of this the share allotted to Great Britain amounts to hardly £400,000, of which, as we have seen, the exports account for a little more than £320,000, the imports being insignificant in the extreme. Nevertheless the Servians are most anxious to cultivate closer business relations with us, a fact which was impressed upon me by the former Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, M. Milan Kapetanovitch, who, in the course of conversation, exclaimed, "We look towards England as we look towards the sun; but, alas! it does not shine upon us as warmly as we should wish."

Need of a Loan.

M. Kapetanovitch, as poetical in the expression of his lament as anyone of his celebrated compatriots—Vetranic-Cavcic, Karajich, or Yovanovitch—deplored the absence of better commercial ties between us, but he could offer no solution of the mystery regarding their declension. Of course, as I reminded the Minister, we have lent Servia money—have we not lent money to the whole world at some time or other? In 1897 we granted Servia a loan of £1,000,000

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at the modest interest of 4 per cent., although—we should blush to own it!—the issue price was no higher than 68 per cent. We should shortly have another opportunity of granting this hard-pressed country a fresh loan, and it may be hoped—although hardly believed—that the terms will be a little less usurious.

A new loan of some kind is absolutely essential to Servia, unless national bankruptcy is to be faced. The country's public debt amounts to £26,500,000, while the revenue barely exceeds £5,300,000, and of this nearly £1,300,000 is absorbed by interest charges, or a little more than 25 per cent. of the whole budget. As the maintenance of the Army calls for a further expenditure of £1,200,000, there remains but little with which to carry on instruction, public works, and other necessary branches of government. It may be that Servia will find the provision of suitable security for her fresh borrowing somewhat difficult, and those financiers who finally consent to lend to her will naturally look shrewdly at the character of the collateral which is offered.

French Influence.

Notwithstanding past dealings with England, it is really France who has mainly financed Servia, just as—after the Treaty of Berlin had been signed—she consented to train her army and to build her railways. Servia's commercial prosperity has, indeed, been largely dependent upon French monetary aid. The Franco-Servian Bank has proved a valuable factor in the country's economic development, for, thanks to its special efforts, the two public issues of 1906 and 1909 were covered several times over upon the Paris market. The famous Creusot has made her guns, and it is to the port of Bordeaux that the great bulk of Servia's finest cattle are shipped in order to be disposed of.

Was it not in France that the young Kara Georgevitch lived out many of his days of exile, before he was called to the Servian throne, in 1903, as "King Peter I."? The French people still cherish affectionate recollections of the handsome young lieutenant who passed out of St. Cyr with such flying colours and who afterwards fought so valiantly for his friends in the war of 1870, winning at their hands the much-coveted *croix d'honneur* upon the field of battle. It was, therefore, towards France that the suffering Servians naturally turned when entering upon their great final struggle for independence; it was France, above all nations, who encouraged them, just as she had encouraged Greece upon a similar occasion, in 1697. There is, therefore, every reason why a firm and binding friendship should prevail between these two peoples, and why as strong financial connections should exist between Paris and Belgrade as have been maintained for many years past between Paris and Athens.

At the time that King Peter was called to the throne, the public expenditure in Servia had not assumed anything approaching the figures which have been attained since. For instance, the Ministry of the Interior spent £128,000 then as against £240,000 in 1911; the Ministry of Public Instruction only asked for £100,000 as against £320,000; while even the War Office expended no more than £170,000 against £400,000 demanded latterly. To-day the general expenditure has reached a prohibitive amount, and the financial position of Servia is undoubtedly serious. It had been the intention of the Government to take the situation firmly in hand, and earnest efforts were being made by the former capable Finance Minister—M. Protics—to meet the difficulties and to overcome them. Unfortunately, the Balkan War with all its attendant expenses completely upset the Minister's calculations, and Servia's share of the military operations—£13,000,000—has completely crippled her for the time being.

If, as the famous statistician Mulhall has estimated, Servia's national wealth can be valued at 4,500,000,000 dinars (say, £180,000,000), which may be accepted as no greatly exaggerated computation, the public debt would still represent far too heavy a percentage of the total national wealth. M. Luza Patchu, the Minister of Finance, fully understands the necessity of retrenchment, and he will exercise it as soon as circumstances permit. Unfortunately the time is not yet.

The Servian Budget for 1914.

(By a Correspondent in Belgrade.)

Of late years the Servian Government has devoted special attention to its budgetary policy. Two laws relative to the elaboration, voting, execution, and control of the Budget—that of 1903 being superseded by the law of 1910, now in force—have been elaborated on an entirely modern basis having for model the Continental legislation—principally that of France—which has placed the budgetary policy of the Servian kingdom upon a regular and solid basis. Instead of the theoretical budgets of the past (when the expenditure of the State took place on lines entirely different from those of the Budget submitted to Parliament) and the budgetary deficits, the budgets for the years subsequent to 1904 have not only kept up an equilibrium, but have even shown considerable surpluses. There was a surplus even in the war-year 1912, which finished with an effective surplus of 3,832,685 dns. The results of the Budget of 1913, upon which have fallen all the onerous financial burdens of two serious wars, are still unknown, as in Servia—contrary to the system prevailing in England—the accounts of the Ministry of Finance are not finally balanced until three months after the conclusion of each fiscal year, *i.e*, until April 1. However, judging by the data to hand to-day, the final accounts for the year 1913 can be awaited with confidence. They will be submitted for the approval of the Skrupshtina during the autumn session.

Notwithstanding the satisfactory outlook for the future of Servian State finance, the Minister of Finance has exercised the strictest economy in framing the Budget. In a country whose inhabitants are intoxicated with fervid patriotism, especially after two victorious wars, it can hardly be otherwise than unpopular to renounce or reduce credits that are demanded for the purposes of home-defence, but Dr. Patchu nevertheless had the courage and self-confidence to reduce within the limits of economy and the financial capacities of the country all the exaggerated requirements of the War Minister. In 1913 the Budget of the Ministry of War amounted to 30,116,312 dinars. In his original estimates for 1914 the War Minister proposed war expenditure totalling nearly 80,000,000 dinars. The Minister of Finance must have had great difficulties in reducing that sum to 54,321,359 dinars, at which it figures in the Budget for 1914. It was this which has caused a delay in the voting of the Budget which was only sanctioned on April 1, 1914, although the fiscal year should begin on January 1. The position of the Servian Minister of Finance has been all the more difficult because the Servian law does not grant to him—in the composition of the Budget—any predominant position over his colleagues. According to Servian law the Minister of Finance has, in the compilation of Budgets, equal rights with the other Ministers: they all participate conjointly in the decisions concerning the Budget, and mutually determine the amounts of various budgetary credits. Nevertheless Dr. Patchu has succeeded in reducing considerably the demands of his colleagues, which can be explained by the strong personal influence that he wields in his country as a politician and financier. Great changes have been going on in Servia during recent years, and the management of the finance of the country has, therefore, been in the hands of men fully acquainted not only with home, but also with foreign politics. Indeed, the portfolio of finance has come to be regarded as one of the most important in the Ministry, and the very personality of the Minister of Finance is sufficient guarantee that the Budget for 1914 has been framed on sound lines.

Amount of the Budget.

The Budget estimates expenditure and revenue at 214,320,670 dinars. Compared with the Budget of 1913 (which amounted to 130,764,712 dinars), this represents an increase of 84,000,000 dinars. The enormous estimated increase in national expenditure would have been extremely risky finance had not Servia, after the Treaty of Bucharest, doubled the extent of her territories and gained an increase of 60 per cent. in population. If the normal annual increase of the Budget, amounting to about 14,000,000 frs., is taken into account, it will be seen that the actual increase in the 1914 Budget over that of 1913 does not exceed 60,000,000 frs. The whole of this new expenditure has been entailed by the acquisition of the new territories by Servia.

Included in this sum is the cost of the civil and military administration, the veterans' fund, and the interest on the loan of 250,000,000 drs. It is estimated that practically the same amount (about 60,000,000 dinars) will be received from the new provinces in the form of taxes.

The principal items of expenditure under the Budget are as follows:—

	Dinars.
Ministry of War	54,321,359
State Loans	45,974,950
Ministry of Finance	25,767,888
" Education and Public Worship	14,504,336
" the Interior	7,657,926
" Agriculture, Commerce, and Labour	7,648,202
" Justice	4,052,705
" Foreign Affairs	2,583,288

The income from the principal sources of revenue accrues as follows:—

	Dinars.
Direct taxes	104,880,850
Indirect taxes	57,346,725
State Railways	25,330,000
State Posts and Telegraphs	6,322,110

As compared with the Budget of 1913, both the expenditure and the receipts of the current Budget show an increase of 84,000,000 dinars. Of this sum 60,000,000 dinars come, as already stated, from the new provinces, and the remainder represents in part the automatic increase of revenues already existing and party (5,000,000 dinars) a new so-called "Veterans" Tax—which is being collected on a special scale, proportionate to the direct taxes hitherto paid—for the purpose of meeting expenses of military invalids. This is really the only new tax imposed on Servia by the wars, and it will be borne by the taxpayer as easily as all the other taxes imposed on him. During the Balkan wars Servia gave conclusive proof not only of her military strength, but also of her financial strength. There is to-day no reason whatever to doubt that strength.

SUDSLAVISCHE BANK.

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BANKING, COMMISSION AND GENERAL AGENCY.

Servian Municipal and Industrial Loans negotiated.

CONTRACTORS TO THE SERVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ARMY EQUIPMENT AND RAILWAY MATERIAL.

SHIPBROKERS AND FORWARDING AGENTS.

Economical, Financial, and Commercial Information furnished. British Manufacturers and Contractors desiring to do business with Servia invited to communicate. Correspondence in English, French, and German.

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SERVIAN MONOPOLIES.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Administration Autonome des Monopoles in Servia for the month of May, 1914:—

RECEIPTS.

		Fcs.	Fcs.
1.—	From the tobacco monopoly	3,490.791 70	
2.—	,, the salt monopoly	909.104 40	
3.—	,, the oil monopoly	288.717 44	
4.—	,, the stamp monopoly	781.249 90	
5.—	,, the Excise stamp monopoly	401.945 24	
6.—	,, the match monopoly	154.056 —	
7.—	,, the cigarette paper monopoly	215.054 —	
8.—	,, the alcohol monopoly	478.156 60	
9.—	,, customs	2,757.466 87	
	Total in May		9,476.542 15
	To end of April		27,649.403 91
	Reserve fund brought forward from 1913: —Obligations of the Servian Rente, Frs. 2,253.500 nom.		
			Fcs. 37,125.946 06

EXPENDITURE.

		Fcs.	Fcs.
1.—	For the service of the Public Debt:—		
	(a) Maturity of 126th drawing of 2% obligations of 1881:		
	Paid to Lienderbank at Vienna	400.000 —	
	Paid to Direction de la Dette Publique	124.550 —	
			524.550 —
	(b) Maturity of 1/14 May, 1914, of the 77th drawing of tobacco bonds:		
	Paid to Bank-Verein, Vienna		48.500 —
	Carried forward...		Fcs. 573.050 —

		Fcs.	Fcs.
	Brought forward		573.050 —
	(c) Maturity of 1/14 July, 1914, of the 4% Rente of 1895:	Fcs.	
	Paid to Banque Impér. Ottomane	5,500.000 —	
	Paid to Berliner Handelsgesellschaft	1,500.000 —	
	Paid to Direction de la Dette Publique	535.200 —	
			7,535.200 —
	(d) Maturity of 2/15 April, 1914, of the 4½% Rente of 1906:		
	Paid to Société Financière d'Orient		2,400.000 —
	(e) Maturity of 1/14 June, 1914, of the 4½% Rente of 1909:		
	Paid to Banque Impér. Ottomane	2,812.500 —	
	Paid to Berliner Handelsgesellschaft	937.500 —	
			3,750.000 —
	(f) Maturity of 16/1 March and 19/1 September, 1914 of the 5% Rente of 1913:		
	Paid to Société Financière d'Orient		2,425.000 —
	(g) Maturity of 21/5 August, 1914, of the 5% Rente of 1902:		
	Paid to Société Financière d'Orient		825.400 —
	(h) Maturity of 1/14 January, 1915, of the 4% Rente of 1895:		
	Paid to Bank Impér. Ottomane		2,000.000 —
	Total		19,508.250 —
2.—	For purchase of material:		
	(a) In May, 1914	817.074 67	
	(b) To end April, 1914	6,901.670 67	
			7,718.745 34
3.—	For expenses of administration:		
	(a) In May, 1914	689.799 39	
	(b) To end April, 1914	2,701.672 71	
			3,391.472 10
4.—	Balance in hand at 31 May, 1914:		6,507.478 62
	Total		Fcs. 37,125.946 06

Belgrade, 10/23 June, 1914.

THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION.

Comparative Table for the month of May (o.s.), 1913-14, showing the receipts of the Government Monopolies on Tobacco, Salt, Oil, etc., earmarked for the service of the loans secured on these Monopolies.

Articles.	Year.		The difference in the month of May.		Total revenue from Jan. 1 to May 31.		Total difference from Jan. 1 to May 31.		Note.
	1913.	1914.	Surplus.	Deficit.	1913.	1914.	Surplus.	Deficit.	
	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	Dinars. Pa.	
Tobacco	1,492,797 20	3,490,791 70	1,997,994 50		7,148,768 30	11,815,721 25	4,666,952 95		Surplus in the month of May Dinars5,339.835 47
Salt	816,591 —	909,104 40	92,513 40		2,602,927 20	5,218,355 20	615.428 —		
Petroleum	233,748 44	288,717 44	54 969 —		1,903 995 64	2,391,864 82	487,869 18		
Fee stamps	260,765 35	781,249 90	520,481 55		942.533 75	3,835,693 80	2,893,160 05		
Excise duties on beer	312,802 60	401,945 24	89,142 64		1,070,213 76	1,408,802 81	338.589 05		Total revenue from 1st of Jan. to 31st of May Din.19,338.354 11
Matches	100,530 —	154,056 —	53,526 —		458,308 —	638,290 —	179,982 —		
Cigarette paper	112,372 —	215.054 —	102,682 —		522,898 —	843,942 —	321,044 —		
Alcoholic beverages	...	478,156 60	478,156 60		...	2,494,088 05	2,494,088 05		
Customs	807,100 09	2,757,466 87	1,950,366 78		3,137,947 30	10,479,188 13	7,341,240 83		
Total	4,136.706 68	9,476.542 15	5,339.835 47		17,787.591 95	37,125.946 06	19,338.354 11		

Table showing Imports into Servia from the United Kingdom, 1910, 1911, 1912.

Designation.	Value.			Difference between totals for 1910 and 1912:— Increases + Decreases —
	1912. Dinars.	1911. Dinars.	1910. Dinars.	
Agricultural products	372,612	93,802	140,398	+ 232,214
Cattle, animal products, etc.	42,590	217,715	122,464	— 79,874
Timber, etc.	4,030	3,855	6,543	— 2,513
Flour, wine, etc.	173,055	231,275	267,467	— 94,412
Food, etc.	18,379	13,250	14,994	+ 3,385
Minerals, mineral oils, and their products	5,280	2,510	6,386	— 1,106
Fats, wax, oils, etc.	12,659	9,739	15,747	— 3,088
Chemicals, perfumes, etc.	193,635	151,955	174,907	+ 19,728
Textiles (vegetable and animal) and products	6,344,681	6,796,506	8,173,714	— 1,829,033
Leather, leather goods, etc.	275.251	355,985	376,875	— 101,624
Rubber, etc.	5,266	8,015	10,410	— 5,144
Paper and paper goods	13,324	22,149	11,124	+ 2,200
Books, etc.	1,245	807	646	+ 599
Common metals and metal goods	300,411	761,373	987,814	— 687,403
Machines, vehicles, etc.	712,482	829,237	1,075,635	— 363,153
Objets d'art, scientific materials, firearms, etc.	2,905	135	3,003	+ 1 665
Various	32,703	25,259	36,788	— 4,085
Total	8,510,508	9,524,278	11,424,915	— 2,914,407

Apropos of the Servian monopolies, the *Financial Times* observes: "For the first time the spirit monopoly, pledged as security for the loan obtained in France, appears in the accounts. The most striking fact shown by the whole account is that at the end of May there was a cash balance in the Servian Treasury of 6,510,000 francs (£260.400), whereas at the end of May last year the Finance Minister was left forlorn with the pettifogging amount of 80,270 francs (£3,210) at his disposal."

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUES FROM THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXES OF THE SERVIAN STATE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY IN YEARS 1912, 1913, AND 1914.

No.	Nomination.	Collected in May. 1912.		1913.		1914.		Difference for May, 1914, as compared with May of 1912. Surplus.		Deficit.		1913. Surplus.		Deficit.		Total Revenue from Jan. 1 to May 31. 1912.		1913.		1914.		Total Difference until the end of May, 1914, as compared with 1912. Surplus.		Deficit.		1913. Surplus.		Deficit.	
		Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.
1	Direct tax in all forms	622.276	88	363.370	42	300.810	—	—	—	321.466	88	—	—	62.560	42	2,461.430	44	2,269.326	2	1,215.136	20	—	—	1,246.294	24	—	—	1,054.190	62
2	Indirect taxes	932.511	60	523.909	99	454.014	60	—	—	478.497	—	—	—	69.895	39	3,533.754	41	3,229.414	30	1,845.099	53	—	—	1,688.654	88	—	—	1,384.314	77
	Total	1,554.788	48	887.280	41	754.824	60	—	—	799.963	88	—	—	132.455	81	5,995.184	85	5,498.741	12	3,060.235	73	—	—	2,934.949	12	—	—	2,438.505	39
3	Invalids' fund	—	—	—	—	13.962	50	13.962	50	—	—	13.962	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.702	50	14.702	50	—	—	14,702	50	—	—
4	Church tax	—	—	—	—	22.091	51	22.091	51	—	—	22.091	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	22.091	51	22.091	51	—	—	22,091	51	—	—
5	Military tax	10.22	63	1.628	06	1.955	64	—	—	8.272	99	327	58	—	—	24.141	33	15.966	66	5.077	51	—	—	19.063	82	—	—	10.889	15
6	Interest	29.722	06	20.675	04	70.222	98	40.500	92	—	—	49.547	94	—	—	176.615	40	109.674	34	354.404	40	177,789	—	—	—	244,730	06	—	—
7	Fines	1.435	19	182	96	1.401	76	—	—	33	43	1.218	80	—	—	10.078	92	998	—	3.523	27	—	—	6.555	65	2,525	27	—	—
	Total	1,596.174	36	909.766	47	864.458	99	76.554	93	808.270	30	87.148	33	132.455	81	6,206.020	50	5,625.380	12	3,460.034	92	214,583	01	2,960.568	59	284,049	34	2,449.394	54
8	Taxes due from previous years	287.865	03	355.677	40	952.534	06	664.669	03	—	—	596.856	66	—	—	1,829.554	66	844.109	22	7,102.198	03	5,272,643	37	—	—	6,258,088	81	—	—
	Total	1,884.039	33	1,265.443	87	1,816.993	05	741.223	96	808,270	30	684.004	99	132.455	81	8,035.575	16	6,469.489	34	10,562,232	95	5,487,226	38	2,960.568	59	6,542,138	15	2,449.394	54
								67.046.34				551.549.18										2,526.657.79				4.092.743.61			

Besides the above there was collected from January 1 to May 31, 1912, as collectors' expenditures, 17,850.00.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1 ,, 31, 1913. ,, ,, 1,026.00.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1 ,, 31, 1914. ,, ,, 2,862.00.

Belgrade, June 7, 1914.

COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF THE REVENUE FROM THE TAX ON ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION (ACCIS).

Articles.	Revenue in April. 1913. In Custom Houses.		In Tax-valuers' Offices.		Total.		1914. In Custom Houses.		In Tax-Valuers' Offices.		Total.		Difference in May. In Custom Houses.		In Tax-Valuers' Offices.		Total.		Total Revenue from January 1 to May 30, 1914. 1913. In Custom Houses.		In Tax-Valuers' Offices.		Total.		1914. In Custom Houses.		In Tax-Valuers' Offices.		Total.		Total Difference from January 1 to May 30. In Custom Houses.		In Tax-Valuers' Offices.		Total.	
	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.	Din.	c.
Sugar	—	—	225475	96	225475	96	3766	63	444672	69	448439	32	+ 3766	63	+219196	73	+222963	36	647	40	1139165	49	1139812	89	15034	70	1796685	24	1947033	94	+149701	30	+ 657519	75	+ 807221	05
Beer	3929	20	300177	42	304106	62	10410	32	395488	86	405899	18	+ 6481	12	+ 95311	44	+101792	56	27272	36	1021131	34	1048403	70	36248	96	1393482	76	1429 31	72	+ 8976	60	372351	42	+ 381328	02
Building material	1251	20	9000	53	10251	73	25256	98	45035	78	70292	76	+24005	78	+ 36035	25	+ 60041	03	11209	89	43462	15	54672	31	64757	46	158347	86	223105	32	+ 53547	57	+ 114885	71	+ 168433	28
Electric light	—	—	17045	78	17045	78	—	—	19456	51	19456	51	—	—	+ 2410	73	+ 2410	73	—	—	112586	71	112586	71	—	—	132482	16	132482	16	—	—	+ 19895	45	+ 19895	45
Cement	1755	98	10030	50	11786	48	10476	80	18920	80	29397	60	+ 8720	82	+ 8890	30	+ 17611	12	4545	05	20226	90	24771	95	18365	54	59137	90	77503	44	+ 13820	49	+ 38911	—	+ 52731	49
All other articles	17:945	55	0654	92	187600	47	224979	65	132356	66	238215	31	+46034	10	+ 4580	74	+ 50614	84	720974	99	37337	10	758312	09	1156068	63	55713	87	1211782	50	+435093	64	+ 18376	77	+ 453470	41
Total	185881	93	570385	11	756267	04	274890	38	936810	30	1211700	68	+89008	45	+366425	19	+455433	64	764649	69	2373909	69	3138559	38	1425789	90	3595849	79	5021639	08	+661139	60	+1221940	10	+1883079	70

Report of the Central Direction of direct and indirect Taxation in the Ministry of Finance, dated June 12 (O.S.), 1914.

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§†MALOJA	12,500	July 24	July 31	Australia, India, China.
*NAMUR	7,000	July 25	‡	Straits, China, Japan.
§ARABIA	8,000	July 31	Aug. 7	Bombay, Karachi.
*KARMALA....	9,000	Aug. 1	—	Colombo, Calcutta.
§†MOOLTAN....	10,000	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Australia, India, China.
§CHINA.....	8,000	Aug. 14	Aug. 21	Bombay, Karachi.
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[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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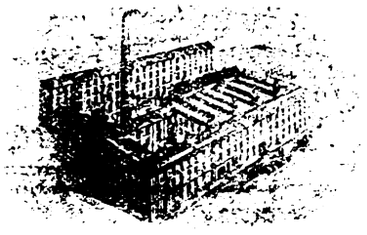
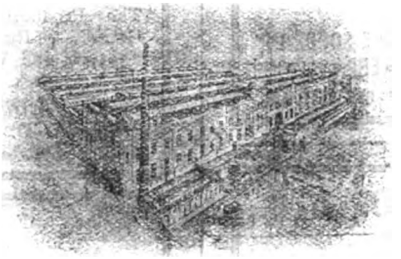
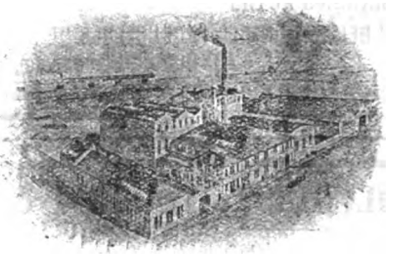

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 167.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Prince William has at last taken the significant step of giving utterance to his own views of the situation in Albania. They correspond closely with those already expressed in these columns. In an audience given to the Austro-Hungarian, French, German and Italian Ministers the Mpret pointed out that the Powers, after placing him on the throne, had shown little readiness to assist him in dealing with his difficulties. The Albanian problem had been complicated by the Epirote question from the outset, and the least sign of unrest elsewhere reacted on the situation in the south. Prince William declared that immediate help was imperative, and he urged the Ministers to address a final appeal to their Governments for military and financial aid. It is almost impossible that the Powers should remain deaf to this appeal, although their reply may not take the form desired by Prince William. To entrust the International Commission of Control with the task of administering Albania without military support and before the Commission has been purged of its discordant elements is merely to tinker with the problem and to add injury to the insults already meted out to the Mpret. Much as the actions of Austria-Hungary and Italy, which are largely responsible for the Albanian *impasse*, are to be condemned, it may be doubted whether the cynical indifference of Great Britain is not to be equally deprecated. If the British Government recognises the predominant interests of the two Powers in Albania to the extent of endorsing any course of action they care to adopt, it might at least refuse to be associated with a policy that has led to the humiliation of Prince William and civil war in Albania. When the Powers were called upon to deal with Crete, Austria-Hungary and Germany withdrew from the Concert, as they favoured the Turkish claims. Great Britain would have occupied a more dignified position if she had withdrawn when she found herself out of touch with the attitude of the other Powers towards Albania.

While no change has to be recorded in the situation at Durazzo, Southern Albania is developing a fresh crisis of its own. The prolonged impotence of the Albanian Government, shut up as it has been in the capital, has allowed the whole country to get out of hand. Detachments of gendarmerie under Dutch officers have done what they could to maintain a semblance of authority for the Durazzo Government, but at last they have had to fall back before the insurgents. At Koritza they were caught between the upper and nether millstones of the insurgents on the one hand and the Epirotes on the other. From the fragmentary information that has reached this country, it appears that the time for giving effect to the Corfu Convention regarding Epirus coincided with a forward movement of the insurgents along the South-Eastern frontier. The Epirotes, expecting an attack from these insurgents, resolved to anticipate matters by an advance upon Koritza. At the moment when the town was trying to come to terms with the insurgents, the Epirotes appeared before it and demanded admission for the ostensible purpose of protecting the Christian inhabitants. The request was rejected by the Dutch officers, and both Epirotes and insurgents advanced upon the town. After a struggle which, according to the Prefect of Koritza, lasted three days, the Epirotes entered the town, and the inhabitants fled, panic-stricken and destitute. The bulk seem to have reached Berat, but only to have this town captured two days later by the insurgents. Epirotes and insurgents are now overrunning Southern Albania, and one force or the other is threatening Valona.

The insurgent movement in Southern Albania is somewhat of an unknown quantity. It is claimed that it has nothing to do with the insurgents who have reduced Durazzo to such straits, but is purely Turkish. So long as a town or village protested allegiance to the Albanian Government, it seems to have been regarded as a common enemy by insurgents, Epirotes, and any other restless elements in the neighbourhood, and it is probable that the defeated inhabitants of Koritza are not quite clear in their own minds whether they owe their successive discomfitures to Epirotes or to insurgents in turn. If the latter movement is mainly Turkish—and it is stated that Turkish flags are freely displayed in the ranks—co-operation between the insurgents and the Epirotes is not likely to last long. As soon as the nominal authority of Prince William has been eliminated from the frontier districts the two forces can hardly fail to find themselves in conflict. The position in Albania will thus become more hopelessly confused, and will provide a still more pathetic monument than that already presented of the indifference and ineptitude of the Powers.

A correspondent of *The Morning Post* contributes an interesting sketch of the situation at Chimara, the

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"capital" of a cluster of small villages shut in between the mountains and the sea midway between Valona and Corfu. While Albania was under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan, Chimara, on the strength of its remoteness and inaccessibility, enjoyed substantial independence under the leadership of an hereditary chieftain of the family of Speiromilios. During the Balkan War the territory was occupied by Greek troops, but when these were withdrawn and Chimara was threatened with incorporation with Albania, the inhabitants threw in their lot with the Epirotes and secured a continuation of its special privileges under the authority of the Corfu Convention. The Albanians on the other side of the mountains which hem in Chimara care little, however, about any arrangement agreed upon at Corfu. They covet the Chimariots' possessions and are making a determined effort to seize them by force. So far Chimara, by the heroic exertions of its people, has offered a successful resistance. But the struggle is an unequal one, and unless help is forthcoming in some form or another for the Chimariots it is feared that they must go under, with the inevitable accompaniment of pillage and bloodshed. With the Epirotes once more in the field the pressure on Chimara may automatically be relieved; but provision for permanent respite from attack would seem to belong to the formidable list of Albania's unsolved problems.

It was suggested in these columns that a way out of the Albanian difficulty might be found by entrusting Roumania with the task of restoring order or of giving Prince William sufficient military support to enable him to establish his Government on a sound basis. Overtures on these lines appear to have been made of late in Bucharest, but they emanated from Austria-Hungary and Italy and not from the Concert of Europe as a whole. The Roumanian Government has accordingly allowed it to be understood that the subject would require a considerable amount of discussion before a definite answer could be given. In the first place Roumania would not move without a clear mandate from all the Great Powers. There are no ties between it and the Albanian State created by the Powers that call for the expenditure of either Roumanian treasure or Roumanian blood on behalf of the Albanian Government. On the other hand, if the task of "seeing Prince William through" were formally entrusted to Roumania with satisfactory guarantees in regard to compensation for her outlay and the maintenance of peace in the Balkans while a portion of her army were employed on the Albanian task, it is not impossible that the Roumanian Government would feel tempted to entertain a proposition so flattering to the position that the country has won for herself in the Near East.

A curious episode is reported from Belgrade. On the strength of information received by its Minister, the Austro-Hungarian community in the Servian capital convinced itself that on the night of July 12 the life of every one of their number was to be in danger. Accordingly many families took refuge at Semlin, the Hungarian town a short distance away up the Danube, while others sought protection in the Legation or at the Consulate. The night in question, however, passed off without incident. The reports as to the origin of the scare are contradictory. According to one account Baron Giesl, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Belgrade, received information that a number of *Komitajis* had arrived in Belgrade and intended to blow up the Legation at nightfall and subsequently to attack Austro-Hungarian residents. According to another account it was two Russian anarchists who were responsible for the scare. M. Hartwig, the Russian Minister at Belgrade, died suddenly of heart failure on July 10 while paying a call at the Austro-Hungarian Legation. The alleged anarchists are said to have intended to avenge his death by blowing up the Austro-Hungarian Legation, but had considerately notified Baron Giesl that it would be wise for him to withdraw first. Baron Giesl, however, preferred to remain inside, reinforced by forty of his Nationals, and Servian police kept guard outside. The contradictory nature of the accounts points to the hollowness of the scare, but the incident is eloquent of the tension between Austria-Hungary and Servia at the present moment.

Unfortunately, the delay on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government in concluding its investigations into the conspiracy against the life of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand tends to increase this tension between the two countries. The matter was under the consideration of the Ministerial Council, and as soon as its deliberations were concluded a section of the Vienna semi-official Press was allowed to announce that diplomatic representations on the subject were about to be made in Belgrade. The report was officially contradicted the same evening; but it is obvious that the Servian Government will take strong exception to a course of action which has the effect of allowing the Austro-Hungarian Press to keep suspended over its head the allegation of complicity or culpable neglect in regard to the plot against the Austro-Hungarian Heir-Apparent. At the same time, the Servian Government would do well to assist the Austro-Hungarian authorities in their investigations without waiting to be pressed.

A telegram from Athens reports that conversations are in progress in order to bring about a meeting between M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, and the Grand Vizier. Indeed, both statesmen may already have left for the rendezvous, which will probably be in Switzerland. It is devoutly to be hoped that this report is true. Greece has probably little liking for a single-handed conflict with Turkey—or, indeed, for a preliminary rivalry in armaments. An understanding between the two countries will be in the interests of each, and may indirectly promote better relations between all the Balkan States.

A debate in Committee of Supply in the House of Commons on the Foreign Office Vote turned mainly on British trade opportunities and the question of Government support. The discussion ranged over a wide field, but the Near and Middle East were prominent in several of the speeches. In his reply, Sir Edward Grey took up his favourite position behind the contention that in regard to the promotion of trade there is no middle course between armed intervention and a policy of *laissez faire*. It is a contention which does not hold water. In the countries concerned the Governments will often have no means of forming an opinion on the *bona fides* or value of an application except by the measure of official support it enjoys. When, in the face of other applications, supported strongly through diplomatic channels, British offers are found to be unsupported, the foible of the British Government is forgotten and the inference is formed that the applicants need not receive attention. In many instances it might be found that British interests only require that British Ambassadors and Ministers should feel that they are freed from the embargo which prevents them from showany interest in the business enterprises of British subjects.

Vosouk-ed-Dowleh, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who resigned on July 1, has rejoined the Cabinet, and the Persian Government will present at least the appearance of a properly constituted body for the Shah's Coronation. The same cannot be said of the Parliament. We may hear that a quorum of members has been obtained, but it is probable that many of the elections will not bear investigation. Nor is the foreign outlook more hopeful than the domestic. The reply of the Russian Government to the recent Note presented by the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs is stated to have been drawn up, although it was not to be communicated until after the Coronation. It is to be feared that the Persian Government will derive little satisfaction from this document. Russia virtually upholds all that her agents have done or are doing in Azerbaijan, but she is prepared to see the present Governor-General replaced by the Governor-General of Kermanshah, Farman Farma. For the rest she adopts the attitude that any good turn done to Persia requires a corresponding strengthening of the Russian hold on the north.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 10.

The Situation in Anatolia.

The situation in Anatolia is improving, but not as rapidly as one could wish, sporadic attacks on individual Greeks being reported from several localities. The reports of the dragomans—most of whom have returned from Smyrna—will not be published, but it is understood that all give acounts of the atrocities at Phocea, which differ in no important respect from that recently communicated to The Near East by "Lascaris." According to European witnesses of the rioting, the murders, etc., were entirely unprovoked. About fifty persons were killed, and there was, as usual, a good deal of rape. Several persons, including old, infirm, and half-witted people were tortured, and there was general pillage. At Serekeui between forty and fifty Greeks were killed; but here the circumstances were different. There had been resistance—very foolish resistance—on the part of the Greeks, and bloodshed was inevitable. Several Turks were killed. Talaat Bey recently admitted that he had asked the Greek Patriarch why the Greeks in villages threatened by bands did not scare away marauders by firing on them instead of bolting so rapidly. It would certainly appear that the rumours that the Greek coastal population had been armed to the teeth by Greek smugglers were exaggerated! It is as well; for had the Greeks been armed they would have resisted, and much loss of life would have ensued. As it was there was only resistance at Serekeui and on the outskirts of Aivali. The disturbances at Brusa seem to have been less serious than was first reported. They were the work largely of Kurds, whom persons unknown had imported into the Vilayet.

Djavid Bey's Budget Speech.

Djavid Bey's Budget speech was as eloquent and interesting as usual. He laid stress on the fact that Turkey had succeeded in waging a long war without money, and that the crops promised well. He thanked the French Government for having agreed to unloose its purse-strings and permit the quotation of the last loan on the Bourse of Paris, and referred with approval to the agreements now pending between England and Turkey, and also to that between Turkey and Germany. His Excellency will soon leave for Berlin to continue the negotiations concerning the increase of the Customs duties, the establishment of a petroleum monopoly, etc.

Railways in Anatolia.

MM. Girard and Dumas of the Régie Générale des Chemins de Fer, to which the Government, by the Franco-Turkish agreement, has granted a concession for the construction of the Samsun-Sivas railway, have left for Samsun, where they will shortly be followed by Herr Otto Kapp von Gulstein, manager of the same Society, and by Mukhtar Bey, head of the Railways Department of the Ministry of Public Works. According to a local newspaper it will not be easy to make much progress till the second instalment of the loan is issued in Paris. In that case work will begin next spring. The line, when completed, should pay well. It will traverse the fertile districts of Ladik, Mersifan, Amasia—the great apple centre of Turkey—and Tokat, all regions where there is a fairly thick population on the ground, and the Sivas plateau is a well known sheep and cattle raising centre. No projected railway promises better.

Albania: The Lion of Janina's Views.

The assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the troubles in Albania have made pessimists, who are always numerous here, more inclined than ever to "croak" their dismal vaticinations of trouble in the Balkans. It is certain that Austro-Servian relations are somewhat strained, and that the position in Albania is growing worse and worse. The childish petulance of the Albanians, the intrigues of Servian, Greek, and Turkish partisans, and Austro-Italian rivalry, seem likely to force the luckless Mpret to abdicate, unless that ill-starred Prince can find somewhere and somehow the three or four battalions of good troops who, in the opinion of good judges, could put three times their number of insurgents to rout. Djemal Bey, the leader of the insurgents, an ex-Turkish officer, continues to give the Constantinople newspapers interesting accounts of his doings. His ally, Arif Hikmet, was one of the members of the Committee of Union and Progress in his day, and though of Albanian origin, a determined foe of the Latin Alphabet. There is a strong belief here that stories of the candidature of Burhan-ed-Din Effendi to the throne of Albania are well founded, and that this young man thinks that he will succeed where the Mpret failed. Bakkalym! Is this pale young man, brought up in Yildiz, all but a State prisoner after his father's fall and deposition, gifted with musical tastes and social graces, to play the part of a Skanderbeg or an Ali Pasha? Wonders have happened in the Near East before now; but this would be a miracle!

It must be hard for those European Albanophiles who are also Turcophiles, to make up their minds which to back of the Albanian parties these days, the Bektashi and Catholic Nationalists or the Moslem and Catholic insurgents who hoist Turkish flags and destroy Albanian emblems! Meantime, one is reminded of Ali Pasha's words to de Tocqueville when that humane Frenchman remonstrated with him for some peculiarly heinous piece of cruelty and treachery. "Young man," said the Lion of Janina, "you are very young, so I pardon you; but you do not know these people or how they must be ruled. These Greeks and Albanians, whom I govern, would for cupidity or ambition sell their fathers' bones, so I have to be executing them now and again." These may not be the exact words of Ali, but that is their general sense, and one wonders whether the old scoundrel was not partly right, and whether harder hands than those of the present occupant and existing claimants to the Albanian throne are not needed to keep order.

The Islands.

Opinions differ as to the solution of the Island question. The Italians seem destined to remain for ever in Rhodes and Stampalia, for no negotiations have been opened concerning their evacuation between the Consulta and the Porte. The expulsion of the Greek population from the Ægean coast and the substitution of Moslem immigrants, some of whom have already cut down all the vines at Karaburun and are planting potatoes on that arid promontory—Heaven help them to better knowledge of agriculture!—ought logically to render it easier for the Turks to accept the loss of Chios and Mitylene. Logic is, however, less prized in the Near East than in the Western lands, and we are not out of the wood yet.

TURKISH SENATOR'S SUSPENSION.

On Tuesday the Turkish Senate pronounced the exclusion of Mr. Georgiades, a Greek Senator, from three sittings on account of certain expressions he used on the occasion of the discussion of the Bill for the establishment of a national bank at Aidin. The event is unprecedented.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 9.

Opinion on the Greco-Turkish Affair.

More than a passing interest is being taken locally in the events that are occurring in the Balkans. This is, of course, natural, considering the very large Greek colony domiciled in Egypt and the close religious and, to a certain extent, personal ties that bind the Egyptians to Turkey. In these circumstances it is interesting to note that little confidence is felt in a peaceful solution of the Greco-Turkish quarrel, and that in fact a strong conviction prevails that war is inevitable. It is firmly believed that with Turkey it is merely a case of *reculer pour mieux sauter;* in other words, that the Turks will not rest contented until they have made an effort to regain their lost territory. Whilst it is recognised that the Turks must wait until they are strong enough to take the offensive with every hope of success, it is admitted on the other hand that Greece's policy is to strike her rival before the latter is in a position to resist her, in the hope of postponing to a far-distant date the Turkish menace that will otherwise always hang over her. The strong impression exists that as soon as the "Idaho" and the "Mississippi" are taken over, Greece will find some *casus belli*, for it is recognised that when Turkey receives her Dreadnoughts there will not be the same disparity of strength between the two fleets; though, of course, there is no blinking the fact that as yet the Turks are far behind the Greeks in so far as their organisation and the efficiency of their men are concerned. The betting locally is all in favour of a war before the autumn and in the direction of the Turkish Dreadnoughts, if they start, never reaching Ottoman waters; the only obstacle that is foreseen to an early war is that pressure may be brought to bear by Europe on the Hellenic Government.

The "Wadinnil" and the Press Law.

At its last meeting but one the Council of Ministers authorised the reappearance of *El Wadinnil*, the daily paper which was suppressed in April, 1912, for having published a violent article attacking the Sudan Government for the manner in which the Annuak expedition had been carried out. Coming as it has just after the publication of the details of the protest against the Press Law made by English publicists, this action has aroused much comment, and it is being freely inferred therefrom that the repeal or the suspension of the operation of that measure has been decided upon, and further, that the other papers that had been suppressed since its re-enactment in 1910 will be allowed to reappear.

This deduction is, however, absolutely erroneous. In the first place there is no analogy whatsoever between the cases of the *Wadinnil* and of the other journals referred to. The latter were only suppressed after they had given frequent and serious offence and had received several warnings, whilst in the case of the *Wadinnil* the article which caused the trouble was the first of its kind to appear in that paper, which had in fact only just previously rendered signal service to the State by the disclosures it had made of the scandalous condition of the Alexandria Municipality. In view of these, which by comparison constitute extenuating circumstances, and of the fact that the Sudan Government, which had originally demanded the taking of drastic steps against the paper, had expressed its willingness to consider the offence as expiated, the Council of Ministers decided to allow the publication of the *Wadinnil* once more.

With regard to the deduction made, whatever modification of the existing Press Law may be contemplated in the near future, the Government's action must not be taken as an indication that the enforcement of the measure will be relaxed, nor as pretending the re-entry into the journalistic arena of the other organs that have fallen under its guillotine during the past four years. Those journals transgressed in too continued and determined a manner for any consideration to be shown to them, and there are still signs amongst certain of the existing vernacular papers that the relaxation of the present control would not have satisfactory consequences.

Extraordinary Rumours from Home.

According to the local Press, two rumours that one can only characterise as extraordinary are circulating amongst your contemporaries at home. The first is that Lord Kitchener wants to create an Egyptian Navy; the second is that in the event of the British Agent going to India, the Duke of Connaught will succeed him. One could scarcely credit the fact that the home Press had been guilty of such mis-statements if the source of information had not been quoted. Of course, neither rumour is likely to be realised, and both statements display just that ignorance of the peculiar financial and political situation of Egypt that the comments of a certain section of the British Press only too often betray.

The Question of an Anglican Bishop for Egypt.

The resignation of Bishop Blyth has again brought up the question of the position of the Anglican Church in Egypt, and considerable discussion has of late ensued on the subject in the local English colony and Press. It is conceded that perhaps there is not quite sufficient work in Egypt to occupy the time and attention of a bishop exclusively; but at the same time it is generally admitted that the Anglican Church in Egypt in general, and in Cairo in particular, requires the infusion of more life than it has shown in the past. Whether a bishop is the sole means of bringing about this desirable quickening, or whether the same end could be attained by the clergy taking a more lively and human interest in their flock, is a difficult question to decide; but one thing which strikes the layman forcibly is that much of this slackness must undoubtedly be due to the fact that the man responsible for the supreme direction of Church affairs in Egypt, the Bishop in Jerusalem, has of late years paid no visit to his Anglo-Egyptian flock, and that for confirmation and other similar purposes his place has been taken by his colleague of Khartoum, who, however, has never been able to stay any length of time in Egypt or in Cyprus owing to the great calls his own diocese makes on him.

Seeing that the Bishop in Jerusalem, on his own showing, has an ever-increasing task in Palestine, and that the Bishop in Khartoum is equally absorbed within the present limits of his vast diocese, it seems that Egypt is like to fall between two stools, and because it is felt that this community is, from an episcopal point of view, being somewhat neglected, a movement in favour of a separate bishopric periodically makes itself felt. It is to be hoped that now that it has become necessary to choose a new Bishop in Jerusalem the position of the Anglican Church in the Near East in general, and in Egypt in particular, will be studied, and that since a fund already exists, some means will be found for giving to the Anglo-Egyptian community the spiritual attention which it requires.

It may be remembered that a recent scheme for selling the site of All Saints' Church in Cairo and purchasing a new one in a more central position was held over, at Lord Kitchener's suggestion, owing to the fact that the creation of an Egyptian see was under consideration. I have reason to believe that the whole question may be the subject of discussion between his lordship and the Archbishop of Canterbury this summer.

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THE ALEXANDRIA BOMBARDMENT.

"Lest We Forget," writing from Alexandria, reminds us that Saturday last was the thirty-second anniversary of the day which saw the beginning of British rule in Egypt. On that memorable day, at 7 a.m., the hours of grace which had been granted by the British Admiral to the rebel leader, Arabi Pasha, expired, and the first shot was fired in the bombardment of the forts outside Alexandria. This was in response to a signal from the "Invincible," Admiral Seymour's flagship, to the "Alexandra," which fired a shell into the recently armed earthworks of the Hospital Battery. Then followed the general signal to the fleet, "Attack the enemies' batteries," when immediate action ensued between all the ships in the positions commanding the entrance to the harbour of Alexandria. In this action the part played by the gunboat "Condor," commanded by Lord Charles Beresford, stands out prominently. The orders given to the small ships were to keep out of fire, and to watch for an opportunity. This came to the "Condor" when, just as the action began, the "Temeraire" parted her cable and got ashore. Lord Charles Beresford's ship immediately went to the rescue and towed her off, the while Fort Marabout was giving three other units a warm time. The "Condor," after seeing the "Temeraire" safe, steamed close into shore in spite of the danger from the heavy shore guns, and commenced harassing the fort and dismounting its guns with amazing dexterity. The rapidity of her movements, as well as her small size, enabled her to escape scathless, and at length, with the aid of the "Beacon," "Bittern," and "Cygnet," by which she was joined, the fort was completely silenced.

The part played by the "Condor" was immediately recognised. The Admiral had just bent on the signal for the "Monarch" to go to Fort Marabout as soon as she could be spared, when he heard a cheer from his own men. He asked the reason, and was told that the cheer was meant for the "Condor." The cheer was followed by three loud volleys from that ship, which gave the battery the *coup de grace*, and once more cheers rang out from the flagship. At this point the historic signal, "Well done, 'Condor,'" was hoisted, and the day after Beresford was presented by Captain Wilson with the flag of the fort whose guns he had silenced. It now hangs, we believe, in the museum of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

Those were stirring days in Alexandria, and not a few are left who can tell some thrilling tales of the "events" which followed on the bombardment. "Hell let loose" most aptly describes the state of the city at the time. Some stray shells from the ships and the rapacity of the lower classes fired the town, and the rearguard of a demoralised army vengefully completed the destructive work of conflagration and plunder. When the army evacuated the city, after threatening the Khedive in his palace, the uncontrolled mob went mad, and pillage, looting, and murder were added to the horrors of the burning city. In this connection, it is not generally known how much Lord Charles Beresford did for the restoration of order. As Provost Marshal he did yeoman's work on shore with only a handful of men to patrol the town, stop the looting, and protect the lives of those refugees who came on shore and others who had hidden themselves in the town. By preventing the fires from extending to the native quarters of the town and some of the best streets, millions of money must have been saved. One week almost sufficed for the chief of police to restore at least a semblance of order out of perfect chaos.

There was no lack of willing volunteers among the local British community to aid Lord Charles Beresford. One who particularly distinguished himself on the occasion was Mr. John Ross, who runs Mr. Robert J. Moss close for the honour of being the oldest British resident in Egypt at the present day. Mr. Ross rendered invaluable service to the British fleet before the bombardment, for which he received the warm thanks of Lord Alcester; and in the restoration of order afterwards was a prominent figure, earning the gratitude of Lord Charles Beresford. Many stories are related of the open-handed charity he dispensed to the starving refugees of various nationalities, but particularly so to a large number of unfortunate Jews, whom Lord Charles Beresford, Mr. Villiers (of *The Graphic*), and Mr. Ross found hiding in certain parts of the town, and whom they brought down to the Marina, where they were sheltered and fed for two or three days by Mr. Ross. The most interesting story, however, is that which credits Mr. Ross with a good deal of the responsibility for the bombardment itself! Readers of history will remember that the immediate cause of the bombardment was the report received by Admiral Seymour that the rebel army had mounted new guns in position after receiving orders from the French and English admirals to cease throwing up earthworks and mounting guns, under pain of immediate bombardment. This report, it is believed, was received from Mr. Ross, who supplied the two fleets with coal. Intimate with the English admiral and the officers, he kept them informed, at no little personal danger, of all that was taking place on shore and in the forts.

Few people are, we think, aware that the present British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt was on board the flagship as a simple spectator of the bombardment, but this is so. Lieutenant Kitchener, as he was then, had obtained leave from his regiment at Cyprus, and, having been invited by the admiral as a guest on board the flagship, gladly accepted, no doubt being attracted by the prospect of seeing a "scrap."

A PORT SAID PLAINT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, July 6.

A petition is being drawn up by the principal tradesmen of the town, and will shortly be presented to the Governor of the Suez Canal District and the Mixed Municipal Council, calling for protection from what is regarded as a serious invasion of the legitimate interests of local traders.

For some time past tourist offices in Cairo have organised excursions to the capital from either Port Said or Suez for parties of passengers, outward or homeward bound. For a fixed figure the traveller is rushed up by special train to the capital, nourished and housed at one of the best hotels, and motored to the Pyramids and round the town, while the steamer is making the transit of the Canal. A special train bears him back to the other end of the Canal, where he rejoins his steamer. Such an excursion no doubt makes a pleasant and exciting break in the monotony of a long voyage, and the success of the scheme is indicated by its growing popularity with passing passengers. But Port Said suffers. The Indian shopkeeper, the native dealer in curios, and the hundred-and-one vendors of trifles for travellers are being gradually deprived of their only source of livelihood, as the hitherto idle, full-pocketed passenger becomes for the nonce a rushing, breathless tourist, with time only for a carriage drive from the station to the waiting steamer.

It is proposed that steps should be taken to abolish the special trains, and thus render it impossible for passengers to make the excursion within the limited time of the Canal transit. It is urged that Port Said is not the only sufferer, as passengers have not even time in Cairo to make their customary purchases, and the trade of Egypt is diminished as a consequence.

It is difficult, however, to predict a successful result of the petition. Tourist agents are undoubtedly entitled to special trains on payment of the regulation tariff, and many passengers are naturally only too glad to avail themselves of the organised facilities offered for a hasty visit to Cairo. The hardship suffered by the Port Said shopkeeper is to be regretted, but it is not likely to be remedied by an appeal to the Governor and Council, who, however much they may sympathise with the petitioners and deplore the loss of trade to the town, are practically powerless to disturb a lawfully conducted business, for which there appears to be a growing demand.

FOOTBALL IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Mail gives an interesting account of the introduction of Association football into Egypt. It says that shortly after the arrival of the first party of English masters in Egypt Mr. R. R. Smithard, now an inspector of the Department of Technical and Commercial Education, but at that time a master at the Khedivial School, determined to try and introduce the game among the schoolboys. He mentioned the matter to Dr. Dunlop, who was then an inspector in the Ministry, and, he approving, it was decided to make a start. The first thing to do was to buy a ball, but in those days that was no easy matter. Roberts-Hughes did not then exist, and the few footballs that were in the country belonged to the regiments of the Army of Occupation and had been brought out from home. However, after a long search Mr. Smithard found a ball in a shop in the Esbekia kept by an Englishman, and, thus armed, proceeded to the Khedivial School playing fields. This was just an ordinary field, with trees growing haphazard in it, but two of these were selected, and the interested students were informed that it was the duty of some of them to kick the ball between the trees, while it was the duty of others to prevent their succeeding. All went happily for some minutes, until one boy, in performing a magnificent dash down the right wing, with his arms waving on either side of him, dashed into a tree—it may have been one of the goal-posts—with so much force that he broke an arm. Of course, the game came to an abrupt conclusion, and the feelings of Mr. Smithard and his enthusiastic colleagues can well be imagined at such a termination to their initial efforts to impart the ethics of Association football to the schoolboys of Egypt; nor were they softened the next morning when *The Bosphore Egyptien*, a paper notorious for its Anglophobe tendencies, came out with a denunciatory article on the barbarity of the new English schoolmasters, who had no sooner arrived in this country than they broke a pupil's arm *avec un lache coup de pied*. Soccer in Egypt, however, has weathered the storm of a broken arm, and the standard the game has reached in the schools here is really extraordinarily high.

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SERVIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Death of M. de Hartwig.

Belgrade, July 12.

Last Friday evening M. Nicholas de Hartwig, Russian Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade, called upon Baron Giesl at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy, and within a quarter of an hour of his arrival suddenly expired from an attack of apoplexy. Medical aid was promptly at hand, but it was of no avail.

Yesterday the greater part of the houses in Belgrade hung out black flags in token of mourning, and numerous special editions of the papers were issued. The Press bears testimony to the severe loss that Servia suffers through the death of a diplomatist who always showed himself her good friend and adviser, and whose advice the Servian Government always appreciated and followed.

It was thanks chiefly to M. de Hartwig's advice, and to the action of Russia, that the Balkan Alliance was effected, resulting in a briliant success and the immense expansion of Servia. It is evident that in him the Russian Government chose the right man for the place, and his loss is deeply deplored in Servian political circles.

The *Balkan* proposes the erection of a monument to him, the funds to be subscribed by the people of Servia without any official aid, and the paper opens a subscription list and heads it with a liberal donation. The semi-official *Samouprava* says that M. de Hartwig carried out Russia's friendly policy by working for Servia with his whole heart, and that his name, beloved and admired, will remain for ever engraven on the memory of the Servian people. The whole Slav race is depressed, and deplores the loss of one of the greatest sons of Russia.

Yesterday a requiem service was held at the chapel of the Russian Embassy. This morning the doors of the Embassy were opened to the public, and a constant stream of people of all ranks passed through the mortuary chamber. The body has been embalmed for conveyance to Russia; but every effort is being made to induce the relations and the Russian authorities to permit the remains to be interred here.

The King's Birthday.

To-day being King Peter's birthday, the mourning emblems have been removed, and the houses in all the leading streets are decorated with gay flags and coloured bunting. The soldiers stationed in and near Belgrade march through the streets and defile before the Royal Palace. This morning there was divine service at the Cathedral. The Metropolitan and a large number of priests officiated, and the Crown Prince, Prince George, the Cabinet Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the superior officers of the Army, and the principal civilians of the town attended. As is usual on such occasions, there are to-day abundant festivities in Topshidar Park, in the environs of Belgrade, and this afternoon there will be horse-racing.

It is stated in well-informed circles that in a few days King Peter will terminate his sojourn at the Vraniska Springs, and that, in accordance with the advice of his doctors, he will then go for a long period to the Ribarska Bathing Resort, which he has previously visited during many successive years. This lengthened stay at another bathing resort confirms the statement I made in the article on the Servian Regency in your issue of the 3rd inst., that if the King's inability to perform his functions were only of a temporary nature, such as an illness of short duration, it was not likely that he would delegate his power to a regent.

Albanian Refugees.

Lately many Albanian families have migrated into Servian territory, many of the refugees being wounded, and all in a state of absolute poverty. Permission to remain in Servia has been refused to the healthy, but the wounded, by order of the Servian authorities, were transported to the nearest hospitals, and the women and children were provided with food.

Reply to Austrian Press Attacks.

The continual attacks of the Austrian and Hungarian Press upon the Servian people and the Servian authorities have aroused very bitter feelings here. The Government has sent a note to its representatives abroad stating that it is clearly the aim of the Austrian and Hungarian Press to destroy Servia's moral reputation in Europe by attributing political motives to a crime committed by a misguided fanatic—a crime condemned on all sides in Servia, and which could only tend to produce an estrangement between the two neighbouring countries and place Servians resident in Austria and Hungary in a pitiable condition, and that, too, at a time when Servia was doing its utmost to improve its friendly relations with the neighbouring State. The note further says it is absurd to imagine that the Servian authorities would willingly permit such criminal proceedings to be prepared, and that it is evident it would be to Servia's greatest interest that the Serajevo crime had never been committed. These criminals were, moreover, Austro-Hungarian subjects, and in future the Servian Government will increase its vigilance in respect to any such doubtful people within its territory.

The Servian Press naturally has something to say as to the Servian point of view. The *Tribuna* says that the Catholic-Mohammedan mob, singing the national hymn, destroyed and plundered about one thousand Servian houses and shops under the eyes of the local authorities, which it considers a crime to be as much condemned as that of the two national fanatics. The *Novosti* complains of the Bosnian authorities not employing ample means to secure the safety of the Heir-Apparent and of their permitting the robbing and assassinating of Servians resident in Bosnia; and asks if such things are to be permitted because the evildoers sing the national hymn and are bearers of the Emperor's portrait. *Mali Journal* notifies that part of the late persecutions of Servians in Bosnia consisted of the plundering and damaging of Servian Orthodox churches and schools. The *Politika* states that since the Serajevo crime a number of threatening letters have been sent from Austria-Hungary to the Servian Court and Servian Ministers.

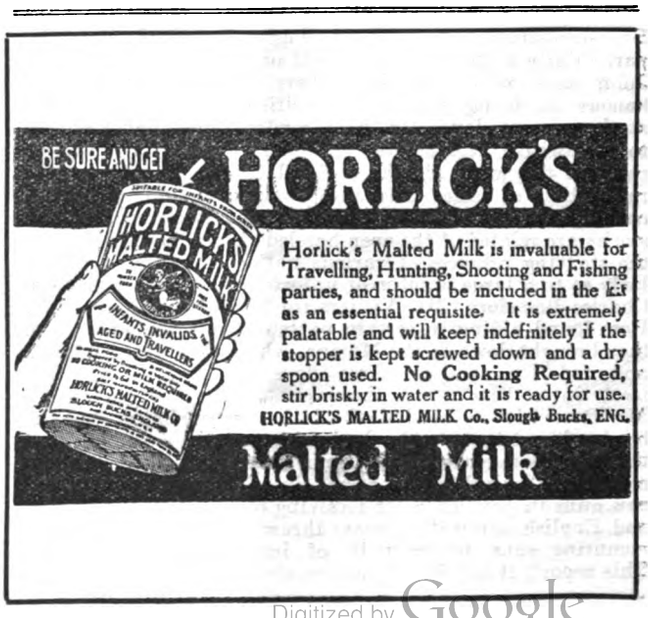
In political circles here and amongst the public the termination and result of the judicial inquiry at Serajevo is anxiously awaited, but everyone feels assured that if the inquiry is impartially carried out nothing can be established that would confirm the accusations in the Austrian and Hungarian Press or would be to the detriment of the Servian authorities.

BULGARIAN REFUGEES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 12.

The Commission entrusted with the task of looking after the refugees had up to July 3 dealt with the cases of 13,000 families, making in all 65,465 souls. Of these 2,681 families have been settled in the neighbourhood of Soufli; 2,248 in the district of Gumurjina; 1,198 in Nevrokop; 1,799 around Dedeagatch; 1,173 in Xanthi; and the remainder in the provinces of New Bulgaria.



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M. DE HARTWIG.

(From An Occasional Correspondent.)

M. de Hartwig was a type of the Russian diplomatic official of the forward school who carries out a more or less independent policy of his own creation, and is applauded or disowned by his Government in accordance with circumstances. In the earlier years of his career he was Vice-Consul at Burgas in Bulgaria, and in this capacity played a leading part in a conspiracy against Prince Alexander, who had adopted an inconveniently independent attitude towards Russia in the later period of his reign. The plot failed, and M. de Hartwig was discreetly removed to another sphere of activity. From this time dated his antipathy to Bulgaria, which greatly influenced his subsequent policy.

As Minister at Teheran he found abundant scope for his enterprising instincts, which led him to place a somewhat loose interpretation on the obligations of Russia under her agreement with Great Britain, and his activity eventually became so disconcerting to his Government as to necessitate his transference to another post.

Appointed to Belgrade, he lost no time in actively promoting a project for a combination of the Slavonic States of the Balkan Peninsula against Austria-Hungary. The plan was entirely distinct from the larger project of an alliance of all the States of the Peninsula against Turkey, with a view to the liberation of the Christian subjects of that Power, which was initiated by Mr. Venizelos in a proposal made to the Bulgarian Government in the spring of 1911. Of this M. de Hartwig and the Russian Government knew nothing until a comparatively short time before the outbreak of the war.

In the period preceding the second Balkan war M. de Hartwig did much to encourage Servian pretensions against Bulgaria. He is stated to have promised Servia the possession of the whole valley of the Vardar, and even of Salonika. His policy was far from meeting with the approval of the Russian Government, but he enjoyed the support of the forward party at St. Petersburg, which included several Grand Dukes and other important persons, and his position remained secure. His policy has had a disastrous effect on Slavonic unity in the Balkans and has extinguished the influence of Russia in Bulgaria.

THE BALKAN COMMITTEE.

The annual meeting of the Balkan Committee was held on Wednesday, Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., presiding.

Lord Bryce, who proposed the adoption of the report, attributed the misfortunes of the Nearer East since the Treaty of Berlin to the non-enforcement of that Treaty. The second of the late wars in the Balkans was ended by the Treaty of Bucharest, which had proved a most unsatisfactory arrangement. The Balkan States should reconsider this treaty, and arrive at a better adjustment, which would remove the causes for oppression that now existed. They should also feel that their duty was to act in a manner worthy of the freedom which they had won. That counsel would be given by the Balkan Committee, and it would be the general sentiment of Englishmen if they would only concentrate their minds upon the question.

Mr. J. D. Bourchier said that since he had last addressed the Committee a deplorable situation had been created in the Balkans. At the beginning of last year, when the delegates of the victorious Balkan States were assembled in London, there were good grounds for hoping that they would contrive to make an equitable division of the conquered territories in accordance with the principle of nationalities. The Young Turk *pronunciamiento* at Constantinople followed, the war was protracted, and unhappy disputes arose among the Allies. The blame for the internecine war that followed must not be laid on one State alone; those who repudiated their engagements and offered provocation in various ways were at least as culpable as those who first drew the sword. The Treaty of Bucharest followed, an arrangement imposed by force and marked by a complete disregard of the distribution of races and even of commercial and economic considerations. That Treaty, which had now been in existence neary a year, had been productive of an incalculable amount of misery among the subjugated peoples, accompanied by migrations *en masse*. It had been followed, not by peace and tranquillity, but by feverish military preparations, involving an enormous outlay and violent efforts on the part of those who had appropriated the greater portion of the spoil to assimilate their new subjects by forcible methods. These methods, applied, as a rule, by undisciplined local officials, would only perpetrate racial enmities, exhaust the young States financially, and lead to another war.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 12.

Mourning for the Late Archduke.

The Austro-Hungarian Press expresses gratification at the publication of the official Royal *communiqué* referring to the mourning in this country for the late Archduke Franz Ferdinand. As it is not customary for such a *communiqué* to be issued in regard to such cases of Court mourning, it is evident that the King and Queen wish by their action to show how intimately they join in the sorrow caused by the death of their friend. Another mark of the personal affection existing between the two Courts in spite of the political coolness, was the fact that both the King and the Queen wore Austrian uniforms at the requiem service held here.

The New Territories.

Work on the highways and railroads to connect the newly acquired territory with Roumania proper is being actively pushed forward. The Minister of Public Works, Dr. Anghelescu, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Bratiano, have left to make a tour of inspection in the newly acquired territory in connection therewith, and they will also inquire into complaints of certain irregularities in the fixing of rights regarding the ownership of land. In connection with the last point the Minister of Agriculture, M. Constantinescu, has also left, and it is the firm purpose of the Government that absolute justice shall be meted out in the new territory.

A Railway Question.

Various rumours are current regarding proposals for the construction of a railway line from the Russian frontier to the proposed Serbo-Roumanian bridge across the Danube; and naturally enough these rumours—which I am unable to check—have called forth the comment from various quarters that they are the first real result of the visit of the Tsar to Constantza. Up to the present, it is observed, Roumania has been a barrier across Russia's path to the Balkans. (Whether it is a good thing for such a barrier to be removed may probably appear doubtful to some of your readers; but just now one does not hear the question asked here.) Such a line would obviously be of great strategic importance for Russia; and the discussion of the question sheds some light upon Italy's keen desire for an independent—but not too independent—Albanian State; for the railway, if and when completed, would give Russia an easy road to Antivari.

A Frontier Proposal.

The Bulgarian Government has addressed a Note to the Roumanian Government, in which it proposes that, in order to prevent the occurrence of further frontier incidents of the kind that have been so numerous of late, the frontier posts of each country shall be set back one hundred metres from the actual frontier line. Similar proposals, I understand, have been addressed to the Servian and the Greek Governments; and in the present state of affairs a good deal could be said in favour of the suggested arrangement.

RELICS FROM A RUBBISH HEAP.

On Monday Sir Frederick G. Kenyon, Vice-President of the Egypt Exploration Fund, opened at Burlington House an exhibition of antiquities unearthed by the Fund's excavators, led by Mr. J. de M. Johnson, at Antinoe. The exhibition comprises many objects which serve to illustrate the everyday life of the town founded by Hadrian, such as shoes and boots, linen dresses, bracelets, and other ornaments, knives and spoons, glass ware, and a variety of household articles, toys, and so forth. But the most important finds made by the diggers consisted of a large number of papyri, including one large fragment containing some 600 lines of the Idylls of Theocritus, which is supposed to be part of a late 5th or 6th Century papyrus book. Some interesting Coptic fragments were also secured. Most of these treasures were recovered, as was the case at the excavations at Oxyrhynchus, carried on by Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt, from the rubbish heaps of the old city.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, July 11.

The Austro-Hungarian colony in this town were invited by their Vice-Consul, in the absence of the Consul-General, to assist at a requiem service for the repose of the souls of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his consort, to be held on Saturday morning last in the Roman Catholic Church, which service was very largely attended. We were somewhat surprised to see that neither the foreign Consuls nor the local authorities were officially represented; also to learn that no invitations had been issued to them. Usually on such occasions they all attend in full uniform, so one's curiosity was aroused. On inquiry it was explained that as the Treaty of Bucharest has not yet been formally recognised by the Great Powers the Greek position is still undefined, and that official invitations might have given rise to questions of precedence, which it is more prudent to avoid. Whether this is the true explanation we, of course, cannot say, but it does seem rather odd that the Greek flag on the White Tower was up to the truck on this occasion and on others, when all the Consulates' flags were at half-mast.

'Out of Works" Problem.

In the last Salonika letter it was said that the heads of some sixty Jewish families had been thrown out of work through the under-cutting of prices by refugees in the matter of carrying salt; and now about a thousand other workpeople have just been dismissed by the Turkish Tobacco Régie, whose monopoly has come to an end in the new Greek provinces. And so it goes on from week to week; the demand for labour daily becoming less and the consequent distress greater. I doubt that a single new house or building has been erected here since the occupation; whereas up to a couple of years ago it was almost impossible to find bricklayers, masons, and joiners free to undertake new contracts. Now the difficulty is to find work, and there are thousands out of employment—not reckoning the refugees.

The Imprisonment of a Journalist.

For an outsider to understand Greek legal procedure is a quite impossible matter; but no doubt the two or three hundred lawyers who have come here during the last few months to lighten our darkness are familiar with and revel in its intricacies. Mention was made some five or six weeks ago of the Jewish editor of the *Avanti* (a paper printed in Judeo-Spanish with the Hebrew character), who was imprisoned because he had criticised the compulsory closing of shops on non-statutory fête days, a further charge of insulting the King, whose "name day" it happened to be on this particular occasion, being tacked on to the indictments. Although the Grand Rabbi has pleaded with the authorities on this man's behalf, vouching for it that there was nothing in the article really insulting to the King (and surely the Grand Rabbi should be the better judge of his own language), and although bail to the extent of £1,000 was offered for him, this unfortunate editor is still locked up and untried.

A Socialist Case.

Another case that has just attracted considerable attention is that of two Jewish Socialists who some short time ago were condemned by the Governor-General to be deported because evidence had shown that they "had anything but amicable intentions; that under the pretext of perverted Socialist theories they imposed on the ignorance of the working classes to whom the State accords every protection by special laws; and that by their acts and teachings they, from the State's point of view, poisoned the national soul."

They appealed against this sentence, and the hearing of the appeal came on last week, when the lawyers for the accused men demanded the adjournment of the case until their clients could be present, contending that the law gave them the right to defend themselves personally. Besides, the Court having previously decided it was incompetent to order their return, and a telegram having already been sent to the Minister of Justice in Athens praying that the men should be brought back for the trial, the lawyers held that, at least, there should be a postponement until an answer had been received.

To cut a long story short, every demand of the four defending lawyers being opposed by the Procureur and rejected by the Court, one of them advanced to the bar and declared, on behalf of himself and colleagues, that, in view of this opposition, they could no longer undertake the defence of their clients; whereupon they and their witnesses put on their hats and left the Court. After their departure the case was continued, witnesses against the accused were heard, and it finally ended with the rejection of the appeal. So the accused will remain deported in Naxos. As a further little incident of the trial, one of the audience, a Mr. David Recanati, of the Socialist Federation, was arrested and sentenced to be kept in custody for twenty-four hours for having "smiled ironically during the giving of the evidence of one of the witnesses."

An official communication issued yesterday to the Press says that the allusions in the local papers to the recent arrest of Bulgarians on board the "City of Malaga" gave an "inexact and distorted account of the incident, the truth being that some subaltern police agents, ignorant of the privileges of international rights, and especially of Anglo-Greek conventions, forced their way on board the said steamer, and that these agents have been punished according to the disciplinary regulations." This communication, however, is altogether silent about the beating and treatment on board the ship of one of the Bulgarians; nor does it say whether these men were subsequently given up to the British Consul, as should have been insisted upon; it is likewise silent as to whether the beaten Bulgarian is still alive.

ROADS SACRIFICED TO HOSPITALITY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Haifa, June 29.

The Turks have eagerly availed themselves of every opportunity that presented itself to show their appreciation of the services so gallantly rendered by the sailors of the German warship "Goeben" at Constantinople recently. The Turkish authorities here have therefore not neglected the opportunity to demonstrate their gratitude and admiration on the occasion of the visit of the "Goeben" to Haifa yesterday.

Acting on instructions from Constantinople, the municipality invited the officers and crew to a grand reception in their honour, which was held to-day in the beautiful gardens near Acre. The commander willingly accepted. He invited many dignitaries, both Germans and natives, to proceed with him on board the "Goeben" to Acre with the object of attending the reception. They gladly responded to the invitation, the prospect of travelling on a Dreadnought being alluring. A large number of people were, therefore, on board when the "Goeben" steamed away this morning for Acre.

The entertainment at Acre, although the first of its kind, was magnificent. It took place in the open air on the banks of the Cishon River. There Arabic hospitality was lavishly dispensed. A large variety of food was provided, and champagne was served to the officers and beer to the crew. Cigarettes were also distributed. Friendly toasts were exchanged. After lunch the commander and his gallant crew were invited to witness an interesting display of Oriental games. An interchange of cordial speeches followed. Native speakers urged the strengthening of the bonds of friendship that have hitherto existed between the German and the Turkish Governments. The commander, in reply, delivered a speech in German, which was translated into French by the Consul, and afterwards into Arabic. During these proceedings, it is affirmed, exclamations of "Vive La France!" were made by some irresponsible urchins, who, however, were immediately silenced by the people. At the close the German admiral sent a telegraphic message to the Grand Vizier expressing the thanks of himself and his crew for the very enthusiastic reception accorded to him by the authorities. The ship then returned to Haifa, and left on the same evening for Cyprus.

The municipality is to be congratulated on this departure from its hitherto rigid custom of parsimony. Indeed, so parsimonious is the municipality that it is almost incredible that a couple of hundred pounds has been lavishly spent on this reception. The sum is enormous, and such as the combined municipalities of Haifa and Acre can ill afford. As a result fears are entertained lest the roads in this locality may not be repaired for a long time to come.

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THE SITUATION IN ANATOLIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 13.

A severe censorship of the Constantinople Press preventing reliable news from coming through concerning the troubles in the Aidin Province, I took an opportunity offered to visit some of the districts affected. The villages of Old and New Fokia, Serekeui, Oloujak, Dikili, Pergamos, Aivali, Edremid, some villages near the Dardanelles, Chesme, and Vourla are denuded of their Greek inhabitants, most of whom have either crossed over to Greece or taken refuge in Smyrna. Their properties are now for the most part occupied by Turkish refugees from Macedonia, whom it will be difficult to oust from possession later on. The interest in events shown by the Powers has had a good effect; and the very critical situation of a fortnight ago is now undoubtedly improving, and fears of any further outbursts of feeling on the part of the Turkish refugees against the Greeks are lessening. The authorities do not deny that massacres and isolated murders have taken place, but they hold that the case against the Turks has been much exaggerated. The fact that they admit this is so much in their favour, and now that their proposal of a mixed Commission for the exchange of properties in Macedonia and Asia Minor has been accepted and, in fact, is already being acted upon, everything points to a more peaceful future.

The International Commission of dragomans of the Embassies at Constantinople has had its little holiday, and its members, having written long reports and made various journeys into the interior, have returned to their posts at Constantinople. They visited the different scenes where massacres were stated to have been perpetrated, and were convinced by only too evident signs that people had been killed and houses burned—some with their owners inside. Whether the Embassies will be able to persuade or bring pressure to bear on the Turkish Government to pay compensation for the outrages is, however, very doubtful; for the Turks have quite as strong rights to ask the diplomatic corps to use their influence in favour of the hundreds of thousands of Mussulman refugees from the Greek, Servian, and Bulgarian new territories. Only two or three days ago a Russian and a Belgian steamer arrived crowded with Turkish refugees from Macedonia.

In the meantime many of the petty Turkish officials in the interior are conducting matters with a high hand, and European owners of property at places like Edremid, Aivali, and Pergamos, are having great difficulty in obtaining possession of their goods. The Villayet has given notice that a public auction will be held for the sale of goods left behind by Greeks in that district. Their reason for this sale is a delightful one—"to protect the interests of the creditors of the fugitives." As it is almost certain that of those who have gone nearly all have sums to receive from their Turkish clients, the official explanation is rather far-fetched. Some of the Greeks from the disturbed centres owe money to European merchants and agents in Smyrna, but it is not likely that the proceeds from the public auction will go towards settling these debts.

Another characteristic notice of the Vilayet was posted up a few days ago, giving a delay of three days to the refugees from the different districts to return to their homes and take up once more their daily occupations. Should advantage not be taken of this, the Government will be forced to install Macedonian emigrants in their homes to safeguard the tithes of the country. It is quite safe to predict that very few Greeks will return in the three days, as many have gone to Greece, and those sheltering in Smyrna have no money left with which to return, even if they dared to do so at present. It would be much more straightforward on the part of the Government to avow openly that it has decided to clear out all the Greeks from the villages on and near the coast from Smyrna to the Dardanelles and to replace them by Turks. This is evidently its policy, and if compensation were given, either in money or in grants of lands in other parts of Asia Minor, the Government would probably be justified, as it is held that the presence of so many Greeks on the coast opposite important islands in Greek possession is dangerous to the interests of Turkey. The injustice of its policy lies in the drastic manner in which the inhabitants have been unceremoniously bundled out, without any notice and almost without clothes on their backs. The loss to the country's revenue will be tremendous, and it will be a few years before the tithes resume their former total in the depopulated districts; for without exception all those driven out were industrious working people and contributed largely to the revenue. In Aivali, particularly, the returns from olive oil were very important and business until recently was flourishing. The destruction there was perhaps greater as in any other town, the property of the British Vice-Consul suffering badly from the unwelcome attentions of the rioters.

The great problem now will be what to do with the thousands of refugees in Smyrna. Many of them would like to leave for Greece, but the authorities refuse them permission. If they return to their homes they will find their crops suffering from neglect and probably harvested in cases where they were ripe. Their case is a pitiful one, and it is taxing to the full the resources of the Greek Church and benefactors to feed and clothe them.

One good sign of the abatement of the high tension existing between Greece and Turkey is the partial resumption of the local Greek steamship services. This, coming after the sudden complete withdrawal of all Greek shipping from Turkish waters, is certainly peace-like.

Other signs are not wanting that the boycott movement has reached its height, and, as it was the boycott campaign that led to the more violent one of expulsion and murder, it may be that a fair semblance of order will soon be restored. The Vilayet, acting under instructions from Constantinople, has just issued a communication setting forth that, as the incitement of the people to boycott and prevent by force all business has caused serious discord to arise between the various elements of the Ottoman nation and endangered the peace of the country, it has been decided that all suspected of preaching a boycott propaganda, publishing or circulating false news tending to rouse ill-feeling between the different races, or in any way disturbing the general peace, will be tried by court-martial and severely punished if found guilty.

THE MURDER OF CAPTAIN FAWCETT.

On Wednesday of last week the Native Assize Court at Alexandria found Abdulla Hassan guilty of the murder of Captain Samuel Fawcett, the marine superintendent of the Khedivial Mail Line at his home in Alexandria on April 27; and this week at the Alexandria Assizes he was condemned to death.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE ISLES OF GREECE."*

While he was serving his country as Consul at Athens the author of this delightful volume of Ægean studies spent one of the intervals of freedom from his official duties in the island of Andros, and during the same summer holiday made brief excursions to some of the nearer Cyclades—to Syra, Naxos, Tenos, and a few others. The record of that far-off Andrian summer (Professor Irving Manatt was American Consul at Athens from 1889 to 1893) has been given to the world after many years. It was not an ill-advised undertaking. This record, however, is only about half of the book, the remainder consisting of chapters, chiefly on Ægean subjects, which were written at a later date, and three of which have already been published as magazine articles. These also are worthy of being rescued from an ill-deserved oblivion. "This book," writes Professor Irving Manatt in his preface, "owes its being to a single aim. That was to share with kindred spirits—with all true lovers of old Greece—the author's own impressions of the brave, blue Ægean." It may be granted without any hint of insincerity that the author has successfully attained his object.

In spite of a straggling and diffuse manner, the "simple record," as the author modestly calls it, has an underlying unity. Throughout the reader is conscious of the glamour of past ages. The writer has the happy knack of suggesting a scene from the past by means of a few masterly strokes. Old Greece lives still for him and the old Greek speech. "One summer in the Cyclades," he says, "should prepare even the schoolboy Philistine to enjoy his Homer and to find choice society in Plutarch. What our Greek needs is the touch of reality, the warm breath of life; undo the cerements and roll away the stone. Greek is not dead—at least, out of school!"

But the writer is not so wrapped up in antiquity that he refuses to pay any heed to the throbbing life of the present. Rather he is quick to observe any quaint or significant scene in the passing show. In Chapter XIV., entitled "A Modern Greek Pilgrimage," a visit to Tenos is described—the island that "has supplanted Holy Delos as a place of pilgrimage," and whither "to the Greater and Lesser Panegyreis, in April and August respectively, flock the Hellenes from three continents." The writer was there at the time of the Lesser Panegyreis, and he records an incident of his visit as follows:—

> In the harbour two Hellenic battleships are firing a salute as the festal procession, escorted by Hellenic "blue-jackets," pours into the little square and halts to answer the national guns with the National Hymn. The Tenian *Panegyris* is not merely a pilgrimage of the faithful, it is a patriotic demonstration. Here the Greeks of the Captivity from all the East come to kiss the soil of Free Greece; and Free Greece takes care to meet them with her best and bravest show As Athens used to send her splendid *theoriai* to Delos, so she now sends her ironclads to Tenos—and sweeter than droning liturgy, ay, sweeter than the National Hymn, to the pilgrim from afar is the music of Greek guns.

The spirit of modern Greece breathes through the words, for the war god is still worshipped in Greece as in the old days.

For the rest there is no lack of "fine confused feeding" in the holiday journal, which is packed with reminiscences of the great days of old Greece and with lively and pungent observations on island manners and customs, men and women. Nor is the seemingly trivial omitted, and the merits of the entertainment provided by island hosts and hostesses are not forgotten. Throughout the author writes with zest, and his high spirits are infectious.

In the second part the student of Greek literature will not fail to discover plenty of matter for delight and instruction. Visits to Keos and Lesbos would indeed be unprofitable without some reference to the island Muse, and the reader will find set in the narratives like precious jewels charming little dissertations on Bacchylides, Simonides, and Sappho. There is also a chapter, one of the best in the whole book, on a visit to the site of Troy. In Chapter XXVI. the history of Chios is traced from the Homeric age down to the present day. The latter part of this chapter, which was written during the recent wars, gives in some detail the "grim story" of the butchery of Chios in 1822. Some interesting extracts are quoted from Viscount Strangford's despatches at the time. Nothing can blot out the stain of that ghastly horror. But Professor Irving Manatt generalises unfairly on the character of Turkish Government, which he damns without mercy.

In fine, "Ægean Days" is a book worth the writing and worth the reading, pleasantly garrulous, learned without being dull, and a very cheerful companion.

* "Ægean Days." By J. Irving Manatt. (John Murray. 12s. net.)

AN ITALIAN VIEW OF TURKEY.†

A great Italian Empire in the future, to rival the great Roman Empire of the past, is naturally the dream of most Italians. Some of these dreamers see possibilities in the Italian influence in the Balkan States. Not so Signor Giuseppe Bevione, who, in his critical survey of the Balkan situation from an Italian point of view, acknowledges that Italy has no representative power to speak of, while England, he says, can afford to be a "looker-on," holding as she does Cyprus and the Suez Canal.

The author deals with the involved political situation in the Near East in a series of simply written, straightforward articles; and from first to last one is struck by the very fair, impartial line he adopts. In covering his wide field he emphasises the importance of the Armenian question, and notes the constant vigilance regarding it of Russia, France and Germany, as illustrated by the organised canvassing of the remotest villages that has recently been instituted by the Government of the great War Lord.

Signor Bevione discusses "The Menace of Russia," "The Arabian Peril," "The Uncoveted Land of the Empire," "The Railways," "The Schools"—where French is an essential part of the programme—all things and everything, down to the "Care of the Holy Land," and "The Return of Israel." And he complicates nothing. He pities Turkey, and deplores her lack of the sense of justice, the bribery and corruption that exist in her territory, and the hopeless, intricate maze of her totally incapable Government. He forecasts more fighting in the future, and sees no way to prevent it.

"Even Lord Cromer—with all the very best technique at his command—supposing he were made Grand Vizier, but was bound, of course, to respect the limitations of power and customs of the country, could not change the affairs of the Ottoman Empire." He would, says Signor Giuseppe Bevione, resign at the end of one year, more in anger than despair!

† "L'Asia Minore e L'Italia." By Signor Giuseppe Bevione. (Fratelli Bocca-Editore, Turin.)

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Naval Missions to Turkey and Greece. July 9.

Mr. Molteno asked the First Lord of the Admiralty what had been the cost up to date of the naval missions to Greece and Turkey; upon what vote was the cost borne; and when the missions were expected to terminate.

Mr. Churchill: The two missions are paid by the countries concerned, and no part of the cost falls on the Navy votes. The usual period for which naval officers contract to serve on these missions is two years, which is sometimes extended by mutual arrangement. The existing contracts will both come under review in the ordinary course next year, and it would be premature to discuss the question of their renewal before it had been raised by the Governments concerned.

Foreign Affairs. July 10.

The House of Commons went into Committee of Supply on the Foreign Office vote last Friday. The most important references in the debate to affairs of the Near and Middle East are summarised below:—

Mr. G. Lloyd criticised the attitude of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in relation to the commercial interests of this country abroad, and expressed the view that Sir Edward Grey might well have secured for British traders advantages at least equal to those secured for the traders of foreign countries by their Governments. Both from the manner in which this country treated Turkish trade and our historic associations with Turkey we had reason to believe that we should get a fair share of the railway and other concessions in that Empire. But we had not done so. All the northern railways had gone either to Russia or France. Further south, Germany had the only big railway conceded in recent years. In Anatolia we had a concession which, he believed, was going now to be shared with the Italians. The whole network of new railway construction in Syria had been acquired entirely by the French. Those interested in these enterprises alleged that the Foreign Office generally moved too late, and he thought there was some truth in that. He did not think we had got a single mile of railway in the Middle East to show as the result of the last seven or eight years' work. Nor had we got any substantial advantage of an economic character out of the Anglo-German steamer and railway agreement. Sir E. Grey had not succeeded in obtaining for British traders or industry a single thing in the Turkish Empire which would give employment to workmen in this country. As to Persia, in regard to the Mohammerah-Khorremabad Railway, the Foreign Office had come extraordinarily near to being unbusinesslike. Had we actually got that concession now, and, if so, when might construction be expected to commence?

Mr. Ponsonby said he was glad to feel that Sir E. Grey was coming to realise that our position in Persia was one that must be reviewed again. Was there any truth in the rumour that already disturbances had broken out in the district in which the oilfields were situated, and, if so, of what nature were these disturbances, and were they likely to be easily put down? Although he voted for the Government, he felt very grave misgivings that this part of the world should have been singled out for supplying a vital commodity to our Navy.

Colonel Yate drew attention to questions arising out of the construction of the Trans-Persian Railway, the object of which, he said, was to link up the Russian line in the north with the Indian line in the south. He asked the Foreign Secretary to give India a definite guarantee that if a railway was to be constructed across Persia it should be built on the Persian gauge, distinct entirely from Russia and India, so that both countries might be fairly treated in regard to the transport of their merchandise.

Mr. Aneurin Williams said that in Armenia the life of the subject was never safe. This was the responsibility of the British Government, which had strongly supported Turkey and never made an effective condition that there should be reforms. European agents should be employed there and given ample powers.

The Foreign Secretary's Reply.

Sir Edward Grey, in reply, said: As to the suggestion made by Mr. Lloyd that more active steps should have been taken to obtain railway concessions in Asia Minor, he would point out that with the exception of one enclave nearly the whole field was covered by the Russian and German spheres of influence. In the Yangtze region, where there were already considerable British railway interests, one claim was that, when there were developments, by reason of those vested interests the new railway concessions ought to be British. How was he to make good that demand in China if in Asia Minor he pushed for concessions in the regions where other countries had vested interests? They could not apply one principle in one part of the world and another principle in another. Railway concessions in Asia Minor were mapped out years ago. He would rather get commercial concessions with the good will of the country in which they were given than under diplomatic pressure. Railway concessions were, however, not the only thing. There had been a large concession in regard to arsenals given, not under diplomatic pressure, by the Turkish Government to British firms, and there were certain other concessions in regard to Asia Minor which he hoped would mature. As regarded the Anglo-German navigation agreement, he believed that not only would our position under it be intrinsically better, but that we had secured an assurance with regard to the future which we had never had before.

With regard to the Mohammerah-Khorremabad Railway, the British company still had an option, which had been prolonged owing to the survey not having been completed because of the disturbed state of the district. He was all in favour of a British concession for this railway, but not of sending a British force into Persia in order to enable the survey to be completed. Nor was he in favour of pushing British trade or concessions in any part of the world where we should be required to make a greater expenditure to protect the concessions and trade than they were worth. He had heard of no disturbances in the districts of Persia where our oil concessions were situated. He did not anticipate that that concession was going to lead to all sorts of interferences on our part in the neutral zone. It was true that the Russian Press was making unfavourable comments on this matter, but he was not surprised, since a certain section of our own Press and some of the speeches in the House had suggested that we should be led to do all sorts of things which had never been contemplated at all. The Anglo-Russian agreement and the oil concession remained exactly as they were before the Admiralty came in. Nothing that the Government had done in relation to the Persian oil agreement was likely to lead to the alarming developments which had been suggested.

In regard to affairs in Armenia, the Turkish Government had been setting to work in a way which showed a genuine desire on their part to get good European inspectors, and, having got them, to obtain really good work out of them. Those inspectors were already discussing with the Turkish Government a scheme of good government.

Anglo-Persian Oil Contract. July 13.

Mr. Fred Hall asked whether there was a maximum price which the Admiralty would be called on to pay the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. for their supplies of oil under the sliding scale; if so, what was that maximum price?

Mr. Churchill: As I have already stated, it is not the practice or in the public interest that the price should be disclosed.

Mr. Hall: Is there a maximum price or not? If there is a loss on the by-products, does it naturally increase the price of the oil, and if it does not, how is the loss made up?

The Speaker: The hon. member must give notice of that question.

Situation in Albania. July 14.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked with reference to the reported occupation of Koritza and another place whether the occupation had been accompanied by considerable violence and cruelty; whether the Greek Government had taken any steps to prevent the organising and arming of the force operating in Epirus; and whether steps could be taken to prevent such outrages as were reported.

Mr. Acland: My information is limited to a report received from the British delegate on the International Commission in Albania that Koritza has been occupied by a body described as composed of insurgents and Epirotes acting in concert. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens states that the Greek Government have urged the Epirotes to evacuate Koritza should the International Commission so desire, but I am not aware what effect this recommendation may have had.

Persian Gulf Medal.

Mr. Wheler asked whether the First Lord of the Admiralty could now state when the medal for general services in operations carried out in the Persian Gulf in the years 1909-12 would be granted.

Dr. Macnamara (Parliamentary Secretary): A medal is being struck and will shortly be available for distribution.

Replying to Major Anstruther Gray, Dr. Macnamara stated that he hoped the medal would be issued this year.

The Mediterranean Fleet. July 15.

Mr. Middlemore asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, in view of the admitted necessity that we should remain the independent guardians of our own important interests in the Mediterranean, he would state the material standard which was aimed at by the Board in determining our naval requirements in those waters.

Mr. Churchill: In introducing the Estimates for this year I stated the actual naval strength to which we proposed to work in the Mediterranean, and I indicated that this was based on a variety of considerations, some of which belong to the domain of State policy. I am not prepared, in answer to a question, to discuss these considerations.

Greece and Albania.

Mr. Edmund Harvey asked whether the attention of the Foreign Office had been called to a photo taken in Koritza in April of this year showing a group of insurgent prisoners wearing Greek uniforms, and whether the attention of the Greek Government had been called to the use being made of Greek troops in Southern Albania.

Mr. Acland: I have heard of the existence of photographs which would appear to be sufficiently explained by the presence of Greek deserters among the Epirote forces. The Greek Government have withdrawn their troops, and have disclaimed any share in, or responsibility for, recent events in Epirus.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

The Macedonian Granada.

SKOLPJE (Uskub).

How easy it would be to write "Uskub of the Turks" in the same vein as Spanish chroniclers, even of to-day, write "Granada de los Moros"! The snow-capped mountains are there—the Shar Range, where stand the romantic Sierra Nevada—the fruitful Vardar plain is the fertile *vega*, and where the Alhambra tops its hill, a citadel (Alcazar?) looks out over the river towards the Christian quarters, and losing itself in winding alleys, drops down through the bazaars into a valley of huts, mosques, minarets, and cypress trees, to climb anon a hill naked except for its Moslem tombstones, and crowned with a holy man's shimmering white tomb.

Past.

How similar likewise the history of the two cities! Coming down from Belgrade, and soon after entering the valley of the Vardar—desolate now, with burnt homesteads and shelled villages—a blood-red moon, short of its fullness by a few days only, rose over the plain of Kumanovo, and I could hear the hissing and exploding of the shells, and followed the headlong flight of the beaten army as it surged southwards to Uskub. Even so did the Moors for a last time make a stand in the *vega* against the victorious knights of Ferdinand and Isabel, and, defeated, flee to protect their worthless Boabdil behind the stout walls of Granada. Here the thread of similarity ceases. For Uskub is not fortified. So the demoralised Turks halted not. Arriving at Uskub, they threw down their arms; others, again, were disarmed by the Consular Kavasses; the old cry arose, "The enemy is upon us!" and the stream of fugitives flowed on down the Vardar, behind a screen of protecting hills. The victorious Serbs came into the town, and thus was Kossovo avenged. So also was the disaster at Guadalete avenged by the Catholic kings seven hundred years later when they captured the pomegranate and engraved it on their escutcheon.

Present.

The thread of similarity is taken up again, but only to insist on the misfortunes of the defeated and the fortunes of the victorious. There is no priceless library of wise writings to be burnt at Uskub by a genial Ximenez, but the antagonism between races and creeds is as strong to-day as it was in the beginning of the sixteenth century, for no farther has the world advanced in the last forty decades. The Spaniards reconsecrated the churches which under the Moslems had been mosques, but left places of worship for the followers of Mohammed. The same has happened at Uskub. That church on the hill, beside the citadel, has, it is true, been abandoned, its fount of ablutions in the courtyard having been used for watering horses. But from the mosques in the valley the muezzin still calls to prayer, and the Faithful, their numbers dolefully depleted, obey the summons. But in the courts the founts are sadly silent, and few are the impassive idlers on the benches which surround them. Alone with a friend I sat and watched the shadows deepen. Two children played innocently, now and again eyeing us guardedly with their big black eyes, afraid lest they were being watched; doves cooed their monotonous love songs as they would coo them again on the morrow; peace—and then twilight.

So likewise must have been the beginning of the end in Granada. The Moors fled from the shadows of their beloved Alhambra, and crossed the seas to build up Tetu'an. Then they were expelled, lock, stock, and barrel, and the muezzin's cry was heard no more. The first act of the exodus has begun already in Servian Macedonia; in Greek Macedonia, I am told, the curtain has risen over the second and final act. For there are not three acts in this tragedy of peoples and creeds, and soon the "Uskub of the Turks" will be but an *último sospiro*—a last sigh—and lizards will whisk among the stones of the few monuments left to recall to future generations the victories of yesterday.

Future.

Leaving Uskub for Skoplje (they are one and the same, except in point of time) we are faced with problems that never beset Isabel and her councillors. For Macedonia is, and has doubtless ever been, a seething cauldron of races, each of which, having asserted in turn its right by the might of conquest, must of a necessity rule with an iron hand. The Turks, it can be taken for granted, are leaving the country; they will vanish unless serious steps are taken to retain them, and with them, most likely, will vanish the cultivation of opium. The Albanians, not a *quantité négligeable* in Servian Macedonia, will in all probability wander homewards; the Vlachs will continue in their passive rôle as sheep and goat herds, the Greeks and Spanish Jews as traders, whereas the Bulgars and Serbs will remain to exploit the natural fertility of New Servia. I shall not discuss here the proportions between the Bulgarian and Servian inhabitants of New Servia, nor which of the two countries carried on the most successful campaign of propaganda before the war, but what I do wish to emphasise is that the future of this part of hapless Macedonia depends on the co-operation and good feeling between the two principal elements which form the bulk of the population. There is another theory, namely, let the Bulgars go, and let the country be populated by southern Slavs from the Austrian provinces. So, also, thought the Spanish conquerors of Granada; but the *vega* of to-day is nothing as compared with the *vega* of yore. Besides, I was unable to discern any great desire on the part of Bosnians, Croats, etc., to settle in Macedonia—at present at least, considering that everything is unsettled, taxation high, the administrative machinery imperfect, money leaving the country, trade dead, the problem of Salonika unsolved, and race hatred bitter.

The future of Macedonia (under present conditions) depends, therefore, emphatically on co-operation between Bulgars and Serbs. Failing this, I foresee desolation in New Servia, and a general exodus, etc., of the strong Bulgarian element without the advent of new blood. But let us hope, for the country's sake, that it will be otherwise. To talk of a Serbo-Bulgarian *rapprochement* at the present time, either in Macedonia or in Belgrade and Sofia, means folly, but possibly it will come—some day, when a formula of compromise will have been found, and it will then create a prosperous Macedonia possessing its own port in Salonika, and its capital and distributing centre at Skoplje. As for Monastir, it is doomed beyond remedy, come what may.

C. R.

GOOD TEMPLARS IN PALESTINE.

A Good Templar Lodge was established at Beyrout on May 14, the members being native gentlemen. It is named "Purity" Lodge, and works in the Arabic language. It was organised by Demetrius Domian, of Jerusalem. The Chief Templar is Dr. Alexander Bey Baroudy; the Vice-Templar is Dr. Najib Badaoui; the Secretary is Khalil Abi-Mourad; and the Lodge Deputy is Dr. Najib Arbily. The parent Good Templar Lodge in Palestine is the "Mount Zion" Lodge, which was instituted on Mount Zion twelve years ago by Ald. Joseph Malins, of England, when touring the world as International Chief Templar.

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P.C.B.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A correspondent in Roumania writes: "It is not generally known, but when the late Archduke Franz Ferdinand visited this country in 1909 an attempt on his life was planned by international criminals, but was happily discovered in time. It had been intended originally that the Archduke should visit Bucharest, but owing to the Austrian police getting wind of the proposed attempt this plan was changed, and the Royal guests remained all the time at Sinaia. On the afternoon of July 13, during an excursion which King Carol and his guest made together, an Italian named Francesco de Felice was arrested, and on him were found a revolver and some documents which proved that he and two others had planned an attempt on the life of the Archduke. Felice, seizing an opportunity when his guards' attention was distracted, was able to commit suicide, while his two accomplices made good their escape across the frontier in a motor car that they had kept ready for emergencies in the woods."

***

Persia, one of the most recent countries to receive that priceless boon—a Constitution, has been and apparently still is holding a General Election. It may be doubted whether the elections would have taken place at all just yet had it not been for the Coronation of the new Shah, which is timed to take place next week. But the Mejliss, or at least a quorum of sixty-nine of its 136 members, is a constitutional necessity for the purposes of the Coronation Oath. Hitherto only forty members have been returned, and from the progress of the elections throughout the country it seems at least possible that the requisite number will not have been elected by Coronation day, July 21. Persia's warmest friends would hesitate to state that the country was ripe for a Constitution in 1906, and since then progress, if anything, seems to have been retrograde. The members so far returned seem to be mainly of Clerical and Reactionary tendencies, but, as the correspondent of *The Times* at Teheran points out, it is most difficult accurately to gauge the progress of the campaign. It is at least evident that elections in many cases have been "made," and for those frauds detected several must have escaped notice. I see that one autocrat, the Governor of Ardistan, scorning any attempt at dissimulation, boldly sent in 1,000 voting papers filled in in the same handwriting. The authorities felt bound to reject the whole batch, resenting such a flagrant insult to their intelligence. The Persian post is notorious for delays, but it is instructive to learn that the printed instructions for holding elections dispatched from Teheran on April 18, presumably "on swift camels," only arrived at Kerman on June 21; while at Birjand, in Seistan-Kain, at the moment of writing the dispatches have not yet come to hand.

***

I have just been reading in the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States a short article which shows how bitter Turk and Greek feel towards one another just now. It tells first how a Turkish daily paper of some standing, in one of its leading articles, attributes the high price of onions in Constantinople to "a trust . . . formed by Greek grocers, who are exploiting the Mussulman population with a view to remitting their enormous profits in this household commodity to Greece for the benefit of the fleet." One would have thought that the patriotic Ottoman might have "dished" the patriotic Greek grocer by presenting the money that he would otherwise have spent upon onions to his own Fleet Fund. Presumably, however, the succulent root is too tempting to be resisted; but I imagine it must bring tears to the eyes of the exploited Moslem population who yield to its compelling charm.

***

That, however, is only one side of the picture. The other side shows that even the progressive Greek can be childish on occasions. For the *Journal* goes on to tell of a Greek member of the Chamber, resident in London, who in March last (on being asked to pay his subscription for the year 1913) wrote to say that he did not wish to continue his membership, and a month later wrote again stating that he wished to discontinue his membership, as he only required "to be a member of impartial institutions the object of which is only the benefit of commerce and not propaganda." He added that he was calling the attention of other Greek members of the Chamber, who he hoped would follow his example. The observation about "propaganda" was due to a misunderstanding of English apparently; and the Chamber shows itself quite capable of protecting itself from such childish charges. But somehow the idea of a Greek, however good a commercial man he may be, objecting to the introduction of politics into *any* publication—so long only as such criticisms as may be advanced are favourable to Hellas—strikes me as rather delicious. For if ever there was a keen politician it is surely the Hellene.

CORSAIR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—This Turco-Greek business appears very ugly. Looking over back numbers of THE NEAR EAST, I find this crisis to have been foreseen long ago in all its details.

Consequent on the Balkan war and the aggrandisement of Bulgaria, Servia, and Greece, it was surmised that a large Turkish population would be displaced and cause economical disturbance to the Turkish provinces of Asia. This has happened, and the horrors of it are only to be imagined by those who have read of the misery of the same land at the first advent of the Turks into Europe or Asia. So far, therefore, there is nothing to be said. Some day the conqueror must be conquered, especially when he has not learned not to abuse his conquest.

There are, however, two elements in the present situation which require consideration. The Turk as a governor remains as rotten to-day as he has ever been, but the Greek is, if anything, a bigger "rotter," because by nature he is unstable and by religion an ignorant fanatic, totally unfit to co-operate in the regeneration of the East. In these circumstances what is to be done? A large Turkish population has been forced to emigrate from Thrace and Macedonia, and so it is no wonder that a Greek population should be desired to vacate the Ottoman territory. This may be a fresh *casus belli*, if you like, but let it be so.

What is of greater concern for the world at large is to see an end to these recurring troubles; but as no Turkish consolidation would be permitted in the event of her smashing Greece, and as the extension of Greece's influence in the East would not further civilisation or peace, a war between the two countries would give no result. On the other hand, the Arabs are sick and tired of the wily Turk as a ruler, and the five million Greeks still residing in Turkey are a cancerous growth, which is eating her heart away.

Yet the Turk must live somewhere, and if anywhere it is in what is left of Turkey in Europe and in Asia Minor under his own flag.

Therefore, the only solution would be for Turkey to divide itself into a number of federated States, giving all the Greeks within the country the option of emigrating to Greece, or anywhere they like, or taking the oath of allegiance to the State they are in. Those States should each have a European adviser of the nation it likes best. The present Ottoman Empire is no good to either Moslems or Christians.

The Khalifate should return to the Arabs, and be by election as at its inception, with the understanding that a proportionate chance be given for an occasional Shia Khalif to be elected, and the seat of the Khalifate should be in Medina.

Failing some such arrangement Turkey and Greece must come to blows, and as both are fanatical there will be no end to the strife, while the population on both sides will suffer greatly both in struggle and in the matter of taxation.

My reasons for advocating such a solution are:—1. The Turk is an incapable and incorrigible ruler, and is no longer to be taken seriously as a conqueror. 2. The Greek has all traditions, past and present, against him as an Imperialist. 3. The population of both countries is too poor and backward to allow of much arming. 4. Five millions of Greeks cannot be suffered to remain deriving their living in Turkey while hating and undermining its people openly and secretly. They must be loyal or go out. 5. Incessant denunciation of the Turkish rulers and their people is becoming quite a disease.—Yours truly,

KARA COSHMAR.

Constantinople, July 7, 1914.

ITALY AND TRIPOLI.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Surely your Cairo correspondent is in error in supposing that, when Turkey made peace with Italy, Tripoli became the property of the latter.

By the Treaty of Lausanne Turkey agreed to withdraw her troops and to give no material assistance nor encouragement to the Arabs. Turkey did not cede Tripoli to Italy, but left the Arabs independent.

In Cyrenaica Italy has been unable either by bribery or by force of arms to make good her claim of annexation.

All our sympathy should be on the side of the freedom-loving followers of the Senussi. They are making a heroic resistance against the overwhelming forces of a nation which is alien alike in race and religion.

Since the British occupation of Egypt the most correct and cordial relations have existed between the Senussi and the Egyptian Government.

Let us hope, therefore, that the latter will continue to adopt a sympathetic attitude towards this gallant people.—Yours, etc.,

C. F. DIXON-JOHNSON.

Croft-on-Tees, Darlington, July 14, 1914.

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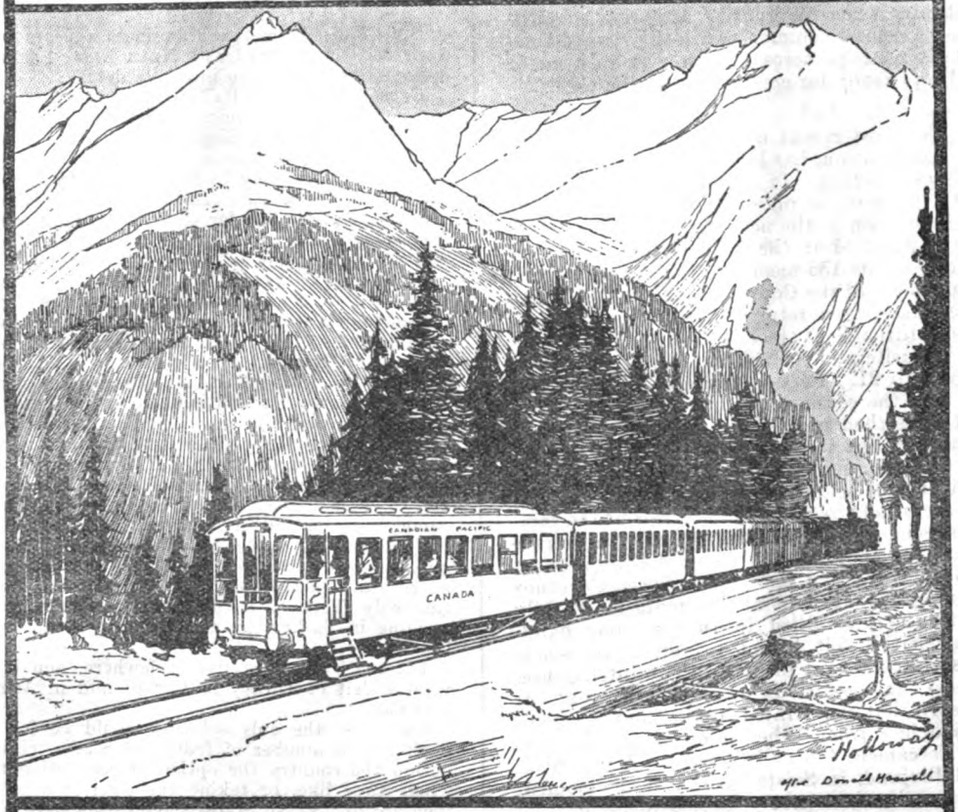

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mr. Venizelos on the Crisis.

An interesting account of an interview with Mr. Venizelos, by Mr. J. B. Brandeth, the special correspondent of *The Financial Times*, was published in the issue of that paper of July 8. Referring to the mixed Commission of Turks and Greeks to prepare an exchange of population, the Greek Prime Minister stated that "there is a great difference between the voluntary emigration of the Moslems from Greek territory in Macedonia and the compulsory exodus of the Greeks from Thrace and Asia Minor." We quote below the further remarks of Mr. Venizelos on the same thorny problem:—

It is totally at variance with the facts to assert that 200,000 Moslems had to leave Macedonia to escape persecution from the Greek authorities. When Ghalib Bey, the Turkish Minister in Athens, made representations to me on the subject of the alleged persecution of Moslems in Macedonia I strongly urged him to go and investigate the facts for himself. He did so, and on his return from Macedonia he admitted that both before and since the period of disarmament (the population of Macedonia all possessed arms until recently) there had been no ill-treatment or persecution of Moslems, but he related a number of cases of ill-treatment and bastinadoing of Moslems while the disarmament was going on. We immediately took steps to punish all Greek officials or warrant officers found guilty of harsh treatment during these disarmament operations, but the result of Ghalib Bey's inquiry shows there is no real foundation for all the stories related in the Turkish Press of persecution of Moslems by Greeks. Not only so, but the property of the Moslem emigrants has been carefully respected by the Greek authorities. Nobody has been allowed to take possession of the houses or land in cases where they were left unoccupied by the departed Moslems. The Turkish emigrants freely took away all their movable goods and chattels. The Greeks in Thrace and Asia Minor, on the other hand, witnessed the wilful destruction and pillage of their property, and in thousands of cases reached Greek territory without even shirts to their backs.

The Anglo-Turkish Agreement.

In the issue of *Truth* of July 8 a view is expressed regarding the Anglo-Turkish Agreement which must have occurred to many who have considered the question. We quote below:—

Seeing what we have done during the past one hundred years to police the Persian Gulf in the interests of the world's commerce, Sir Edward Grey is right to insist on the preservation of the *status quo* in those waters, but how it can be preserved by an agreement with the Turks passes my understanding. The Turks have no inclination, because they have no power, to interfere with us, and whether they agree or disagree with what we do or do not do is not of the smallest consequence, one way or another, either to themselves or to any one else. What the new agreement unfortunately does do is to recognise the hitherto more than dubious sovereignty of Turkey over the Arab coast of the Persian Gulf littoral, and this may open up some future loophole for a foreign Power in alliance with Turkey to interfere in Gulf politics. What makes matters worse is that the Foreign Office has agreed to pay for this worthless agreement by consenting to a 4 per cent. increase of the Turkish Customs duty, which will now be raised from 11 to 15 per cent.

Intervention in Southern Albania.

An able review of the situation in Albania is given in an article, under the heading "The Albanian Anarchy," which is contributed by "A Correspondent" to *The Economist* (July 11). Referring to the Epirote question, the writer says:—

In calling upon the peaceable Orthodox Epirotes to throw in their lot with their traditional enemies, the Powers have certainly incurred the responsibility of seeing that life is made possible for them under the new conditions. Self-interest also dictates that they should see to that; for if no protection is given to the Christians of Albania, we shall have here an open sore in international politics that may lead at any time to a raging fever. Already the Autonomous Government has been recognised by the Government of the Bret in an agreement made at Corfu, which concedes to the Orthodox districts, including Chimara, the guarantees necessary for liberty and safety. But little do the Mohammedan Tosces care for a paper signed at Corfu. Guarantees are good, but they are useless without some organised force to keep the peace between Christian and Mohammedan. Wasted by three years of war, the Orthodox districts are too weak and too poor to maintain such a force themselves. To save these unfortunate places from being overwhelmed by the anarchy of Albania, it is necessary that their autonomy should be upheld from without by the appointment of an international Governor, for instance, and the provision of an organised force for their protection, or by the provision of money with which to maintain such a force. The arrangement might well be made so as to maintain the sovereignty of whatever Government there may be at Durazzo. Now that annexation to Greece has been prohibited, that seems the only alternative. The Powers might consider the money well spent if it solved the worst difficulty of the many involved in Albania. It would be a premium of fire insurance against a fresh conflagration, and the nearer these conflagrations are to the Adriatic the more dangerous are they to Western Europe.

The Defence of Chimara.

"A Correspondent" contributes to *The Morning Post* (July 14) an interesting article entitled "Chimara at War." A graphic description is given of the way in which the struggle of the Chimariotes with the Mohammedan Albanians is being carried on. We quote below:—

The Turkish armies were gone and the Greek armies too. Released from all control, urged by their traditional hostility for the Christian villages, moved by envy of the vines and olives of the gardens of Chimara, embittered, it may well be, by the overthrow of the Mohammedan domination, the Albanian tribesmen collected in overwhelming numbers around the passes, and began, and still carry on, a determined campaign against the Christian villages within. In defending themselves against this attack the Chimariotes have one great asset in the personality of their present chief, Colonel Spiro Speiromilios. Banished from his birthplace as a boy by the Turks, he returned thither on the overthrow of the Turkish power, to organise the defence of his people. He has been prepared for the task by long service in the Greek Army and by ten years spent as a leader of guerillas in Macedonia. Of commanding presence and great personal strength, a swordsman and a shot, astute in council, ready in jest, and warm of heart, he is a born leader of men, cast in the mould of Garibaldi. Led by him, day and night the Chimariotes are guarding their passes and the summits of their defending range against the Albanian bands. In each village the men of fighting age are divided into two bodies, which take turn, a day on guard in the hills and a day at work in the village. The women carry up food and water to the posts. The schoolmaster's rifle is hung behind him in school, and every other day is a whole holiday, while he goes on guard upon the hills. Two little old mountain guns, one placed to command each pass, are the chief's greatest treasures, but their battery-commanders complain that when the skirmishing begins they are left to serve them alone: the gunners drift forward into the firing line.

The Ruling Turk.

A well-balanced survey of the Turkish governing class is given in an article in *The Times* (July 14) by its Constantinople correspondent. He says of its present leaders:—

In the new leaders of the governing class are found men of a type different from that of the majority of their followers. Most of the chief "Ittihadjis" (Unionists) are Rumeliots. Some are of Jewish or crypto-Jewish origin; others have been influenced by Jewish Salonika, the Mecca of the Turkish revolutionary, now in infidel hands. Their chief weaknesses are their lack of experience; their Oriental worship of force; the traditional Ottoman arbitrariness, supplemented by revolutionary intolerance, which leads them to regard opposition as a form of rebellion and criticism unsweetened by flattery as a proof of hostility. The national fear of responsibility clung to them during their first experiments in government, and led them to adopt singular and often transparent disguises which they have not altogether doffed. Their friends have done them a disservice by insisting too emphatically on the nobility of their ideals. Their enemies have insisted too strongly on the "strange" contrast between their libertarian precepts and their often arbitrary practice. Avid of power rather than wealth, capable of a high degree of patriotic idealism combined with what purists may regard as very materialistic political methods, they surpass most of their compatriots in courage and persistence.

Bulgaria and Robert College.

Everyman (July 10) publishes an article on "The Liberation of Macedonia," by Mr. David Starr Jordan, who has recently traversed Macedonia and Bulgaria from the Danube to the Ægean, and has seen something of the aftermath of war during his journey. Referring to Bulgaria, he says:—

The Bulgarians have accomplished most, blundered most, and lost most in the Balkan Wars. For the reason that they are now most humble, they seem to offer most hope for the future. The influence of Robert College, the American School at Constantinople, is stronger in Bulgaria than anywhere else, and this influence, cast always for good will and good order, is the strongest force working for peace in the Balkans. But there can never be settled quiet until the civil authority everywhere dominates the military and until customs-unions and co-operation in business cause these people to realise that one fate befalls them all, and that the welfare of each nation is bound up in the welfare of its neighbours.

Articles to Note.

"Il lato negativo dell' opera dell' Italia e degli italiano in Egitto," in *La Vita Italiano all' Estero* (June 25).

"Lettera dall' Istria: Italiani e Slavi nelle ultime elezioni," in *La Vita Italiano all' Estero* (June 25).

"The Great Powers as Filibusters," by "Plinthos," in *The New Statesman* (July 11).

"Great Britain and Persia," in *The Academy* (July 11).

"The Pan-Servian Movement," by J. V. Bates, in *The Irish Times* (July 11).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. July.	1914. July.		1332. Shaban	5674 Tamuz
17	4	Friday	23	23
18	5	Saturday	24	24
19	6	Sunday	25	25
20	7	Monday	26	26
21	8	Tuesday	27	27
22	9	Wednesday	28	28
23	10	Thursday	29	29

Tuesday, Shaban 27, is the birthday of his Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah, of Persia, who was born in 1314 (January, 1898), and attains his majority.

Wednesday, Shaban 28, is the birthday of H.I.H. Osman Fuad Effendi, the younger son of H.I.H. Mehmed Salah-ed-Din Effendi and great nephew of the Sultan, and Thursday, Shaban 29, is the birthday of his elder brother, H.I.H. Ahmed Nihad Effendi.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Diadoch of Greece.

To-day, Shaban 23, is the anniversary of the wedding of H.H. the Khedive to H.H. the Khedivah, Princess Ikbal Hanum.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Elie of Parma, uncle of H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

At the Russian Church in Welbeck Street, on Sunday morning a "Te Deum" was sung at the conclusion of the morning service in connection with the King of Servia's birthday. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff officiated, and the Russian choir attending Drury Lane Theatre Royal took part in the service. Among the congregation were H.I.M. the Empress Marie Féodorovna of Russia, H.M. the Dowager Queen Olga of the Hellenes, the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, the *personnel* of the Russian Embassy, H.E. the Greek Minister, attended by M. A. Rizo-Rhangabe, first secretary; H. E. the Rumanian Minister, H.E. the Servian Minister, attended by M. A. V. Georgevitch and M. V. M. Petrovitch, secretaries; M. Chedo Mijatovitch, formerly Servian Minister at the Court of St. James's; Madame Grouitch, wife of the Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs; M. W. Tomanowsky, M. Alexandre Nelidoff, and a number of members of the Russian colony. The members of the Diplomatic Corps were in uniform and wore their orders and decorations.

By command of his Majesty the King the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called upon H.E. the Servian Minister, M. Mathéas Boshkovitch, on Sunday, at the Legation in Queen's Gate, and offered his Majesty's congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the birthday of the King of Servia. His Excellency held a reception of the Servian colony at the Legation, and congratulatory messages were sent to H.M. King Peter.

The King and Queen, the Queen of the Hellenes and Princess Eirene of Greece, Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse, Prince Philip of Hesse, Prince Wolfgang of Hesse, and Prince Christopher of the Hellenes visited Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House on Tuesday and remained to luncheon. The occasion was in the nature of a farewell party for the Dowager Queen Olga of the Hellenes, whose stay with Queen Alexandra ended on Wednesday.

The Dowager Queen Olga of the Hellenes left London en route for Greece on Wednesday.

Princess Louis of Battenberg, who has been staying at Corfu for the last few weeks, has returned to the First Sea Lord's residence, The Mall.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 11):—H.M. King Carol left Bucharest on Tuesday last to take up his summer residence at Sinaia. H.M. Queen Elizabeth, travelling from Constantza, met his Majesty at Ploesti, from which place they continued the journey together. On Thursday the King and Queen made a motor excursion as far as Brassov (Cronstadt), in Transylvania, remaining there about an hour. This is the first time their Majesties have visited Cronstadt for two years. Prince Ferdinand and Princess Marie, with their children, left Bucharest on the following day. They will remain in Sinaia until they go on their annual visit to the Princess's mother at Tegernsee.

H.R.H. Crown Prince of the Hellenes, accompanied by H.R.H. Prince Paul and his aide-de-camp, Captain Vassos, left Athens on Wednesday to join H.M. Queen Sophie at Eastbourne.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that H.R.H. Princess Elisabeth, accompanied by her companion, Miss Milne, arrived at Sinaia on Saturday morning from Berlin, where she had been staying for a day or two with her brother, Prince Charles, who is attached to one of the Guards regiments.

Earl Kitchener was amongst the guests at the dance given by the Marchioness of Salisbury on Thursday night, last week, at 20, Arlington Street.

Lord Kitchener was amongst the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington at dinner at Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, on Monday night.

Sir Francis Wingate, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, arrived on Saturday from London at Dunbar, where he will stay for two months. Despite an arduous year's work in the Sudan, he is in the best of health.

Sir Louis Mallet, H.B.M. Ambassador in Constantinople, left on Monday night for England on two months' leave. Mr. Beaumont, Counsellor of the Embassy, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of his chief.

The High Commissioner of Cyprus, Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, and Lady Goold-Adams motored to Larnaca on Monday from their summer residence at Mount Troodos, arriving there in the evening. They were met by Admiral Sir A. Berkeley Milne, whose guests they will be during their stay. The battle-cruiser "Inflexible" fired a salute. The admiral gave an "At Home" on Monday afternoon on board the "Inflexible," to which the foreign consuls and residents, and the Government officials and their wives were invited. The cruiser "Gloucester" has arrived at Larnaca.

It is semi-officially announced in Athens that arrangements are being made for a meeting between Mr. Venizelos, the Greek Premier, and the Turkish Grand Vizier to discuss the questions at issue between the two countries.

H.H. the Turkish Ambassador called at the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoon.

H.H. Hakki Pasha called on H.H. the Turkish Ambassador on Wednesday.

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Raif Bey, Councillor of the Turkish Embassy, has returned to town from Paris.

Mme. Mishu, the wife of H.E. the Roumanian Minister, has left London for the Continent.

Mr. Take Jonescu and Mme. Jonescu have arrived at the Ritz Hotel.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the Servian Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has arrived in London from Paris on a short visit. At the end of this week Mme. Grouitch leaves for Switzerland, afterwards returning to Belgrade.

Major T. A. Cubitt, D.S.O., 114th Battery Royal Field Artillery at Farnborough, has been appointed officer commanding troops and Deputy-Commissioner in the Somaliland Protectorate.

The Teheran correspondent of *The Times* telegraphed, under date July 12, that Vosouk-ed-Dowleh, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who resigned on July 1, had rejoined the Cabinet.

Major-General C. J. Hawker, who is organising the Ottoman Gendarmerie in the Trebizond and Erzeroum region, and has recently been making a tour to Erzeroum, Bitlis and Van, has now left Trebizond for Constantinople. He will shortly be coming home on leave, when his address will be 11, Buckingham Palace Gardens.

Dr. Engel Bey, Director of the Statistical Department at the Egyptian Ministry of Public Health, left last week for Europe on leave. On his return to Egypt he will remain for two months in the service of the Government, at the end of which he will retire on pension.

His Excellency Mohamed Heddaya Bey, Governor of the Suez Canal District, embarked at Port Said on Saturday week for Naples in the North German Lloyd s.s. "Prince Ludwig," on three months' leave of absence.

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According to *The Egyptian Gazette*, John Price Bey, Inspector of the Government Buildings Department, although he attained the age limit of sixty years on March 28, 1913, is to be retained in the service of the Egyptian Government until April 10, 1916, when he will have completed thirty years' service.

Mr. Powell, Inspector of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Harold Sheridan, of the Public Health Department, and Mr. Davidson, of the Higher School of Agriculture at Giza, Egypt, have each been awarded the prize of £E50 for having successfully passed the recent examination in advanced Arabic.

Mr. W. A. Stewart, of the Arts and Crafts Department of the Khedivial Technical School, Cairo, left Egypt for Europe last week. He intends first of all to visit Spain, where he will spend some time in studying Moorish remains at Granada, where he hopes to make sketches of examples of Mohammedan art to be seen there.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E. Poynter and Mr. F. Cowdry, of the Ottoman Public Debt, have arrived in London on their return from the Far East, *en route* to Constantinople.

According to *The Egyptian Gazette*, the airman, M. Marc Bonnier, who was recently in Cairo and Alexandria, has received the fourth class of the Order of the Mejidieh from the Sultan in recognition of his gift of a flying machine to the Turkish army.

Mr. Max Fischer, who has recently acquired the Cairo *Sphinx*, has been paying a short visit to London, and leaves for Paris to-morrow. He expects to return to Cairo about the middle of September.

Miss N. Griffiths, late of *The Egyptian Mail*, has been appointed editress of *The Sphinx*, and will take up her duties in the autumn.

Mr. Bernie Mansfield, late editor of *The Egyptian Morning News*, is now in Yorkshire, having definitely severed his connection with the paper.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 11):—A deputation of the 5th Rosiori Regiment, of which the Tsar was lately made Hon. Colonel, will leave on July 17 in order to present H.I.M. with the uniform of the regiment. The deputation will be presented to the Tsar by Mr. Diamandi, the Roumanian Minister in St. Petersburg.

Mr. Maiorescu and Madame Maiorescu are expected to return here at the end of the present holiday season, as the former wishes to take part in the work of the Constituent Commission. The health of both is now announced to be all that can be desired.

To-morrow is the seventy-seventh birthday of Mr. Peter Carp, the former leader of the Conservative Party. It is also St. Peter's Day in the Orthodox Calendar, so that the aged statesman celebrates his birthday and nameday at the same time. The most prominent members of the Conservative Party wishing to congratulate their former leader asked him whether he would receive a deputation. Mr. Carp's answer was: "Yes, certainly; then you can see how I know how to trample on old age!"

The German airman, Herr Albert Friederich, who flew from Berlin to Sofia, has arrived here on his Rumpler machine. He is the guest for a few days of the members of the Military Flying Corps, after which he continues his journey to Constantinople.

Captain Leonard Kirke-Smith, D.S.O., the Royal Scots, attached to the Egyptian Army, was married in Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, on Tuesday, to Vera, daughter of the late Captain and Mrs. C. H. Hicks, and granddaughter of Hicks Pasha and Mrs. Hicks, of Grindleford, Camberley. The church was decorated with palms and white flowers, and the Rev. A. W. Gough, the vicar, with the Rev. Godfrey Smith, brother of the bridegroom, officiated. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. A. L. Marriott.

A marriage has been arranged between Ronald J. W. Gervers, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. Gervers, of Amat, Ardgay, Ross-shire, N.B., and 7, Sloane Street, and Mary Edmee Kitchener, second daughter of the late General Sir Walter Kitchener, K.C.B., late Governor of the Bermudas.

The marriage of Mr. Arthur Hugh-Jones, of the Ministry of Finance, Egypt, and Miss Dalsibella Eden will take place at the Parish Church of Temple Cowley on July 29.

The marriage took place on July 8, at the British Vice-Consulate, Hamadan, Persia, of Mr. Roderick William Gray, son of the late Mr. Charles Forsyth Gray, of Marsala, Sicily, and Miss Gladys May Long, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Long, of Devizes.

We regret to have to record the sad news of the death last Saturday of Lady Hardinge, who, as our readers are probably aware, was closely associated with Persian life during the years 1896-98, when Lord Hardinge was First Secretary and later Chargé d'Affaires at H.M.'s Legation in Teheran. The qualities of heart and quickness of understanding which distinguished Lady Hardinge not only endeared her to the European community of the capital, in whose life she filled so large a part, but earned her the respect and love of a wide circle of Persian friends. For her the barriers which are said to exist between East and West had no existence, and the Persians, who are a warm-hearted race, were quick to respond. To those who had the privilege of knowing her in the daily round of their work in the intimate circle of the Legation the charm of her manner and companionship were an ever-abiding joy. Love and understanding were her gifts to life, and in her the world loses a rare and brave personality.

A memorial service will be held in London to-morrow for M. de Hartwig.

The funeral of M. de Hartwig, whose death is announced by our Belgrade Correspondent, took place in Belgrade on Tuesday. The ceremony was of a most imposing character. All the troops of the Belgrade Garrison lined the streets through which the procession passed. After a solemn funeral service, at which the Metropolitan, assisted by the higher clergy, officiated, the body was placed on a gun-carriage, which was followed by the Crown Prince and Prince George, Mr. Pasitch, the Premier, and the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the members of the late Minister's family, a large number of officers and representatives of many corporations, including some in the new territories. Both sides of the streets were crowded with people, who waited patiently all the forenoon in a scorching sun. The funeral was in every sense a military one, even to the salute fired over the grave.

A Cyprus correspondent writes: The German flagship "Goeben" visited Famagusta on June 30, and Larnaca on July 2, and Admiral Souchon and the officers were entertained by Consul Pierides at a garden party which was attended by the élite of Larnaca.

The British fleet was expected to arrive in Cyprus waters on July 10. The flagship and five ships go to Larnaca, three ships to Limassol, one to Paphos, and 14 destroyers to Famagusta.

Fifteen torpedo destroyers accompanied by the "Blenheim" will arrive in Alexandria on the 20th instant, and the following ships will arrive on the 22nd:—"Inflexible," "Indefatigable," "Warrior," "Black Prince," "Dublin," "Chatham," "Weymouth," "Glasgow." The squadron will remain until the 28th.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 11):—Mr. Ristisch, the Servian Minister in Bucharest, who has been promoted to Rome, will leave Bucharest to-morrow (Sunday) for Belgrade, where he will stay for a short period before taking up his new post. Until the arrival of his successor, M. Gavrilovitch, the Legation will be in charge of the First Secretary, M. Foti Stanciovitch.

During the interval between the departure from Egypt of Sir Gaston Maspero and the taking over of his duties by his successor, the functions of the Director-General of the Antiquities Department will be performed by Mr. Daressy, the general secretary of the Museum.

H.M. King Ferdinand on Saturday received Mr. Naoum, the newly appointed Greek Minister in Sofia, who presented his credentials

M. Passaroff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister at Athens, has presented his credentials to H.M. King Constantine.

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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1914.

A STORMY PETREL.

The sudden death of M. de Hartwig, Russian Minister in Belgrade, removes from the diplomatic world the personification of the restlessness that is characteristic of Russian foreign policy. Wherever he had served his country abroad M. Hartwig had contrived to make his presence felt and remembered. To the diplomatic school which is content to be a transfer agency for the views and communications of two Governments he was a complete stranger. M. Hartwig always conceived it to be his duty to adopt a forward policy on behalf of Russia, and it did not seem to trouble him if he found himself even a long way ahead of the instructions and wishes of his own Government. In the early part of his career he had thrown himself with zest into the intrigues which led to the kidnapping of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria. For the part he then played he was not forgiven by the Bulgarians, and the antipathy which he entertained for the country from that time bore fruit during the last few years. His first important appointment was to Teheran, where he was credited with having prompted the Shah Mohammed Ali's policy of hostility to the constitutional movement. He supported Colonel Liakhoff in the bombardment of the Mejliss, and during the three years' tenure of his post established in Persia the Russian régime which has done so much to counteract the spirit of the Anglo-Russian Convention and to intensify the troubles of the Persian Government. When M. Hartwig was transferred to Belgrade he found wider scope for his activities, and set himself at once to foster an anti-Austrian combination of the Slav States under Russia's ægis. His purpose was admittedly to play Russia's game, although he may have been convinced that in so doing he was promoting the interests of Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro. There was, however, no altruism in M. Hartwig's diplomacy. The league of Slav States which he was anxious to establish was directed primarily against Austria-Hungary; it had little or no reference to the betterment of the conditions under which a Slav population was living in the European provinces of Turkey. Before M. Hartwig's scheme could mature it was absorbed in the greater scheme of a Balkan alliance directed against Turkey. In this movement the Russian Minister to Belgrade played no part. He had given no thought to Greece or Roumania in elaborating his own project, and the Balkan Alliance, which originated with Greece, was a *fait accompli* before M. Hartwig was brought into touch with it.

Although M. Hartwig's plans did not materialize in the way which he had proposed, he had the satisfaction of knowing that his work in Belgrade had paved the way for the Balkan Alliance. His championship of the Servian cause probably gave as much heart to the Servian Government as the subsequent victories of the Servian arms in the two Balkan wars gave to the nation at large. He stiffened Servian diplomacy in a way that neither King Peter nor any Servian statesman could have done single-handed. In the negotiations with Bulgaria that preceded the outbreak of the second Balkan war it is probable that the Russian Minister was in no small degree responsible for the stubbornness of the Servian attitude. Although prepared to bring the two chief Slav States into line for his own ends, he would have no hesitation in indulging his antipathy towards Bulgaria when it came to a disagreement between the two countries. By the time the Treaty of Bucharest was signed the Servian Government was conscious enough of its own strength to adopt of its own accord a policy towards Austria-Hungary that did credit to its mentor. But while that policy might satisfy the *amour propre* of the Servians, it may be doubted whether it was altogether in the interests of the Balkans as a whole. So long as M. Hartwig remained in Belgrade it would have been difficult for the olive branch to have been extended between Austria-Hungary and Servia. When he left it was anticipated in some quarters that his next post would be at the head of the Russian Foreign Office. If such a change had been made at a time of tension between Austria-Hungary and Russia, it might have enhanced materially the anxiety of Europe. M. Hartwig, however, may have been statesman enough to have realized how far he could carry his active furtherance of Russian interests without risk to European peace. In Belgrade he is supposed to have gone further than M. Sazonoff felt justified in supporting him; but M. Hartwig enjoyed powerful backing in St. Petersburg, and so far prevailed as to keep his post despite his Foreign Minister. His sudden death—by the irony of fate in the Austro-Hungarian Legation in Belgrade, where he succumbed to heart failure—removes a dangerous element from European politics. Russia has reason to regret the loss of an able and zealous patriot, but other countries will be glad to see Russian diplomacy in the Balkans now enter upon a less aggressive stage.

M. Hartwig's death has taken place at a moment of critical importance in the relations between Servia and Austria-Hungary. The shadow of the Serajevo crime rests over the two countries, and the difficulty experienced in Vienna in tracing the ramifications of the conspiracy tends to increase the tension between them. If M. Hartwig's influence over the Servian Government were as great as it is represented to have been, there is ground for hoping that the removal of that influence will promote the cause of peace in the Balkans. The Russian Minister's interests and ambitions lay in Europe, and he could not fail to attract the attention of the Servian Government in the same direction. Believing as we do that the interests of the Balkan States lie in the concentration of their attention upon the Balkans, while maintaining a correct and, if possible, friendly attitude towards the Great Powers, we should welcome the deliverance of the Servian Government from any influence which tended to make it untrue to itself. Not only should it be possible to establish correct relations between Servia and Austria-Hungary without sacrificing the *amour propre* of the former, but the Servian Government should also be able to placate Bulgarian feeling without any immediate sacrifice of territory. The treatment of its Bulgarian subjects can be so modified as to disarm criticism without impairing the safety of the State, and with the additional advantage of sowing the seeds of loyalty among a section of its subjects that may otherwise prove a serious thorn in its flesh. The more there is to estrange the Balkan States one from another, the greater the merit of the respective Governments if they overcome these influences, and resolutely refuse to prejudice the interests of the Balkans as a whole for the gratification of personal spite.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	July 16..	97⅛—⅜ p.t.
Athens	July 13..	25·16 drs.
Bucharest	July 16..	25·56½—25·66½ lei.
Constantinople ..	July 16..	109¼—110 pi.
Sofia	July 13..	27·12—27·20 leva.
Teheran	July 15..	55·85 krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I referred last week to the new departure made by The Near East in printing several pages, in addition to its usual number, solely devoted to one or other of the Balkan States. Last week some details were given of the financial progress of Servia; this week a similar space is devoted to Bulgaria. Whatever diplomatic mistakes robbed Bulgaria of the fruits of her hard-won Balkan victories, the country has resolutely set to work to consolidate her finances and to digest her new dominions. A significant sign of commercial virility is shown by the news, which we publish in another column, that Sofia now definitely has her own Stock Exchange; another is the haste with which new issues, even at a substantial premium, have been subscribed. Bulgaria certainly has this advantage over Servia and Greece, that while they may have secured far larger accessions of territory as the result of their efforts, she is far more compact. Servia and Greece may ultimately find, to put it brutally, that they have bitten off more than they can chew. Bulgaria has already succeeded in assimilating her new provinces, and from all accounts, owing to her good understanding with Turkey, is likely to have less trouble with her Moslem subjects than the other Balkan States.

***

Whether Bulgaria has been wise in increasing her national indebtedness to the extent of £20,000,000 yet remains to be seen. A loan well spent may prove of enormous value to a country, but Bulgaria's National Debt last December already amounted to £23,355,000, a heavy burden for a comparatively small country. Bulgaria, however, is in urgent need of funds, and the major portion of the new loan will be devoted to railway and port construction. From the international point of view the very large influence which Germany acquires in Bulgaria by means of the loan is of first-class importance. Perhaps the wish was father to the thought, but there seems to have been no ground for the statement made in various quarters that an Anglo-French syndicate offered to lend the money required.

***

A Bucharest correspondent writes that the Chamber of Commerce intends to establish a species of Roumanian Stubbs, "whereby information as to the financial soundness of any firm may be obtained." Books containing fifty and twenty-five coupons are to be issued at the price of 50 and 25 frs. respectively, and the request for information will only be complied with when written on one of these coupons. Information of a general character such as addresses of buyers of any particular line of goods, details with regard to cost of transport, Customs tariffs, prices, etc., will, as hitherto, be supplied by the Chamber of Commerce gratis. This new departure may be taken as a healthy sign of the increasing prosperity of Roumania. The natural conclusion to be drawn is that the officials of the Chamber of Commerce have been so swamped with inquiries that they are not afraid of checking the flow by charging a small fee.

***

The gentle art of copying or simulating private trade-marks is so widespread and overt in many parts of the Near East that I notice without very much surprise that certain enterprising people in Egypt have flown at even higher game. In the *Journal Officiel* of the Egyptian Government a warning is issued to the effect that a large amount of jewellery is being offered for sale as being marked with the Government Assay Office stamps, but that it is in reality stamped with private marks, which carry no official guarantee. The trouble seems to be that the peccant private marks have a general resemblance to the Government marks. The warning is all very well, but would it not be better to take vigorous measures against dealers who stock and sell jewellery which is obviously intended to delude the ignorant or careless purchaser?

***

Suleiman Bey Nassif, who has been paying a visit to London in connection with the disposal of oil concessions in Turkey, informs me that he has for the last two or three years been carrying out successful experiments with the cultivation of Egyptian cotton in various districts of Palestine, particularly in the Jordan Valley. The experiments have succeeded both as regards the yield and the quality of the cotton, which has fetched the same prices as those obtained for the indigenous article. The average yield per feddan last year was between three and four cantars, and had it not been for a visitation of the boll worm, the average would easily have reached five cantars.

***

The Egyptian Government Bulletin for June 30 gives the first estimate of the condition of this year's cotton crop. It is somewhat ominous that, while Lancashire cotton spinners are seriously considering the proposal of working short time until the end of September, the outlook in Egypt should be less satisfactory than last year. For Lower Egypt the estimate is 2 per cent. below the condition which should give a probable yield equal to the average for the last ten years. For Upper Egypt it is 8 per cent. below. On June 30, 1913, the estimates were respectively 3 and 7 per cent. above. The report further states that the supply of water has been adequate, and the difference in condition is solely due to the cold weather experienced in April. The hot weather recently experienced has not had any appreciable effect on the lateness of the crop, except in the Sharkia Province. Cotton worm has appeared all over the Delta, but, thanks to the very complete egg-destroying arrangements, little damage has been done. In fact, growers are very optimistic, and should the present favourable climatic conditions continue, it is hoped to make up much of the leeway lost during the earlier months of the year.

***

I notice that the Egyptian Government experts scored heavily over the Alexandria Produce Association in their respective estimates of last year's cotton crop. Arrivals of the old crop in Alexandria have already exceeded 7,600,000 cantars, as compared with 7,453,110 at this period last year, and everything points to new records being set up, as there are still two months to run before the season closes. There is always a good deal of rivalry between the Government experts and the Alexandria statisticians on the subject of the crop, and when the Agricultural Department estimated the 1913 yield at a figure 7 per cent. higher than the Alexandria Produce Association some sneers of "exaggerated optimism" were to be heard. However, the Government has fully vindicated its figures, and pessimists will henceforth be more chary of lifting up their voices.

***

The United States Consul at Smyrna, Mr. G. E. Horton, reports that 200,000 lbs. of shoe polish is consumed annually in his district. This does not surprise me. In fact, I should not be surprised to learn that Smyrna itself used double that quantity; for one of my most vivid recollections of the place is of the enormous number of shoeblacks who thronged the streets, quays, and cafés. That, however, is a detail. What I want to point out is that seven-eighths of the polish used is imported, and that the Consul, while pointing out that most of it comes from Germany, France, and Austria, expresses the opinion that "American shoe polish will also find a sale in this market, providing prices are reasonable." If this be so, British makers should have at least as good a chance as their American competitors, especially as the Consul reports that English "Blanco" holds its own in spite of competition on the part of a locally produced article.

***

Djavid Bey's Budget speech in the Turkish Chamber on July 6, a full report of which will be found on page 393, was, as usual, full of optimism, but some extraordinary figures were revealed. Revenue for the current year is estimated in round figures at £T34,000,000, of which £T15,000,000 is earmarked for the service of the Public Debt, annuities on various temporary advances, life pensions, etc. The actual sum devoted to life pensions, £T3,373,000, exceeds the combined total of the sums provided for Public Instruction, Public Works, Commerce and Agriculture, Sanitary Administration, Police, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and the Customs Administration. About £T10,000,000 is devoted to military penditure—£T1,300,000 to the Navy, and £T6,000,000 to the Army—so that once the £T15,000,000 required for the services of the Debt and pensions is added only about 8 or 9 millions is left for all other expenses. However, Djavid Bey does not despair, and although he cheerfully looks forward to largely increased deficits during the next few years, he is equally convinced that the sums which the Government intends to spend on railways and other improvements in Asia Minor must ultimately enormously increase the Budget receipts.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 11.

Great Britain's Trade with Turkey.

In continuation of the subject of my last week's letter, in which I referred particularly to certain enumerated articles which, notwithstanding the decrease in the total exports from Great Britain to Turkey during 1913, as compared with the two preceding years, according to the first volume of the Board of Trade publication entitled "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries for the Year 1913 compared with the Four Preceding Years," still continue to show an upward tendency, as promised in my last letter I now append a list of enumerated articles in which there has been a decrease during the same period :—

Articles.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	£	£	£
Arms, ammunition, military, & naval stores	21,696	86,619	10,883
Cement	6,743	15,103	5,500
Chemicals :—			
Aluminous sulphates	1,930	1,958	1,199
Muriate of ammonia	8,344	6,651	6,348
Soda compounds	5,080	5,643	4,194
Soda, bicarbonate	2,543	2,182	2,109
Soda, caustic	9,645	11,361	5,919
Total of soda compounds	23,386	23,752	17,052
Unenumerated	4,226	7,187	4,128
Total of chemicals	47,725	62,039	41,858
Coal, total of	320,728	322,601	297,164
Cotton yarn, bleached and dyed	219,901	207,553	194,207
Cotton yarn, total of	523,501	437,314	440,227
Cotton piece goods, unbleached	996,070	1,775,139	859,220
Cotton piece goods, other sorts	1,297,198	1,594,359	1,101,809
Cotton piece goods, coloured cottons	215,087	181,439	132,269
Cotton piece goods, total of	4,382,629	5,416,362	4,261,881
Cotton Manufactures—			
Lace and nett	36,244	42,640	25,279
Thread for sewing	119,243	126,417	116,089
Unenumerated	157,124	201,934	162,890
Fish cured, haddocks	1,295	3,351	2,898
Glass manufactures	548	3,157	298
Hardware, other than hollow-ware	10,601	13,975	7,288
Jute piece goods	52,304	38,380	18,045
Machinery—			
Prime movers, rail locomotives	112	37,131	3,569
Prime agricultural	13,422	29,525	9,696
Prime unenumerated	59,966	85,253	57,674
Metals—			
Copper	114,566	142,987	65,177
Oil, cotton-seed	72,526	33,110	35,592
Oils, total of seed	90,741	61,136	60,164
Oil cloth for floor coverings	25,852	32,417	20, 832
Saddlery and harness	25,594	1,372	2,866
Ships, new hull and fittings	8,150	33,110	3,641
Ships, machinery	650	18,605	3,723
Silk, broad stuffs	18,358	24,245	15,227
Woollen yarn	3,721	9,461	3,122
Woollen and Worsted Manufactures—			
Woollen tissues, heavy broad	226,244	231,416	123,909
Woollen tissues, heavy narrow	3,266	3,338	1,404
Woollen tissues, light broad, all wool	41,603	26,890	14,057
Woollen tissues, light broad, mixed	51,320	54,834	21,558
Woollen tissues, light narrow, all wool	4,702	3,545	1,810
Woollen tissues, light narrow, mixed	9,630	10,721	6,848
Woollen tissues, total of woollen tissues	398,443	414,148	244,697
Woollen tissues, worsted tissues	66,828	66,280	54,106
Woollen tissues, worsted tissues, broad, mixed	21,834	25,544	10,825
Woollen tissues, stuffs, mixed	71,122	98,334	49,427
Woollen tissues, total of worsted tissues	170,448	220,808	119,188
Woollen tissues, carpets, not being rugs	12,177	14,177	7,722

Imports into Great Britain from Turkey.

I give below a list of the enumerated articles of import into Great Britain from Turkey, with comparison over five years :—

Duty Free Goods.	1909.	1911.	1913.
	£	£	£
Bladder and sausage casings	4,789	1,886	7,999
Chemicals, boracite	22,119	30,120	36,453
Corn and grain, etc.—			
Wheat	18,601	131,564	11,261
Barley	759,237	1,397,443	893,853
Oats	124,056	102,399	12,837
Beans	102,004	72,820	4,667
Maize	6,503	43,977	12,969
Corn and grain, etc.	14,141	35,260	19,627
Rice	14,845	3,500	360
Rice meal and dust	3,618	14,039	25,143
Cotton, raw	187,558	174,140	308,736
Drugs, opium	12,126	6,908	7,367
Drugs, unenumerated	4,321	5,607	3,106
Dye stuffs, unenumerated	209,640	119,264	160,304
Dye stuffs, valonia	2,172	305	—
Tanning substances	3,760	3,220	750
Eggs	2,186	7,706	3,912
Fruit—			
Nuts (almonds)	38,607	50,108	42,396
Other nuts used as fruit	221,259	240,864	258,953
Oranges	147,198	35,926	292,944
Dried dates	1,840	1,382	1,207
Gum, arabic	51,897	37,387	35,407
Gum, unenumerated	53,880	30,321	54,652
Leather, undressed	20,919	36,704	32,610
Liquorice	14,304	15,927	13,336
Locust beans	4,095	3,572	4,866
Manures, bones	—	7,634	4,333
Metals and ores—	719	793	1,795
Antimony	45,831	—	78
Copper, old	10	—	2,657
Copper, unwrought	6,850	848	—
Iron ore	100,718	73,510	33,252
Quicksilver	25,314	24,538	18,345
Oil, olive, unrefined	—	2,798	6,201
Oil, olive, refined			
Oil-seed cake, cotton	97,650	56,364	171,877
Seeds—	14,999	34,586	5,620
Cotton	5,304	12,259	7,014
Dari	13,237	9,233	9,573
Flax or linseed	8,657	3,942	1,691
Millet	13,555	16,775	40,346
Tares and vetches	15,385	3,935	11,502
Unenumerated	20,203	24,706	26,901
Silk, knubs	6,485	15,690	9,229
Silk, raw	8,464	14,683	8,909
Skins and furs, goat	57,997	72,977	11,311
Skins and furs, sheep	33,430	40,599	29,237
Sponges	11,158	17,369	3,486
Stones and slates unenumerated	679,217	404,318	641,069
Wood and timber unenumerated	259,492	327,876	274,071
Wool, mohair	5,671	10,058	11,105
Wool, sheeps' or lambs'	265,094	266,525	214,378
Woollen rugs	17,089	13,540	11,119
Woollen carpets and carpet rugs	10	838	619
Dutiable Goods—	208,608	225,691	211,266
Coffee, raw	712,548	526,308	747,876
Fruit.—	4,047	3,867	4,303
Currants	5,539	4,676	3,994
Figs and Fig cake	13	20	—
Raisins	368,639	403,705	429,756
Sugar, Turkish delight	4,169	2,724	3,639
Tobacco, cigarettes	3,499	3,822	2,508
Tobacco, other sorts			
Tobacco, unmanufactured			
Wine in casks			
Parcels post (goods free of duty)			

Madkour Pasha on the Trade of Egypt.

The Egyptian Gazette publishes the following translation of a speech delivered by Abdul-Khalik Pasha Madkour, Chairman of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, at the French Congress for Chambers of Commerce held in Paris lately. After a short reference to the recently inaugurated Egyptian Chamber of Commerce Madkour Pasha said :—

"The greater part of our national wealth comes from agriculture which is, in our country, helped by a temperate climate, by a remarkable fertility of land, and by an excellent system of irrigation. This system enables us to preserve a great quantity of the Nile water which previously flowed uselessly into the Mediterranean, and to save our land from both the evils of sterility and overflow. It is true that the economical situation of Egypt has suffered a great deal in consequence of the crisis of 1907, but this is only temporary and passing. Big enterprising firms are always welcomed in Egypt, and they enjoy the confidence they deserve from the inhabitants of the country. Egyptian trade is at present more healthy than before; after declining for some time business has now regained its former activity. Our exports have increased in value, and we have begun to take care of our own interests and to profit by the lessons of the crisis. We have already established schools of commerce and financial syndicates, and created the Chamber of Commerce which I represent here, which has taken upon itself the protection of the economic interests of natives and foreigners alike. There is also a new scheme for the creation of agricultural co-operative societies, under discussion in our Legislative Assembly. We hope that all our new efforts will bear fruit, and the charges imputed to us—wrongly or rightly—by certain people will vanish."

Greek Currants.

Two recently published Consular reports deal with the production of currants in Greece. The report on the trade of Zante for 1913 makes the following observations upon the position of the Privileged Company to Protect the Production and Trade in Currants :—

As was mentioned in the last report from this district, a question had arisen in 1912 between currant growers and the Chartered Company concerning the application of the retention law, and a serious agitation was engendered among the growers of Morea, who clamoured against what they considered an abuse of privilege. The disputed point related to the right given to the company by the charter of determining at the beginning of each currant year the amount available for export and the proportionate levy of retention in kind or in cash. This was settled by the Court of Appeal at Athens, whose judicial decision required the company to increase the amount on which retention in kind would be leviable from 20,000 to 26,000 tons. The step taken by the Government on the plea of safeguarding public interests was greatly resented by the company.

As has frequently been pointed out, the levy of 35 per cent. (40 per cent. in Zante) on all exported currants as retention duty aims solely at reducing the export to marketable requirements, and for this purpose retention in kind or cash is regulated in proportion to the size of the year's crop. But in the process the company obviously looks primarily after its own interests, and frequent dissensions are consequently the result. As already explained in previous reports, in dealing with a large crop retention has to be taken mostly, if not wholly, in kind, which places the company in a disadvantageous position, as it burdens itself with an unmarketable commodity, which it disposes of for wine and spirit making at a price greatly inferior to the cost of the fruit; while with a small crop, in which case there is no need of curtailing exportation, the company recovers possible losses and profits by enforcing cash payments. As a matter of fact, it is stated that the result of the company's business in 1912 was so unsatisfactory, owing to the Government's intervention above stated, that no dividend was apportioned among the shareholders. The Government, having apparently acknowledged that the step it had taken was contrary to the provisions of the charter, was induced last year to pass a Bill in the Chamber for the payment of 800,000 dr. (£32,000) to the company as an indemnity for the loss sustained by the shareholders.

The 1913 report for Patras, just issued, states that the total estimated currant crop for the year is 161,450 tons, against 170,000 tons in 1912. The actual crop is estimated at 151,450 tons, to which is added stock on hand amounting to 10,000 tons. The crop was generally fully up to the average quality, with the exception of Gulf and Cephalonia fruit, which was in great part rain-damaged. Prices throughout the season have ruled steady for the finer and choice growths, but latterly there has been a decline of about 1s. per cwt, in Pyrgos and provincial. From August 24, 1913, when shipments of new currants commence, to end of February, 1914, the principal exports to various countries, as compared with the same period last year, have been :—

	From August 24 to end of February— 1913. Tons.		1914. Tons.
London	23,400	.....	24,100
Liverpool	25,600	.....	26,400
Other British ports	8,000	.....	7,300
United States	10,800	.....	10,950

Roumanian Oilfields.

A British Consular report says that the petroleum industry of Roumania continues to flourish. The production of crude oil in 1913 may have been below expectation owing to the war and insufficiency of transport, but it reached 1,900,000 tons, against 1,807,000 tons in the preceding year and 1,625,000 tons in 1911. Since 1906 Roumania has doubled her output of petroleum, and she is now the chief oil-producing country of the world after the United States, Russia, and Mexico. There should, moreover, be a marked increase in the output once the new pipelines at present under construction from Baicoi to Constantza have been completed.

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Ottoman Finance.

Djavid Bey's Budget Speech.

A Reuter message from Constantinople dated July 8, reports that Djavid Bey's Budget speech in the Chamber of Deputies was warmly applauded, and that the Chamber decided that his statement of the financial position should be posted throughout the Empire.

Dealing with the provision for the current financial year (thirty-four million pounds Turkish, in round figures), Djavid Bey observed that the most important part of that sum is destined to the Public Debt, the Budget of which figures out at fifteen millions, including annuities on various temporary advances, life pensions, etc. Continuing, the Minister declared that, although it has not been possible thus far to obtain a balanced Budget, it has been possible to amortise an important portion of the Public Debt during the last quinquennium. Neither the war, nor the financial crisis, nor the insurrections, prevented the Government from punctually observing its obligations without in the least bringing distrust upon its credit. This conscientious attitude on the part of the Government should be added to the factors which facilitated the conclusion of the great loan. Djavid Bey went on to observe that the general total of the loans concluded since 1908 reached the figure of £T40,700,000, distributed as follows:—£T4,700,000 in 1908, £T7,000,000 in 1909, £T7,000,000 in 1911, and £T22,000,000 in 1914. The portion of this debt amortised during the last five years amounted to £T9,000,000, which, deducted from the general total, leaves £T31,700,000 to be provided for.

The total debt in circulation to-day figures out at £T149,543,000, including the loans for the Hodeidah-Sanaa Railway, Soma-Panderma, etc., of about thirteen millions. Djavid Bey is not alarmed at these huge figures. In the matter of loans, he remarked, everything depended on the use made of them. He went on to speak of the sum provided for life-pensions, which likewise appeared in the Budget of the Public Debt, and totalled the sum of £T3,373,000 or one-tenth of the receipts of the Treasury. The total credits granted for life-pensions exceed the united totals of the Budgets of Public Instruction, Public Works, Commerce and Agriculture, Sanitary Administration, Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Customs Administration. The Government, he added, was occupying itself seriously with this matter, regarding it as a social question, the solution of which becomes an urgent necessity. He intends proposing the formation, during the Parliamentary recess, of a commission composed of members of Parliament, councillors of the Court of Cassation, etc., for the purpose of examining the question and drafting a Bill to be submitted to the next session of the Chamber.

The Minister then dealt with the expenditure. New charges, he said, have to be met, as a result of the late wars, £T100,000 being allocated for the settling of refugees, and £T5,000 on account of repairs to prisons. The military expenditure is made up as follows:—Ministry of Marine, £T1,300.000, in round figures; Ministry of War, £T6,000,000; military factories, £T450,000; gendarmerie, £T2,200,000—total about ten millions, or one-third of the total revenue of the Empire. By adding to that total the fifteen millions swallowed up by the Public Debt and the Pensions Fund, military expenditure and the Budget of the Public Debt figure out at twenty-five millions. There remains, therefore, for the expenses of the other Ministries, some eight to nine million pounds.

The Ministry of War, continued Djavid Bey, had effected this year an appreciable saving in expenses, obtained on the one hand by the loss of the European provinces, and, on the other hand, by a spirit of economy. All the expenses included in the War Office Budget, as well as in that of the Navy, are nothing but ordinary charges. Besides the thirty-four millions provided for the expenses of the various departments of State, the Government will be compelled to incur certain other expenditure. Thus the counter-value of various orders placed abroad will have to be met, "pari passu," as they are delivered. A portion of the orders placed by the War Office and the Navy will only be completed during the present financial year (1914-15), and it will be necesary to add the amount of the same to the estimates of the present Budget. When ordering the Dreadnought "Reshadieh" the Government concluded an arrangement in virtue of which it paid £T133,000 every three months. A sum of £T490,000 will be paid this year towards the cost of that vessel, which will not be entirely wiped out until some years after the delivery of the ship. With regard to the Dreadnought "Sultan Osman," acquired on the product of the sale of Treasury bills to the Périer Bank, the payments will be reimbursed with the delivery of the ship. A monthly payment of £T80,000 will be made on account of the Dreadnought "Fatih." The payment of these monthly instalments has been assumed by the Committee of Public Subscription for the increase of the Navy, and the Minister had no doubt of the Committee's being able to meet those payments regularly up to end of the year. The Minister then spoke of the estimated increase in the revenues, the creation of new sources of income, and put the deficit at two millions, though with certain prospective revenues, such as the reduction in the Budget of the Public Debt of from £T500,000 to £T600,000. Next year, on account of the contributions from the Balkan States, coupled with the lessening of charges on temporary advances, the deficit would be brought down to one million pounds, while the deficit would disappear if the total general expenses on account of annuities for Treasury bonds were excluded.

As regards the future, even should equilibrium in the Budget be assured this year, it must not be taken for granted that expenditure will remain the same in succeeding Budgets. Next year, said the Minister, the deficit will attain five millions, which he explained as follows:—The revenue known as the "hisse-i-iane," amounting to £T850,000, will have to be surrendered to the special Budgets of the vilayets; a further increase in expenditure of half-a-million pounds will be necessary for the payment of the second annuity of the big loan, besides charges on account of interest and sinking fund for the second portion of the loan which will be issued at the end of the current year. This deficit the Minister anticipates could be met partly by the natural increase in the revenues and partly by the receipts from the projected new taxes, increase of the import duty, etc. On the other hand, the Government will be compelled to conclude, in the space of about ten years, various financial operations in favour of public works and armaments. The building of new railway lines in Anatolia and Syria will necessitate an extraordinary outlay of sixty million pounds. Harbour works will absorb three millions, and irrigation works in Mesopotamia and Adana seven millions. Thus the extraordinary expenses for public works will attain the sum of eighty millions. These works will be carried out in eight to ten years, and the sum of four millions will have to be subscribed in the Budget for the service of these loans. There will also be the annuities of the loans required to meet the extraordinary expenses of the War Office and of the Naval Department.

The Ministry of War, continued the Minister, is compelled to incur those expenses for the reconstruction of fortifications and the completing of armaments as a result of the recent Balkan wars. The extraordinary expenses of the Ministry of War for the next four to five years will reach fifteen million pounds, while the amount of the Ministry of Marine is placed at eight millions. The grand total of extraordinary expenses will thus exceed one hundred million pounds, for which an annuity of about five million pounds will have to be added to the Budget of the Public Debt. These fresh charges will bring up to £42,000,000 the total of the credits appearing in the ordinary Budget of the Empire. This sum will expand to £50,000,000, with the expenses necessary for the reorganisation of the Ministries and the reforms to be introduced in the different branches of the Administration. These figures, Djavid Bey added, did not disquiet him, inasmuch as irrigation works and the building of railways will produce, as a natural consequence, an immediate and important increase in the receipts of the Treasury.

BANKING AT SALONIKA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, July 11.

I learn, from a source said to be trustworthy, that a group of English capitalists are about to submit to the Government a scheme for founding an exclusively Greek bank here, with branches at Kavalla and Serres; which institution would also aid in the carrying out of different public works in Macedonia, etc. In connection therewith it is also said that a certain Mr. Leonidas, manager of the Khartoum branch of the Banque d'Athènes, and who is at the head of a group of capitalists, has already resigned his post and will shortly arrive here.

If this bank be formed, our municipality may possibly succeed in getting from it the million or two needed to carry out their big schemes for the improvement of the town; but for the moment the more pressing question is to borrow the comparatively trifling sum of £20,000 to pay for the house and grounds presented by the town to his Majesty King Constantine; the interest offered being, we hear, 5 per cent.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Our Belgrade correspondent writes:—The launch on the Danube, at Regensburg, of the first of the Bavarian Lloyd's ships has created great interest in the commercial population of Belgrade, and as the society intends to eventually have a fleet of fifty ships, the commercial intercourse with Germany and with Roumania will be greatly facilitated.

The Municipality of Uskub intends to erect a municipal slaughterhouse at Uskub and has forwarded the drawings and plans to the Servian Minister of Public Works, and the building will be at once begun, and special attention will be given to the hygienic arrangements.

According to the *Handelsmuseum* (Vienna) Aden, in spite of its proximity to Jibuti and other fairly important ports, still holds a preponderating position in the trade for cottons. From 1909 to 1912, the importation of cotton thread rose from Rs. 1,900,000 to Rs. 2,700,000; that of unbleached cottons from Rs. 10,600,000 to Rs. 18,200,000; that of white cottons from Rs. 1,360,000 to Rs. 2,400,000; and in the case of printed cottons from Rs. 3,600,000 to Rs. 4,900,000. Cottons participate to the extent of a third in the total import trade of Aden.

A report on the condition of German shipping during the first half of the current year states that in the Levant trade, in spite of very low rates, competition is keener than ever.

Not long ago (says Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent) M. Brodsky, the Kieff millionaire, purchased a quantity of land in Palestine for the settlement of Jewish families expelled from Kieff. In connection with his initiative, a Jewish Plantation Company has been formed in Kieff to develop the scheme on business lines.

CONGRESSES IN BUCHAREST.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—The Roumanian Ministry of Commerce has invited 25 States to send delegates to the General Meeting of the International Petroleum Commission which is to be held in Bucharest from September 26 till October 2 next. The countries invited are Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, United States, France, Italy, Japan, Holland, Russia, Servia, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Norway, Argentina, Mexico, Greece, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey, Egypt, and Canada.

The International Commission will hold its meeting at the same time as the International Congress of Boring Experts, which meets from September 27 to October 1.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest. July 12.

The rains have practically ceased throughout the country, though local thunder showers are still reported here and there. If the present fine weather holds, the reaping of the wheat can be taken in hand. From many quarters it is announced that the wheat has recovered from the ill effects of the excessive rains, and a medium crop (say, about 30 million hectolitres, equal to 82½ million bushels) is looked for, but the actual result can only be known when threshing is completed. The appearance of the barley and oats is more than satisfactory. Husk crops, such as peas and beans, look splendid, and the maize is equally promising.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletin received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Janina. July 3.

The following are extracts from the report for the first six months of 1914:—

During the past six months business has been slack.

The trade in manufactured goods has been extremely inactive. The business done has been limited to the importation of a few absolutely necessary articles. This inactivity is the result mainly of the large stocks, which merchants have on their hands, imported during the latter six months of 1913, and which they have not been able to dispose of owing to the political disorders. These events have led to the severing of communications with the principal localities, such as Argyrokastro, Berat, Delvino, Erseka, Leskovrk, Premeti, and Tepedelini, which drew supplies regularly and exclusively from our market. No amelioration is possible until the old stocks are exhausted. But in spite of the political situation, which does not inspire confidence and has made merchants reluctant to place orders in Europe, the trading community maintains a sound position.

Biledjik. June 30.

The following are extracts from the report for the first six months of 1914:—

The frequent rains during May and June have reduced the opium crop in the plains to 60 per cent. below that of last year. Fears are entertained, even with regard to the crop of the hills. The quality of the produce will, it is expected, leave much to be desired. It is expected that the cocoon crop will not be more than half that of last year, in view of the many checks which it has sustained owing to the bad weather.

The rains have equally endangered the prospects of the cereal crops, and have seriously delayed harvest in many districts. The planting of tobacco, however, was carried out under good weather conditions.

Exports have been small during the six months. The great floods have done much damage.

GRECO-EGYPTIAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs that Tuesday's *Journal Officiel* contains the text of an agreement prolonging the Greco-Egyptian commercial treaty expiring on the 16th inst. until April 16, 1915, when it is expected a new treaty will be signed.

The agreement contains the following modifications:—(1) The inclusion of salt amongst the commodities hitherto expressly excluded by the working of the treaty; (2) the abolition or reduction in favour of Greece of the duty levied on tobacco from other States; (3) Egypt without prejudice to the treaty regains complete liberty of action regarding the institution of a tobacco monopoly, the introduction of tobacco cultivation, and the eventual increase of duties.

A special notification by the Finance Ministry provides for the levying of duty till April 16, 1915, on tobacco of Greek origin on the basis of the tariff existing anterior to January 4, 1914, when the new duties were introduced.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 16.

Sugar.

The beet market opened with a steady tone this week, and quotations have gradually improved from 1d. to 1½d., but in the same way this advance was lost, and at the time of writing the market is closing quiet, with sales for Aug. at 9s. 5½d., Sept. 9s. 6d., Oct.-Dec. 9s. 6d., Jan.-Mar. 9s. 8d., and May 9s. 10½d., f.o.b. Hamburg.

Refined sugar has been very strong, with good business for English kinds at full rates to 1½d. advance, and foreign maintaining a firmer tone, with prices for old crop showing an advance of 1d. Quotations for July, first marks, 11s. 6¾d.; Aug., 11s. 7½d.; Oct.-Dec., 11s. 6¾d.; Jan.-Mar., 11s. 8¼d., f.o.b. Hamburg.

Coffee.

The market has been active this week and the supplies that were offered at auctions met with a steady demand. Costa Rica middlings went at 82s. 6d., fine bold 88s., East Indian small sold at 62s. to 65s., low middling to good middling 65s. 6d. to 72s., bold 70s. to 79s. The speculative market continues inactive, and prices are 3d. to 4½d. down: July, 41s. 4½d.; Sept., 42s. 1½d.; Dec. sold at 43s. 1½d. and March 43s. 10½d.

Seeds.

There has been little doing in the market this week. Linseed opened very firm and slightly dearer in the beginning, but gradually a quieter tone prevailed, closing for London-Calcutta spot at 50s. 6d.; July-Aug., 50s. 9d. to 51s. 3d.; Aug.-Sept., 51s. 4½d. to 51s. 9d.; Sept.-Oct., 52s.; Oct.-Nov., 52s. 3d. Rape-seed is steady but very quiet. Brown Cawnpore, July-Aug., offered at 50s. 3d.; yellow Ferozepore, 48s. 9d.; and Guzerat ditto, 55s. 6d. Cotton-seed is inactive. London-Egyptian, July offered £8 3s. 9d., Aug. £8 5s., and Nov.-Jan. £8 8s. 9d. per ton. The market for canary-seed is firm for all descriptions, with stocks in very narrow compass. In view of new crop offers transactions are of quite a retail character.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cakes: In consequence of the decline in oil the market is well supported, but the trade generally is rather quiet. Quotations are unchanged. Cotton cakes: Egyptian continue to come along freely, and with a slight falling off in the consumptive demand values are barely as strong, although not quotably lower. Maize germ meal: White African is only quoted for shipment and at unattractive prices, but English makes, although sparingly offered, may be bought on fairly reasonable terms of £6 to £6 2s. 6d. per ton. Locust beans remain scarce at prices £6 5s. for whole and £6 15s. for kibbled.

Corn.

Wheat: Owing to absence of demand values are in buyers' favour. Choice white Karrachee, afloat, offered 36s. 1½d., or Sept.-Oct. 36s. 3d. Maize is firm for European, but 1½d. to 3d. lower for others. Galatz-Foxanian, July, is quoted 26s., and Danubian, July, 25s. 1½d. Barley is offered at 1½d. to 3d. lower: South Russian, July, 23s. 6d.; July-Aug., 22s. 9d.; Aug. (old style), 22s. 1½d. Oats are firm and dearer.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

Dates.—According to a Berber Province report for May quite one-third of the date crop on Angeri Island (Abu Hamed District) is said to be a total failure; in the case of another one-third the branches are either deformed or the dates have fallen off, and the remaining one-third will be of poor quality.

Berseem Hegazi (Lucerne Grass).—A Dongola Province report for May states that it is reported that arrangements are being made to collect a large amount of berseem hegazi (seed from acclimatized crops growing on Morowe Garden lands). This seed will be sold to natives, many of whom are most anxious to start this excellent fodder crop on their own lands. In the course of a few years it is hoped that berseem hegazi will be one of the general fodder crops of this Province.

TRADE OF DURAZZO.

The Venice Chamber of Commerce publishes some interesting figures giving the value of the import and export trade passing through the port of Durazzo. The total commerce of the port in 1913 reached the value of 9,985,785 lire (£399,431). The value of the imports (7,942,377 lire) greatly exceeded that of the exports (2,043,009 lire).

Austria-Hungary heads the list with a total trade of 5,287,699 lire, an increase for the year of 50 per cent.; Italy comes second with a total of 2,638,505 lire; and Great Britain third with 1,021,124 lire.

APPLES IN EGYPT.

A recently issued U.S. Consular report states that limited quantities of American apples are regularly imported into Egypt. The exact amount cannot be given, as customs statistics are not detailed in this respect. Under the heading "Other Fresh Fruits," Egyptian customs returns for 1913 credit the United States with 37,295 pounds of fruit valued at £472. This item unquestionably covers apples. The actual importations, however, are larger. Shipments are forwarded by Italian houses via Naples and Genoa, and in consequence are credited to Italy. A few small shipments also go via Liverpool. There appear to be no special requirements as regards packing.

TURKISH MOHAIR AND WOOL.

The following information is taken from the current issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople. As to mohair it is stated that "an early clip was anticipated, but, owing to the cold spell which swept over the country in April, a stop was put to all clipping operations, and we were well into May before the new hair made its appearance on this market. The first arrivals were not satisfactory, the hair being very coarse, but there was an improvement later on, and buying became very brisk. Considerable purchases for forward delivery were made, and during the past fortnight some very large transactions have taken place, over 5,000 bales having changed hands, for a portion of which extreme prices were paid. For good Turkey average there is no demand, nor is there likely to be any business in this class until holders show a disposition to meet buyers as regards price. The position of the raw material is strong, and there is every prospect of a steady and continuous trade if prices are not inflated."

With regard to wool, the *Journal* says:—"A very large turnover has taken place in sheep's wool, but the bulk of the purchases made are for local consumption. The Government contracts were given out at higher prices than usual, and, there being several syndicates, competition has been keen and prices have advanced. The quotation for Anatolian wool to-day is from 8 piastres to 8 and 5 paras per oke, and at this price American buyers are not disposed to operate, notwithstanding that wool is now imported duty-free into the United States."

SYRIA'S GROWING TRADE IN GLUE.

The glue trade of Aleppo is assuming more importance from year to year, caused by the great increase in the local manufacture of furniture of European pattern, says an American Consular report. Formerly the people of the country were satisfied with a few chairs and divans very simply fashioned and combining a limited number of whole pieces of timber, whereas at present there is a growing demand for various other articles that the scarcity of suitable material requires shall be made mostly of veneered parts. This necessitates the use of ever-increasing quantities of glue, about all of which is manufactured in Aleppo and the neighbouring city of Hama.

There is one factory in Aleppo that produces about 12,000 pounds annually, which represents but a portion of the local consumption. Two qualities are made—one that is clear, and a dark quality. The Hama product is more adhesive and is also made in two qualities, clear and dark. It is all made from old leathers, principally shoe soles, but it is said the Hama glue is better because of certain qualities in the water used in its manufacture at that place.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 10.

After having dropped considerably, prices are now up again as a result of the appearance of the cotton worm. The recovery in American cotton has also been a factor in bringing about a rise in prices. Meanwhile speculators are becoming more numerous and the exports are considerable. The futures market will probably depend upon industrial conditions, which are hardly encouraging just now. Notwithstanding contrary reports, conditions for the Egyptian crop are satisfactory.

Cotton seed is rising.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram from Alexandria, dated Wednesday:—

Market steady. November, 18⅜, January, 18⅛. Exchange, three months' date, 97½.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	2,500 ..	800 ..	900
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,608,156 ..	7,455,462 ..	7,256,680
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	Nil. ..	Nil. ..	1,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	203,850 ..	202,477 ..	199,768
Shipments to Manchester	4,500 ..	Nil. ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	221,848 ..	203,010 ..	227,627
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	5,000 ..	4,000 ..	2,500
Ditto since Sept. 1	434,355 ..	397,219 ..	377,243
Shipments to U.S. America	Nil. ..	Nil. ..	4,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	84,503 ..	122,500 ..	115,217
Shipments to all parts	9,500 ..	4,000 ..	7,750
Ditto since Sept. 1	944,556 ..	925,206 ..	919,855
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	921,000 ..	767,000 ..	551,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to July 8, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	203,850	202,477	198,500
,, Manchester	217,348	203,010	227,627
Total Shipments to Great Britain	421,198	405,487	426,127
Shipments to France and Spain	119,645	113,062	104,103
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	210,314	192,348	183,963
Shipments to Russia	75,656	67,199	65,971
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,183	835	987
Total Shipments to Continent	407,798	373,444	356,024
Shipments to U.S. America	84,503	123,500	111,175
Ditto to India and Japan	21,557	19,694	18,654
Total Shipments to all parts	935,056	921,125	911,980
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars.	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

July 4.—"Bosnian." July 11.—"Orange Prince," Manchester.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—Egyptian spot cotton has been neglected during the past week, and the amount of business put through has been very slight. Estimated sales are only 1,100 bales, as against 1,600 bales last week. Trade reports continue uniformly bad; and as consumers will not commit themselves to purchases till yarn orders are booked, it seems useless to look for an improved demand until trade prospects brighten. Prices have been rather irregular. Outside this there has been no predominant feature in the week's trading. Quotations are unchanged, except fine and extra fine, in all growths, which are reduced five points.

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MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, July 15.

No increase of activity in the market during the past week can be recorded, and again demand has been of a dragging character and sellers have met with no encouragement whatever. Nothing has occurred to stimulate buyers to place orders on a freer scale. The present depression is undoubtedly due to overtrading in the past, and undoubtedly the chief markets of the world are over-supplied in goods manufactured from raw cotton. The process of waiting until stocks are reduced is not pleasant, but it seems absolutely necessary that this should be done before a fresh buying movement can set in. In numerous directions the output of yarn and cloth is being lessened, and it is quite expected that in American spinning organised short time will be arranged. The inquiry in piece goods for export has run on small lots to meet urgent wants and buyers have been in no mood to purchase for distant delivery. There is no improvement in the advices coming through from Egypt and the Levant. The conditions on the other side do not seem to be at all favourable. Goods continue to be held back in Manchester owing to the inability of export houses to take deliveries. Occasional lines have been put through for India, chiefly in well-known makes, but workable offers have been comparatively scarce. The news from China has not been at all encouraging and business from day to day has dragged. The South American outlets continue to give retail support. Manufacturers of cloth as a body are quite unable to obtain relief, and in certain sections severe depression exists. Loud complaints are to be met with from makers of coloured woven goods and sateens. Printing cloths are also doing very badly. Fresh orders are wanted by makers of T-cloths and Mexicans. American yarns for home consumption have moved off in odd lots at irregular rates. Coarse numbers have been rather pressed for sale. The production is far from being at full stretch. A quiet feeling has prevailed in shipping bundles. Bolton spinnings have been fairly steady, but no active buying has transpired.

COTTON PRODUCTS AWARDS.

In connection with the International Cotton, Fibres and Other Tropical Agricultural Products Exhibition, held in London from June 24 to July 9, the British Cotton Growing Association presented a Silver Trophy and three Silver cups for competition, and the awards have now been made. In Class "A," the Silver Trophy for the best general exhibit of various varieties of cotton shown by any Government Department of Agriculture of any British Colony or Protectorate or of Egypt, or the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, such exhibit to have been grown during 1913 or 1914, on any farm or farms under Government supervision, was awarded to the Government Agricultural Department of Southern Nigeria. The Sudan Government Agricultural Department was very highly commended.

In Class "B," the Silver Cup for the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan for the best type of cotton grown on any farm or plantation during the years 1913 or 1914, is awarded to Mr. C. H. Neville, for American quality cotton. Salim Bashur is very highly commended for Assili cotton. The highly commended are:—Abdul Aziz Yehia, for Assili cotton; Gwadwala Haboosha for Assili cotton; and Capato Estates for Affifi cotton. Mr. Geo. Alexander is commended for Affifi cotton.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report for week ending July 3:—Owing to heavy torrential rains, over all the opium producing districts, we have to report a material large deficit in this year's yield, the estimates of which now vary from 5,500 to 6,500 cases. In consequence, prices this week have advanced by leaps and bounds, and to-day the nominal quotations for 11 per cent. and 11½ per cent. are 16s. and 17s. respectively, with few sellers and many buyers. The sales in all amount to 72 cases, commencing at 14s. 9d. to 15s. 6d., and ending 16s. to 17s. The general opinion is that very soon we shall be quoting 19s. to 20s. for 11 per cent. goods. The arrivals number 408 cases against 472 at same date last year.

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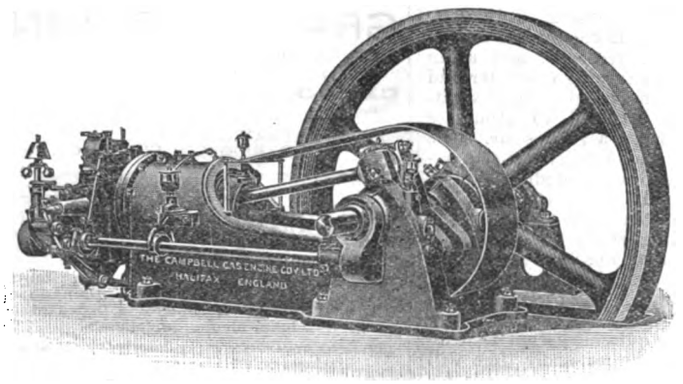

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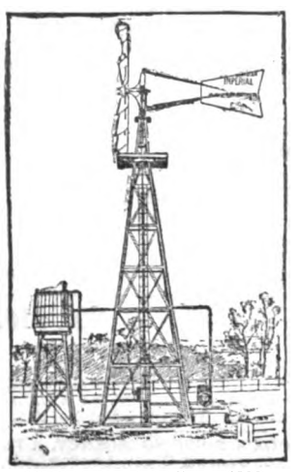

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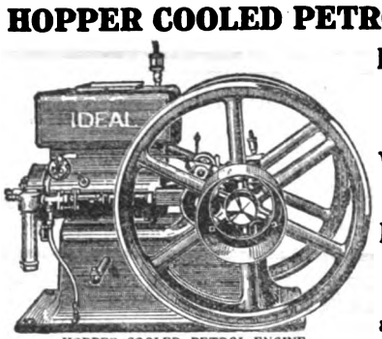

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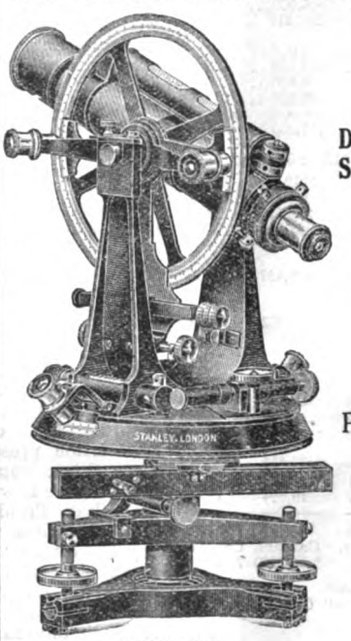

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Engineering Notes.

Mining in Trebizond.

A recently issued Consular report on the vilayet of Trebizond states that there are numerous mineral deposits in this consular district, both near the coast and in the interior, and it is especially rich in copper. Silver-lead, zinc, iron and manganese are also met with. So long as the district remains without railways and roads, mines in the interior, at any rate, have only a problematic value. Local mine owners have usually an exaggerated idea of the value of their properties, and expect to be able to sell straight off for a large lump sum rather than give an option for a certain period to enable the necessary preliminary work to be done. The possibilities of the district appear to be known to British mining engineers, who are often met with. There are in the Vilayet thirty-one mines with firmans, of which, however, owing to lack of capital, exhaustion of the veins or low prices in Europe, only four are being worked. Research permits have been issued in connection with forty-three other mines. A British company is carrying on research work at a group of mines near Tireboli. Up to the present most of the mining enterprises in the Vilayet seem to have resulted in loss of money. There is a silver-lead mine at Aralana, between Off and Surmeneh, which is said to be rich and has been worked. At present the question of ownership is in dispute and it is lying idle.

A Mechanical Plough.

That agriculturists in the Near East are realising the advantages of mechanical contrivances for cultivating the soil is proved by the readiness with which the well-to-do proprietor or farmer adopts such machines. But the average agriculturist is deterred from following suit by the comparatively high price of such machines, and often the proved unsuitability of some for local work. We have often described in these columns mechanical ploughing sets, which, from our long experience of agricultural conditions and needs in the Near East, we considered suitable, and often reminded British manufacturers that the qualities of a mechanical plough which would be suitable for those regions, and which would meet with a great demand there, are: the possession of sufficient power; the ability to operate on heavy as well as on light land and also on stiff gradients; suitability for small fields; portability and low cost of working; simplicity of control and as low in price as possible. In recent agricultural shows we have noticed mechanical ploughs complying with the above requirements, but, so far as we know, most of them have not been brought to the attention of buyers in the Near East. A new type, however, which attracted considerable notice will interest agriculturists there

Light and Well-governed Machine.

In appearance it is a two-furrow plough, with its water-cooled motor in front of the two driving and supporting wheels, while the control levers are by the guiding shafts. This machine requires no skilled mechanic to handle it. The labourer who guides a horse-plough may equally well drive this one, as the single-cylinder engine is governed and has an automatic ignition with a fixed firing point, so that all the ploughman has to do is to start the engine and steer the plough. It is stated that this mechanical plough, under normal conditions, can do its work at 4s. 6d. per acre, including labour, depreciation, maintenance, and repairs, while its cost is £130 for a two-furrow machine, which weighs 14 cwt. (560 okes). It is, therefore, within the means of the average small farmer, and as an adaptation of a hand-plough to power will appeal to him. It is made either as a single-furrow or double-furrow machine. With it, it is stated, three acres a day can be ploughed in eight working hours. When the plough is not in use in the fields the engine can be used for all kinds of belt-driving, such as grinding, pumping, chaff-cutting, etc., so that in wet or fine weather the machine need not be idle. This machine is only 3 ft. in height over all and 2 ft. 4 ins. in width. It is, therefore, very well adapted for ploughing between trees, vineyards, etc., where ploughing with horses is unsuitable.

A Small Motor Boat for Greece.

Another proof of the preference given to motor boats of British construction throughout the Near East, which we have often drawn attention to in these columns, is a recently completed seaworthy vessel of an attractive design, which is to be used for carrying passengers, fruit, olives, etc., in Greece. She is of robust proportions, 40ft. in length, 10ft. 6in. moulded beam, and 4ft. 5in. moulded depth, and is constructed with a flat keel, having a large outside false keel, which gives clearance to the propeller and rudder when she takes the ground. A 45 h.p. four-cylinder motor is installed, driving a three-bladed propeller through an epicyclic reverse gear and clutch. A feature of the design is the arrangement made for the protection of passengers in rough water. Two substantial hoods are fitted and battened seats are worked all round the boat. Steering is by means of a tiller, the wooden rudder being hung on the transom, from which it depends entirely. Another feature, which increases the usefulness of the boat, is the towing arrangement, a large galvanized iron towing rail being fitted aft of the cockpit, with a towing hook amidships. The hull is planked with red wood, ¾in. thick, and the timbers are of American elm, spaced 6ins. apart from centre to centre, a number of frames of English oak being spaced where required. In the trials out to sea the boat was found to be particularly dry in a sea-way, and generally suitable for the work for which she was designed.

"Victoria" Turbo-pumps.

Water! Water! is the general cry at this time of the year in almost every country in the Near East; for, indeed, the life of those essentially agricultural countries, irrigation, is sadly neglected. Thousands of acres depend for the water supply upon heavy wooden wheels, or other archaic contrivances, by which the water is raised from river or wells, and led through rickety wooden conduits. It is the usual method of obtaining water for irrigation. This anachronism is not generally due to lack of means, but rather to ignorance of the existence of more efficient methods, and more often to the disheartening effect of the disappointments of other proprietors who failed in their irrigation schemes through the choice of unsuitable pumps or unskilful calculations of the required work.

Pumps of the simplest possible kinds are the most suitable for either irrigation or water supply in the Near East. And as water for irrigation is often obtained from muddy rivers, or other sources containing solid matter, a pump capable of hard work is indispensable for that purpose. A really serviceable pump for the Near East is the "Victoria" turbo-pump, and especially the "Quick Runner" type of Messrs. Boving and Company, of Union Court, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. An important feature of Messrs. Boving's pumps is that each pump is specially designed for the actual conditions under which it will be required to work, the designers rightly believing that the old idea of simply using one standard size pump for a given head and speed is not consistent with modern needs of economic working. They have, therefore, divided their pumps into three distinct groups; the first group dealing with small to moderate quantities for effective heads up to 80 ft., the second group, the "Quick Runner" pumps, dealing with larger quantities against heads up to 60 ft., and the third group dealing with moderate quantities against heads up to 120 ft. Proprietors in the Near East, with the assistance of a very interesting and concise booklet, issued by Messrs. Boving and Co., will be able to select for themselves the pump that they specially need; for there are in it dimensions, sketches, and tables showing heads of water, quantities per minute and power required, so that it is an easy task, even for the unskilful, to select the size of pump required.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

AMERICAN MACHINERY FOR EGYPT.

According to *The Egyptian Gazette*, Mr. Lyster, who is attached to the Drainage and Irrigation Service of the Behera Province, has received permission from the Government to visit Australia during his forthcoming furlough in order to inspect the working of the American machinery in that continent for deepening and repairing drains with a view to introducing this machinery into Egypt. Extra leave is to be given to Mr. Lyster for this purpose, and he will also have his expenses paid between Adelaide and the places in South Australia that he will visit in the pursuit of the above-mentioned objects.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Paving Stones and Bondstones.—Tenders are invited by the Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of 6,500 square metres of paving stones and 350 square metres of bondstones. Sept. 1.

Office Supplies.—Tenders are invited by the Railways and Telegraphs Administration, Cairo, for the supply of office supplies. Oct. 1 (L).

Span Bridges.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply, transport, and erection of three swing span bridges and four lift span bridges. Tenders to be sent to Director-General, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, 3, Soliman Pasha Street, Cairo. September 30.

Diaries.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of 3,050 diaries (1,500 in Arabic, 700 in English, and 850 in French). August 1. (B.)

Ghafir Clothing.—Tenders are invited at the Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the supply of 34,000 suits of Ghafir clothing for the Stores Department. August 15. (L.)

BULGARIA.

Steamer.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian Commercial Steam Navigation Company, Varna, for the supply of a passenger and goods steamer of 2,500 tons. Sept. 7.

"A tunnel under the Danube is under consideration by the Roumanian Government to form a connection with its newly acquired territory," says the *Engineer*. "A bridge was first considered, but as no protected site was to be found, military precautions forced the abandonment of the projects. The proposed tunnel will have heavily fortified terminals."

Our Port Said Correspondent writes (July 8):—"It is announced on good authority that a contract has been signed for the transport of 1,200,000 tons of manganese ore from Abou Zenima in the Red Sea, to Antwerp and Rotterdam, at the rate of 120,000 tons a year, during the next ten years.

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Shipping Intelligence.

ROUMANIA AND THE DARDANELLES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 12.

The action of Russia and Roumania with regard to the Dardanelles is welcomed and supported in this country by both steamship owners and grain and timber exporters. In Russia, I am informed, these interests have forwarded a statement to the Minister of Commerce setting forth the losses and difficulties inflicted of late by the constant closing of the Straits to merchant vessels.

GERMANY'S EASTERN TRADE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, July 8.

Some striking figures are issued this week by the Suez Canal Company, showing the remarkable expansion of German shipping interests in Eastern waters.

When the Canal was opened the proportion of transits by steamers under the German flag was 1 per cent. of the total.

In 1882 the figure had risen to 3 per cent., notably by the inauguration of the Hansa Line. A few years later the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg American steamers made their first passages under mail contracts, to be followed later by the German East African Line to South Africa and the German Australian Company to Australia.

During the 1891-1895 period the proportion of transits under the German flag had risen to 7.5 per cent., which figure was doubled in the period 1895-1913, the record of 16.7 per cent. being attained last year.

The following table of tonnage under the German flag passed through the Canal during the past decade shows a remarkably steady increase, the tonnage of 1913 having risen to practically double that of 1903:—

1903	1,773,200
1904	1,969,500
1905	2,113,400
1906	2,115,500
1907	2,253,600
1908	2,310,500
1909	2,381,600
1910	2,563,700
1911	2,790,900
1912	3,025,400
1913	3,352,200

NEW P. & O. STEAMERS.

Orders have been placed for two steamers for the P. and O. Company's India, China, and Australia mail and passenger services, one with Messrs. Caird and Co., of Greenock, the other with Messrs. Harland and Wolff, of Belfast. These vessels will have a gross register of 15,500 tons, and will be propelled by two sets of quadruple expansion reciprocating engines, developing 18,000 horse-power.

A steamer of 1,000 tons register is at present building for outport service in the company's Eastern trade. This vessel will have Singapore for her headquarters. She is to be named the "Mata Hari."

ITALIAN ENTERPRISE.

A new shipping service with Dedeagatch has been opened by an Italian company, the Marittima Italiana. Every other Monday one of the steamers belonging to the company will call at Dedeagatch to pick up passengers and cargo for Constantinople and Odessa; while every other Saturday a call will be made to pick up passengers and cargo destined for Karala, Salonika, the Pirœus, and Italian ports.

NETHERLANDS AND EGYPT.

H.M. Consul-General at Rotterdam (Mr. E. G. B. Maxse, C.M.G.) reports that the Bergen Line of the Furness Maritime and Armament Agency intends to start a monthly service of steamers next August from Rotterdam to Alexandria viâ Antwerp. On the return voyage the steamers will call at Sfax, Tunis, Bône, Oran, and/or Algiers.

H.M. Consul-General adds that the contracts which most of the Alexandria shipping agents have with the Mediterranean Syndicate expire on January 1, 1915, and it is therefore considered advisable to start this service some time before that date, so that it may be well established before entering into competition with the lines belonging to the syndicate.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—Liverpool-Constantinople. Left Smyrna July 9. "Esneh."—Liverpool-Alexandria. At Gibraltar July 3. "Hathor."—Hull-Alexandria. Passed Gibraltar July 10. "Karnak."—At Liverpool June 18. "Khephren."—At Batoum June 22. "Meroe."—At Liverpool June 23. "Moeris."—At Alexandria June 20. "Sebek."—At Alexandria July 10. "Siptah."—At Liverpool.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Pirœus July 7. "Barnesmore."—Left Liverpool for Braila July 4. "Barrowmore."—Left Sulina for Galatz July 10. "Cranmore."—Sulina-Rotterdam. Passed Constantinople July 7. "Dromore."—At Liverpool July 12. "Edenmore."—At Galatz June 25. "Fenmore."—At Swansea July 5. "Foylemore."—Sulina-Tyne. Left Malta July 3. "Gorsemore."—At Galatz June 27. "Heathmore."—Left Sulina for Antwerp July 1. "Jessmore."—Left Immingham for Alexandria July 8. "Kenmore."—At Antwerp. "Larchmore."—At Antwerp.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—London-Alexandria. Left Malta July 11. "Corsican Prince."—At Alexandria June 30. "Creole Prince."—Syrian Coast-Hull. Passed Gibraltar July 7. "Egyptian Prince."—At Manchester July 6. "Italian Prince."—Alexandria-London. Left Algiers July 11. "Kaffir Prince."—At Syrian Coast July 8. "Merchant Prince."—At Manchester July 10. "Norman Prince."—At Alexandria July 12. "Orange Prince."—Left Alexandria for Manchester July 11. "Soldier Prince."—At Novorossisk July 6. "Trojan Prince."—Left Eastham for Alexandria July 5.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—London-Bombay: Left Suez July 3. "Chantala."—Left Bombay for London July 4. "Chakrata."—Left London for Bombay July 10. "Chinkoa."—Bombay-London: Left Suez July 10. "Chyebassa."—Calcutta-London: Left Port Said July 10. "Culna."—At Bombay July 2. "Malda."—Calcutta-London: Left Colombo July 7. "Manora."—Left London for Calcutta July 11. "Mangara."—London-Calcutta: Left Suez July 11. "Nevassa."—Left Calcutta for London July 10. "Neuralia."—At Calcutta July 3. "Rohilla."—At Southampton. "Rewa."—At Southampton. "Tanda."—London-Calcutta: At Madras July 12. "Varela."—At Bombay July 5.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—Bombay-London: Left Marseilles July 12. "Arcadia."—At Bombay June 27. "Caledonia."—London-Bombay: Left Brindisi July 13. "China."—Left Bombay for London July 11. "Delta."—At Bombay June 6. "Nankin."—Calcutta-London: Left Malta July 12. "Nore."—Left Calcutta for London July 12. "Nyanza."—Calcutta-London: Left Colombo July 7. "Persia."—At Bombay July 10. "Salsetti."—Left Aden for Bombay July 12. "Sicilia."—At Calcutta July 8. "Sumatra."—At Bombay March 27. "Simla."—Calcutta-London: Passed Gibraltar June 13.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—Passed Gibraltar July 13. "Caria."—At Batoum July 13. "Carpathia."—Left N. York for Mediterranean July 9. "Ivernia."—N. York-Mediterranean: Left Gibraltar July 12. "Lycia."—Swansea-Mediterranean: At Gibraltar July 14. "Pannonia."—At Fiume July 11. "Pavia."—At Liverpool. "Phrygia."—At Gibraltar July 10. "Saxonia."—Left Naples for N. York July 12. "Thracia."—At Constantinople July 11. "Tyria."—Passed Gibraltar July 11. "Ultonia."—Palermo-N. York: Passed Gibraltar July 7. "Veria."—At Swansea July 11.

Ellerman Line.

"Assiout."—Left Alexandria for Dardanelles July 10. "Austrian."—Left Liverpool for Gibraltar July 12. "Bavarian."—Left Liverpool for Malta July 6. "Belgravian."—At Fiume July 6. "Bosnian."—Alexandria-Liverpool: Passed Malta July 8. "Britannia."—Left Palermo for Lisbon July 7. "Castilian."—Venice-Liverpool: At Fiume July 10. "City of Cambridge."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria July 5. "City of Khios."—At Poti July 7. "City of Oxford."—At Liverpool. "Italian."—At Alexandria July 5. "Mardinian."—At Kherson July 7. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Venetian."—At Constantinople June 24.

THE PORT OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Liverpool *Journal of Commerce* publishes the findings of the Commission which sat under the presidency of Suleiman el Bustani Effendi, the Ottoman Minister of Commerce, to investigate the deficiencies of the port of Constantinople, after consultation with the several Chambers of Commerce, the International Chamber of Shipping, native and foreign merchants, shipping and insurance agents.

Its findings and recommendations are summed up under the following five headings:—(1) Insufficiency of quay space; (2) insufficient Customs depots and warehouses; (3) absence of Customs depots for transit goods; (4) insufficient numbers of lighters and their bad condition; (5) insufficient mooring buoys in the harbour. These five points are developed at very considerable length. In regard to the quays, the report points out that the total length of the quays on the Galata side is 758 metres, while that of the Stamboul quays is 369 metres, of which only 280 metres are affected to the Customs service. On the Galata side vessels moor broadside on, and the quay space is thus often entirely taken up, to the detriment of lighters loaded with goods discharged from steamers moored in the harbour, which lighters cannot get alongside the quays. On the Stamboul side the conditions are even more unsatisfactory, as, with a smaller quay frontage, ships are only able to moor stern on, and the number of steamers is such that pontoons on to which they discharge, together with the lighters containing goods discharged from other steamers in the port, have to wait for indefinite periods to get alongside the Customs House in the narrow space between the steamers. The report admits that lighters often remain undischarged for five and six weeks, and for rarely less than two or three weeks. The Commission recommends the lengthening of the Stamboul quays, and insists upon the necessity of negotiations being entered into at once. It also recommends the immediate removal of the vegetable and fruit markets at the western end of the Stamboul quays with a view to the utilisation of this space by the Custom House. The Commission approves and recommends the immediate and progressive execution of the Quay Company's projects for the erection of depots and bonded warehouses both in Stamboul and Galata. It also desires the immediate installation of a temporary warehouse in Stamboul, and the opening of the warehouse, now exclusively used for carpets, for the reception of goods of all kinds. Owing to the absence of transit depots in the capital or on the Bosphorus, the transit trade of Constantinople is threatened.

The Commission recommends the immediate promulgation of a law which it has drafted regulating the working of the Lightermen's Corporation, the lighting of the port by electricity, thus facilitating the police surveillance and the navigation of lighters by night. It also desires to see the immediate execution of a programme of the harbour authorities for the increase of the harbour buoys.

BY APPOINTMENT.

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Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

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DIRECTORS:
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CENSORS:
DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU, C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on the 13th inst., at Winchester House, E.C., Sir William Edmund Garstin, G.C.M.G. (Chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report, the Chairman said *inter alia*: In my last year's speech I expressed the hope that our negotiations with the Government of Egypt regarding certain proposed changes in our concession would be completed before I again addressed you. That hope, has been fulfilled, and the new contract with the Government has been signed. In order that you may appreciate the position now secured to this company, and exhibited in the accounts presented to you, it is, perhaps, necessary for me to remind you that in the past, owing to want of funds and inability to raise them, it has frequently been impossible for us to consider extensions of our operations. You are also aware that in the past we have always regarded with some anxiety the possibility of our being called upon by the Government to incur such expenditure on the upkeep of portions of our property as might have seriously interfered with the continuance of satisfactory dividends to the shareholders. A great part of our reserves was invested in our property, and this was in danger of being eventually lost to the company. Further, some of our investments showed a serious depreciation below the values at which they stood in the company's books. I hope to-day to explain to you how the foregoing difficulties have disappeared, owing to the modifications of the terms of our contract, as recently accorded to us by the Government of Egypt. These modifications took effect from April 1, 1913, and, with one exception, their effect is included in the accounts which I am about to review. We had three main concessions from the Government, one for the light lines, another for the Cairo Quarry lines, and a third for the Cairo Helouan Railway and its dependencies. We have sold the Helouan Railway and its dependencies to the Government. We have secured permission to remove the Cairo Quarry lines, and, pending their removal, to treat them as a part of our light line system. We are consequently now left with only one concession—namely, that for the light railways. Our modified concession is indeterminate, with the power of purchase reserved to the Government. The advantages to us in the change from determinate to indeterminate concessions are that we are thereby relieved from the necessity of making heavy sinking fund contributions from revenue. These amounted approximately to £16,700 per annum. Further, we obtain the release for expenditure on extensions and additions of the accumulations of these sinking funds, amounting on the 1st of April, 1913, to nearly £170,000. In the event of the Government's ever deciding to exercise its right of purchasing our undertaking, the advantage to us of the modified concession over the old one is very great. Instead of the purchase being possible in the year 1927 at a very uncertain price it can now only be effected on and after the 1st of April, 1938, at a price sufficient to repay our share and Debenture holders in full, and also to recoup our reserve funds to the full extent that they have been invested in the property. We are compelled by our new conditions to expend 64 per cent. of our gross annual earnings on the upkeep of our property until this has been brought up to a standard approved by the Government. No one year, however, can be charged with anything beyond this percentage, and any excess over it will be carried to a suspense account, to be met by reduced expenditure in subsequent years. The foregoing, with an increase of from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. in the Government participation in our surplus profits —after 5 per cent. has been earned for our shareholders—are the main alterations in our new concession. Another change that you have agreed to is one between the company and the Debenture holders—namely, that the rate of interest on the Debentures shall be increased from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent., in consideration of the abandonment by the Debenture holders of their right to repayment, at par, in the year 1947. The Helouan Railway, which has been the principal cause of anxiety to us in recent years, disappears altogether from our accounts, although we have continued to work it throughout the year and shall probably continue to do so until the 1st of October next. As a result of the working of this line and its dependencies we made a profit for the year of £6,262, and we should have been justified in taking this, or, at any rate, a great part of it as an addition to our profits for the year. Your Board have, however, decided to set this balance aside, in order to meet the indemnities which will be payable to the staff of this line when their services are dispensed with on the transfer of the line to the Government. It has also been considered advisable to guard against the possibility of any deficiency in the working of this line during the current half-year, which is the slack period for railway traffic in Egypt. As a consequence of the change in the nature of our concession, our contributions to the sinking funds for the redemption of our Debenture and share capital, as well as that to the statutory reserve, cease, and accordingly disappear. The accumulations of these funds are now available for expenditure on extensions and additions. This is not entirely shown in the figure given against "Construction reserve" in the company's balance-sheet, as the loss incurred on the sale of the Helouan Railway has been charged thereto, and been credited to capital. Similarly, the loss on the removal of the Cairo Quarry Lines will be dealt with in the current year. I include both of these in the term "Book adjustment." This is necessary in order to avoid exhibiting any loss of capital. To provide for the possible exercise of its rights by the Government—to purchase our undertaking—our entire construction account now gives place to the total amount of an inventory, agreed upon between the Egyptian Government and ourselves. This inventory becomes the basis of the purchase price. The figures agreed upon, as a starting point on the 1st April, 1913, included our entire expenditure on capital account, of whatever nature—whether from share capital, Debentures, reserves or other moneys. Year by year this figure will be increased or decreased by debit or credit operations on capital account, and a reconciliation of the total will be effected with the Government. The next point I come to is the charge to revenue of 64 per cent. of our gross earnings. You will observe from the revenue account that this charge, as applied to last year, leaves us with an unspent balance of £9,112. This must in no sense be regarded as a saving, for, in the same way as excess expenditure over the 64 per cent. is arranged for, so short expenditure will be held available for the next year or for subsequent years. You must, however, regard it as satisfactory in showing a substantial sum over and above the cost of our ordinary maintenance and one which is likely to become available for improvements towards that standard of efficiency which is required of us by the Government and which it is so greatly to our own interests to attain. The only remaining point to be referred to is the increased participation of the Government in our profits. Instead of some £5,100, or 40 per cent., the Government receives from us on this occasion the sum, approximately, of £6,350, or 50 per cent. A sum of £7,000 was paid to our late agent and general manager on his retirement. We have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. G. E. Lillie, C.E. Mr. Lillie has had over twenty years' experience on Indian railways, and recently held the responsible positions of deputy-manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway, and deputy-Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust. He took up his duties in Egypt on the 1st February last. We have every reason to be satisfied with our choice. He has lost no time in making himself thoroughly acquainted with his duties, and I feel confident that in the future our satisfaction with his services will increase. The other gratuity which I have to mention is a sum of £1,000 paid to our managing director, Major W. I. le Breton, in recognition of his special services and the time spent by him in Egypt in carrying through the very long and difficult negotiations between our company and the Government. We have now available for capital expenditure about £250,000. We carry forward in our accounts the sum £24,693. We carry forward as available for expenditure on revenue account £9,112. We have written down our investments and met special charges and provisions from reserve and we retain a balance on this account of £4,859. We have got rid of the Helouan Railway, which gave us a return of 1¼ per cent. on our capital, and of the Quarry lines, which did not cover their working expenses, and from these we receive £102,500 which, invested in our light lines, should give us a return of 5 per cent. We have saved on our sinking and statutory reserve funds' annual contributions more than sufficient to cover the temporary increase in our revenue expenditure and the increase in the interest on our Debentures. The accounts of the previous years have included the Helouan Railway and its dependencies, and our earnings are correspondingly reduced by the exclusion of these items from the accounts under review. Taking the receipts for the light lines only, we find, however, that there has been a satisfactory increase of £8,197 in our coaching traffic, and of £8,773 in our goods traffic. Further, there was an augmentation of £1,500 in our sundry earnings, giving a total increase over the previous year of £18,470. If we go back further, we find that during the last five years our light line earnings have shown an average annual growth of £13,000. Our actual working expenses for the year have amounted to 60.44 per cent. of our gross earnings, as against 60.15 per cent. in the previous year. The net result of the year's working is a profit of £58,122 13s. 4d., and the Board have recommended the payment of a 5 per cent. dividend on the Preference shares, which will absorb £52,039, leaving £6,083 13s. 4d. to be added to the balance brought forward from last year, making a total of £24,693 11s. 2d. to be carried forward to the current year. We have to bear in mind that, in the current year, our fixed charges will be increased by the extra payment of, say, £5,800 on account of Debenture interest, and, further, that in this year we may derive little, if any, advantage from the expenditure to be incurred on extensions and on improved facilities of working. Meanwhile we have every reason to be grateful to the Egyptian Government for the generous manner in which it has met our advances, and for the broad view it has taken of the services that our railway system, if encouraged, may render to Egypt. I now move, "That the report of the directors, dated June 26, 1914, together with the statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended March 31, 1914, be and they are hereby approved, confirmed and adopted."

Sir Charles William Fremantle, K.C.B. (Deputy-Chairman), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed: "That a dividend of five per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1914, on the Preference share capital of the company be and it is hereby declared to be paid to the holders of Preference shares standing on the registers of the company at June 25, 1914, and to the holders of Preference share warrants to bearer."

His Excellency Scander Pasha Fahmy seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Sir Charles William Fremantle, Mr. W. Home and Mr. W. Pelizaeus, the retiring directors, were re-elected, and Messrs. Meredith and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

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Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,500,000.**
Paid up Capital - -	**500,000.**
Reserve - - - - -	**680,000.**

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, August 6.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

In Mining Shares the next carry-over is July 24.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Mon., July 27	Tues., July 28	Wed., July 29
Tues., Aug. 11	Wed., Aug. 12	Thurs., Aug. 13

LONDON, July 16.

The market is stagnant. There are no buyers, and no one can sell any quantity of stock because the jobbers refuse to put shares upon their books. Perhaps when the Ulster question is settled business will wake up. But it must be admitted that the financial position abroad does not make for cheerful markets.

New Issues.

New issues go very badly. The public refused to apply for the Greater Winnipeg Water scheme. Clearly, they will not touch any Canadian enterprise at the moment. The Tweefontein Colliery is a successful undertaking, and the offer of shares will probably be taken by those interested in the concern. The South Brazil Electric would appeal to no one. But the Broken Hill Proprietary debentures seem a well-secured mortgage and offer a high yield.

Cheap Money.

Money is cheap, fine paper being done at 2⅛. This is so much below the bank rate that the Bank of England will probably be compelled to reduce its rate in order to retain its hold on the market.

In the Foreign market the failure in Berlin, although small, was disquieting. The financial position in Vienna is very bad, but well-informed people do not consider that there is any chance of war breaking out. There has been some steady buying of Egyptian Unified at 99⅜. The 3½ per cent. preferred are quoted 89, and the inscribed 84. Small blocks of Turkish Ottoman Defence have been picked up at 95, and a little business has been done in the 3½ Egyptian Tributes at 85. Turkish Fours are 81, and Bulgarians are quoted at 82. Mexicans have improved on the news that peace is assured. The Bulgarian loan has now been settled and will be issued in Berlin very shortly.

Rails Steady.

In the Home Railway market prices are steady. Great Westerns are hard at 115, but there has been some selling of Great Central preference, as the figures show that this railway has only earned enough to pay on the 1889. Great Eastern look cheap in view of the traffic returns, but Undergrounds have been sold on the fear that the omnibuses will be heavily taxed.

Yankees Depressed.

The Yankee market is depressed. Baltimores have been offered. The railway is doing badly. One of its subsidiaries has gone into the hands of a receiver, and the bonus shares to be distributed by the Union Pacific will tend to further weaken the market. There is nothing to go for in Yankees except the crop, which is good.

Rubbers Barely Steady.

Rubbers are barely steady. Rubana report showed a decreased dividend, and Tali Ayer, which belongs to the same group, also cut its distribution to 10 per cent. But both companies are likely to maintain their rates for the current year, and the shares are, therefore, reasonably priced.

Oils Dull.

The Oil market is dull. Standard Oil have reduced prices throughout America, and have cut the fuel rates on the Continent by 10s. a ton. Consequently both Shell and Royal Dutch have been offered. In spite of very good news from Spies and an increased production, the share market did not respond. The Egyptian market is dull. Anglo-Egyptian B are a shade over par. Suez are only 7s. 9d., and Eastern Petroleum are also weaker.

Mines Idle.

The Mining market is idle. The Tanganyika report was not liked, and the shares have been offered with great persistence. The good news in regard to Wit Deep only affected the market very slightly. Russians have been supported, but the Canadian group have declined to buy any shares, and as a result this rig has died down for the moment.

Egyptians Fairly Steady.

The Egyptian market has been fairly steady, but, of course, at this time of the year Alexandria and Cairo do very little business, and such trading as has been done has been mainly between Paris, Brussels, and London. National Banks have been dealt in at a fraction over 14, and Agricultural Banks have gradually hardened up to 5. There has been some buying of the deferred at 280. Land Banks are steady at 6¼, and the deferred have been purchased at 39. Bank of Abyssinia remain at 5s. Delta Light Railway prefs. have been done at 8 ex dividend, and the deferred have been inquired for at 1½. The buying in Delta Lands has ceased, and the share is weaker at 9s. A small block of Behera have been offered without finding any purchaser, and the quotation is now 8. The preference are 4¼. Union Foncière have been dealt in at 1. Alexandria Water remain steady at 12½. There is some business in Aboukir Land at 21s. United Lands have weakened to 1s. 7½d. Sidi Salem are nominally 6s. and Trusts 5s. There have been a few blocks of Salts offered and pressed for sale, with the result that the price has weakened to 14s. 3d. The demand for New Egyptians has died out, and the shares have therefore declined to 9s. 6d. Markets are dull at 21s., but there are a few buyers about of Khedivial Mail prefs. at 3¾, and small parcels of the ordinary have changed hands at 10s. 6d. Daira Sanieh at 3s. and Ginners are nominally ¾, whilst Gharbieh Land are 1½. On the whole, the tone of the market is reasonably good considering the time of year, and it is not easy to find sellers willing to accept present prices.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market the Marconi report is admittedly very bad. The profits have fallen over £290,000, and if they cannot be increased during the current year it is doubtful whether any dividend could be paid on the increased capital. There has been very heavy selling of shares, and a committee has been formed in Dublin to agitate for a more complete statement of accounts.

COMPANY NOTES.

B.R.W. Syndicate, Limited.

A "private" company with the above title was registered on July 9, by C. R. Enever, Broad Street House, E.C., with a capital of £240, in £1 shares. The objects of the company are: To acquire and turn to account any oil-bearing or other lands in Egypt or elsewhere, to carry on the business of petroleum and oil refiners and dealers, ship and barge owners, wharfingers, etc. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than five) are to be appointed by the subscribers.

British Tobacco Company of Turkey.

Following the general meeting of the British Tobacco Company of Turkey, Limited, on July 23 an extraordinary meeting will be held, when there will be submitted a resolution for the voluntary winding-up of the company and the appointment of a liquidator.

Limassol Land Company, Ltd.

A "private" company with the above title was registered on July 10 by E. B. Michell, Wyke, near Bruton, with a capital of £500 in £1 shares. The objects of the company are: To acquire and turn to account lands, buildings, waterworks, trees and real and personal property in Cyprus, and to adopt an agreement with R. L. N. Michell and E. B. Michell. The directors are to number not less than two nor more than five. E. B. Michell is one of the first. Qualification, twenty-five shares. The registered office is at Wyke, near Bruton, Somerset.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
ALEXANDRIA, July 10.

Share Market.

Our market becomes less and less active. As a result of the stagnation, we are still shipping to London the gold that is coming in from the interior.

Sidi Salem Estates.

As a result of its inability to pay the Société de Behera the instalments due on the purchase price of 14,000 feddans, the Board is faced by the possibility of having to make over the assets of the Sidi Salem to the Behera, upon certain conditions.

The Khedivial Bourse.

The Alexandria Municipality has just exercised its option on the Khedivial Bourse at the price of £E65,000. This sum will be set aside by the Municipality from the proceeds of the forthcoming loan of £500,000 at 4 per cent., which will be issued probably on the London market. Meanwhile, the shares of the Société de la Bourse Khediviale, which were quoted at 21½, are in demand at 22, but there are no sellers.

New Company.

The Council of Ministers has just approved of the constitution of a company, entitled "Société d'avances Commerciales."

Sucreries et Ruffinerie.

The fall in the price of sugar, which at one time was as low as 30 frs. the hundred kilos, has had an unfavourable influence on the results of the working of the Société des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte. The profits for the last financial year amounted to 2,043,659 frs. as compared with 3,484,658 frs. the previous year; and this is hardly enough to pay the interest on the debentures. Another result of the cheapness of sugar was the placing in store of large quantities of sugar; rather than depreciate the price, the company preferred to keep part of its production in reserve; and thus the value of stock, which was 328,000 frs. in October, 1912, amounted to 10,773,000 frs. This naturally reacted unfavourably on the receipts, and the company was forced to get advances from the bankers. The National Bank of Egypt advanced it a sum of 7,636,371 frs. at the close of the financial year. The company's debentures, as a result, have fallen to 255 frs., and preference shares and ordinary shares, which get no dividend this year, are down 41 frs. and 39 frs., respectively.

Compagnie d'Entreprises Commerciales en Egypte.

This company, which has a capital of 800,000 frs., is principally concerned with the import of chemical manures and metal goods. For the last three years it has paid a dividend of 12½ per cent.

EGYPTIAN BANKING COMBINE.

It is stated (says *The Egyptian Gazette*) that the Banque Française d'Egypte and the Banque Hypothecaire Franco-Egyptienne have just joined together in a single banking company, with a capital of twenty million francs, under the management of Count Cressaty, who has already been chairman of the two banks. The new banking company will bear the name of the Banque Française d'Egypte. This news has not yet been officially confirmed.

[redacted]

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EDGAR WRIGHT Manager

23 MOORGATE STREET, LONDON EC

West-end Branch, 145, OXFORD ST., W. (T.N., Regent 4,630

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the past week 2,400 tons (last 2,469 tons), of which Hurgada 89 tons (last 90 tons).

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO.—The transfer books in respect of the cumulative six per cent. participating preference shares, will be closed from July 17 to July 30 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of preparing dividend warrants payable on July 31 for half-year ended March 31.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN OIL.—Production for week ended 10th inst., 382 tons. Bordeni well No. 24, after recovery pick Wednesday, restarted flowing; continues intermittently.

CHEMINS DE FER DE LA BASSE-EGYPTE.—Payment is announced of a dividend at the rate of 25 frs. per share on the new preference shares.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Dividend No. 28, bearer warrant coupon No. 25 on the Preference share capital will be payable on and after July 14 at the National Bank of Egypt.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Receipts for week ended July 2 amounted to £740, an increase of £9 over the corresponding period of last year. Aggregate receipts to date amounted to £28,398, a decrease of £1,561.

ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTUTERS.—At the general meeting a final dividend of 6 per cent. was declared, making, together with the interim dividend of 10 per cent. already paid, a total distribution of 16 per cent. for the year 1913. Payment of such dividend may be obtained on and after July 20 on presentation of Coupon No. 10.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended July 11 amounted to £8,015, as against £8,658 during the corresponding period of last year.

TRAIAN ROUMANIA OIL.—Production for week ended 11th inst., 351 tons.

MONTENEGRO BOND REDEMPTION.

Messrs. Boulton Brothers and Co. announce that, in carrying out the operation of the sinking fund of the Government of Montenegro Five per Cent. loan, 128 bonds have been purchased in open market on behalf of the Government at a price below par, which, with the coupons belonging to the bonds from January 1, 1915, to July 1, 1947, have been cancelled.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, JULY 21-24, 1914.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve { Gold ..... 154,637,213 / Foreign bills payable in gold..... 56,650,193 }		211,287,406
Silver and other coins		1,000,582
Roumanian and foreign bills		183,279,596
Advances against Government securities	23,646,600	
On current account	44,049,900	
Unused balance ..	21,441,218	22,608,682 } 46,255,282
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,924,059
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,965,662
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,776,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,037,281
Premises		6,719,448
Furniture and printing machinery		1,074,760
General expenses		1,725,980
Government and other securities deposited		127,336,242
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		131,093,800
Current accounts		25,953,324
Security accounts		23,587,839
Sundry accounts		6,841,135
Total Lei		810,859,273

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,162,084
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,398,208
Notes in circulation	420,753,900
Interest and sundry profits	5,801,897
Current accounts and drafts at sight	13,974,238
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	258,430,042
Sundry accounts	57,338,904
Total Lei	810,859,273

Bank Rate, 5½ per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. July 8.	Latest prices. July 15.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	100
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	82	82½
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	99
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	95	96
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99¼	99¼
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	84½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881	58	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	57½	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	51½	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	55
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	78	78
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	94
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	72½	72
Montenegro 5 % Loan	86	87½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	91½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	76½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95	95½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84½	85
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	81	81
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70	68
Do. 4 %, 1909	70	70½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 15/16	5
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	80
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12¼
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7½
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	13½
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6½
National Bank of Egypt	14	14
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	7½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	—	98
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	89
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	89
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	18½	18½
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	87
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	101
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	89
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	61
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	2⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	¼
Do. Do. Def.	—	¼
Béhéra Co.	—	8½
Do. Pref.	—	4½
Building Lands of Egypt	—	13/16
Daira Sanieh	—	2⅞
Do. Def.	—	⅜
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/3	8/9
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1½
" " Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	97
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	9/3
Sidi Salem Co.	—	7/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	—	1 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	—	97
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	101
Egyptian Hotels	—	1 5/16
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	1 1/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	¾	11/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	96
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅛
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	87½
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	—	£193 10s.
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2⅛
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/-	24/-
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	8/-	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	5/3	5/3
Oilfields Finance Corporation	13/16	¾
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	27/-	26/-
Shell Transport	4 31/32	4 31/32
Suez Oil	8/-	7/9

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. July 9.	Latest prices. July 16.
que Imperiale Ottomane	594	583
Canal de Suez Shares	4885	4860
Do. do. Jouissance	4329	4329
Do. do. Founders	2300	2300
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	733	159
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	160	727
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	260	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	444	445
Do. do. do. Act.	203	204
Land Bank of Egypt	160	159
Mines Balia-Karaidin	452	441
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	133	133
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	505	504½
Do. do. Ord.	38	37⅝
Do. do. Pref.	40½	39½
Tabacs Ottomans	428	418
Turkish Unified Con.	81.30	81.20
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	484	484
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	357	357

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	July 2.	July 9.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	300	—
Do. do. Priv.	136	125
Do. do. Cap.	62.25	46
Do. do. Div.	35	35
Anglo-Belgian Co.	15	15
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	136.50	133
Do. do. Div.	160	145
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	449.50	422.50
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	60	60.50
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	430	427
Do. Priv.	542.50	542.50
Do. Div.	145	147.75
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	58	47
Do. do. Fond.	79	80
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	61.25	66.25
Do. do. Div.	47.25	44.75
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1380	1330
Do. do. Ord.	491	491
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	307.50	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	312.50	290
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	360	365
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	98.25	96.75
Do. do. Div.	81	80.50
Tramways du Caire Priv.	514	514
Do. do. Jouiss.	547	530.50
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	195	190
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	175	15.75

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	July 3.	July 10.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.453	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.451
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.451	Fcs.449
Do. do. Shares	£14 10 0	£14 9 6
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.05	£T.6.10
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.392	Fcs.392
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.155	Fcs.140
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.113	Fcs.112
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.107	Fcs.110
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.34.50	Fcs.38
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.29	£T.28.95

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	July 1.	July 8.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3⅜	—
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12 1/16	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 65	48
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 97½	87
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. 8⅞	8⅞
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 49⅜	49½
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 748½	728
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 340½	340
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 268	268½
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs. 268	271
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance.	Fcs. 180	179½
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/-	12/-
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler.	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2⅜	2⅜
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E. —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. 13/32	13/32
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ¼	¼
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2	2
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 18/6	18/3
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8⅜	8¼
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4 5/16	4 5/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 93	95
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 83	83
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E. —	—

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BULGARIA'S OUTLOOK TO-DAY.

(From a Sofia Correspondent.)

On Saturday last (July 11) the newly appointed Greek Ambassador in Sofia, M. Naoum, handed his credentials to Tsar Ferdinand, after a diplomatic breach of more than a year since the outbreak of the second Balkan war of unhappy memory. Relations with Turkey, Roumania, and Servia—Montenegro is a *quantité négligeable* in the politics and sentiments of the Bulgarians—had already been restored, and now, with the renewal of diplomatic relations with Greece, we can say that Bulgaria is on speaking terms with all her neighbours—with those who have so lately been her friends and her foes—even though the speaking may occasionally take the form of vigorous shouting.

A long time, however, must elapse before one can hope to indulge in intimate confidences or friendly chats with these same neighbours. That is a superfluous proof of the fact that "the only acceptable political balance in the Balkans" (guaranteed by the Bucharest hallmark) by no means affords a panacea for our troubles.

The remark of Professor Miliukoff, the leader of the Russian Constitutional-Democratic Party—the "Cadets"—who stated in the Duma that "the fire in the Balkans will smoulder under the ashes until the Bucharest Peace Treaty of 1913 is revised," not only carries its meaning as a winged word, but contains for every one acquainted with the Balkan situation all the force of a political programme, the realisation of which is a cause worthy of the labour of all generous men.

The revision of the Bucharest Treaty is indeed the unwritten programme of the present Bulgarian Cabinet, and it will in all probability be the programme of each succeeding Bulgarian Cabinet until it is attained. The differences that will arise will only be with regard to the means by which this end is to be compassed: one point of divergence may be regarded as certain and fixed for some considerable time—as to the more or less peaceful manner in which the revision of the Bucharest stipulations is to be secured. Different shades of opinion will come into play, for instance on the question whether the result is to be sought by leaning towards the Triple Alliance or by supporting the Triple Entente.

There is one question to which an answer must be found in the immediate future: that is, whether Bulgaria is to look forward to an era of peaceful progress. Only those who desire "peace at any price" will maintain that the Bulgarian people can for long remain content with the present state of affairs. To avoid misunderstandings it is important to contradict at once any such optimistic statement. English public opinion, which is always willing to give a hearing to complaints of misrule, oppression of minorities, and lawlessness in the Balkan region, will at last realise that the new masters in Macedonia have introduced methods of government that must call forth a protest from every right-thinking man. The Balkan horrors still remain, and with them the Balkan danger. The Oriental question is, unhappily, still there, and its solution at the hands of civilized Europe cannot much longer be deferred.

The Bulgarian Press chronicles the martyrdom of the men of its race in Servian and Greek Macedonia. An echo of the Bulgarian complaints, which are only too well founded, must sooner or later reach the heart of Britain. The Near East will perform a just and righteous work if it continues to act as mediator and intercessor for those who have been duped in the Balkans.

AN APPEAL.

The following appeal to "the friends of peace, progress, and modern civilisation," has been issued by the Ligue international de la Paix et de la Liberté (SectionBulgare):—

Honorable Monsieur,

Permettez-nous de vous adresser quelques paroles explicatives, quelques cris de détresse . .

Nous, les Pacifistes bulgares, nous vous prions de bien vouloir employer une partie de vos forces, physiques, intellectuelles et morales, pour nous assurer la possibilité de remplir notre vrai devoir humain en travaillant exclusivement pour la paix et le progrès de l'humanité.

Et voici comment nous envisageons cette question, que nous connaissons très bien, et nous attendons naturellement votre aimable réponse.

Il n'est pas besoin de grandes preuves pour démontrer que la situation créée dans les Balkans par les derniers événements repose sur une iniquité. Si la rectification faite à Bucarest sur la carte des Balkans avait été appuyée sur des bases solides, c'est-à-dire sur l'ethnographie, sur le principe des nationalités et sur l'étendue des sacrifices faits par chacun des belligérants, la situation serait tout autre. Les froissements d'amour-propre se seraient vite apaisés et la paix et l'union fédérative se seraient vite rétablis d'elles-mêmes.

Or si le monde civilisé veut que le sang dans les Balkans cesse de couler, il faut qu'il impose la révision du traité de Bucarest. Il faut que les régions où les Bulgares sont une masse compacte soient rendues à l'humanité, à la Bulgarie, qui a supporté le poids entier de la guerre contre la Turquie, et dont l'unique tort est d'avoir essayé de se défendre, après que les Grecs eurent lâchement massacré la garnison bulgare de Salonique, après que les Serbes eurent envahi et dévasté la Macédoine bulgare et après que ces barbares modernes, Grecs et Serbes, eurent fait cause commune pour la destruction inattendue de cette malheureuse province!

A cette révision du traité de Bucarest, ce sont les Bulgares, les Turcs, les Koutzovalaques, les Albanais, qui ont intérêt, parce qu'ils reconquerront ainsi leurs droits à la vie qui, hélas! leur manquent encore au vingtième siècle. C'est également dans l'intérêt de la civilisation et de l'humanité, sensible à la bienfaisance et au droit de l'homme moderne, que la révision s'impose.

Mais Serbes et Grecs y ont aussi intérêt parce qu'ils ne seront pas obligés de dénationaliser les tribus étrangères au moyen de représailles sanglantes qui provoquent des mutineries et même des révoltes parfaitement justifiables.

En présence de la situation actuelle la Serbie et la Grèce n'auront jamais la paix: leur avenir sera désormais de plus en plus ébranlé, et elles-mêmes se ressentiront de la grande injustice qui a été commise à Bucarest. La Serbie et la Grèce seront toujours le théâtre de massacres, parce que les Bulgares affirment leur volonté légitime de rester Bulgares comme les Français restent Français, comme les Allemands restent Allemands, etc.

Si les Grecs et les Serbes, assombris par le cannibalisme, se comportent envers leurs nouveaux sujets comme de vrais barbares, le monde civilisé, humain a le droit, et même le devoir, de supprimer le plutôt possible un tel régime qui compromet la civilisation, la paix et le progrès de l'Europe moderne toute entière.

L'humanité devra demander la révision du traité de Bucarest, non pas pour le bon plaisir de la Bulgarie, mais pour le très légitime triomphe de la justice et de la liberté.

Que le sang cesse de couler, disent les pacifistes et les humanistes, et que les Macédoniens, Bulgares, Turcs ou Koutzovalaques dont se composent exclusivement la nouvelle Serbie et la nouvelle Grèce, puissent enfin obtenir leur droit à l'existence, qui ne doit pas être refusé à aucun individu humain au XX-ème siècle! Qu'on donne enfin l'autonomie à la Macédoine infortunée comme on l'a gracieusement donnée à l'Albanie!

A vrai dire le gouvernement bulgare désire éviter toute aventure dans les questions étrangères, afin de pouvoir se consacrer entièrement à fortifier sa politique intérieure; donner au peuple, par une période de paix fructueuse, la liberté d'exploiter les richesses naturelles du pays et d'assurer son progrès économique et social, quoique, grâce au ressort et à l'énergie des habitants, le pays n'a pas trop ressenti le douloureux contrecoup de la guerre, et en ce qui concerne l'agriculture, le commerce et l'industrie ce sont là toujours les éléments de sa prospérité continuelle.

Le peuple bulgare ne voudrait plus la guerre destructive, c'est vrai, mais il n'est pas moins vrai que tout crime, même international, ne doit pas rester impuni! Sans une juste correction des traités balkaniques, la nation bulgare croirait toujours à une lâche trahison, préparée d'avance par ses "alliés" et ses "amis"! . . . et trouverait, naturellement, les moyens de punir les traîtres . . . Car personne ne peut avoir le droit de disposer impunément des biens et de la vie d'autrui!

Nous adressons cet appel spécialement à nos confrères pacifistes, grands défenseurs du droit international et de la vérité évidente et nous les prions d'exiger la révision et un juste arrangement des affaires balkaniques, en faveur de la paix durable, soit par les Grandes Puissances, soit par la Troisième Conférence de la Paix. C'est le seul moyen d'appaiser les Balkans et l'Europe elle-même.

Choumen (Bulgarie), le 24 mai 1914.

Le Président: Y. Beyazow, Professeur.

Le Secrétaire: K. Taftacron, Commerçant.

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BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN BULGARIA.

Stock Exchange Opened.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 12.

Bulgaria now has her own Stock Exchange. The need of such an institution in a modern State has long been apparent, but it was only quite recently that a strong committee was formed to undertake the preliminary work. The proposal met with a ready response from the business world of Sofia and firms representing in all 200,000,000 frs. (£8,000,000) have agreed to support the project. The position of the Stock Exchange will become even stronger when the provincial banks take their share in the enterprise.

The value of the imports for the first half of the month of June amounted to 16,500,000 frs. (£660,000), and exports, chiefly of food stuffs, to 12,500,000 frs. (£500,000).

The trade returns with Turkey for 1913, which have just been issued, show that in spite of the wars commerce was extremely active. Exports from Bulgaria to Turkey, consisting in the main of foodstuffs and cattle, reached a figure of 16,971,362 frs. (£680,000), and imports from Turkey totalled 13,424,033 frs. (£540,000).

Negotiations are on foot for facilitating the export of flour and wheat from Bulgaria to Albania. The Governments of the two countries have been approached and arrangements have been made with the Bulgarian Steamship Company to place one of its vessels on the Albanian route.

The Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture has received an application from a British company asking for the ratification of a concession originally granted by the Turkish Government to work the oil deposits between Feri and Dedeagatch. It is intended to start operations immediately the necessary permission has been obtained.

Increase of Bank's Capital.

At the extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the General Bank of Bulgaria held last Wednesday under the presidency of Mr. Bousquet, former representative of the French shareholders, it was decided to increase the capital of the Bank from 5,000,000 to 15,000,000 frs. (£200,000 to £600,800).

The Girdap Bank has decided to issue 10,000 new 100 franc shares at the price of 125 frs., in order to increase its capital from 2,000,000 frs. (£80,000) to 3,000,000 frs. In three days' time applications were received for 46,000 shares, and in order possibly to satisfy the public, the directors decided to issue an additional 10,000 shares.

The Bank of Sofia has also decided to increase its capital from 1,000,000 frs. (£40,000) to 2,000,000 by the issue of 10,000 new 100 franc shares at the price of 120 frs. The subscription lists for the opening of a new bank at Sofia, to be called the "Scontova Banka," closed yesterday. The capital issued consists of 2,000,000 frs. (£80,000) in 20,000 100 franc shares.

The Bulgaria Insurance Company, which has its headquarters at Rustchuk, has issued 5,000 additional 100 franc shares at the price of 500 frs. The shares even at this high premium were immediately taken up by the public and the company has therefore been enabled not only to increase its capital by 500,000 frs. (£20,000), but has been able to place a sum of 2,000,000 frs. (£80,000) to reserve.

TRADE OF BULGARIA.

The report on the trade of Bulgaria for the years 1912-13, prepared by the Vice-Consul, Mr. W. B. Heard, is published this week, and makes interesting reading. It states that the import trade was more active than ever during the first six months of 1912. There was increased demand for almost every class of foreign goods, while exports also showed a considerable advance over the corresponding figures of the previous year. Industry was flourishing and the building trade, in particular, showed great activity. As commerce generally reaches its highest development in the autumn, everything pointed to the trade figures of 1912 exceeding by a substantial amount the record figures of 1911. In September, however, the political horizon became clouded, which immediately produced a depressing effect on trade. Orders were stopped and credit was curtailed. With the order for a general mobilisation the foreign trade of the country was almost entirely arrested. Railways were employed exclusively for military purposes, and goods lay for months in the Customs depôts of the ports. The bulk of the commercial and industrial employés were called out for military service, and many branches of commerce were almost entirely suspended.

A Good Harvest.

On September 2 a moratorium was declared which eased the situation of creditors, but made money very hard to obtain and almost put a stop to banking operations. The harvest, which had been gathered before the outbreak of the war, was, fortunately, good, which greatly assisted the country to support the economic strain entailed by the war. Certain classes of industry were kept busy all through the year in supplying clothing and equipment for the army, but such industries as were not so employed were obliged largely to suspend work.

No trade figures for 1913 are as yet available, but it is natural to anticipate that they will have dropped to a very low level. During most of the year the Dardanelles was closed and the traffic through Servia was wholly or partially suspended. The Danube river traffic, however, except for a short period during the second war, continued throughout the year. It was only towards the close of 1913 that trade began to show some signs of revival. The situation of the commercial and industrial classes, however, is not as unfavourable as might be expected. Owing to the cessation of imports, merchants were able to clear off their old stocks at remunerative prices, and are now rapidly replenishing them. Certain industries ceased work until the end of the war and undoubtedly suffered loss. Others, however, such as those producing leather and woven materials, were actively at work all through in supplying equipment for the army as in 1912.

The Agio.

Since the expiry of the moratorium there has been nothing in the shape of a commercial crisis. Not more than two or three important firms went into liquidation, though there have been a number of minor failures. The rate of exchange, which was only 1½ per cent. at the beginning of the first war, had risen to 22½ per cent. at the close of 1913. This sudden rise was due to payments falling due abroad on the expiry of the moratorium, at a time when the National Bank, and, to a lesser extent, foreign banks, established in Bulgaria, had almost exhausted their credits abroad. It may be mentioned, however, that the agio has since steadily fallen owing to the "syndicalisation" of the National Bank with other local banks and to the export of cereals, which has placed money to the credit of Bulgaria abroad.

As to the economic situation the report says:—The most important economic loss suffered by Bulgaria as a result of her two wars was that of human lives, of which some 55,000 are said to have been sacrificed. Her high birth-rate, however, will, in course of time, compensate for this calamity.

The cession of territory to Roumania (2,827 square miles with a population of 260,000), and that one of the richest districts of the kingdom, is another serious economic loss. On the other hand, the acquisition of West Thrace, with its rich tobacco growing districts and its harbours on the Ægean, should in time prove an advantageous exchange for the territory lost to Roumania. The new territories, comprising the districts of Dedeagatch, Gumuljina, Xanthi, Nevrokop, Petritch, Strumitza, etc., contained in Turkish times a population estimated at 656,000. These regions, which have been sorely tried and in part depopulated during the recent wars, are being settled, so far as possible, with Bulgarian refugees from Macedonia, of whom there are over 100,000 in the country, and £200,000 have already been set aside for this purpose. The economic condition of the Bulgarian population is sound and prosperous. The harvests of 1912-13 were well above the average, and every branch of agriculture has advanced with rapid strides of late years. In 1913 the crops were reaped by the women and those men who were unfit for military service with complete success. Owing to the shortage of rolling-stock and the low prices of cereals prevailing abroad, but little grain had been exported up to the end of the year. The export of these accumulated stocks will greatly ease the economic and financial situation.

THE BULGARIAN LOAN.

Negotiations Concluded.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 12.

The negotiations for the loan of 500,000,000 frs. (£20,000,000) with a group of German banks, headed by the Discontogesellschaft, were brought to a conclusion last Sunday, when the Government, after a thorough examination of the proposals, authorized Mr. Tontcheff, Minister of Finance, to sign the agreement, which was duly done on Thursday. It now only remains for the Sobranje to ratify the contract when the first instalment of 120,000,000 frs. (£4,800,000) will be paid over to the Government. The Opposition in the Chamber is strongly opposed to the loan, and the debate, which begins to-morrow, will be spirited, but it is not expected that the Government will experience any difficulty in securing a majority.

The guarantees to which I have already referred comprise the surplus revenue of the tobacco "banderole" and the "merrurieh," or tax on the export of tobacco. The privileges, including the construction of the Haskovo-Porto Lagos railway and port together with a share in the exploitation of the State coalfields at Pernik and Bobov-Dol, near Douponitza, have already been mentioned. To develop the mines a company will be formed, of which the German banks will supply 70 per cent. of the capital and the Bulgarian National Bank and the Bulgarian Agricultural Bank 30 per cent.

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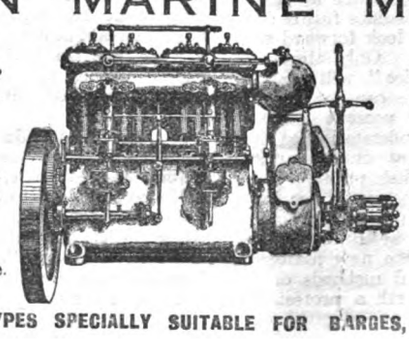
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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

A Centre of Bulgarian Culture.

The National Library was founded in the year 1878. At first it merely served as a reading-room, with a very modest equipment, the majority of the books being received as donations from various individuals—Russian and Bulgarian.

Since June 5, 1879, however, the library has been a State institution, under the control of the Ministry of Education; and since that time it has aimed at becoming the centre of Bulgarian intellectual culture.

The library received a great impulse in 1897 by the law decreeing that every publisher must send to the library four copies of each work published by him. Two of these copies remain in the National Library in Sofia, and the other two are forwarded to the National Library at Philippopolis. Infractions of the law are punishable by a fine of 250 frs. (£10). In accordance with this law the library issues every three months a special report giving particulars of all works received during the preceding quarter.

Four Sections.

The present organisation of the National Library is based on the Education Law of February 18, 1909. It is divided into four sections dealing (1) with MSS. and archives; (2) with Bulgarian printed books and books both in Bulgarian and in foreign languages dealing with the Bulgarian peoples; (3) with foreign printed books; (4) with Oriental subjects.

At the end of 1913 the section for MSS. and archives contained 826 manuscripts and ancient printed books, the majority of which consist of ecclesiastical and secular documents written on parchment in Old Bulgarian and other Slavonic languages. These manuscripts are the most precious monuments in existence of Old Bulgarian intellectual culture. Of these, 605 have been described by Dr. B. Zoneff, Professor at Sofia University, in a special catalogue published by the library in 1910, which is itself one of the most valuable philological works produced in Bulgaria. The remaining 221 manuscripts are briefly described in the Library Year-Book for 1912-13.

The collection of manuscripts is steadily increasing in number. The aim of the directors of this section has been to collect everything dealing with the literary memorials of Bulgaria's past. It is incumbent on them to study these memorials thoroughly, to describe them, and to place them at the disposal of scientific investigators.

The second section fulfils a dual function. On the one hand, it deals with the collection of all books published in Bulgaria, which, by virtue of the law already referred to, are sent to the library. On the other hand, it collects all books, in whatever language they appear and wherever published, which refer to the history of the Balkan peoples, to their political and social struggles, to the geography and ethnography of the Peninsula, and to the economic conditions of its inhabitants.

It may safely be asserted that the library possesses at the present time a very considerable portion of all the works that have appeared on these subjects. This section has charge also of the editing and publishing of the quarterly report on home publications. To the section for foreign publications is allotted the task of collecting books in foreign languages which are of permanent interest.

Oriental Section.

The Oriental section collects and studies ancient Turkish, Arabic, and Persian manuscripts, dealing with the former Ottoman rule in Bulgaria. It also has charge of all ancient and modern Turkish books, which contain any reference to the history, politics, etc., of Turkey in the Balkan Peninsula. In addition to recent Turkish publications, this section possesses at present 3,869 ancient Turkish, Arabic and Persian manuscripts, the greater portion of which are written on parchment.

The library receives copies of all Bulgarian periodicals, and also of all the most important European journals, newspapers, and reviews. In 1913 the number of periodicals received was ninety-seven, of which ten were in English.

The total number of books in the National Library at the end of 1913 was 93,702 volumes; the periodicals numbered 1,924, in 22,602 volumes. These figures do not include the manuscripts and Oriental works—the latter partly manuscript and partly old printed books. The number of these amounts to 3,869 volumes.

The National Library is managed by a director (Mr. A. Zlatanhoff), who is assisted by a chief librarian (M. S. Tschilingiroff), two librarians (Messrs. P. V. Thodoroff and Vladimir Thodoroff), and staff of supervisors, clerks, assistants and attendants—in all twenty persons.

THE NATIONAL ETHNOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM IN SOFIA.

The National Ethnographical Museum in Sofia was founded in the year 1906. It possesses several collections of genuine national ethnographical materials, such as metal articles of adornment, ancient weapons, national costumes (especially peasant costumes), national embroidery, various implements used in the national industries, collections of plants and herbs employed as popular remedies, etc.

In this museum there is a historial section in which are gathered together written documents and materials for Bulgarian history since the Renaissance of the Bulgarian people.

The collections of the museum, more especially the costumes of the people and the national embroideries, make a strong impression on the visitor by the multiplicity of their styles and of the variety and richness of their colouring.

Quite recently important additions to these collections have been made in the shape of new materials procured during the Balkan war from Bulgarian districts which remain under Greek or Servian rule. Many of these are women's costumes from the districts of Serres, Salonika, Vodena, Kortcha, Monastir, Ochrida, Krushevo, Dibra, Tetovo, Gostivar, Uskub, Kumanovo, Kratovo, Kotchana, and Shtip.

These national costumes represent the dresses worn by the Bulgarian women of the South-West, and are the most important among those of the Peninsula in respect of richness of colours and ornamentation.

Particularly striking are the very ancient specimens of embroidery from the same districts, many representing styles of work of which examples are now practically unobtainable. Their distinguishing features are delicacy of stitching, fine execution, and marvellously beautiful composition in design and colouring. Such, for example, are the embroidered headdresses which were worn by the women about fifty years ago, some embroidered in pure silk, others in wool. These new acquisitions by the museum form a valuable contribution to the materials for the study of Bulgarian national culture.

When one reflects that every portion of the dress and the ornamentation, even to the colours with which the materials for the clothes and embroideries are dyed, has been produced and worked by the women themselves, it is impossible to deny that the articles in question afford conclusive proof of the creative industry and the high artistic feeling of the Bulgarian women.

BUSINESS OPENINGS.

The following remarks concerning Bulgaria and the possibilities it offers to enterprise are extracted from an interesting article contributed to *The Electrical Review* recently by a correspondent who had just returned from the Balkans. It will be seen that they bear out all that our own correspondent has written regarding the openings for business offered by the country :—

One of the countries which, in my opinion, is going a long way towards commercial development, and that, in spite of the recent war, is Bulgaria. On all sides one heard, from Ministers and others, how earnestly Bulgaria wished to get in closer touch commercially with Great Britain. . . . King Ferdinand himself, a very astute and able man, takes a keen interest in all propositions of commercial enterprise, and is by no means inaccessible where undertakings of some importance are proposed.

Until recently, many important contracts for mechanical and electrical accessories were given to inexperienced local tradesmen, frequently jobbing Jews, who had the greatest difficulty, owing to their ignorance of the markets, in carrying out the contracts satisfactorily. There are opportunities and facilities for obtaining concessions for building generating stations and giving supply to many growing towns of 50,000 to 60,000 inhabitants. The concessions would probably carry with them a monopoly for wiring. All such work would be in the hands of the supply company, and there is little doubt that current for lighting could be supplied at a rate that would prove attractive to all classes of the inhabitants, who at present pay exorbitant prices for petroleum fuel, imported under a heavy tax. That there would be very little difficulty in inducing the public to adopt electric lighting is shown in Sofia, where almost every cottage or hut is lighted by electricity, and in this advantage of civilisation they are certainly ahead of London. The cloth-making industry is a growing one, particularly at Sliven, a town of 30,000 inhabitants, and manufacturers to whom I spoke expressed their willingness to adopt electric power if it could be brought to the town.

There is at present no great competition for Bulgarian Government contracts, and there should be opportunities for enterprising agents for both mechanical and electrical accessories.

RAILWAYS AND PORTS.

We extract the following from the Consular report on the trade of Bulgaria which has just been issued :—The port of Bourgas, during and since the war, has been greatly congested, owing to the lack of rolling-stock to transport the accumulated merchandise. Under such circumstances the warehousing accommodation is altogether insufficient, and goods stored on the quays have been greatly damaged by wet. Large orders for rolling-stock are to be given in the future, as the requirements for grain transport alone can hardly be met under present conditions.

Railway and port construction was suspended during 1913 owing to the war. It is proposed to commence the following lines in 1914. Radomir-Dubnitza (48 miles) and Shumla-Karnobat (66 miles) in Old Bulgaria. In the new territories a line following the trace Mikhaelovo-Haskovo-Mastanli-Kirjali-Nanli Keui-Porto Lagos, which will connect up with the present railway system at the first-named place is being actively surveyed. By the construction of a bridge over the Danube, which the Bulgarian Government desires to see built either at Nikopol or Svishtov (Sistova), it is hoped that a trunk line starting from this point and running in a southerly direction via Tirnovo, Stara Zagora, Mikhaelovo and thence to Porto Lagos may provide an artery for the commerce flowing from Bulgaria, Roumania, Russia and Eastern Europe. The estimated cost of the new section Mikhaelovo-Porto Lagos (175 kiloms.) is between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000. It is to be built by contract in four sections, and there will be two tunnels of 2,500 and 2,000 metres respectively. It is hoped that in time Porto Lagos may become a Mediterranean port of the first class. At the outset, upwards of £1,000,000 is to be expended, and the construction is to be put up to public tender. It is said that the harbour is to lie somewhat to the south-east of the present town. It is probable that a special loan will be contracted to cover the expenses of the various projects above enumerated, and it is to be anticipated that the contracts will be allotted in the quarters from which the money is forthcoming.

As regards Dedeagatch, this port has lost the importance which would have been attached to it had the treaty of London not been set aside by Turkey, and it is not intended to construct a harbour there. The inconvenience of railway communications passing through Turkish territory is obvious. The place will accordingly remain an open roadstead as heretofore. As freights for Dedeagatch are high, owing to its unprotected position, it seems doubtful if it will secure much of the seaborne trade now passing through Varna and Bourgas. When Porto Lagos, however, is fully developed, this harbour should prove the principal *debouché* for the trade of Bulgaria.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 168.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The echoes of the Serajevo pistol shots are being rapidly lost in the noisy Press campaign of recrimination and abuse which is being conducted on either bank of the Save. The Austro-Hungarian batteries are the most numerous, and produce denunciations of Servia and all her works in an amusing variety of tongues and types. The presses of Belgrade, far from being overwhelmed or abashed, have even loaded their columns with Latin type, as invective, thus immortalized, carries further into the understanding of the West than when printed in the Kyrillic character. It is possible that the situation will exhaust itself in this vituperation. On the other hand, crowds have been known to gain courage from their own shouting, and the Servia accused of complicity in the assassinations of 1914 is not, in her own opinion at least, the same Servia which failed to fight the Dual Monarchy when thirty years of occupation were terminated by the annexation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina to the Hapsburg Crown. Perhaps it is more to the point that in the eyes of the Ballplatz the Russia of to-day is a very different neighbour to the recently defeated and uneasy State which could be safely ignored by Austria-Hungary in 1908. The Press campaign is deplorable—in Austria-Hungary, at any rate, it could be stopped were Authority to desire its termination. That it is allowed to go on seems to indicate that Authority wishes to do something which can only be done under cover of the storm which it permits to rage. The contemplated step is believed to be a demand for an inquiry on the part of the Servian Government, together with certain undertakings for the future, and much will depend upon the wording of the phrases in which it is to be couched.

It is in this demand for future good behaviour—as understood in Vienna—that especial danger lies, as such a demand can only be directed against the doctrine of "Greater Servia" which is so attractive to many Southern Slavs on both sides of the Save. Briefly put, the supporters of this policy advocate "fusion" with Montenegro and the conquest not only of Bosnia and the Hertzegovina, annexed by the Hapsburgs in 1908, but also of the kingdoms of Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia. Of these, part of the two former has been since 1526 under the sway of the Hapsburgs, who conquered the rest from the Turks at the end of the seventeenth century. Dalmatia was finally acquired by Austria a hundred years ago after the brief Napoleonic domination which shortly succeeded to centuries of Venetian rule. The "Greater Servians" affect to consider King Peter's realm as being the Sardinia of the Danube, and look upon the Servian and Croatian lands under the Hapsburgs as another Lombard artichoke to be won from them leaf by leaf. The historical analogy is carried further, and these Servian "Piedmontese" fully expect that St. Petersburg will play the part of the Tuileries in "rescuing" Hungarian Croats and Austrian Serbs from their present Sovereign. Such being the ambition of the "Greater Servians," it is obvious that the Dual Monarchy is justified in viewing it with suspicion, and in demanding that it should not be put forward as an official programme by a State desirous of maintaining friendly relations.

We have touched at some length upon the historical aspect of this question because during the recent wars in the Balkans the passing dominations of ephemeral mediæval conquerors were solemnly advanced by diplomatists as being valid reasons for the retention of this town or that province. In the case of Greater Servianism, however, history is against the Slavonic pretensions. Even Dushan, who ruled from Skoplje, never reigned in Zagrab or Dalmatia, and any historically minded Austrian can recall the years during which the eagles of his time-honoured dynasty flew from the battlements of Belgrade, and can point to the Servian territorial title justly borne by his Emperor, which is far older than the revived kingship of Obrenovitch or Karageorgevitch. Moreover, it must be remembered that a great many of those whom the "greater Servians seek to rescue" are Roman Catholic Croats, who have shown recently at Serajevo that they prefer the keys of Saint Peter and their own Catholic Sovereign to the Crown of King Peter, an Orthodox and, in their eyes, schismatic prince.

But the matter does not end here. Politics in the Balkans are still as closely intermixed as the various races used to be before the minorities began to suffer. If Vienna has its hands full with Belgrade it is obvious that it cannot continue to strike a balance in Albania with Italy. The mere fact that "Albania" as a sphere of influence for either Power is fast crumbling out of sight appears to incommode neither contestant and to concern the rest of Europe not at all. As far as can be

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seen, Mr. Zographos, now a deputy of the Hellenic Parliament, finds his autonomous Epirus growing again under his feet, more self-assertive, more truculent, and more intolerant than of old. Mr. Voussios, once disowned and disavowed after failure, is Prefect of conquered Albanian Koritza, and other Greeks are swarming northward even to Berat, where Epirote-Greek and Ottoman flags fly side by side in curious conjunction. They are restrained from seizing Valona, not by the armed might of the Mpret appointed by Europe, but by the well-founded fear that Italian guns might open fire. So far as can be seen, the Convention of Corfu, the last act of Europe on behalf of the Albania she called to the ills and hazards of mortal existence, is treated as if already null and void, and the famous southern frontier of Albania bids fair to rival the transitory glories of the Enos-Midia Line in the swiftness of its passage into past History.

The reported naval and military movements of Italy, if true, seem to point to an intention on the part of the Roman Government to take precautions against any advance of Greek influence under Epirote banners in the south, and also to place itself in a position to benefit promptly and largely from the preoccupation of its Austro-Hungarian allies with Servia. The lethargy of Europe finds its own excuse in the theory that Albania is the affair of the Adriatic Powers. Would the absorption of that anarchical area by a single Adriatic Power disturb the somnolence of the Concert. The Albanians are likely to find Italian occupation infinitely preferable to the savage rule of the Epirotes or to forcible subjection to their Orthodox Slav neighbours, but is it desirable in the interests of Europe, of the balance of Power, and of all the hoary formulæ in which diplomatists have found comfort and inspiration in the past, to have another Great Power figuring as a Balkan State, a Power, moreover, which can appeal to history, if she wishes to adopt Balkan diplomatic methods, to justify any territorial acquisition she may desire to make in that part of the world?

It is possible that the eagerness of Greece to settle her difficulties with the Porte is as much prompted by a desire to be free to face her new danger from the north-west as by the necessity for persuading the Turks to cease from persecuting their Ottoman Greek population. Mr. Venizelos has left Athens with the intention of meeting the Grand Vizier in some neutral capital, and much is hoped from the Conversations which are expected to take place in Brussels. The Porte, however, has no pressing need to come to terms with Greece, and it is possible that a price will be asked for putting an end to the persecutions which Athenian public opinion will not allow the Hellenic Prime Minister to pay. The vindictive treatment of Anatolian Greeks by Moslem neighbours, and even by officials, tends to become endemic. Peace is restored in one district, but is almost immediately followed by a recrudescence of boycott or massacre in another. The Turks seem to be determined to get rid of their Greeks. While acquainted with the springs of this policy, and comprehending the arguments urged in its favour, we can only deplore the methods by which it is being carried out. We reprobate the atrocities perpetrated upon Orthodox Greeks by Moslem Turks along the Ægean littoral of Anatolia every whit as strongly as we condemn those perpetrated upon Moslem Albanians by Orthodox Epirotes in Northern Epirus. It is, moreover, but a sorry farce of Parliamentary "liberty of debate" which permits Greek deputies in the Ottoman Chamber to be threatened in public for words spoken in that privileged place, and it is a sign of very evil omen that Senator Georgiades Effendi should be threatened with death, even in an anonymous letter, in the very Senate House itself, because he has advocated the cause of the unpopular minority which he represents.

In Bulgaria the Loan Bill has been passed by the Sobranje amid scenes of considerable disorder, and we detail on another page the remarkable negotiations which preceded the definite adoption of the Berlin proposals. It appears that political considerations played an even greater part in the history of this loan than has been usual of late in the Balkans, and that the Government of Sofia has, at a certain financial cost to the country, emphasized its complete independence of all attempts at foreign dictation. The long-drawn State trial has achieved its object in wearying public opinion of its subject matter, and it appears not unlikely that the accused ex-Ministers will be amnestied in a more or less direct manner. As we have repeatedly pointed out, an amnesty of an accused man does not clear his reputation as satisfactorily as a verdict of not guilty, although it frees him from the legal consequences of acts of which his opponents can fairly continue to believe him guilty. In the present complicated condition of Bulgarian internal politics it is not unlikely that such unsatisfactory half-measures might possibly fit in with the schemes of some party politicians.

The continual frontier incidents, often involving loss of life, which are occurring along the new Bulgarian boundaries against both Servia and Roumania are irritating reminders that Bulgaria is chafing under the Treaty of Bucharest, and that international self-control is sometimes lacking when wanted most. Frontier incidents do not tend to neighbourliness, but they are excusable except where the frontier is shown by a fence or paling. Such erections are eagerly set up to check smuggling or the passage of field vermin. Why should not the comparatively short Dobruja frontier be emphasized by a barbed-wire fence? It would at least prevent the frontier guards of either side from "straying" over the mystic line, and so giving rise to rifle-shooting, funerals, diplomatic representations, and international uneasiness. It is a good sign, however, that the Governments concerned should have agreed to withdraw their military posts to a reasonable distance from the actual frontier-line.

Once more a Kajar Prince has been crowned Shah-in-Shah in Persia, and now Sultan Ahmed Shah, the seventh sovereign of his house, is King in fact as well as in name of Iran, and the long Regency which has lasted since his father was dethroned five years ago, is at an end. The circumstances of the Coronation, though partly tragic, were not without a touch of humour. The tragedy lay in the fact that the Coronation took place under the shade of a foreign occupation, and that the newly crowned King's birthplace is now looked upon as the capital of a foreign province. The humour of the situation lies in the necessity for reviving the defunct Mejliss to witness the now necessary oath to uphold the Constitution, as months of General Election have failed to produce a legislative or ceremonial quorum of the new Mejliss. Like Napoleon in Notre Dame, Sultan Ahmed Shah placed his crown upon his own head, and, amid ceremonies and symbols of ancient majesty and military might, was acclaimed by the Ulema in ecclesiastical Arabic. We wish his Imperial Majesty well, and trust that during his reign Persia will once more be able to stand on her own feet, that the ancient virtues of his people will revive, and that the deep-rooted vices which afflict his realm will wither from his Court. It is also to be hoped that the young Shah's first taste of constitutional government will not take the shape of a Cabinet crisis, as he is already faced with the resignation of his Treasurer-General. According to *The Times*, M. Mornard has definitely decided to leave at once for Europe, as his accumulations of leave will carry him up to the date of the expiry of his contract.

The outgoing Treasurer-General takes a gloomy view of the financial outlook in Persia, and believes a certain measure of foreign financial control over the Treasury to be essential. Without this he considers that it may prove impossible to restore the authority of the central Government so as to cope with that tendency to decentralization which interferes so fatally with the collection of taxes by the Treasury. We regret that Sultan Ahmed Shah should be so drastically reminded of his financial difficulties at such a moment, and sincerely hope that a successor may be found who will make the Persian Treasury the means for restoring the financial and territorial integrity of his dominions.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 18.

Talaat Bey's Task.

Order does not seem to have been altogether restored in the Smyrna region. The Turkish Press is allowed to publish news that Greeks have been recently murdered at Nympheo, Turbali, Kara Bunar, and other places near Smyrna, and the unlucky affair at Keusten Ada, where a party of soldiers landed to arrest "armed smugglers," and seem to have shot a good few of the harmless tenants of the British proprietor of the island, who were, if armed at all, only provided with the legal shot gun. It is reported here that there were several Hellenes among the victims of this last trouble, which is here ascribed to some officers who found time hang heavy on their hands, and had been misinformed by evilly disposed persons. The British Chargé d'Affaires has drawn the attention of the Porte to this affair, and urged a prompt inquiry, which certainly seems to have been opened without loss of time. Talaat Bey remains confident that he will be able to suppress any further trouble, and the attention that the Turkish Press has recently directed to the continued murder of stray Greeks gives rise to the view that the Government is now anxious to prepare the public for severe action against Moslem fanatics or landgrabbers, who have not been daunted by the sentences hitherto inflicted. It is to be hoped that this is the case, the more so as there have been ugly rumours about to the effect that the Committee party somewhat resents Talaat Bey's policy, and might replace him by Hadji Adil Bey. But while this is probably true of the extremist wing it does not appear certain that the bulk of the Committee has in any way lost confidence in the sturdy Minister, who seems to thrive on hard work. It is true that his relations with Hadji Adil are not as good as they once were. The latter is practically king of Adrianople just now, and being a man soured and disappointed by reverses, has undoubtedly let the affairs of his province go to seed. No civil inspector has yet been able to undertake a proper inspection in his wide domains, where, according to many Moslems, certain officials, having made not a little money out of the Greek emigrants, are now lining their purses at the expense of the Moslem immigrants.

The Immigrant Problem.

As regards the latter, it appears that the negotiations between the Government and a European group for the formation of a company which would instal the immigrants in their new homes under business-like conditions have broken down after months of pourparlers. As there are no more funds for the maintenance of muhadjirs at the public expense the Government now proposes to revert to an old scheme and enlist the co-operation of the Public Debt Administration, which has a very good staff in the provinces, and could undoubtedly give the authorities great assistance. But it is said in some quarters that the "colonisation" of Anatolia will be entrusted to the soldiers, who, acting on the maxim that there is nothing like leather, will doubtless plant the refugees in places of strategic importance rather than of known fertility and salubrity. A considerable number of Balkan refugees have of late been transported to Syria, where they are not likely to thrive. The history of the Circassian colonies, sent thither in the late 'seventies and early 'eighties, is an example of the bad results of colonisation inspired by purely military aims. Of these people an enormous majority died; and though the fittest have survived, and have founded fairly flourishing colonies at Jerash and elsewhere, it was "more by luck than good guidance" that any survived their terrible hardships in an eminently unsuitable climate.

The Gendarmerie.

General Hawker Pasha has returned from Armenia on his way home on leave, and has been for some days in Constantinople. The reorganisation of the Gendarmerie makes good progress in the Eastern Provinces, but the courts do not always assist it by their sentences. Thus, not so long ago a gendarme, who beat the Greek owner of a factory at Trebizond into a jelly, and nearly killed the luckless man—whose only fault was that he was unable to produce a workman who was "wanted," it being meal-time—received a sentence of only three months' imprisonment; while another who, in a moment of irritation no doubt, made use of a blasphemous expression that displeased his fellow-Moslems got two years. It is to be hoped that the new British Adviser to the Ministry of Justice will in time be able to remedy the condition of the up-country courts, which leaves much to be desired. One common abuse is the detention of persons accused of crime against whom no evidence can be discovered. Cases are known in which men who have pleaded not guilty, and against whom there is no evidence whatever, have been kept in prison for months "pending inquiries." This is surely a grave judicial abuse.

A Foolish Manifesto.

Some feeling has been caused by Enver Pasha's latest manifesto, which is in reality a puff of the *Gudj Derneghi*, or Society for the Promotion of Military Preparation. In this manifesto the Pasha inveighs against the "degeneracy" of the café-haunting Turks of to-day, and declares that their ancestors, those men "who passed day and night on horseback playing *Djerid* and discharging arrows over hill and dale," would blush for their descendants. No more unfair statement could have received an official imprimatur. The great majority, nine-tenths, of the Turks are hardy country folk, who have other things to do than to sit in cafés. Uncomplaining, patient creatures, they do not deserve to be accused of degeneracy. If there has been any falling off it has been in the governing class, to whom the Pasha's strictures might have been suitably addressed. Nor is the Turk who possesses a sense of humour—a very large number do—quite favourably impressed by the theatrical fustian which adorns so much of the manifesto. The only nocturnal archer of whom Turkish history tells was Nasr-ed-Din Hodja, who shot his own night-shirt on the clothes line, having taken it for a burglar, and next day exclaimed when he beheld it, "Thanks be to Allah that I was not inside it when I fired!"—a bull which is famous to this day in Anatolia.

TURKISH INCOME-TAX PROPOSALS.

The Board of Trade *Journal* publishes some interesting information regarding Turkish income-tax proposals, which is taken from the report of H.M. Consul at Constantinople (Mr. A. T. Waugh) on the trade of his district in 1913, which will shortly be issued. This report states that negotiations are pending for the application to foreign residents in Turkey of a new law levying a kind of income-tax, at a rate calculated to amount to about 4 per cent. Hitherto foreign residents have been, by treaty and usage exempt from all direct taxation, except on real property held by them.

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PLIGHT OF ANATOLIAN GREEKS.

The Dragomans Commission.

An occasional correspondent writes from Smyrna, under date July 15, as follows:—

As a consequence of the events at Phocea and Chesme, which resulted in a wholesale exodus of some 50,000 native Greeks, who fled to the neighbouring islands of Chios and Mytilene, a commission, consisting of the Dragomans attached to the Constantinople Embassies, visited Smyrna and the surrounding districts with a view to holding an inquiry on the spot and reporting to their respective Governments. Talaat Bey also spent some time here, and stringent orders were issued for the protection of the Greeks still remaining in the country. It is regrettable, however, to record that notwithstanding the drastic orders of the Government, the Moslem population continues to enforce a severe boycott and to persevere in a policy of intimidation against the Greeks. Of the thousands who have migrated, few have ventured to return, and those still remaining are systematically prevented from leaving the towns and villages, to collect their ripening crops.

Keusten is a small islet about six miles long by two broad, lying in the Bay at some fifteen miles distance from Smyrna. Its population normally is about 3,000, entirely Greeks. Last month, the bulk of this population fled, a handful of men remaining to protect the two villages in the island. Regaining confidence, in consequence of the measures adopted by the Government, some three hundred returned during the last fortnight to their homes.

In the afternoon of the 10th instant, a body of eighty gendarmes, accompanied by some seventy bashi-bozuks, suddenly landed at three points on the island and commenced a regular *battue*. Some of the villagers on the hillside were driven into a gully, and were butchered in cold blood. The victims, fifteen in all, were old residents of the island, one being an old man of eighty. Three of the other victims were fishermen who had come over from Vourla for the day. A panic set in, caused by the firing of several hundred shots, and the remaining inhabitants rushed to the village for shelter.

A Night of Suspense.

Fortunately for these people, a French resident from Smyrna, Mr. E. H. Giraud, owns a summer residence a few hundred yards from the village, and his young wife was in residence for the summer with her three children. This lady promptly opened her doors and offered shelter to the panic stricken Greeks, taking in 218 men, women and children. With her guard, an Albanian, she hoisted the French flag over her grounds and determined to protect the islanders who had crowded her house and grounds. When the gendarmes reached the village, the officer in charge went to the house and insisted on the Greeks returning to the village, but Mrs. Giraud absolutely refused to consider this request, the more so that the poor natives implored her protection. The night was passed in great suspense, the Turks looting the village and also violating two unfortunate young women who had been found in the fields. There is little doubt that, but for the nerve and courage displayed by Mrs. Giraud, a general massacre would have resulted.

On the news reaching Smyrna, prompt steps were immediately taken for the protection of the islanders, who still refuse to believe in the assurances received from the Vali, and will not, as yet, leave their shelter. This unfortunate incident has created a very painful impression. The Government have sent a commission to endeavour to trace the guilty.

Another correspondent, writing also from Smyrna on the same subject, says:—

Turkey, under the auspices of the Committee of Union and Progress, the famous body of "Young Turks" who were going to regenerate the country and restore its bygone glories, is fast lapsing into barbarism. The covering cloak of progress in the capital may blind those who see Turkey only in Constantinople, but it can never conceal the facts from those who live in the interior or in Smyrna. The misdeeds of the Committee are only too apparent to those who have been born and reared in these parts, although perhaps not to the dragomans of the Embassies who took their departure from the centre of trouble only too soon for the peace of mind and safety of a few more hundred defenceless people. No doubt they went away happy in the belief that their presence for a few days had struck such terror into the hearts of those responsible for the late outrages that murders and violations were things of the past; instead of which the offenders were only biding their time.

"English Island."

Scarcely had the representatives of the Triple Entente stepped on board the Constantinople-bound steamer when another revolting massacre was perpetrated at Keusten Island, or, as it is generally called, English Island, at the entrance to the Gulf of Smyrna. What made the massacre more hideous than the usual Turkish blood-letting was that it was committed entirely by soldiers under an officer specially sent over to the island from the fort with explicit orders to shoot down the men. It is needless to add that rape was added to the other crimes perpetrated by the soldiers.

In all, it has been proved that fifteen men working peacefully in their fields were seized, bound, and shot down. Their bodies were left on the ground and afterwards buried by the villagers. Bad as this massacre was, it would have been ten times worse had it not been for the heroic conduct of a young Englishwoman, Mrs. E. H. Giraud, a member of the Whittall family of Smyrna. As soon as the massacre began she opened her doors to everyone, and sheltered practically the whole remaining population of the island—some 200 souls. Even after the arrival of the British Vice-Consul she remained on the island to guarantee, as far as it lay in her power, the safety of the villagers.

The whole of the island is owned by a British subject, and the British Vice-Consul lost no time in proceeding to the scene of the massacre and verifying the facts. The Governor, of course, held the usual abortive inquiry, promising that he would hang the guilty soldiers, but the telegraph line from Smyrna to the fort comes in conveniently in such cases, and no doubt the usual warning message preceded the Governor's visit.

"Suicide of Turkey."

It is mockery on the part of a well-known newspaper correspondent to wire that Talaat Bey has successfully taken the matter in hand and allayed the bitter racial feelings. Talaat Bey may be the Minister of the Interior, but where expulsion, murder, and plundering of the Greeks are concerned, the Governor of Smyrna has the majority of the Committee behind him, and he is fully aware of it. What he does not appear to be aware of is that he is rapidly ruining the wealthy province of Aidin and assisting in the suicide of Turkey. It is true that for generations the end of the Turkish Empire has been foretold, and the same correspondent who informed the British public that the critical situation had been smoothed over not long ago, wrote that Turkey had only five more years to live, so that any further prophecy regarding Turkey's disappearance may be laughed at; but can the Powers look on for ever at such misgovernment and incapacity for ruling without intervention?

One point stands out prominently in the miserable affair of English Island, and it is a disgrace to the British Government. The presence of only one British warship at Vourla would have certainly prevented any trouble on the island. At the time of the massacres at Phocea the British colony in Smyrna met and delegated three of its leading members to approach the Consul-General and request the presence of a British warship to protect British interests. The request was refused, and the Turks, interpreting the refusal either as a friendly sign or as weakness, continued their anti-Christian policy. There is not the slightest particle of doubt that no massacre would have been committed had even a British torpedo-boat been at Vourla. Let those responsible for the movements of our warships criticize this statement as much as they like, but the hard fact remains. It is not too late yet for a British warship to be sent to Smyrna. Those who think the troubles are over are mistaken, and if a powerful squadron of British ships can be sent to Greek waters, where their presence is not required, what is to prevent the Admiralty from sending a cruiser to protect the important British interests vested in Smyrna and the vilayet of Aidin?

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 16.

The Fourteenth of July Festivities.

The French National Fête was celebrated in traditional style this week. True, there was no "Bruix" in Alexandria to contribute its quota of officers and tars to the pleasure-seeking crowds of the capital and stimulate the general enthusiasm in the remarkable manner recorded last year. Nevertheless, the proceedings throughout were characterised by a spirit of good-humoured camaraderie, in the display of which our Gallic friends have become veritable past-masters. The eventful day opened with the usual receptions at the French Agency and Consulate, where patriotic speeches were exchanged between the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Quai d'Orsay and the Députés de la Nation. A pleasing feature of the morning's proceedings was the visit paid to the French Agency by the Greek Boy Scouts.

In the evening the usual fête was given in the Esbekia Gardens, which were decorated and illuminated in a highly artistic manner. The fête opened with a parade, in which the British, French, Greek, and Italian Boy Scouts played a prominent part. A British regimental band shared with an Egyptian military one the musical honours of the evening, and its efforts were evidently much appreciated by the dense, cosmopolitan crowd which, in the intervals that it snatched from the attractions of the free variety and cinematograph entertainments and of the gambling tables, paraded through the grounds. On the official tribune M. Defrance received his special guests, amongst whom were T.E. Adly Pasha Yaghen and Mohammed Pasha Moheb, representing the Egyptian Government, and T.H. Princes Ahmed Fuad and Aziz Hassan. The fête came to an end at a late hour with a grand display of fireworks. Once again it was noticeable how friendly the relations between the British and French colonies were, and how remarkably the members fraternised.

The White Nile Dam.

The recent decision of the Council of Ministers in connection with the construction of the White Nile dam, at an approximate cost of £900,000, has naturally raised a question as to the manner in which the money for this enterprise is to be provided, since the expenditure is to be borne entirely by Egypt. The local Press has stated in a most authoritative manner that the Government, with the consent of the Public Debt Commission, has arranged a loan for the total amount with the National Bank of Egypt at 3½ to 4 per cent. In view of the peculiar position in which Egypt is placed in regard to the contracting of loans, there appeared to be something incorrect about this statement. I have accordingly made inquiries, and am in a position to state that no loan whatsoever has been arranged or will, indeed, be necessary.

In the first place, the work of construction will take at least three years, and the cost will be spread over the entire period, so that in any case the whole £900,000 will not be required in one lump sum. Moreover, the Government intends to pay for the work out of current reserve as far as possible. The only outside assistance that will be sought will be the temporary overdraft which the Government sometimes obtains from the National Bank of Egypt to help it carry on during the intermediate period before the taxes come in in the autumn. That overdraft may have to be slightly increased to meet the extra call on the Exchequer during those few months, but the entire amount will, as usual, be liquidated during the following autumn and winter.

Sir Gaston Maspero.

At the time when Sir Gaston Maspero's retirement was announced it was persistently said that this step was brought about owing to a disagreement with Lord Kitchener. The eminent Director-General of Antiquities, however, in a series of interviews, denied the truth of this, pointing out that he had received a letter of thanks for his services, and asserting that he was retiring solely and simply because of his ill-health and overwork. To the general surprise, he has this week accorded an interview to a local European journal, wherein he ventures to criticise Lord Kitchener for his interference in certain administrative matters connected with the Antiquities Service and for his proposal to bring the statue of Rameses II. to Cairo. It is a very great pity that Sir Gaston should have unburdened himself in this manner on the eve of his departure, and should thereby have removed the excellent impression which prevailed.

Greco-Egyptian Commercial Treaty.

On Saturday last H.E. Adly Pasha Yaghen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Verenikis, Acting Greek Agent, signed on behalf of their Governments a Note prolonging until April 16, 1915, the Commercial Treaty between their two countries, which would have expired to-day. Monday night's *Journal Officiel* contained the text of the note, which makes one or two slight modifications in the original agreement, and also a declaration made by the Ministry of Finance with regard to the basis on which duty on Greek tobacco is to be levied. In the first place, the special rebate of P.T.2 per kilogramme on the duty levied on tobacco coming from other countries, especially the Balkan States, will henceforward not be granted to tobacco of Greek origin; secondly, Egypt is accorded complete liberty of action in so far as the creation of a monopoly, the introduction of tobacco cultivation into this country, and any increase in the import duties are concerned (under the treaty Greece could denounce the agreement if any step was taken by Egypt in connection with the above-mentioned three questions), and, thirdly, salt is now included amongst the commodities which, failing any special arrangement, were excluded from the operation of the treaty. The Ministry of Finance's notification cancels its announcement on May 27 last that tobacco of Greek origin would, after to-day's date, be subject to the new import duties introduced by the decree published on January 3, 1914. All such tobacco will pay duty on the basis of the tariff in force previous to that date. The reason the treaty is prolonged for only nine months is that the decision to raise the tobacco duties was taken and the question of introducing tobacco cultivation was raised too near the date of expiry of the treaty to allow for the adequate discussion of the points at issue, or for their local study. The nine months will provide the interval necessary to the accomplishment of these and other formalities, and will, also, cause the operation of whatever new convention is made to coincide with the opening of the financial year. Nevertheless, it would be unwise to assume that the Egyptian Government has decided to introduce the cultivation of tobacco into Egypt; the only important point is, that it has entirely regained its liberty of action in the matter.

The Murder of Captain Fawcett.

The trial of Abdulla Hassan, the native accused of the murder of Captain Fawcett, marine superintendent of the Khedivial Mail Line, which was reported in The Near East of May 8, was concluded on Tuesday last. The details which were given at the time were confirmed in the course of the hearing. Evidence was forthcoming that a man answering to the accused's description, and limping, as he did, had been seen leaving the murdered man's house. Abdulla Hassan could give no good account of his movements on the night of the crime, nor could any proof be obtained of his story of the manner in which he had come by his injuries. Moreover, the footprints on the premises corresponded in every detail with his, and his 'galabea," stained with blood, was found hidden in a jar on his own roof, for which he could give no satisfactory explanation. Finally, a woman who had seen

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a man limping away from the house at the time of the murder and the deceased man's cook, who had seen his master's assailant, picked Abdulla Hassan out from a group. Under these circumstances, the Court considered his guilt established, and sent his dossier, according to custom, on Thursday to the Mufti of Alexandria. The latter, having signified that there was no reason why the law should not take its ordinary course—or, as a matter of fact, having given his acquiescence by his silence—the Assize Court condemned Abdulla Hassan to death on Tuesday. The murderer will no doubt appeal to the Cassation Court, as he did once before, when he was similarly convicted of murder. On that occasion he was accused of murdering a rich notable and his wife in Alexandria, and the Cassation Court quashed the conviction. From the judgment of the Assize Court, it appears that Abdulla Hassan did not commit the murder single-handed, and that his accomplices, who cannot be traced, got away, his injuries having prevented him from following them until after the district had been alarmed. The police and the Parquet are certainly deserving of congratulation for the clever manner in which they laid their hands on Abdulla Hassan and pieced together the evidence against him.

ENGLISHMAN MURDERED IN EGYPT.

CAIRO, July 14.

In the year 1897 an Englishman named Wilson and his servant were murdered in the Behera Province, and a native, Mohammed Hassan Abou Shaklak, was accused of the crime. Shaklak, however, managed to effect his escape from prison on September 3, 1897, before he had been brought to trial, and was condemned to death in default.

After a lapse of nearly seventeen years he has been rearrested in the province of Sharkia, and will be brought before the Parquet when the papers relating to the case have been unearthed from the prison archives.—Reuter.

AN ENGLISHMAN IN ALBANIA.

Mr. Jack Heaton-Armstrong, whose brother, Captain Heaton-Armstrong, is private secretary to the Mpret, has returned to London, after a stay of several weeks in Albania, during which period he accompanied the loyalist force of Prenk Bib Doda on its march from Allessio towards Durazzo until it went home. Mr. Heaton-Armstrong commanded Prenk Bib Doda's artillery, consisting of one Austrian mountain gun, and the story which he gave to a Press representative of the march has its amusing features. Prenk Bib Doda, who is a Mirdite chief, and, according to Mr. Heaton-Armstrong, a most polished gentleman, set out from Allessio at the head of about 1,000 of his own tribe and an equal number of Malissori, to go to the relief of Prince William, then, and now, besieged in his capital. The first objective was the rebel stronghold of Ishmi, 30 kilometres south. It took the tribesmen a week to cover the distance, and before the seven days elapsed the commissariat had completely disappeared. However, a few shells from the mountain gun cleared the rebels out of the town.

"It was curious," says Mr. Heaton-Armstrong, "how the gun was a sort of fetish to the Albanians. The rebels would never stand shell fire, while our own men would run to me for the gun on the slightest excuse. My eye-glass was an object of great interest to them. They believed it was essential to the working of the gun, and I did not dispel the illusion, but kept the glass in my eye whenever an Albanian was in sight. Every emotion the Albanian experiences is expressed in wild shooting—sad or glad, angry or elated, he fires off his rifle, and the consequences are sometimes disconcerting when he is on the warpath. It is dangerous to stray from the camp. Anyone doing so immediately becomes the object of intermittent target practice—not that the Albanian really aims at his objective, for, as far as I could see, he merely points his rifle in the direction of the enemy or the target, and fires as rapidly as he can. They believe the more noise they make the higher is the estimation of their numbers and ferocity in the minds of the enemy, and they carry out this whole-heartedly, but one could not get them to advance against trenches. At Malcuchi, where the force ultimately disbanded, a few shells from the gun cleared the rebels out of their positions, but our men remained in the valley, expending thousands of rounds of ammunition in mere noise. Mr. Heaton-Armstrong determined to get the gun to Durazzo by sea after Prenk Bib Doda's levies dispersed in a panic from no apparent cause, and after great difficulties succeeded. Of the position in Durazzo Mr. Heaton-Armstrong says:—"Prince William and his officers have, I think, made Durazzo quite secure against further attack, but the manner in which the Powers have left him unaided is shameful. The Dutch officers are really magnificent fellows, and Prince William has been very plucky. I believe the fact that he boarded the Italian warship has created a bad impression in Europe, but everyone in Durazzo knows that he had no intention of leaving Durazzo, but went to see his wife and children safe, and at once returned. It is, I think, obvious that Prince William can do nothing without European troops, and a couple of thousand disciplined men would suffice to restore order in the whole country."

PORT SAID NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PORT SAID, July 15.

The Mediterranean Squadron.

Thirteen British destroyers, with the attendant cruiser, H.M.S. "Blenheim," part of the Mediterranean Squadron, arrived here from Cyprus on the morning of the 13th instant, and will remain about a week for coaling and re-provisioning.

Quatorze Juillet.

The anniversary of the fall of the Bastille was celebrated in Port Said yesterday by the French colony with marked enthusiasm, the day being observed as one of feasting and revelry, in which all classes and races joined. Streets were profusely decorated with bunting, and illuminated in the evening by tri-coloured lights and fairy lamps. An extensive programme commenced on the night of the thirteenth by a ball at the Casino Palace Hotel, organized by the Committee, and on the morning of the fourteenth the French Consul received the colony. Boat racing and other aquatic sports took place in the afternoon, and a magnificent display of fireworks, with a procession of illuminated boats and a variety of popular amusements, completed a long and successful day of merrymaking.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE ON THE SUDAN.

Mr. Lloyd George made an interesting reference to the Sudan in the course of the speech which he delivered as the chief guest at the Lord Mayor's banquet to the bankers and merchants of the City of London on last Friday evening at the Mansion House. He said:—

I had an indication the other day of the kind of use that is being made of British capital in the way of developing the world. I remember meeting a few years ago Sir Reginald Wingate, one of the most interesting men it has ever been my privilege to meet, one of those men helping to make the Empire really great, and he told me—he was talking about the Sudan, which he was governing—and he said: "There it is; millions of acres of desert, and you could make a garden of it." Shortly afterwards I heard that he had taken a tract of desert, irrigated it, planted a few thousand acres of cotton, and produced the best cotton that had ever been sent to Lancashire—amongst the best—and I am glad to see a distinguished Lancashire gentleman who confirms me. The next thing was they came along and asked us to help them to develop a huge tract of 5,000,000 acres of Delta between two branches of the Nile. We furnished them with three millions of money for the purpose. At the present moment, with the exception of that oasis, all the rest is a scorching, sandy, sapless desert. Sir Reginald told me there would be five million acres in the course of a few years of the best cotton-growing land in the whole world—British capital turning it into garden.

EXCAVATIONS AT ABYDOS.

A lecture was delivered on July 15 at Burlington House by Professor Naville on the results of last winter's excavations at the pool of Abydos. Abydos, he said, was chiefly a religious city, the residence of a god venerated throughout the whole of Egypt, Osiris. Osiris was a god who died, and the most famous of his tombs was that of Abydos, which was said to contain his head. It was the wish to find this tomb which induced them to excavate. Digging revealed a construction consisting of an enclosure wall absolutely symmetrical on both sides, three naves separated by huge granite pillars, a ceiling made of enormous granite blocks, a huge pool with basins for washing the feet, staircases leading to the water, and a middle platform forming an island. By the side was a hall, probably forming the tomb of Osiris. There were also cells round the pool about two metres in height and width. They were without any ornamentation, which was a characteristic of old construction. The building was neither tomb nor temple. It was a hydraulic construction. Was it likely that such a cyclopean building was raised merely for infiltration water? Was there some communication with the Nile? It seemed probable that the old Egyptians knew very well the laws of the rise and fall of the Nile. They knew also of the existence of what is now called the subterranean Nile, which flowed under the desert, and which engineers now tried to utilise for the irrigation of the country. Was the water supposed to have a curative effect, and did the people come to the cells to have their health restored?

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 15.

The Mixed Commission.

The political outlook is less threatening, but the storm clouds have not yet dispersed. And in spite of Turkish professions of friendship, even of cordiality, it is impossible to believe that there will be a definite improvement until the question of the Islands has once and for all been settled. In spite of the refusal contained in the last Turkish Note to repatriate those Greek inhabitants of towns who had been forced to emigrate, the Government has lost no time in appointing its delegates to the Mixed Commission appointed to value the properties which are to be exchanged. The Commission, which is sitting at Smyrna, has already begun its work, without waiting for the arrival of the arbitrator that Switzerland has been asked to supply.

Suspicion of the C.U.P.

The impression still prevails that the Young Turks are set on throwing dust in the eyes of the Greeks until they are in a position to adopt a different attitude. In support of these misgivings, it is pointed out that while all this talk about the exchange of emigrants is in progress massacres and persecutions are still going on in Asia Minor, and it seems that the officials dismissed by the Ottoman Minister of the Interior for complicity in outrages have been appointed to other, and better, positions. In view of these facts and of the declarations of Midhat Shukri Pasha, the Secretary of the C.U.P., that Turkey is now engaged in a "life-and-death duel" with Greece, there can be little confidence in Ottoman professions of amity.

Mr. Venizelos and the Grand Vizier.

The Prime Minister anxious to put an end to an intolerable situation, has willingly accepted the mediation of certain foreign diplomatists to bring about a meeting between himself and the Grand Vizier. If certain details can be settled Mr. Venizelos will probably leave here to-morrow, and it is expected that the meeting, if it takes place, will be either at Brussels or Lausanne.

Naval Activity.

The light cruiser "Helli," one of the warships purchased from the United States, arrived in the Bay of Phaleron on Sunday. The vessel, which is destined to become the flagship of the light cruiser squadron, received an enthusiastic welcome from the crowds which had gathered to greet her. Last week a number of sailors left for the United States to take over the battleship "Mississippi," which has been rechristened "Kilkis." On Saturday a full crew left Greece to take over the second American battleship "Idaho," which is now in an Italian port, and will probably be taken over by Greece either in a French or English port. As soon as the two battleships have been thoroughly overhauled and cleaned they will leave for Greece, where they are expected to arrive about the middle of August. When once the concentration is complete the whole fleet will leave for manœuvres in the Ægean. Altogether three battleships, three armoured cruisers, twenty-two torpedo-boat destroyers, and two submarines will take part.

Cost of Living.

Apart from warlike preparations the most important event of the week has been a general strike of railway, gas, and tramway employees. Happily the strike only lasted two days, and was more in the nature of a protest against the very high cost of living and the lack of housing accommodation than anything else. In fact, if house rents go on increasing at the present rate, Athens will ultimately be inhabited by two classes only—millionaires and beggars.

THE OLDEST CITY IN EUROPE.

The oldest city in the Eastern Hemisphere is to be found in Asia, but in Europe there is also a city, uncovered by the spade and mattock, which is almost as old as Babylon, and which was throbbing with busy life and prosperous activity in the Stone Age, five thousand years ago and more.

The destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii, overwhelmed under the ashes of Vesuvius, is well known. Yet thousands of years before that this city in the Grecian Archipelago was buried in the same manner, with its inhabitants, their tools, and their domestic utensils.

North of Candia there rises up out of the sea a small group of islands encircling a bay of immense depth, and it was there that discoveries were made, chiefly in Santorin and Therasia. The islands lie, as it were, in the form of a horseshoe, enclosing the bay, from the waters of which rise their almost unscalable cliffs, covered with deep layers of a pumice of dazzling brightness. Beneath this pumice lay buried the oldest city in Europe. From time immemorial the pumice has been dug out for building purposes, but the workers contented themselves with cutting up the topmost of the volcanic layers, avoiding the lower strata, which appeared to be mixed with innumerable stony masses. These, on closer examination, eventually proved to be the house walls of the city.

One of the largest dwellings uncovered consists of six rooms of unequal size, the most spacious being about 18 ft. by 15 ft., and one wall runs round a court of 24 ft. in length with a single opening into it. The walls are formed of a series of big and little blocks of uncut lava, laid together without any mortar, the interstices being filled with a kind of red ashes. Between the blocks long twisted branches of the olive tree are spread, still covered with bark, but the wood has become nearly black as if burnt, and crumbles to powder at the slightest touch. There are windows and several openings into the rooms. In every case the roof—the ashes of which have been found scattered inside the room—has been constructed of wood, and appears to have been supported by a round block of lava buried in the floor.

The remains give every indication that the inhabitants were unexpectedly overwhelmed by the volcanic outburst, which buried the city more than 300 ft. deep. The great yellow jars of earthenware are still filled with barley, coriander, peas, aniseed, and other grains which cannot be recognised. In the storehouses heaps of barley are piled up against the walls. But not one scrap of metal or bronze has been found—not even the trace of a nail in the pieces of wood which had formed the roof. The absence of any metal except gold is complete. The tools and weapons are all made of flint, lava, and obsidian, the last-mentioned being a volcanic product—sometimes volcanic glass—that is still used by peons in Peru for making scissors.

From the discoveries made some years ago it is evident that this unknown people knew how to grind barley in handmills and how to make it into bread, how to press oil from the olives and wine from the grape, how to weave cloth and other stuffs, and how to rear cattle and milch kine.

Geologists have endeavoured to piece together the history of the terrible disaster which so long ago blotted out an whole race. Where the islands of Santorin, Therasia, Aspronisi, and the others of this little group now lie there was then a great island, but the centre of it was being gradually undermined by volcanic forces, the igneous matter of which had some two thousand years previously united together and formed the island. Many volcanic catastrophes have done their devastating work, yet none can equal in violence the gigantic upheaval which made the Bay of Santorin. All the middle of the island must have suddenly given way and been entirely engulfed, leaving but a narrow rim of land, through the northern end of which the sea dashed in and filled up the hollow. Instead of a mountainous cone 5,000 ft. high, there is now the bay of that depth, surrounded by precipitous cliffs, close to which great ships may safely anchor. The disaster must have come in the twinkling of the eye, since the remains found in the city prove that there was no time to carry away or remove anything in any of the many houses. The eruption of pumice stone must have immediately preceded the sinking of the land, for the tufa covering the adjacent slopes is cut through by subsequent streams of lava.

Older than Athens, older than the re-discovered city of Minos and the Minotaur in Crete, the city of Therasia is the most ancient known in Europe.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 19.

The New Loan.

Just a week ago Mr. Toncheff, the Minister of Finance, signed (in its final form) the agreement with the German banks regarding the loan. On the eve of the conclusion of the loan a communiqué was issued by the Russian Legation here, and signed by the Legation Secretary, M. Sabler, in which it is stated that the French banks are now ready to grant a loan to Bulgaria without the guarantee of Russia, without industrial concessions, and in general on more favourable terms than those granted by the German banks. Public opinion here strongly condemns this action of the Russian Legation, and it is pretty broadly hinted that not only M. Sabler, but also M. Savinsky, the Minister himself, should be removed.

The State Trial.

A tendency is noticeable in Government circles to put an end to the State trial, which is now regarded as a purely political question. Two alternatives are canvassed: first, that the Chamber should quash the proceedings on the ground of illegality; second, that supplementary clauses should be introduced into the Amnesty Bill.

Threatening Tsar Ferdinand.

Bony Georgieff, one of the assassins of Mr. Stambuloff, and now in Russian employ in Constantinople, has sent King Ferdinand a letter threatening him with death on account of the disasters resulting from the second Balkan War. Report has it that the letter is written in blood—but whose is not stated.

Memorial to Sir E. Grey.

The Dobruja Society has addressed to Sir Edward Grey a memorial, in which an appeal is made to Great Britain to take an interest in the lot of those Bulgarians who have fallen under the Roumanian yoke; and who, yesterday free citizens, are to-day deprived of religious, civil, and political rights and liberties. The provisions of the special law for the Dobruja, which aim at depriving the population of its land, are pointed out, and the memorial concludes:—

Such a short statement of the "legal" régime instituted by Roumania in the lands that formerly belonged to Bulgaria suffices to show how the unfortunate population of those lands, accustomed for the past thirty-six years to the enjoyment of public liberty under a democratic government, is now unexpectedly subjected to a mediæval régime, with the object of depriving it of its nationality and robbing it of its property. Civilised Europe of the twentieth century will not allow one of its members to perpetrate such an outrage upon humanity and ethics. The official declarations of Roumania regarding tolerance are not enough; the past shows that she has not fulfilled her engagements, even those undertaken by the Berlin Treaty. Guarantees are necessary, and guarantees of the most effective kind.

The Chamber and the Loan.

Last Wednesday's sittings of the Sobranje were remarkable in many ways. The police guard in front of the building was reinforced, and the public were admitted only after a strict examination of their tickets. Rumours were rife that there would be trouble for the Government if it persisted in retaining power in spite of the known hostility of Russia; the Opposition appeared to be anxious to face a trial of strength; and it was stated that three of the Opposition leaders had been attending consultations at the Russian Legation, where a list of members for a new Cabinet had been drawn up, and that a loan within a week had been guaranteed to this Cabinet.

Finally, the sitting was opened, and the President of the Chamber announced the debate on the Loan agreement. The leaders of the Radicals and the "Broad" Socialists condemned the loan, and declared that the present Cabinet, having by the treaties of Bucharest and Constantinople given Bulgarian soil to foreigners, would now bring the foreigners into Bulgaria itself. Next, the leader of the "Narrow" Socialists spoke. He condemned the bourgeois opposition for becoming the tools of a foreign Power, and thereupon such uproar arose that the President had to suspend the sitting. On the resumption of business Dr. Radoslavoff rose to speak, but the Opposition would not allow it. They shouted, hurled books and inkstands about, upset the desks, chased the stenographers from the Chamber, and generally created a violent scene. Thereupon there followed another adjournment.

On the sitting being resumed, the Government put the stenographers in their midst, and defended them (by force) against the Opposition's attacks. The agreement was read; the President put it to the vote; it was adopted by the solid vote of the Government party; and the Chamber rose at once. The Opposition was aghast. But last Friday the King ratified the contract by Royal Ukase. The loan is, therefore, an accomplished fact.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 18.

Volunteers for Albania.

An interesting scene was witnessed at the Gare du Nord by those who happened to be there last Wednesday evening, when 250 more Roumanian and Albanian Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Christescu and other Roumanian officers, left for Durazzo. Most of the volunteers were wearing their full Roumanian field service uniforms, but the regular headgear was replaced by a white polo cap, decorated with the Albanian arms in front and a Roumanian tricolour ribbon at the side. The party was accompanied by the Albanian Red Cross ladies; and it was given a most enthusiastic send-off by many members of the Albanian colony.

This was only one of many parties which are to be despatched daily, the intention being to send, if possible, 5,000 men, that being the number of troops that Roumania was asked to furnish, but had to refuse (officially) for various political reasons. Most of the expenses of the journey, the pay of the men, etc., have been subscribed by the Albanian colony here; but only sufficient funds are in hand to pay the rank and file (2 francs daily) until they arrive at Durazzo. Thereafter, if one may trust the word of an Austrian Volunteer who returned disgusted, their welfare is problematical. According to the statements of the Austrian referred to, nothing but a little tobacco had been provided for the Volunteers arriving, and they were all in a state of semi-starvation.

Peasant Marriages.

A question which is receiving some attention from the authorities is that of the number of peasants who live together as man and wife without troubling to go through the marriage ceremony. In order to effect an improvement in this respect the regulations were simplified as far as possible, but this has not yet produced the desired effect.

In the Prahova district the Préfect, M. J. D. Agaru, has been working hard to undo the evil. Not long ago he persuaded sixty pairs to enter the bonds of legal matrimony, and last Sunday he added thirty-two other pairs. His son and daughter stood sponsors for the whole of the happy brides and grooms, and his wife presented each of the women with a national costume.

FLOODS IN BULGARIA.

According to a Reuter's message from Sofia, dated Wednesday, torrential rains which have fallen the last few days have caused floods in certain districts, especially in Jambol, Lom, Razgrad, and Eskijumaya, where hitherto over a hundred bodies have been recovered. The number of victims is stated to be much greater than this. Considerable damage has been done, being estimated at many millions of francs. Steps have been taken to organise relief for the sufferers.

THE EXPANSION OF SERVIA.

In a note recently published in the Daily Consular and Trade Reports the U.S. Consul at Belgrade (Mr. Lewis W. Haskell) writes:—Before the recent wars with Turkey and Bulgaria Servia was divided into eighteen districts. The area of the country was 18,644 square miles, with a population of 2,911,701. Servia acquired, as a result of the wars, territory to the extent of 14,668 square miles, with a population of 1,481,614. The total area of the country to-day is, therefore, 33,312 square miles, with a total population of 4,393,315. The new territory has been divided into twelve administrative districts, making a total of thirty administrative districts in the whole country.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Persian Coronation.

July 16.

Sir G. Scott Robertson asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had official information to the effect that the coronation of the Shah of Persia had been, or might be, postponed from July 21 to September 18; and, if so, whether the reasons for this change were political or financial; and whether it was possible for a quorum of the Mejliss to be elected by July 21.

Sir E. Grey: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As to the last part, I am unable to express an opinion.

Replying to further questions by Sir G. Scott Robertson, Sir E. Grey said he agreed that there was great financial anxiety in regard to Persia. A sound financial position was at the bottom of everything. If the financial position was unsound there was every cause for anxiety.

Armenian Inspectors.

Mr. King asked whether the European inspectors appointed to Armenia would report to their respective Governments, and whether any reports received by the Foreign Office from inspectors in Armenia would be published.

Sir Edward Grey: The Inspectors-General will naturally report to the Turkish Government, by whom they are appointed.

Persian Oilfield Production.

Answering a question put by Mr. Gwynne, Mr. Churchill said: The Anglo-Persian Oil Company already has a large production of oil. Part of this is now being taken by the Admiralty. The supply contract which has now been entered into provides for gradual increases of supplies during the next three years, at the end of which period the further development is expected to be completed. The company will then be in a position, in addition to meeting contract obligations with other customers, to provide the average quantity expected to be required by the Admiralty, and also to make larger supplies if the Admiralty should decide to exercise the contract option of increasing the quantity.

Egyptian Wireless Station.

Answering a question by Major Archer-Shee, Mr. Hobhouse, the Postmaster-General, said: The arrangement for establishing direct communication between Egypt and India, which was explained to the House on March 2, in reply to a question by Mr. Walter Guinness, necessitated some delay in connection with the acquisition of fresh sites in Egypt and India. The new sites for the Indian station have not as yet been formally accepted by the company. Work has been proceeding for some time on the construction of the masts for the English station, and the construction of the foundations for masts of the Egyptian station is about to be commenced. Material has also been, or is on the point of being sent out for the masts of the East African, Indian, and Singapore stations.

Sudan Loan Bill.

July 17.

The Government of the Sudan Loan Bill passed through Committee and was afterwards read a third time.

The Situation at Durazzo.

July 20.

Replying to Sir J. D. Rees, who asked for information regarding the situation at Durazzo, Mr. Acland said: Durazzo is still invested by the insurgents, but has been for some time free from active attack. Rear-Admiral Troubridge is present with two of his Majesty's ships, and has orders to co-operate with the foreign men-of-war in providing for the personal security of the Prince, his officials, and all European non-combatants should occasion arise.

The Trans-Persian Railway.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he would refer the question of the proposed railway across Persia to the Government of India for their opinion as to whether a change of gauge, made at the southern boundary of the Russian sphere in Persia, would better fulfil strategic requirements and at the same time offer greater commercial advantages to Indian trade than were offered by the proposed railway on the Russian gauge right through from the North to the boundary of the British sphere at or near Bundar Abbas on the Persian Gulf in the South.

Mr. Acland: The point as to break of gauge was originally considered with the Government of India, and the decision come to was in accordance with their views. The whole question of the railway continues, as a matter of course, to be considered in consultation with the Government of India in all its bearings.

The Agreement of Corfu.

Mr. Shirley Benn asked whether the Epirote Government of M. Zographos had ever adhered to the agreement of Corfu.

Mr. Acland: The agreement concluded with the International Commission in Albania was accepted by M. Zographos on behalf of the Epirote Provisional Government, but I regret to state that it has since been practically repudiated by the other Epirotes.

The Position of Col. Doulis.

Mr. Shirley Benn asked whether the Greek Government proposed to hold M. Doulis, commander of the Epirote forces, responsible for past massacres of Albanians.

Mr. Acland: Colonel Doulis has been struck off the list of the officers of the Greek Army. He is, therefore, no longer responsible to the Greek Government.

Replying to further questions, put by Mr. Gretton and Mr. Shirley Benn, Mr. Acland stated that the creation of an autonomous Albania State rested on a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Ambassadors' Conference over which his right hon. friend, the Foreign Secretary, presided. The proceedings of that conference were not embodied in any formal document, and the occasion to sign an agreement did not, therefore, arise. To avoid misunderstanding he might add that the Ambassadors' Conference acted simply as a means of keeping the Governments of the countries there represented in close touch with one another, and that their resolutions were simply the records of the points upon which these Governments were in agreement. A report had reached him that the Servians had crossed the Albanian frontier, but he had no confirmation of it.

Britain and Persia.

July 21.

Mr. Ponsonby asked whether any reply had been sent by his Majesty's Government or the Russian Government to the Memorandum handed to the British and Russian representatives at Teheran by the Persian Government in June last.

Sir E. Grey: I can only answer for the British Government. So far as concerns them the answer is in the negative. There is no object in our making a reply to the Memorandum of the Persian Government which, although a copy was communicated to his Majesty's Government, was addressed to the Russian Government.

Turkish Bands at Phocea.

In reply to Mr. Noel Buxton, who asked for information relating to an attack by Turkish bands upon the Greek population of Phocea,

Sir E. Grey said he had information from his Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna that such an attack was made on the 12th ult. in circumstances of barbarity. Many refugees were saved through the protection afforded them by M. Sartiaux and his companions, and others were towed over to Mytilene by an English launch. He had no information as to any special measures of relief.

In reply to a further question by Mr. Noel Buxton whether he would publish reports on recent atrocities against Greeks in Asia Minor,

Sir E. Grey said: Recent occurrences in Asia Minor do not, I am glad to think, represent a normal state of affairs, and if the reports which deal with them were made public I should, in justice, feel obliged to take a like course in regard to reports dealing with maltreatment of Moslems in the territories recently annexed from Turkey. I am doubtful whether any useful purpose would be served by giving official publicity to a state of affairs which is, I trust, temporary, and in regard to which it is impossible to strike a balance of culpability.

Unrest in Persia.

Sir G. Scott Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware of the position on the Baghdad-Kermanshah Road, where £120,000 worth of British goods were held up owing to the unrest, while Russian goods from the north flowed in uninterruptedly.

Sir E. Grey said that some days ago he pointed out to the Russian Government that in the interests of the open door for trade the Russian Consul at Kermanshah ought to be instructed to support the Persian Governor-General in measures to keep the road open. The Russian Government had promised to send such instructions.

In reply to further questions,

Sir E. Grey said that the Government were ready to advance funds for the payment of the gendarmerie, which, he trusted, would enable that force to keep order in Fars and Kerman. He saw no reason to fear danger to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's works. It was impossible to discuss various hypothetical contingencies. He could only contemplate the most probable contingency, which was, he thought, that if the tribes felt it to be to their interest to keep order and to see the pipe-line was not interfered with no measures on our part would be necessary. The independence and integrity of Persia, as explained by him on the Foreign Office Vote, had been on both sides the basis of all conversations, whether this year or previously, and the Russian Government had repeatedly disclaimed any intention of annexing any part of Persian territory. The question of the collection of taxes in Persia by Russian officials was brought by the Foreign Office to the notice of the Russian Government last month, and a reply had been received to the effect that the collection of taxes by Russian Consuls had occurred in the case of Russian subjects and Russian protected persons, and that these revenues had been paid into the Russian bank, but that an account was kept of all sums collected by Russian Consuls, and nothing was taken from the Persian Treasury.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ANARCHIC ALBANIA.*

Mr. Wadham Peacock compares the Principality of the Mpret to a foundling, and assuredly events are showing that the poor little State, mutilated on all its landward frontiers and with many of its people massacred by their neighbours, is indeed suffering the ill-treatment and neglect traditionally supposed to be accorded to a "nobody's child." He provides his readers with a variety of sketches of life in and near Scutari, or Skodra, and some chapters devoted to history and modern politics. The author at one time held an official position in the British Consulate in the old Albanian capital, and proves himself to have been an observant and discriminating visitor. Some of his chapters were written as self-contained articles for contribution to the periodical Press, consequently there is no particular thread of consecutive narrative through those which deal with local life and manners. The latter part of the book, however, is an interesting essay upon the political and religious conditions which affect the new State and the historical events which preceded and led up to its formation. Mr. Peacock criticizes the various proposals put forward by omnivorous Balkan Allies for the frontiers of Albania when they found to their intense disgust that Europe was insisting upon its formation, and points out how unfairly the Shkipetars were treated. He touches upon the curious custom, which has given so much trouble in the past and is still so sedulously cherished in interested quarters, of submerging a man's race in his religion. Thus a Moslem Gheg was looked upon as a conquered Turk, an Orthodox Tosk was claimed as a Greek by the Government of Athens, and the Northern Catholics were persecuted by their Orthodox invaders for the double crime of being neither Slavs nor members of an Eastern Church. Mr. Peacock tells a delightful story in this connection of a Catholic chief in the North who surprised a Turkish officer by refusing to be treated as a Rayah, a thing he and his had never been in Albania under the Turks. The author in another chapter explains the meaning of this position, so curious in a Christian subject of the Padishah, and points out that none of the numerous races which at one time or another have claimed overlordship of Albania ever really conquered the hill country or held it down. Consequently the Albanian mountaineers retained their immemorial independence, their language, and their peculiar customs but little affected by the successive ethnic waves which surged amid the foot hills of their mountain fastnesses. The Albanian language, which, in spite of the sneers of those who affect to despise it as an unlettered jargon, appears to trace from a remote antiquity, and has been preserved by oral tradition only, as it has been until lately a disputed point whether the Roman, the Greek, or the Arabic alphabet should be used for writing the sounds of Shkipetar. Political and ecclesiastical influences favoured the two latter scripts, but Albanian nationalism has resolutely looked to the West, and, as a protest against detested tyrannies, has adopted the Roman alphabet. Mr. Peacock devotes considerable space to this interesting phase of Albanian development, and reproduces specimens of the Greco-Shkipetar and Arabo-Shkipetar alphabets.

The book, based as it is on personal experience, gives much assistance to those who seek to understand the complexities of the Albanian situation, and goes far to correct the suggestion, which is so widely propagated by ambitious neighbours, that the Northern Albanian is a kind of Serb, while his Southern brother is a sort of Greek. The Albanian is a distinct race, perhaps the oldest in Europe, and as a Balkan people has every right to its share of the Balkans.

* "Albania, the Foundling State of Europe." By Wadham Peacock (Chapman and Hall.)

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NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

We have received a copy of the May issue of "Al-Kulliyeh," the journal of the Syrian Protestant College, which contains, along with many other interesting articles, a full report of Lord Bryce's address delivered to members of the college on May 2.

The current number of the Palestine Exploration Fund's *Quarterly Statement* is of considerable interest. It contains, in addition to the usual notes on the society's doings and an account of the annual meeting, a report on "The Survey of Sinai and South Palestine," by Captain S. F. Newcombe; "The Jewish Quarters in Ancient Rome," by Signor Pietro Romanelli; and "Coincidences of Hebrew and Cuneiform Literature," by Mr. Joseph Offord.

Messrs. Macmillan will publish shortly "The Financial System of the United Kingdom," by Henry Higgs, C.B., Inspector-General of the Egyptian Finance Department. The intricacies of our national system of finance are examined and explained in detail.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Valley of the Kings, by Marmaduke Pickthall; *The Cliff End*, by Edward C. Booth; *The Lore of the Wanderer*, by George Goodchild; *The Comments of Bagshot*, by J. A. Spender; *The Mistress of Bonaventure*, by Harold Bindloss; and *The Children of Light*, by Florence Converse. (The Wayfarer's Library. Dent and Sons. 1s. net each volume.)

NEW MAP.

The new map issued at 8s. by Messrs. Edward Stanford, of the Near East, shows the new frontiers, and is thoroughly up to date in the matter of railways, even those sections of the Baghdad line which were opened only a few weeks ago being indicated. Some of the projected lines both in Europe and Asia are also marked, but there are one or two omissions. The map is useful and clearly coloured, and is well adapted for office or library use. The map is on a scale of nearly forty miles to the inch on a sheet 43 by 31 ins.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Austria and Servia.

The Morning Post for July 21 contains an interesting leading article on "The Situation in the Near East," in which the high tension between Austria-Hungary and Servia and its wider effects are dealt with. We quote below:—

There seems to be a school of politicians at Vienna and Budapest that would like to conquer and annex Servia. If that were to be attempted there would be grave uneasiness in Europe. The Russian Government would hardly remain indifferent to an attack on Servia. Italy would not like it. A war between Austria-Hungary and Servia would thus probably bring Russia into the field. If Germany then did not remain neutral, France, as Russia's ally, could hardly be indifferent. Italy would hardly assist Austria-Hungary in a war of which the purpose would be to assert for Austria-Hungary a preponderating influence in the Balkan lands. Thus, if Austro-Hungarian statesmen adopt the policy of an attack on Servia they will be doing their best to provoke the long-dreaded European war in conditions not favourable to the Triple Alliance, for Austria-Hungary would have to employ a part of her forces against Servia, to station another part to watch Italy, and have only the balance to pit against Russia. Germany, with little help from Austria-Hungary, would have to meet the assault of Russia, with which would be combined a struggle on her Western border with France.

Another view of the same subject is given by *The Daily Graphic* (July 21) in a note under the heading, "The Servian Provocation." We quote below:—

Austrian public opinion is naturally excited by the monstrous crime of Serajevo. Its anger has been aggravated by the callous posture of Belgrade, and the encouragement it has found among the fire-eaters of St. Petersburg. It is possible—we hope, indeed, it is true—that the conspiracy of Prinzip and Caprinovitch had no abettors in Servia; but if the Serbs wished to act with the most elementary "correctitude" and civility it was their duty, from the moment they found suspicion settling upon them, to make energetic public and official repudiation of the crime. If, moreover, they had spontaneously offered to assist the Austrian Government in tracking out its organisers and abettors they would only have performed a neighbourly duty, and would have vastly enhanced their reputation in the eyes of Europe. Instead of that they have passed over the crime, committed by a Serb in the interests of Serb megalomania, with a cynical shrug of the shoulders. The Government has made no repudiation and offered no assistance. On the contrary, the Belgrade Press, including the semi-official organ, have sought in every hole and corner for extenuating circumstances.

Russia in Azerbaijan.

The Manchester Guardian, which, as our readers are aware, has consistently deprecated the aggression of Russia in Northern Persia, severely condemns, in an article entitled "The Outlook in Persia," that country's latest invasion of Persian sovereignty. The following is an extract:—

Not content with keeping the gendarmerie out of her own sphere, Russia is determined to prevent its doing any work even in the neutral sphere. She has impounded the whole surplus of the Northern Customs, amounting to over £40,000, on which the Persian Government had counted to pay the gendarmerie, to the satisfaction of certain probably unjust claims by Russian subjects, and to an increase of the Persian Cossack Police which the Persian Government has never sanctioned. Sir Edward Grey's answer to that is that we will lend money to Persia to pay her gendarmerie. Why should we have to lend what Russia has stolen? Stolen is the word, for Russia has no business to be handling the revenues of Persia at all. Sir Edward Grey says that what the Russians have told him is that they have collected no taxes from anyone in Persia except from Russian subjects and persons under the protection of Russia. For them to put him off with a bare-faced lie like that shows gross lack of the respect that is due to a British Secretary of State. The Russians are collecting the whole of the Northern Customs. They are also collecting and, what is more, keeping the whole of the taxes of the province of Azerbaijan, the wealthiest and most populous in Persia. M. Mornard (the successor of Mr. Shuster), it seems from a letter that we published on Monday last, asked the Russian Bank to collect the taxes for him because he could not do it himself without the support of the Russians at Tabriz. He forgot to add that the money should be remitted to the Persian Treasury, and in fact it never has been. Is that consistent with the Anglo-Russian Convention which guaranteed the independence of Persia? Or even with common honesty or decent feeling? Sir Edward Grey has the facts. Let him say exactly what he as a man of honour thinks of such conduct. And let him announce further that in lending Persia money to pay for the gendarmerie he will treat the amount of the loan as a debt due to us by Russia. A little frankness for once in our negotiations with Russia would enormously increase both Russian and Persian respect for us.

Egyptian Finances.

An interesting (though belated) review of Lord Kitchener's Report for 1913 is contributed to *The Morning Post* by "A Correspondent." With reference to the new financial policy of the Government the article says:—

Rumours as to this momentous departure on the financial side of our policy in Egypt have, indeed, not been wanting, and there have been Press strictures on "Extravagance in Egypt"—a phrase long fallen into disuse, save by allusion to the days of Ismail. This and other points which may arise when the new taxation takes shape must be left for future comment. That the interest, and perhaps the unkindly interest, of Europe will be excited is far from unlikely. Foreigners have so large a stake in the continued prosperity of Egypt that they can hardly be left out of any fresh scheme of contributions. Nor can our relations with, and our hold on, the native population escape some additional strain. Of their ability and willingness to help in the discharge of liabilities incurred, and to be incurred, mainly in their behalf, there is probably little present knowledge. It may, indeed, be a new doctrine to the fellah that the Government can ever be short of money, and still a newer one that progress brings burdens for himself as well as benefits. The investigations which must be made to provide a trustworthy basis for the measures ahead will involve anxious labour for the rest of this year. To sum up, then, the situation is one for marking time—words which form the heading of this article. They are meant to comprise deep study of the facts, the husbanding of resources already available, and careful preparation for the next advance. Here is, in its way, true work for a mind with the habit of operations of war, for some of the issues involved may develop dangers.

Foreign Intrigues in Albania.

The Nation has an interesting note on the troubles in Albania. We quote below:—

It is fairly clear that there has been some collusion among all these invaders and rebels. Greeks and Servians both encouraged the Moslem rebels, who are mainly under Turkish leadership. They then used the successes of these rebels as a pretext for their own advance, on the plea that they must march in to protect the Christians. Prince William, meanwhile, whose kingdom has shrunk to the port of Durazzo, has made a last solemn appeal to the Powers for money and men. The Powers, declining themselves to send troops, are said to have invited Roumania to do so—a singular proposal, which she has rejected, though apparently in terms which have encouraged the Powers to repeat their suggestion. The whole episode seems comical at a distance, but on the spot it wears a different aspect. The country is being ruined and devastated with fire and sword, and hatreds, to which the Albanians were comparative strangers, have been fostered by foreign intrigue. The only plausible theory is that Austria and Italy are indifferent to the failure of a European work, because they desire to divide and hold the country themselves.

The Governance of Albania.

Mr. Lucien Wolf, in his article in *The Graphic* (July 18), under the heading "The Ireland of the Balkans," strongly recommends international intervention in Albania:—

Europe has taken Albania into her keeping, and she is responsible for the destinies of the State. She cannot shuffle out of her obligation, and since the men, money, and brains for the adequate discharge of them cannot be found elsewhere, she must supply them. There is really no alternative except anarchy in one form or another, and that would prove much more costly to Europe in the long run than direct intervention now. Of course, the present scheme would have to be abandoned. There must be no more Christian princes brought in from outside without the genuine consent of the people, and no pretence of immediate self-government. The expedient of a prince has been discredited, and it is futile even to talk of self-government to a people who have yet to learn the first principles of orderly government, and who, as they are at present advised, have no respect for anything except force. The appearance of Europe at Durazzo in the tangible form of a High Commissioner—preferably a distinguished soldier—backed by an efficient international force, would act like a charm. The fact that the new Government was not Albanian, but frankly European, would at once reassure the religious minorities. But such a Government should not be conceived as permanent. Its mission should be, in the first place, to pacify the country, and in the second place to train it in the art of self-government.

Expenditure on Armaments by Turkey.

The Financier (July 18) concludes a review of Djavid Bey's Budget speech by remarking:—

It is an ambitious programme, but undoubtedly its most satisfactory feature is that of the hundred millions which it is proposed to spend four-fifths will be devoted to useful public works, most of a reproductive kind. Attention will be concentrated on the development of Turkey's vast territory in Asia, possibly with the happiest economic results. If only peace can be preserved the new Ottoman Empire should be stronger and wealthier than the old. And, after all, the best way to preserve peace is to prevent Turkey from relapsing into a state of naval and military impotency, which would render her peculiarly vulnerable and liable to attack. For that reason the projected expenditure on armaments must be regarded as a precautionary measure calculated to ensure peace and prosperity.

Articles to Note.

"A Danger to Europe," in *The Times* (July 22).

"The Danger in the Near East," in *The Morning Post* (July 23).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

AN APPEAL TO THE BRITISH PRESS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—As long as Greece retains Chios and Mytilene mutual jealousy and suspicion would be ever rampant, and as long as Turkey ill-treats the Greeks in Asia Minor no one would believe her, notwithstanding her determination to carry out these proposals and reforms to their very letter. By ill-treating the Greeks, Turkey not only embitters the relation between herself and Greece, but also runs the risk of forfeiting the sympathy of Europe. Unless Turkey governs her rayahs to the satisfaction of her Christian neighbours, she cannot expect Greece or any other Christian Power to treat its Moslem subjects with equity. If Greece is compelled to draw the sword on account of the ill-treatment meted out to her subjects in Asia Minor, Turkey would be a delinquent not only before Europe but also before Islam. Suffice it to say that the wanton ill-treatment and expulsion of the Greeks is detrimental to the empire both from the political and commercial point of view. However, I appeal to the "Ottoman Association" and the British Press, especially to *The Times* and THE NEAR EAST, to exert their influence in bringing about an amicable settlement between these two rivals.
—Yours, etc.,

H. HAMID.

Calicut, India, June 25.

A POINT OF PRIVILEGE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I notice in your issue of the 10th inst. that a meeting of the "Balkan Committee" was held at the House of Commons recently, and I should like to know if any other committee—say, of Suffragettes—would be entitled to the same privilege and honour?—Yours faithfully,

Smyrna, July 17.

EQUALITY.

AFTERMATH OF BALKAN WAR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Permit me to reply to a letter which appeared in your journal of the 19th ult. In this letter, signed "A. L. Kennedy," an amazing assertion is made—namely: Each country of South-Eastern Europe is now, "in consequence of the war," breathing a fuller, freer, national life. Mr. A. L. Kennedy may be blissfully ignorant of the existing conditions of the country, but those who look a little deeper into things, and we who have a practical connection with the International Labour movement, know, that your correspondent's statements are erroneous and ought not to pass unchallenged. Doubtless it is pleasant to roam in the realm of sentiment, but I fear this will not help the hungry and the maimed refuse of the Balkan War. First, the Balkan War was from the outset a fight for territorial aggrandisement. Only yesterday I was confirmed in this belief by a Servian who has been through the wars. Apart from altruistic ideals the people have not got, and cannot get, anything out of the wars, and the Servian almoet cursed the day he took up arms. The second Balkan War has shown to the world what a thin veneer of civilization covers the brute beast in man, lurking amongst half-moralising races, professing Christianity. During the last twenty-four months of the twentieth century rapine and murder have been rampant only a few hours' journey from the French and English capitals. The time has come to throw convention aside. Humanity has suffered, and is furthermore threatened. Last October I sent a letter to the Press in which I expressed the opinion that the independence of Albania was insisted upon by certain Powers solely in order that the peace of 1913 should not be lasting.

From recent official reports of the financial position of Bulgaria much may be deduced, but the recent detailed account given in *L'Humanité*, and quoted in THE NEAR EAST, of the position of the Balkan workers affords an insight into the actual state of affairs. In the article in question the writer says:—"The working day is now extended from one to three hours and salaries are 30 per cent. lower than they were before the war. Out of 216 trades, twenty-six record an additional one hour per day; in fifty-five cases the hours are increased by two per diem, in eight cases for three hours, in eighteen for four hours, and in fifty-one for over four hours. . . . Prices have increased by 50 per cent. and 100 per cent., and 'real' wages are falling rapidly. . . . . The conditions of work and of life of the Servian workpeople are barbarous and insufferable." These bare facts need only to be stated. They are not, however, likely to be without effect on the workers of other countries, and the British worker, whose own recollection of the after effects of the South African War accepts the recital of events in Bulgaria and Servia as true.

Further support is given to the above statement by a more recent article in our London "Labour Journal." I need only quote part as follows:—"In Servia and Bulgaria a warning has been issued telling men to keep away. In all industries unemployment is exceedingly high, hours are longer, except in the timber trade. Very little is done at the same time. Prices of food, etc., are increasing, and are now 50 to 100 per cent. higher than at normal times." The mass of the people are in dire need, and these are the victors. And your corrspondent says "the people are daily breathing a fuller and freer life." Further he says—"Men in the Balkans, as elsewhere, will still lay down their lives for an ideal." Does Mr. Kennedy seriously suggest there can be any high ideal in and about savage warfare? No, war is futile and foolish, and the people are beginning to realise this, and the part that has been assigned to them in playing the war game during the last decade. I do not believe the masses want a violent revolution, but the rulers in the Chancelleries appear to be doing their best (unconsciously) to force it. They should take a warning by the revolt of and linking up of Labour groups everywhere, in which coloured labour will eventually join. The rulers should take the advice given in an article in THE NEAR EAST of the 19th ult., which had the significant heading: "Commerce, not Conquest."—Yours, etc.,

MARGARET ROBINSON.

20, Sutherland Place, W., July 15, 1914.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The recent address delivered by a member of the Cyprus Legislative Council to the King of the Hellenes assuring His Majesty that he reigned in the hearts of all Greek Cypriotes, is a remarkable example of the deterioration of Greek style. To me its wording seems to smack of the Byzantine Court, or even of Persian influence, and the whole address appears to be in questionable taste. I do not refer, of course, to the honourable member's action in doing what he has done in view of the position which he holds. I merely think it unkind of him to have subjected His Hellenic Majesty to such treatment.

***

The Cyprus Government, acting under the Antiquities Law of 1905, has declared that certain ancient buildings have been placed under its protection. These date chiefly from the days of the Lusignans and of the Venetian occupation, and the action of the High Commissioner is a welcome reminder that "antiquities" need not necessarily be pre-Christian, and that Cyprus is particularly rich in mediæval monuments of great beauty, many of which are in a remarkably fine state of preservation. It is to be hoped that the protection to be accorded by the Law will not be on paper only, and that sufficient funds will be forthcoming for the proper maintenance of these buildings. No, I pray you, do not instantly say Cyprus cannot afford to preserve ruins, and advocate their immediate sale as building material. Cyprus is in need of visitors—and the money they bring—and visitors are wonderfully attracted by picturesque memorials of the past, particularly if they be well-kept and are made readily accessible. I trust that this step on the part of the Government may be the first of many in the direction of opening up the island to the moneyed tourist.

***

I am very glad to learn, from the questions put in the House of Commons last week by Mr. Wheler and Major Anstruther Gray, and the answers given by Dr. Macnamara, that the medals for service in the Persian Gulf in the years 1909-1912 will probably be issued this year. By the way, would it not be possible to include last year's service also in the period counting? The Admiralty seems to be waking up to such good purpose that I should think this may at least be hoped for. Service up the Gulf, as was pointed out at the time of the loss of the Pelorus's cutter, is not only trying by reason of the heat, but also accompanied by a good deal of risk, thanks to the survival of the old piratical spirit along the Gulf's rocky coasts; and the officers and men of the Navy who put in time there usually deserve at least as much recognition as they receive from their grateful country.

***

A correspondent has been writing to *The Clarion* in order (apparently) to pour ridicule upon an Egyptian paper which wishes to see the Fellah cultivate habits of thrift. He seems to object to the idea of the fellaheen endeavouring to free themselves from debt, and the thought that they should pay their taxes rather than let the burden fall on their fellow peasants is likewise painful to him. On such subjects he is, of course, entitled to his own views. But as he is at pains to inform the world that he is "a resident in Egypt of over twelve years," he might be more careful about his use of native words. He writes: "The *Fellaheen* is not considered by the ruling authorities as having much sense, but *he* has sense," etc., etc. Why not use either the singular or the plural in both cases?

CORSAIR.

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THE PERSIAN CORONATION.

SULTAN AHMED SHAH KAJAR.

Rumours have been current of late to the effect that the Coronation of the Shah-in-Shah would have to be postponed owing to the impossibility of securing a quorum of the Mejliss, before which His Majesty might take the oath required by the Persian Constitution. Such a postponement would have been unfortunate for several reasons, not the least cogent—in a land which still pays heed to omens—being that it might quite well have given rise to the belief that the Coronation would never take place at all! Fortunately, however, the difficulty was overcome by the simple expedient of drawing upon the members of the old Mejliss, and on Tuesday the event long looked forward to by the Persians took place, with much impressive ceremonial and amidst many demonstrations of enthusiasm on the part of the young Shah's subjects.

Shortly after nine o'clock in the morning the Regent, H.H. Nasir-ul-Mulk, proceeded to the Mejliss. At half-past nine the young Shah drove thither in State procession in a glass coach drawn by eight white horses. He was escorted by gendarmes, Bakhtiaris, police, and Cossacks; and the commandants of the gendarmerie, the Governor of Teheran, and two prominent Bakhtiari chiefs formed his immediate guard. His carriage was followed by many others, in which were the Vali Ahd (heir to the throne) and other Royal Princes, the Premier, and the Cabinet Ministers. The route throughout was gaily decorated and guarded by troops and police.

"Parliament Square," says *The Times* Teheran correspondent, "presented a brilliant appearance as the various officials and envoys and their suites drove up to the gate of the Mejliss. Inside the Baharistan garden Persian Ministers, courtiers, and Deputies in State robes strolled about beneath trees through which might be caught glimpses of the blue domes and minarets of the neighbouring mosque, or made their way into the building to await in the cool rooms the arrival of the Royal procession. The sound of the distant cannon, followed by the arrival of the Regent, caused the company to take up their places in the hall of the Mejliss. The semi-circular seats gradually filled up."

The Taking of the Oath.

It was about ten o'clock when the Shah arrived and entered the Chamber, where there were assembled on the right of the daïs the clergy, on the left the Royal Princes, and below the Cabinet and State officials, then the Deputies in their places, and in the gallery opposite the daïs the foreign representatives and Persian notabilities. In the side galleries were foreign ladies and the Press respectively. The Shah advanced to a table placed in front of the platform from which the Deputies usually address the House, placed his hand on a copy of the Koran which lay on the table, and, with the Regent standing by him on his left, pronounced the oath required by the Constitution. He then bowed to the company and retired, the whole ceremony having occupied only a few minutes.

The following is the account of the subsequent proceedings as given by the correspondent of *The Times*:—

"The Shah next proceeded to the neighbouring Sipah-Salar Mosque, where the Ulama (Convocation) and the principal ecclesiastical dignitaries were assembled. Here he returned thanks and offered prayers to Allah for the prosperity of his country and his reign. After the service the Shah returned to the Palace by a more circuitous route past the gate of the British Legation and down the Avenue of Ambassadors.

The Peacock Throne.

"All this was but preliminary to the real ceremony of the Coronation, which was held late in the afternoon in the Palace, after the heat of the day was over. The ceremony in point of actual duration was almost as short as that of the morning. The envoys, Ministers, and officers of the Court assembled at four o'clock in the large hall adjoining the Throne Room. . . . Towards five o'clock a move was made to the Throne Room, the ecclesiastical dignitaries grouping themselves round the Peacock Throne, upon which a chair had been placed for his Majesty. Four Princes entered early, bearing the regalia—Prince Itizad-es-Sultaneh the sword, Prince Musrat-es-Sultaneh the shield, Prince Yamin-ed-Dowleh the mace, and Prince Azad-us-Sultaneh the Royal bow and arrows. The Kaianian crown and the Nadir aigrette were placed on a gold tray in front of the Throne. The foreign envoys were posted in a recess to the right of the Throne, and down the length of the hall, which is about 120 ft. long, were ranged representatives of the Ministries. On one side of the entrance to the hall stood a group of prominent merchants, the chiefs of guilds, who are always accorded an honourable place in memory of the part played by them in the history of the Constitution.

The Coronation.

"At five o'clock the Shah, preceded by the Minister of the Crown and Chamberlains of the Court, entered the hall, followed by the Regent, the Valiahd, Ala-es-Sultaneh, and the other Ministers. Having mounted the Throne, he removed the astrakhan hat, with a small aigrette, which he was wearing, and the Regent then handed the crown to his Majesty, who placed it upon his own head, supporting it first with one hand and then with the other, while the Ulama acclaimed him King, intoning in sonorous, guttural tones the Arabic formula. The crown, which is the same as that used at the time of Nadir Shah, is exceedingly heavy, so that after three or four minutes his Majesty removed it and placed on his head another astrakhan hat surmounted by the great Nadir aigrette set with the huge diamond known as the Darya-i-Nur (Sea of Light), brought from Delhi and sister stone to the famous Koh-i-Nur."

This concluded the ceremony of the Coronation, and the Shah withdrew to the Ivory Room for a short rest. A little later, however, he gave audience to the Diplomatic Corps, and here subsequently the Regent officially took leave of his Majesty and of the envoys. It is interesting to note that earlier in the day the Russian Minister had a special audience of the Regent, to whom he presented the Tsar's portrait set with diamonds.

EVENTS IN ALBANIA.

The Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., has communicated intelligence which he has received from the Rev. Mr. Tsilka and from the Mayor of Valona as to the events in Southern Albania. Many of the deplorable details contained in this information are confirmed from other sources, and there is little doubt that the supineness of Europe has sacrificed a considerable area of Albania to the depredations of Moslem insurgents and Epirote invaders. Both of Mr. Herbert's informants state that some hundred thousand homeless Albanian refugees from Koritza, Klisura, Tepeleni, Kolonia, and Frasheri, who are congregated in the vicinity of Valona or have taken to the hills in the Voyusa district, are in a wholly destitute condition. Both correspondents assert that Greek regular troops are concerned in the Epirote invasion, and appeal for European intervention. According to other reports there are some 20,000 refugees in Valona and its environs. The sanitary condition of these unfortunate people is very bad, and the arrange-

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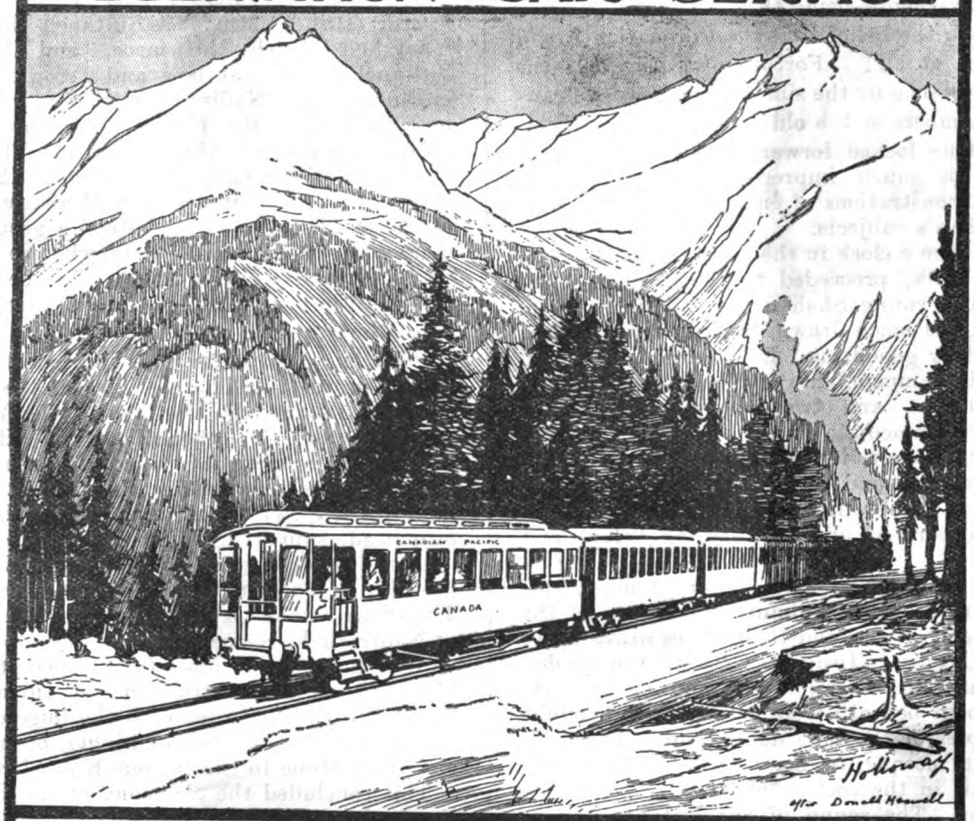

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. July.	1914. July.		1332. Ramadan	5674 Ab
24	11	Friday	1	1
25	12	Saturday.....	2	2
26	13	Sunday	3	3
27	14	Monday	4	4
28	15	Tuesday	5	5
29	16	Wednesday	6	6
30	17	Thursday	7	7

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. the Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen, sister to the Queen of the Hellenes.

To-day is the birthday of H.I.H. Ahmed Nihad Effendi, son of H.I.H. Mehmed Salah-ed-Din Effendi, and grand-nephew of the Sultan.

To-morrow will be the birthday of H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught.

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the wedding in 1902 of H.R.H. Prince Mirko of Montenegro to Mlle. Nathalie Constantinovitch, a relative of the last Obrenovitch King of Servia.

Monday is the birthday of the Princess Militza of Montenegro, now the wife of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Peter Nicolaievitch of Russia.

Tuesday will be the anniversary of the wedding of T.R.H. the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Montenegro in 1899.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.I.H. Ertogrul Effendi, son of H.I.H. Burhan-ed-Din Effendi, and grand-nephew of the Sultan.

H.H. the Khedive of Egypt arrived at Constantinople on Wednesday and landed at his residence on the Bosphorus.

It is announced from Belgrade that H.M. King Peter will remain at Vranja for about a week longer, after which his Majesty will go to Ribaska-Bania, where he will stay till the end of this month.

The sons of the Khedive arrived at Essen last week to pay a visit to the Krupp works.

By command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called upon the Persian Minister at the Legation on Tuesday morning, and offered his Majesty's congratulations on the occasion of the coronation of the Shah. The full text of the King's message was immediately cabled by the Minister to his Sovereign. Among the callers were the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chancellor, and Colonel Sir Douglas Dawson, Comptroller in the Lord Chamberlain's Department.

The Teheran Correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Russian and British Ministers had audience of the Shah on Sunday and presented the letters accrediting them as Special Envoys at the Coronation and also the presents from their Monarchs to the Shah. The Tsar's present is a silver-gilt samovar with accessories. That of the King consists of two large silver-gilt urns in the style of the Louis XVI. period.

H.E. the Persian Minister held a large official reception at the Legation on Tuesday night. The outside of the building was brilliantly illuminated, and the hall, grand staircase, and salons were decorated with roses and masses of lilies arranged in Oriental vases with lotus flowers brought specially from Egypt for the occasion. Among the guests were his Excellency Amir Jang Bakhtiari Il-Begi of Bakhtiari, the French Ambassador, the Russian Ambassador, the Spanish Ambassador and Madame Merry del Val, the Turkish Ambassador, the American Ambassador and Mrs. Page, the Argentine Minister and Madame Dominguez, the Bulgarian Minister, the Chilean Minister and Madame Edwards, the Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius, the Netherlands Minister and Madame de Marees van Swinderen, the Minister for Panama and Madame M. Valdis, the Roumanian Minister, the Servian Minister, the Siamese Minister, the Swiss Minister and Mlle. Carlin and Mlle. H. Carlin, Señor Don Jacinto L. Villegas and Mlle. Villegas, the Belgian Charge d'Affaires, the Danish Chargé d'Affaires, Lieut.-Colonel Vicomte de la Panouse (French Embassy), M. Charles Roux, Major M. Renner, Military Attaché to the German Embassy, Korvetten Kapitän E. von Müller (German Embassy), M. and Madame A. Rizo-Rhangabé, Major Count E. Greppi, Mr. Yoshida, Colonel Inagaki, Captain Baron Abo, M. Johan Wilhelm Michelet, the Norwegian Chargé d'Affaires, the Peruvian Chargé d'Affaires, Captain Lieutenant Joao Manuel de Carvalho, M. W. Tomanowsky, Lieutenant-General Yermoloff, Lieutenant-Colonel Julio Vicens and Madame Vicens, M. and Madame Ch. Paravicini, Raif Bey (Councillor of the Turkish Embassy), Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin, Commander Powers Symington, Lieutenant-Colonel George O. Squier, Señor Don Frederico R. Vidiella. There were also present several members of the Cabinet, the Foreign Office, and his Majesty's Household, with their ladies.

H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. Princess Mary have paid this week a private visit to the exhibition of antiquities discovered at Meroë, in the Sudan, which is being held at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries under the auspices of the Institute of Archæology of the University of Liverpool. They were received by Lord Derby, Professor J. Garstang, who has directed the excavations, and members of the committee. They were shown round the rooms by Professor Garstang and remained about half an hour. Shortly afterwards Lord Kitchener visited the exhibition.

According to a Reuter's message from Berlin, a telegram to the *Lokalanzeiger* from Bayreuth states that H.M. the King of Bulgaria, who yesterday signified his intention of going to Bayreuth on July 25 for the Wagner festival, to-day sent a message announcing that, owing to the uncertainty of the political situation, he would be unable to leave his kingdom at present, but hoped that the situation would be cleared sufficiently to enable him to be present at the final Festspiele in August.

The Turkish Ambassador will be at home to-day (Friday), from four to six o'clock, to members of the Turkish colony and friends of Turkey on the occasion of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Constitution for Turkey.

Prince S. Cantacuzene has arrived at Claridge's Hotel.

Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener was amongst those invited to the State Ball on Thursday last week.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, has left London for St. Moritz.

Sir Gerard and Lady Lowther were included in a party who paid a visit of inspection to the Hampstead Garden Suburb on Thursday last week.

Sir Gerard Lowther is going to Vichy early in August and will afterwards proceed to Switzerland, where he will be accompanied by Lady Lowther. They return to London in September for the autumn and winter.

Lord Lamington, Sir Alfred Paget, and Sir Walter Lawrence accepted invitations to the meeting and dinner of the Ottoman Association, which was held last evening at the Café Monico, under the presidency of the Earl of Denbigh.

Mr. Venizelos left Athens at noon on Tuesday for Munich where he remains for a few days before proceeding to Brussels. The meeting with the Grand Vizier is to take place in Brussels in the middle of next week.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell, the Hon. Aubrey and Mrs. Herbert, Mr. D. G. Hogarth, and Mr. Howard Carter were amongst the guests entertained last week-end by the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, at Highclere Castle.

According to *The Egyptian Gazette*, Major-General the Hon. Julian Byng, whose residence at Kasr el Doubar has been taken over by the Imperial Ottoman High Commissioner, has acquired the house near the Anglo-American Hospital, Gezira, which was recently vacated by Dr. Graham.

Mlle. Madjaroff, the daughter of H.E. the Bulgarian Minister, has arrived in London from Sofia.

The marriage took place on Tuesday at the Votivkirche, Vienna, of Major-General Sir Rudolf Baron von Slatin Pasha, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., C.B., Inspector-General of the Sudan, to Baroness Alice von Ramberg, only daughter of the late General Baron von Ramberg and of Baroness Ottilie von Ramberg (née Countess of Breda). The ceremony took place very quietly in the presence of a few friends. The bride and bridegroom will take up their residence in Khartoum after a short honeymoon.

Sir Richard and Lady Crawford left Constantinople on July 16, proceeding to Berlin and Paris, whence they have now arrived in London.

Sir Roper and Lady Parkington have left Green Street, Park Lane, for Harrogate.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister and Mme. Gennadius were present at Mr. Burdett-Coutts' garden party given on Thursday afternoon last week at Holly Lodge, Highgate.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in Belgrade, who was for a long time Servian Chargé d'Affaires in London, left London last Friday for Paris and Switzerland, and later will proceed to Belgrade.

Mme. Gennadius, the wife of the Hellenic Minister, gave a small *matinée musicale* at the Legation last Friday afternoon.

Sir Ronald and Lady Lane are among those taking the "cure" at Buxton.

Mr. R. W. Graves, C.M.G., has left Constantinople for England.

H. E. Djevad Bey, the newly appointed Ottoman Minister in Belgrade, left Constantinople on the 16th inst. for his new post.

Judge Halton, of the Egyptian Mixed Tribunal, is at present in this country on leave.

The *Cyprus Gazette* announces that the King has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday, to confer the Companionship of the Imperial Service Order on Mr. H. A. S. Utidjian, Translator of State Documents.

Djemal Pasha, the Turkish Minister of Marine, left Paris last Friday evening by the Orient express on his way to Vienna.

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Ismail Pasha Abaza, whose return to politics was recorded by our Cairo Correspondent two weeks ago, has been elected to the Egyptian Assembly at a by-election.

Mr. W. A. Russell, King's Advocate, Cyprus, has been granted six weeks' vacation leave from June 27, 1914.

Sir C. R. Tyser, Chief Justice of Cyprus, has been granted two months and eight days' vacation leave, and one month and eleven days' half-pay leave from June 28, 1914.

Moheb Pasha, the Minister of Wakfs, is leaving Egypt to-day to join his family at Constantinople.

It is stated that Saad Pasha Zaghloul, who left Alexandria recently to take a cure in Austria, afterwards intends to proceed to England with a view to raising the question of making the Minister of Wakfs responsible to the Legislative Assembly.

The marriage took place very quietly at Alexandria on the 10th inst. of Mr. Wilner, head of the Alexandria Municipality's Legal Department, and Miss Sophy Botti, daughter of the late Professor Botti, Conservator of the Alexandria Museum.

The marriage arranged between Leon, eldest son of the late Mr. P. L. Argenti and Mrs. Argenti, of 16, Hyde Park Terrace, and Helen (Nelly), daughter of the late Mr. Stephen Zarifi and Mrs. Stephen Zarifi, will take place shortly in Marseilles.

Our Constantinople correspondent writes (July 18):—The marriage took place on Monday at All Saints' Church, Moda, Constantinople, of Mr. Edward Leonard La Fontaine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney La Fontaine, of Bournabat, Smyrna, and Miss Eileen Helen Whittall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Whittall, of Constantinople, in the presence of a large number of friends. The British colony, official and unofficial, was largely represented. The service was fully choral, and the officiating clergy were the Rev. Canon Whitehouse, Chaplain of the British Embassy, uncle of the bride, and the Rev. W. Alan Gardner, Chaplain to the British Legation at Athens, brother-in-law to the bride. The charming and pretty bride was given away by her father, and her brother, Mr. Rowland Whittall, was best man. The bridesmaids were the little Misses Sheela and Edie Whittall, sisters to the bride, and her small nephew and niece, Wilfrid and Phyllis Gardner. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Whittall held a reception in their beautiful house and garden at Moda. The house was beautifully decorated, and the playing of an excellent band in the grounds added greatly to the pleasure of all present. Mr. and Mrs. Edward La Fontaine left in the afternoon for Mr. Whittall's country house at Alemdagh to spend a few days there before leaving for their future home in Canada. Numerous and handsome presents, including many cheques, were received by the bride and bridegroom.

The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Brompton, of Captain Hugh Ince Webb-Bowen, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (attached Headquarters Staff, Egyptian Army), eldest son of the late Mr. T. T. Webb-Bowen, Chief Constable of Pembrokeshire, South Wales, and Miss Flora McDougal, daughter of the late Mr. Thomas McDougal, of Raeshaw, Heriot, Midlothian. A reception was afterwards held at the Hans Crescent Hotel.

The marriage will take place in September between Thomas E. S. Armstrong, Customs, Egypt, eldest son of the late Edward Armstrong, and grandson of the late Thomas Armstrong, of Farney Castle, County Tipperary, Ireland, and Nesta Evelyn Dorothea, youngest child of Mrs. Cowper, of Chideock, Dorset, and Frank Cowper, M.A., late of Lisle Court, Isle of Wight.

Mr. D. Rees, Reuter's representative and Lloyd's agent in Cairo, left Alexandria for England by the Italian steamer early last week.

Mr. H. P. Kingham of the National Bank of Turkey is leaving Constantinople for the Engadine towards the end of the month.

Mr. Cookson, Manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, left Cairo early last week for England. Mr. Cookson is retiring, having spent a great number of years as manager of the bank, and worked with great energy and success for its prosperity.

A Requiem Mass for M. Hartwig, the Russian Minister at Belgrade, was held at the Russian Church in Welbeck Street at eleven o'clock on last Saturday morning. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, the Priest of the Russian Embassy, officiated. Among the congregation were the Russian Ambassador, attended by M. W. Tomanowsky; M. Gabriel Wolkoff, M. Alexandre Nelidoff, M. B. de Siebert, and Lieut.-General Yermoloff Military Attaché, the staff of the Russian Consulate, M. Mathéas Boshkovitch, the Servian Minister, attended by M. Alexandre V Georgévitch, and M. Voislav M. Petrovitch.

Mr. W. H. G. Werndel, Reuter's correspondent in Constantinople, is leaving this week for Bad Gastein, Austria, where he will be joined by Mrs. Werndel; he will later proceed to England. In his absence he will be replaced at Constantinople by Mr. J. Maloney, Reuter's Teheran correspondent.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have returned to 12, Cavendish Place from Barsskimming, Mauchline.

Dr. Donald A. Coles, and Mrs. Coles of the English Hospital at Haifa have arrived in London accompanied by Mrs. Dudley Baxter and Miss Gipps, who, we regret to state, have both had to retire into nursing homes.

Dr. David M. Beddoe, of Cairo, is spending a holiday fishing in Wales.

Captain G. C. Hall, Traffic Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, is on leave. During his absence Mr. C. A. Muntz, Deputy Traffic Manager, will perform his duties.

General Sherif Pasha has announced that he has now severed his connection with the Turkish Parti de l'Entente Liberal, and with his former colleagues, Colonel Sadik Bey, Ismail Bey, the former Deputy for Gumurjina, and Pertew Tewfik Bey.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that on July 11 the Roumanian Minister of Agriculture, M. Constantinescu, formally opened at Burdugein, the large slaughter house, which actually been open since March.

Mr. J. E. Rodocanachi, a member of the well known firm of merchants, has been admitted to the Freedom of the City of London through the Fishmongers' Company.

Major-General Inigo Jones, C.V.O., C.B., whose death after an operation for appendicitis occurred on Monday, served with the 2nd Scots Guards in the Sudan Expedition of 1885 at Suakin, receiving the medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star. A memorial service is to be held to-day at noon in the Guards' Chapel.

The death is announced at Alexandria, of Count Joseph Debanne, the Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Brazil, in Egypt.

Mr. Richard Davey Boase, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., who formerly practised in Luxor, and died intestate in London recently, left £1,639.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas A. Kime, who was for a long time honorary secretary of the Alexandria Amateur Sports Club. He died at Campo Cesare suddenly from angina pectoris.

Mme. Nina Phocas gave her postponed recital at the Bechstein Hall recently. Mme. Phocas, who is a teacher of singing at the Athens Conservatoire and a Greek, included in her programme some modern Greek songs, and also sang some unaccompanied folk-songs collected from the peasantry of her native country.

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APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 18):—The reports regarding the probability of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Minister here, being transferred appear to be unfounded. He arrived in Vienna last Tuesday, and his leave will last till about the middle of September. Then he is expected to return to Bucharest.

A correspondent in Constantinople writes: It is rumoured here that M. Korostovetz, the Russian Minister at Teheran, is to be appointed to Belgrade in succession to M. de Hartwig. Should this rumour prove true, the appointment would be a most interesting one, for M. Korostovetz belongs to the Isvolski school, not to the Sazonoff school.

The Cyprus Gazette announces the appointment of Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge, to act as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cyprus, and Mr. J. R. Holmes, President, District Court, Nicosia, to act as Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

Admiral Sir A. Berkeley Milne has been appointed to succeed Admiral Sir Richard Poore as Commander-in-Chief on the Nore Station, and Admiral Sir Henry B. Jackson to succeed Admiral Sir Berkeley Milne as Commander-in-Chief on the Mediterranean Station, both to date August 29.

Rear-Admiral Henry Loftus Tottenham has been appointed to be Admiral-Superintendent of Malta Dockyard, in succession to Rear-Admiral Carden.

Captain G. M. Ponsonby, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, has been appointed for duty with the Egyptian Army.

The Inspectors of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior have been allotted the following provinces:—Miralai Dumreicher Bey, Gharbia and Behera; Messrs. Olpherts and Roberts, Girga and Assiut; Welles Bey, Menufia, Galiubia, and Damietta; Mr. Graves, Giza, Beni Suef, Minia, and Fayum; Mr. Davidson, Keneh and Aswân. Three inspectors, Cobbe Bey and Messrs. Hazel and Macnaghten, are on leave.

Mr. Petros Delyannis, the newly appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation, has arrived in London and entered upon his duties.

Mr. Langa-Rashcanu, Councillor of the Roumanian Legation in Constantinople, who has been acting as Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, is recalled to his post.

Mr. Contzescu, Councillor of the Roumanian Legation at Paris, is appointed Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. André A. Popovici, Secretary of Legation on the staff of the Roumanian Foreign Office, is transferred to the Roumanian Legation in Paris.

M. Zaripol, attaché of the Roumanian Legation at Madrid is transferred in the same capacity to Brussels.

Mr. Philip Nogga, the Albanian Minister of Finance, has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs *vice* Mufid Bey Libohova, who had been acting in that capacity during the absence abroad of Turkhan Pasha, the Grand Vizier.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that Mr. Eugene Puzanoff has been nominated Russian Vice-Consul at Sulina.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 3s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

FAWKES.—On July 15, at 21, Lansdown Place, Cheltenham, the wife of Rupert E. F. Fawkes, Sudan Civil Service, of a daughter.

OBITUARY.

MR. FRANK C. HASELDEN.

We regret to announce the death, which took place at East Lymden, Ticehurst, on Sunday last, of Mr. Frank Charles Haselden, who succumbed to an illness of fourteen months' duration. Mr. Haselden was one of the oldest members of the British mercantile community in Alexandria, where he was very popular. He first established himself in business in Alexandria in 1868, and afterwards entered into partnership with the late Mr. Moberly Bell. In 1882 Mr. Haselden rendered valuable service as guide and interpreter when Capt. (now Lord Charles) Beresford took possession of Alexandria after the bombardment. He was a member of the Intelligence Department, and was specially charged with the duty of watching the movements of the rebel leader, Arabi. After the battle of Tel-el-Kebir Mr. Haselden accompanied Sir Evelyn Wood in the advance up country to Kafr-el-Dawar, where the native forces surrendered; and for his services on this occasion he received the British war medal. When Mr. Bell left Egypt in 1891 Mr. Haselden carried on business under the style of Haselden and Co., the firm acting as agents for the P. and O. Co. and for Sir John Aird and Co. "Frank," as he was popularly known, took a keen interest in racing, and was one of the moving spirits of the local sporting and athletic clubs. He is survived by a widow.

Deep regret has been expressed at the death of Mr. Frederick Noel Paton, Director-General of Commercial Intelligence to the Government of India, which has occurred at Edinburgh. Mr. Paton was the second son of Sir Noel Paton, and was born in 1861. Educated at Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University, he took up the study of art in London, and became an illustrator. Later, he edited Chaucer's works for the Canterbury Poets Series, and published a novel entitled "Body and Soul" and other works. He became English Secretary in the Turkish Embassy in London, and afterwards secretary to Sir Edgar Vincent in Constantinople. He travelled extensively in Turkey, Egypt, the Balkans, and other countries, and went through the unknown country of Hadramaut, in Southern Arabia, shortly before the Theodore Bent Expedition. In 1894 he visited India to negotiate with regard to contraband on the Aden frontier. Later he resigned his appointment with Sir Edgar Vincent and took up a commercial career in India, becoming secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

At the exhibition of the Egypt Exploration Fund on Wednesday Mr. J. de M. Johnson gave a description of the methods employed in discovery of papyri in Egypt. Mr. Johnson said that the Greco-Roman period in Egypt, with which he was dealing, covered a little more than a thousand years. The earliest Greek papyrus they had found was a marriage contract of the date 311-310 B.C., and the latest dated from 710 A.D. There were various methods of obtaining papyri. They were found in rubbish mounds pure and simple which covered in buildings. They were found in buildings which were partly filled up with rubbish, and they were also found in buildings which had never been used as places for rubbish, but which had simply collapsed. Some valuable discoveries had been made in cemeteries, since it was often the custom to bury with the dead copies of the works of their favourite authors. It was in this way that the Bodley Homer was discovered. It was the custom of the Egyptians in early times to convert the dead body into a kind of portrait statue, but in the Ptolemaic age more attention was paid to the decorations of the coverings of the corpse. Of these there were five sections, and at first only cloth was used. In the third century before Christ, however, it became the custom to use strips of papyrus for the purpose. Several strips of used papyrus were glued together, and a solid surface was obtained to receive the paint. They had been able to remove the paint, and had revealed the writing underneath. By that means they had recovered valuable additions to the history and literature of the country. The earliest complete papyrus recovered by this method was a contract dated 300 B.C.

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FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1914.

A BISHOPRIC FOR EGYPT.

At the present moment, when the approaching resignation of Bishop Blyth is stirring interest in Near Eastern circles, the natural question will arise in many minds, in what way does it affect the Egyptian Bishopric? It is well-known that Bishop Blyth has always strenuously advocated the formation of a separate Bishopric for Egypt, though some people think that it is only on account of his advancing age and inability to travel as actively as before. In 1899 a circular issued with an appeal for funds stated that "The increased responsibility which the whole country now feels for Egypt must be felt also in a real degree by the National Church. It is proposed, therefore, to raise the sum of £20,000 for the purpose of providing the stipend and expenses of a Bishop, who shall undertake the oversight of the whole work of the Church of England in Egypt and the Sudan. . . . In the event of a division in the jurisdiction of the Bishopric in Jerusalem, the sum now to be raised will form the endowment of an independent Bishopric. This appeal is made with the full consent and approval of Bishop Blyth, who has long been desirous of such a development of Church work in Egypt." This was signed by Archbishops Temple of Canterbury and Maclagan of York, the then Bishops of London, Durham, Lincoln, Salisbury, Ely, and others, both churchmen and laymen, whose names gave great weight to the scheme. Both Archbishop Benson (the reviver of the Jerusalem Bishopric) and Archbishop Temple were firm supporters of the scheme, and had it been possible, financially, to carry it earlier, it would probably have been founded in Archbishop Temple's day. As it is, it has suffered the fate of most postponed things; and the indifference of many in Egypt has retarded it also. About £16,000 towards the endowment of the Bishopric has been collected by Bishop Blyth and others, and all sources of income have not yet been tapped.

A good many reasons have been urged against a separate Bishopric for Egypt. There are many who think it would be setting too much of a national seal upon the British position in Egypt. Others say that the English-speaking population there is chiefly migratory, and so in no way our responsibility. Others cite the laxity of residents in Church matters: is it any use trying to help those who do not care enough to help themselves? What could a Bishop do more than the clergy are doing now? Is it wise to introduce into the present muddle an ecclesiastical official whose high position marks him out for notice, and whose failure will be, therefore, all the more lamentable? Shallow as such objections appear under examination, they are urged quite in good faith, and do carry some weight, even with thoughtful people. But to say that, because isolated clergy have not achieved very much, a Bishop must fail is, of course, absurd; and though the population of Egypt may be chiefly migratory, considered numerically it must still be fed, and it is the minority that really matters—the minority that resides there. Equally unpractical is the contention about helping those who help themselves. A doctor who went on that principle would very soon find his practice on the wane. To those who have any experience of Near Eastern politics the objection of seeming to set a national seal on our occupation of Egypt is just worth considering. Religion and politics are so grievously entwined in the Near East that it is hard for an Eastern to grasp their absolute separation in English work. Looking around him on the squabbles, rivalries, and racial jealousies and aims that distort much so-called religious work of other nations, the Eastern may be excused for thinking that English work must be the same. A few odd clergy here and there in Egypt can do no harm in his eyes, but what about a Bishop with his enlarged powers? Eastern susceptibilities are so easily upset, say the wiseacres at home, we cannot be too careful. But one of the chief reasons for the Egyptian Bishopric is just that national one. We have a State religion, and it should go side by side with our Government. We know it is not a political force, as it is in some countries, but it is a great restraining, binding, and uplifting force. Englishmen who go abroad are, as a rule, a sober, restrained, and high-living set. With religious support they might be something even finer, and as essentially English, in Egypt. Apart from our neglected responsibilities in this direction, there is the effect of such indifference upon the Moslem population that we have been called to govern. The one thing a Moslem, bad or good, cannot understand is indifference to religion; his own religion is part of his daily life. In the striking words of the Khedive Ismail to the present Bishop in Jerusalem, "The man who is truest to his own religion makes the best subject or the best settler that a prince can have."

The Sudan Bishopric is now a splendid fact, and under the right Bishop (as Bishop Gwynne most emphatically is), the Church's work has proved no obstacle to the civil administration, but rather the reverse. It is not possible to merge the Bishoprics of the Sudan and of Egypt for various reasons, the two most cogent being that the Governments of the two countries are different, and the two Bishoprics must, therefore, be differently constituted, and the two endowment funds have been raised for separate Bishoprics. Moreover, while Egypt is still denied her own Bishop, it is easier and quicker to visit Egypt from Jerusalem than from Khartoum.

Nothing could have been more lamentable than the state of the English Church in Palestine in 1887, when the Bishopric in Jerusalem was revived on a new basis after five years' interregnum; the separation of unit from unit, the carelessness in Church matters, the open proselytism from Eastern Churches, the undignified position of the native clergy, all constituted a most remarkable muddle, to say the least of it. "Saints' days are obsolete!" said a missionary (his excuse, by the way, for not observing Ascension Day). "I don't believe in my Orders, and I certainly don't believe in yours!" said another, vexed at some exercise of the Episcopal veto. Battles of the past are merely memories to-day; but the whole condition and outlook of the English Church in Palestine has changed. What is possible in Palestine and Syria is possible in Egypt also. The various chaplaincies, permanent, itinerating, or for "the season," which Bishop Blyth has started or promoted in Egypt, could be linked together and extended; much fruitless effort could be utilized. Instead of recurrent squabbles, rivalries, or bored indifference, there might be a solid, coherent Church organization under lawful rule, the fitting complement to a fine civil administration. A Bishop seated at Alexandria (the old ecclesiastical capital of Egypt, and now the centre of its commercial wealth and influence, thus obviating any difficulty arising from his residence at Cairo, which is the seat of civil rule, Christian and Moslem), would slowly, but surely, draw together the scattered threads of Church effort in Egypt. A difficult and uphill task certainly, but not impossible of achievement by a Bishop who was anything of a statesman, a Churchman, and, above all, perhaps, a gentleman.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEAR EASTERN EXCHANGES.

On the dates given the rate of exchange ruling in the undermentioned centres on London was:—

Alexandria.....	July 23..	97⅜—⅞ p.t.
Athens.....	July 20..	25·15 drs.
Bucharest.....	July 23..	25·58½—25·68¾ lei.
Constantinople ..	July 23..	109½—110 pi.
Sofia.....	July 20..	27·12—27·20 leva.
Teheran.....	July 22..	55·85 krans

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The summary, which will be found on another page, of a paper read by Mr. Sofiano, of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, giving an account of a recent visit to Northern Persia, reveals a very serious state of affairs. Of course, there is no secret of the somewhat elastic construction which Russia puts on the term "zone of influence," but it does come somewhat as a shock to learn that Russia has so far absorbed the country that various articles, particularly cotton and woollen goods, which less than fifteen years ago were imported exclusively from England, are now imported to the extent of 80 per cent. by Russia. No doubt, as Mr. Sofiano is at pains to point out, a good deal of Russian success is due to transport facilities, but that does not mean that England need surrender a valuable market without a struggle. The British flag all the world over stands for the "open door," and even the Anglo-Russian Convention, which, while theoretically preserving the integrity of Persia, practically divided the country into spheres of influence, did not provide, if the bull may be allowed me, that Northern Persia should be transformed into a Russian "mare clausum." It is essential then for his Majesty's Government to do something, and the easiest way would be, it appears, to improve the postal facilities.

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Ludicrous though it may seem, nearly all British and Continental wholesale trade with Northern Persia is carried on by the post. I remember being told that even the British Legation in Teheran procured all the little luxuries of life, even to a piano, through the post. But such methods are extremely costly, and make competition with Russian goods almost impossible. The rates for parcels to Julfa, whence, mind you, fresh expenses have to be incurred, are 3s. 7d. to 3s. 9d. per 11 lbs. This, if the cost of packing be added, works out at about £50 a ton. The rate on parcels from Germany is 2 marks per 11 lbs., or about half the English charge. Admittedly the rail journey across Europe is costly, but for that very reason could not Mr. Hobhouse see his way to adopting some such plan as that proposed by Mr. Sofiano and coming to an agreement with the Cunard S.S. Company? I have been in conversation with the Cunard authorities, and they inform me that they have a regular monthly, not bi-monthly, freight service to Batoum. The vessels, which sometimes touch at Constantinople, take about four weeks on the single voyage; but even so the cost of conveying parcels would be very much lower than that charged by the post office. When once at Batoum, which is on the railway, there should be no difficulty in forwarding the parcels as heretofore to Julfa. Such a measure, temporary solution though it may be, would prove of inestimable value to British trade in Northern Persia, and would also probably leave a profit to the Government.

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So, once again, the road between Khanakin and Kermanshah is "officially declared to be unsafe," and as a result British trade is suffering badly and likely to suffer still worse. Reuter's correspondent in Baghdad, who forwards the news, reports that six thousand loads of British goods, valued at some £180,000, are hung up at Khanakin, and though he adds that "Russian goods are arriving at Kermanshah from the northern route," that is but cold comfort for the British trader. In fact, it only aggravates the situation; for not only does it lead to unpleasant comparisons between Russia's prestige and our own in Persia, but in view of what occurs elsewhere, it seems likely that Russian goods may eventually drive ours out of yet another Persian market, not by merit but by (comparatively) prompt and regular delivery. Is it possible that there is more in the report than meets the eye? The route has, of course, very often been "unsafe" in the past, but in view of Russian methods of "fostering" her own trade one cannot help wondering whether she could not make the Khanakin—Kermanshah road safe if she wished to do so!

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The Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals, and Naval Constructions Company, Ltd., which has been formed under the auspices of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Ltd., and Vickers, Ltd., to equip and work the existing docks, arsenals, and workshops belonging to the Ottoman Government in the Golden Horn, and to construct a floating dock to be placed in the Gulf of Ismid, invites subscriptions for an issue of £600,000 5½ per cent. guaranteed bonds at the price of 94 per cent. This issue constitutes in reality a small Turkish Government loan, for while the bonds are a direct obligation of the company, they are unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Imperial Ottoman Government, being specifically secured by the assignment of an annuity payable from the tithe revenues of the Vilayet of Sivas. These revenues will be collected by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, and while they are subject to a prior charge of £57,800 per annum in connection with the 1909 loan, they show more than sufficient margin for the service of the present issue, having averaged over £200,000 for the last three years. The bonds form part of an authorised issue of £1,100,000, and are repayable on or before November, 1943, by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 1½ per cent., commencing forthwith and to be applied by means of half-yearly drawings at par or purchase below par. Without allowing for profit on redemption, the yield works out at about 5¾ per cent., which, considering the security given, makes the present issue a very satisfactory investment.

Apart from the bonds now offered, the capital of the Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals, and Naval Constructions Company, Ltd., is £250,000. The Turkish Government has agreed that the company shall have free of charge the full and exclusive use of the whole of the existing docks, arsenals, and workshops situated on the Golden Horn, together with the land necessary for the company's undertaking, and for the construction of the floating dock and other works in the Gulf of Ismid. The company is at liberty to undertake repairs and construction work for merchant shipping when their plant is not occupied with naval work. As the annual tonnage making use of the Port of Constantinople amounts to something like 16,000,000 tons, this side of the company's work may prove of very great importance. The Armstrong, Whitworth, and Vickers groups, with the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, are already engaged in the modernisation of the Spanish Navy and dockyards at Ferrol and Cartagena, and are supervising the construction of ships for the Russian Black Sea Fleet at Nicolaieff, so that the work at present in hand under the control of this powerful combination is enormous.

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From extracts from the forthcoming report of H.M. Consul at Constantinople, given in the Board of Trade's *Journal*, I learn that the Ottoman Government wishes to promulgate a law providing for the registration in Turkey of foreign limited liability companies, and is negotiating on the subject with other Powers. I am not at all surprised, for Turkey has been the happy hunting ground for a number of years of a good many companies the reverse of desirable. Particularly has this been the case with regard to insurance companies; and it is therefore not surprising to learn that one of the objects of the new law is to impose upon all foreign insurance companies carrying on business in Turkey the deposit of security. The sums mentioned in the Consul's report—£5,000 for fire and life and £2,000 for any other branch of insurance business, with a maximum of £12,000 for any one company—do not strike me as being excessive. And I imagine that the reputable companies, though they may regard the depositing of such security as being slightly *infra dig.*, will, on the whole, welcome the change. Certainly legislation on some such lines is, as the Consul observes, "urgently required in the interest of bona-fide insurance business as much as in the interests of the native population."

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I learn that the negotiations for the construction and working of a harbour at Kavalla which have been in progress for some time past between the Greek Government and a French firm have broken down, chiefly because the latter has—to put the point frankly—been asking for too much. The history of the negotiations is not uninteresting. Begun when Kavalla was still Turkish, they were naturally broken off when war was declared, but were resumed very soon after the return of peace, the Greeks apparently desiring to give the work to the firm that had been studying the subject for some time. This was no doubt good policy, but, as I have said before, the French firm has proved rather greedy, and the result is that the Greek Government has politely, but firmly, terminated the negotiations.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 18.

Great Britain's Trade with Turkey.

According to the Board of Trade returns for the month of June, 1914, the total exchange of enumerated articles between the two countries amounted to £605,167 during that month, as compared with £574,373 during the corresponding month in 1913, and £594,147 in 1912. While this is not such a good showing as during the previous month, and decreases occur in the enumerated imports into Great Britain from Turkey, notwithstanding the stagnation of this market and the huge stocks on hand, the enumerated exports are still greater than during the corresponding months of the two preceding years.

The total enumerated imports from Turkey into the United Kingdom during the month of June, 1914, amounted to £81,976, as compared with £101,119 during the corresponding month of 1913, and £96,119 in 1912. The shipments of barley amounted to only £4,810 during June, 1914, as compared with £57,389 during the same month in 1912. The shipments of other cereals are represented by wheat, and amount to £2,500. The shipments of mohair amounted to £65,945 during June, 1914, as compared with £82,601 during the same month in 1913, and £27,725 in 1912; those of wool amounted to a paltry £435, as compared with £7,752 in 1913, and £5,554 in 1912. The shipments of raisins were £8,286 in June 1914, as compared with £7,853 in 1913.

As regards the enumerated exports to Turkey during the month of June, 1914, these almost without exception show increases, and amount to £523,191, as compared with £473,254 during the corresponding month in 1913 and £498,028 in 1912. The shipments of cotton piece goods amounted to £393,449 during the month under consideration, as compared with £383,375 in 1913 and £366,228 in 1912. The shipment of cotton yarns show a drop from £64,762 in 1912 and £40,496 in 1913 to £26,294 in 1914. All the other enumerated exports show increases. The shipments of coal amounted to £50,896 during June, 1914, as compared with £10,378 during the same month in 1913 and £19,444 in 1912. The shipments of woollen tissues amounted to £23.364 during June, 1914, compared with £16,006 during the corresponding month in 1913 and £19,646 in 1912; those of worsted tissues to £10,016 in June, 1914, as compared with £9,332 in 1913 and £8,885 in 1912. The shipments of wrought copper amounted to £9,341 in 1914, as compared with £6,312 during the month of June, 1913, and £10,700 in 1912; those of tin to £6,853, as compared with £4,549 in 1913 and £3,954 in 1912. The shipments of bags and sacks amounted to £2,978 during the month of June, 1914, as compared with £2,806 during the corresponding month in 1913 and £4,409 in 1912.

A survey of the total enumerated exchanges during the first half-year of 1914, compared with the same period of the two preceding years, gives the following results:—1914, £4,223,412; 1913, £3,272,173; 1912, £3,839,648. During this period all the enumerated exports to Turkey show marked increases as compared with 1913, and, with but few exceptions, the same result obtains as compared with 1912, the totals being £3,461,683 for 1914, as compared with £2,495,778 during the corresponding period in 1913 and £2,873,084 in 1912. The total exports of cotton piece goods during the first half-year ended June, 1914, amount to £2,622,897, as compared with £2,045,652 during the corresponding period in 1913 and £2,105,978 in 1912, and are little more than £100,000 less than in 1911, which was the record year. The shipments of cotton yarns amount to £228,867 to June, 1914, as compared with £210,937 during the same period in 1913, but are £85,000 less than in 1912, when owing to the Italo-Turkish war Italian goods were kept off the market. The shipments of coal to June, 1914, amount to £239,599, as compared with £59,410 during the same period of 1913 and £116,446 in 1912. The shipments of woollen tissue amount to £167,410, as compared with £78,739 during the six months ended June, 1913 and £148,439 during the same period in 1912; those of worsted tissues amount to £89,420, as compared with £46,320 to June, 1913, and £85,423 during the same period in 1912. The shipments of wrought copper to date amount to £55,928, as compared with £18,565 in 1913 and £62,437 in 1912; those of tin to £34,576, as compared with £21,359 in 1913 and a like amount in 1912. The shipments of bags and sacks to the end of June, 1914, amount to £22,986, as compared with £14,796 in 1913 and £18,639 in 1912.

The total enumerated imports into Great Britain from Turkey during the first six months of 1914 are £761,729, as compared with £776,395 during the same period in 1913 and £966,564 in 1912. Considering that the latter year was the record year for Turkey's exports to the United Kingdom, this is not an unsatisfactory showing. The shipments of barley, which amount to £237,742 to date, are only slightly behind those of last year to the same date, but are £330,000 less than during 1912. The total shipments of wheat amount to only £7,292, as compared with £79,285 in 1912, while those of oats are £21,804, as compared with £15,268 in 1912. On the other hand, the shipments of raisins amount to £122,288 to June, 1914, as compared with £91,014 during the corresponding period in 1913 and £32,297 in 1912. The shipments of mohair amount to £311,451 to date, as compared with £331,663 in 1913 and £171,080 in 1912; those of wool to £60,634, as compared with £95,693 during 1913 and £90,234 in 1912.

Prizes Offered for Plans.

A competition is opened by the Prefecture for plans for a monumental fountain to be erected on the St. Sophia Sultan Ahmed Square. Competitors may be of any nationality and domicile. Plans, or models in stone, cement, or plaster, must reach the Prefecture not later than October 14, 1914. A premium of £200 will be awarded to the design taking first place, the design placed second will receive £80, and that placed third £40. Those desirous of taking part can obtain from the Prefecture of the City for Ps.20 (3s. 4d.) the programme which has been prepared for the competition.

Adjudication for Silver-Lead Mine.

The Council of State has approved the project authorising the Government to put up to auction the silver-lead ore mines known as Bulgar-Maaden in the vicinity of Bulgar Dagh in the Taurus range. The date of the adjudication will, it is expected, shortly be made known.

Sale of Old Metal.

Ten thousand (?) tons of scrap iron in the Admiralty dockyards will be sold by public auction. The provisional hour of closing will be at 2 p.m. on August 20, and the final a week later at the same hour. For further details apply to the "Direction des immeubles domaniaux, Ministère des Finances," each day at 2 p.m.

Lighters in the Port.

Notwithstanding the recent strict orders that all lighters in the port were to be towed from one point to another, for some few days back the harbour has taken on its old aspect, and sailing and bumping races, accompanied by furious yells, dear to the heart of the Constantinople lighterman, accompanied by reflections regarding the maternal ancestry of one and the paternal resting-place of the other, are the order of the day, without a thought for the safety of the goods carried.

LAMP OIL IN TURKEY.

A recent Austrian Consular report gives the following particulars regarding lamp oil prices in Asiatic Turkey during 1913:—"At the beginning of the year prices were rather high—namely, about 54 piastres per case, this falling to 45-47 piastres during the summer. Numerous middlemen placed large orders at these lower prices, anticipating the advance which usually takes place with the coming of winter. At the end of the year, however, the price was still 47 piastres, and the middlemen were obliged to dispose of the oil at that figure in order to avoid further accumulation of warehouse charges. The lamp oil sold in Turkey in Asia is mostly of Russian, American and Roumanian origin.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

The New Inspector-General.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, July 11.

A farewell entertainment or "vin d'honneur" was given on Thursday afternoon, July 9, for Mr. Hanemoglou, the late manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Beyrout, who has been promoted to the post of Inspector-General at Constantinople. The fine offices of the bank were lent for the occasion, and to this the managers of private and public banks and the heads of the leading commercial and shipping firms were invited. After a few speeches reflecting the general esteem and regard in which the able and popular manager is held, Mr. Hanemoglou replied. His characteristic speech touched upon economic matters of supreme importance to the trade of the country. He warmly praised the business morality of the trading community of Beyrout, the commercial distributing centre of Syria. He wished, he said, before leaving Beyrout to proclaim that Syrian commerce was well above the reputation that had been made for it. The reproaches that had been directed against it emanated from people who had a superficial knowledge thereof, and who had sought, in their relations with Beyrout, to outfinesse its merchants. Those ill-advised people had reaped defeat, and their wounded pride had led them to indulge in recriminations against the Beyroutines, whilst they should have honestly confessed their initial mistake. Those, however, who, like himself, had not sought devious ways, but had trusted to the honesty and commercial sense of the Beyroutine, had had occasion to note with the utmost satisfaction that the trade of this country was worthy of every confidence.

Beyrout Chamber of Commerce.

Two other subjects of great public interest were dealt with briefly, but clearly and sympathetically, in the concluding part of his speech. He said that he was quitting the town without seeing the blossoming of a plant that he had tended with devoted care. He entrusted it to them in the hope that they would not let it fade away. He meant the Chamber of Commerce. Similar institutions in all the great commercial centres had rendered and were still rendering inestimable services. In order to fulfil the task it had set itself it needed their whole-hearted support. It was their spokesman with the Government and with foreign countries as well. Through it they might raise their voice to defend their interests. The Committee of the Chamber was composed of men of integrity and capable of devotion to the general good.

It was the earnestness of these collaborators that had induced him to accept the presidency of the Chamber. These men deserved all their confidence, and, if they did not grudge it, would be able to raise the prestige of their commerce, defend it and make it prosper. Among the works undertaken by their Chamber of Commerce was one of supreme interest to the future of their market. The steps already taken with a view to linking Beyrout, through a standard gauge line, with the Rayak-Aleppo system, and, in the not distant future, with the Rayak-Egyptian frontier, required to be actively followed up. They had, no doubt, heard that the gentlemen whom this Chamber delegated to Constantinople with a petition for a modest branch line to link up Beyrout with Tripoli had succeeded in reviving the greater question of linking Beyrout with Rayak through the tunnel of Hammana. This was the ideal line on which the future prosperity of Beyrout depended. The errors of the past had, unfortunately, deprived them of this full measure of prosperity. Beyrout would have been today one of the great ports of the Mediterranean had it not been for the gross blunder of men who lacked far-sightedness and breadth of vision, and who sacrificed the future to satisfy immediate and unworthy ends. It was imperative to redeem such a mistake and to prevent their commerce and their properties from being ruined in the future.

Mr. Hanemoglou is leaving to-day by the Khedivial steamer for Constantinople.

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Trade with Northern Persia.

Difficulties of the British Trader.

By the courtesy of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States we have obtained a copy of a report read at the quarterly meeting held on July 8 at Constantinople. The writer, Mr. A. Sofiano, a member of the Board, gives the result of his observations in Northern Persia, and the conclusions he arrives at are of such vital importance to British trade that we wish specially to draw the attention of the Postmaster-General to the suggestions made.

The following are extracts from the report in question :—

"During the last few years a great deal has been heard about 'zones of influence,' but without having visited Tabriz, I could never have imagined to what an extent this seemingly empty phrase could be practically applied. The Russians, to do them justice, do not leave you a moment in doubt as to their definition of the phrase, so much so, that even when you arrive in Tabriz, the capital of North Persia, you still remain under the impression that you are still in Russia! The road connecting the frontier with the town has been built by Russia; guard-houses held by Russian Cossacks are to be seen at regular intervals; and at Tabriz itself Russian soldiers, fully armed, move about incessantly. The result is that you begin to realize the true significance of the term, 'a zone of influence,' as understood by Russia.

"The bazaars—and, by the way, until quite recently, no shops existed in Tabriz outside the bazaars—were, of course, of great interest to me, as I wanted to verify the great progress made by Russian commerce in the north of Persia. Although I was to a certain extent prepared, *I was, nevertheless, astounded to find how completely Russian goods of all classes had driven out foreign competition, both British and Continental.*

"I can state with certainty that prints, Mexicans and yarns, which less than fifteen years ago were imported exclusively from England, are now imported to the extent of 80 per cent. from Russia. As regards tinned goods, matches and sugar, I should think that this percentage is an under rather than an over estimate. It is only in woollen and silk goods that Russian commerce does not seem to have made any great strides. This does not mean, however, that Russian manufacturers do not export woollen and silk goods to Persia, because, as a matter of fact, the proprietor of one of the best retail shops selling cotton, woollen and silk goods assured me that all the firm's goods, without exception, came from Russia.

Russian Methods.

"My next object was to analyse the causes of Russia's phenomenal increase of trade in Northern Persia, which has proved so detrimental to British and Continental trade, and, furthermore, to study the steps which would have to be taken to place British trade on a more favourable footing.

"The first question is generally answered by pointing to the advantages of transport which the Russian manufacturer has over his competitors. This, however, is not sufficient to account for the fact that Russian sugar sells in Persia at about half the price at which it is retailed in the country of origin.

"The Russian manufacturers can already make use of the railway up to Julfa, a town on the Persian frontier, 230 km. from Tabriz; and as the Russians are working hard on the extension of the line, which offers no engineering difficulties, the two towns will almost certainly be linked up by rail within a year. On the other hand, the British manufacturer has only the caravan route from Trebizond. It was only natural that Russia should take full advantage of her proximity, but she has gone further than this : she has systematically worked to make the Trebizond route *as expensive and irregular as possible*, and has succeeded so well that at present goods take anything from one to three months to reach Tabriz and, even supposing camels be found—not always an easy matter—the cost of transport is something over £35 per ton weight.

"In order to achieve this result, the Russians have not followed a haphazard policy, but have carried out their plans in a businesslike and systematic way. The means employed to raise the price of transport on the caravan route were : irregularity in the service, and a reduction in the quantity of goods available for the owners of the camels carrying between Trebizond and Tabriz, and vice-versa. This was easily obtained by permitting the free transit of tea through Russia, via Batoum, to Persia, and also the free transit of carpets from Persia to Batoum. These articles do not clash with Russian commercial interests, and, as large quantities are regularly exported and imported, the effect on the caravan trade can be readily grasped. No other goods are allowed free transit into Persia, via Batoum, and if sent must pay the Russian duty.

"As a result of the high cost and uncertainty of transport via Trebizond, the parcel post service has developed to an extent not anticipated at the time of its inception; to-day, incredible though it may seem, the bulk of the British and Continental wholesale export trade with Northern Persia is carried by parcel post!

"Parcels from England to Persia cost 3s. 7d. to 3s. 9d. per 11 lbs., to which must be added cost of packing at 1s., and this because, as a rule, it is necessary to pack in tin or wooden boxes. We, therefore, arrive at a cost of about £50 per ton. This is considerably dearer than £35 per ton via Trebizond, but in most cases it is preferred owing to speed and, what is more important, regularity. It must be noted that the British Post Office charges on parcels extend only to Julfa on the Persian frontier; there parcels are either taken in charge by the consignees or their representatives, to be forwarded at their expense to their final destination in the interior, or else the Persian Post Office forwards them to Tabriz at the rate of 8½d. per parcel, equivalent to about £8 per ton. In the case of a contract of 2,000 parcels per annum, there is a reduction of 2½d. per parcel, and the cost can be still further reduced to about 4d. per parcel if the consignee himself takes charge of his parcels at Julfa and re-forwards them by carrier. Parcels from Germany to Julfa cost 2 marks per 11 lbs., or about half what they cost from England.

Recommendations.

"Having examined the advantages of Russian over British trade in Northern Persia, we will proceed to discuss some means for helping our commerce to regain its lost position. The first, and most important of these, is : *the reduction in the cost of transport.*

"The parcel post charges are much too high, and as possibly this is caused by the long rail journey through Germany and Russia, I made inquiries with the object of finding a cheaper route. I was authoritatively assured that the Cunard S.S. Co. has now a regular service, at least twice monthly, from Liverpool to Batoum. Thus, if there are no insuperable difficulties, it ought to be possible to institute a cheap parcel post service to North Persia via Batoum. The British Post Office can, I feel sure, do this, and by charging about 1s. 9d. per 11 lbs., it would help British trade immensely, and incidentally make a reasonable profit. Of course, I only suggest a cheap parcel post service as a provisional means of sending goods. For a permanent and effective aid much more radical steps must be taken, namely, the construction of a railway through a country which allows of the free transit of goods to Persia. I do not pretend to be competent regarding the tracé of this line, but in talking over the matter with well-informed friends, I was given to understand that a line from Rizeh, near Trebizond, through Erzeroum would be the easiest to build and would at the same time tap a very rich country. I believe there are some political difficulties in the way, but there are no reasons why they should not be overcome.

"In conclusion I will only state that I am firmly convinced that British trade with Northern Persia has dwindled owing to the difficulties (not merely casual) and dearness of transport, and that the only means of regaining our hold on this market is by finding some means of doing away with the disadvantages under which we labour. This can only be done if the matter is taken up energetically in the proper quarters. In the first place, *a cheap parcel post service is a crying necessity.*"

ROUMANIAN TRADE IN 1913.

In his report for the year 1913, Major Baldwin, H.M. Consul-General at Galatz, says that the period was one of extreme anxiety for the commercial and industrial community of Roumania. At its commencement the country was suffering from the effects of the war between the neighbouring States. Foreign banks had restricted their credits, and this, together with the withdrawal of their deposits by a nervous public, had forced the local banks to strengthen their reserves by calling in loans and refusing to make fresh advances. The constant fear of the re-closing of the Dardanelles rendered the financial crisis still more acute. The export of grain was held up owing to the lack of ships and to the high freight rates; consequently there was a scarcity of foreign bills, and considerable quantities of gold had to be exported to meet liabilities abroad. The result was that money and credit became almost unobtainable and trade suffered in all its branches.

A temporary improvement followed the termination of the first Balkan war in May, but with the outbreak of the conflict between the Allies a few weeks later the whole economic life of the country was once more thrown into confusion. Even after the termination of the war and the signing of the treaty of Bucharest matters improved but slowly. The prolongation of the Græco-Turkish conflict hindered the export of grain, as Greek shipping, which is an important factor in the Danube trade, could not pass the Dardanelles. The return of the troops was moreover marked by the outbreak of cholera, and trade, both internal and foreign, was impeded by the stringent measures which had to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. At the same time the continued dearness of money abroad compelled the local banks to husband their resources and prevented them from giving to trade and industry the assistance of which they were in need. Now, however, things are beginning to approach their normal condition. The harvest has been good and the weather conditions of the autumn and winter have been very favourable to a heavy crop in the present year. Money has become cheaper abroad, confidence has been restored, and the banks are pursuing a liberal credit policy towards merchants and manufacturers. The prospects are brighter than they have been for some time, and the country is rapidly recovering from the depression from which its trade and industry have suffered during the past year.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Bucharest. July 19.

The wheat harvest, which was begun only a few days ago, has been interrupted by rain storms, and wheat lying cut in the fields has been seriously damaged. The temporarily brighter outlook is now gloomy and overcast, and it is feared that the rain will affect adversely both quantity and quality, though how far it is not possible to judge at the moment.

On the other hand the summer planted crops have derived great benefit from the rain, especially maize, which is in splendid condition and from which excellent results are expected.

Business in grain is very quiet. The supplies of last year's wheat are now so small that the wants of the local millers can hardly be supplied. Export of wheat to the neighbouring southern states continues, the demand being greatly increased in the absence of competition from Southern Russia. In Roumania little business is done in new grain, as farmers are holding in the hope of a good demand from Austria-Hungary and big prices.

Sofia. July 19.

Owing to the recent rains the wheat harvest was delayed for about a week, but in most cases half of the work has been done and with the present dry weather it will soon be completed. It appears that the yield of the wheat crop will be satisfactory and of excellent quality.

The opium harvest in the Strumnitza district, which was begun at the end of May, was finished at the end of June. The crops were generally good and here and there excellent.

The following information is extracted from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East :—

Stamboul. July 11.

No business has been done in Anatolian wheat or barley during the past week owing to the lack of arrivals, and for the same reason the market is firm and prices are maintained.

The total arrivals of opium total 68 cases, against 137 cases to the same date in 1913. The market is active, with a good demand and firm prices. The mohair market is dull, as also is the sugar market.

Rodosto. July 1.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June :—

The agricultural situation, which has hitherto been favourable, has now begun to cause some alarm owing to the continual rains, which have done serious harm to the crops on the plains. On the other hand, the crops on the plateau are satisfactory, as well as the progress of the winter sowings, to which the wet weather has been propitious.

On account of the shortage of manual labourers in this district, the agriculturists, especially the Greek farmers, have been induced to employ agricultural machinery.

The market is quiet, and the money stringency has hampered exportation.

Konia. July 3.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June :—

The agricultural outlook continues favourable in this district, and the intermittent rains have been beneficial to the cereal crops. The yield is expected to be above the average of the last ten years. The amount of business transacted here during the month has been trifling

Eskishehir. July 1.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June :—

The month has been a most unfavourable time for agriculturists. In some places the storms have been terrific. Whole villages have been destroyed, the crops torn up, and the cattle decimated. But, nevertheless, the cereal crop is not so damaged as was feared, and the yield will be, if not greater than, at least, equal to, last year's. As to quality, wheat will be poor, but barley quite good.

Beyrout. July 10.

The market has shown signs of activity lately. Several merchants from the interior have arrived here with the object of renewing their stocks.

Imports have been small, especially of colonial produce, as holders of coffee and sugar have not been able to dispose of their stocks .and have, consequently, not placed new orders.

Busreh. June 26.

The state of the market is slightly better, but the recovery depends on the money market, which still leaves much to be desired.

Although the stock of colonial produce is limited, orders to the refineries are insignificant. The population of the interior still find it more convenient to buy at Baghdad, in spite of the rise in prices there.

Some important orders have been sent to factories abroad, of which Manchester has had the lion's share.

The whole of the available stocks of cereals —about 3,000 tons—have been shipped to London by the steamers "Cheruskia" and "Mainca." Large supplies of wheat and barley are expected within a fortnight, both here and at Mohammera.

The yield of the date crop is definitely stated to be 20 per cent. less than that of last year.

SMYRNA FRUIT REPORT.

In their report dated July 15, Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, state :—

Sultanas.—Since our last report of June 24 further rains have fallen at intervals over the vine-growing districts, but, although no damage has apparently resulted, the continued unsettled state of the weather is causing some uneasiness. No change has been made in the estimate of the yield, and advices from all parts confirm the fine development which the grapes are displaying.

Figs.—Reports from the Meander Valley are favourable. The cool, damp weather prevailing is calculated to foster the development of the fruit and to improve the general outlook of the weight of the crop. There is consequently a tendency to increase estimates, many of the leading dealers now anticipating a possible result of about 110,000 loads.

General Outlook.—Unfortunately, no improvement can yet be recorded in the general state of the country. Notwithstanding the arrival of a Commission consisting of the Dragomans of the Foreign Embassies at Constantinople, and the drastic orders issued by the Government authorities, the Moslem population continues to enforce a severe boycott and to maintain a policy of intimidation against the native Greeks who constitute so important an element in the economic life of the province. The thousands who recently migrated dare not return, and those still remaining are systematically prevented from leaving the towns and villages, and are unable to collect their crops. This inimical policy is mainly directed against the Greek inhabitants of the sea-board districts facing the islands of Chios and Mitylene, and has not been extended to the more important districts in the interior of the country where the weight of the fruit crop is produced, and where the Greeks are in a minority.

So far as the fig production is concerned, no fears exist about its collection and marketing, the orchards being for the most part Moslem-owned. But unless security and confidence are restored, there is good cause for apprehension that some portion of the produce of the vineyards will eventually perish, large tracts of vines being owned and farmed by Greeks, who have either been forced to leave the country or who are prevented from attending to their properties.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending July 10:—The opium market has been again very active, with sales amounting to 112 cases of old and new crop, the former at 16s. to 18s. 9d., as to quality, and the latter at 15s. to 17s. 9d. Under present conditions, therefore, with heavy weekly purchases, it is hardly likely that anyone can entertain the slightest hope of a reduction in figures, and as our holders may further advance the position, we consider it judicious that all consumers should not hesitate to lay in their stocks for their present requirements.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 23.

Sugar.

Owing to lower Continental advices, and to realisations of August deliveries, the Beetroot market has shown a downward movement this week, and after a fair amount of business at some fluctuations is closing today steadier, for August at 9s. 3½d., October-December, 9s. 4¾d., December, 9s. 5½d., and May, 9s. 8¾d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Refined sugar is steadier with moderate sales of English kinds at late rates, while Foreign has ruled quiet the whole week, with prices barely steady; German granulated, ready first marks, 11s. 6d., August, 11s. 6d., October-December, 11s. 6d., January-March, 11s. 7½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. German and Austrian cubes, prompt, 13s. 4½d. to 13s. 9d., Say's cubes, July, 15s. 4½d., and loaves, 14s., f.o.b. Paris. Dutch crushed prompt, 13s. 3d., f.o.b. Amsterdam.

Coffee.

There has been some activity in the market this week, and the supplies offered at auction have met with a fair demand at steady prices, Costa Rica middling sold at 74s. 6d., and fair bold at 78s., Colombian middling, 70s., bold fair to good, 74s. to 76s. Salvador middling, 70s. to 72s., fair bold, 73s. 6d. Uganda fine ordinary to low middling, 63s. to 66s. 6d., bold 69s. to 72s.; Mocha long berry 83s. to 84s. The speculative market has been firmer at 3d. to 4½d. advance, July, 42s. 3d., September, 43s., December sold at 43s. 10½d. to 44s., and March, 44s. 9d.

Seeds and Oils.

Linseed has been firm, but in generally quiet demand, London-Calcutta on passage is quoted at 51s. 3d., July-August, 51s. 6d., August-September, 52s.; September-October, 52s. 6d.; October-November, done to Hull at 53s. and 52s. 9d.

Rapeseed is inactive, Brown Cawnpore, July-August is offered at 50s. 3d.; Yellow Guzerat, 55s. 3d.; Ferozepore, 49s. 3d. Cotton seed is rather steadier for new crop, London-Egyptian, July is quoted £8 3s. 9d; August, £8 6s. 3d.; and November-January, £8 8s. 9d. per ton. Canary seed is not active. A few sales of Turkish, new seed, are noted for forward shipment, meanwhile prices are steady as stocks are in very narrow compass. Haricot beans are quiet and practically unchanged, but Continental markets are reported very firm with stocks much reduced.

Linseed oil is rather quiet, spot pipes, landed are quoted 25s. 1½d; barrels, 25s. 6d. Rape oil, ordinary brown naked, offered at 30s., and refined casks at 31s. 9d. Cotton oil is in moderate demand, crude spot being offered at 28s. 6d., refined sweet, 32s. to 33s., and ordinary pale, 28s. Petroleum Roumanian and Russian, also American, spot, 7¼d. per gallon.

Oilcakes, etc.

Cotton Cakes:—With some resellers of Egyptian there has been a check to the upward tendency. The present low level, however, continues to attract attention, especially as new crop positions are firmly held at a considerable premium. Best brands make £4 15s. to £4 16s. 3d. ex. quay, with July-August shipment offered at £4 13s. 9d. to £4 15s. ex. ship. English remains quiet, but steady at £4 17s. 6d. to £5, and Bombay, £4 2s. 6d. per ton.

Linseed Cake:—There is only a small demand for retail consumption, while last week's inquiry for autumn and winter delivery shows a considerable falling off, owing, however, to a strong seed market values are well maintained. East India seed pures have changed hands at £7 15s. to £7 17s. 6d. ex. ship for arrival, while best London made meet a steady inquiry at £7 17s. 6d. to £8 per ton, ex. mill.

Fine seedy Russian sells at £7 16s. 3d. to £7 18s. 9d.

Decorticated Cotton Cake is available on spot in limited quantities at £7 15s. per ton ex. quay, while stocks of meal are practically exhausted.

Locust Beans remain scarce and command full prices of £6 5s. for whole, and £6 13s. for kibbled.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 17.

This week prices on the cotton market have risen in proportion as the price of American cotton has fallen. The rise is due to the exceptionally strong position of the Egyptian market, the demand for export greatly exceeding the amount offered. The spot market is firm, but somewhat dull, although large quantities have been exported. The prospects of the new crop are excellent. Blooms are plentiful, and the worm, which threatened several districts, has been got rid of without causing any damage.

The question of settlements in the futures market, which has again been discussed, has divided brokers into two camps. One party wishes settlements to be suppressed altogether, for a broker is after all only a middleman and must not buy or sell at his own risk. The other party holds that the suppression of settlements will tend to diminish business while increasing fluctuations on the market, and they are, therefore, unwilling that any change should be made.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram **from Alexandria, dated Wednesday :—**

Market steady. November, 18 1/16, January, 18 5/32. Exchange, three months' date, 97 1/2.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	1,600 ..	700 ..	700
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,609,845 ..	7,456,140 ..	7,257,414
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	Nil. ..	1,250 ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	203,550 ..	203,691 ..	199,768
Shipments to Manchester	Nil. ..	Nil. ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	221,737 ..	203,010 ..	227,627
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	2,000 ..	2,500 ..	1,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	436,315 ..	399,715 ..	378,485
Shipments to U.S. America	Nil. ..	800 ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	84,503 ..	123,325 ..	115,217
Shipments to all parts	2,000 ..	4,550 ..	1,250
Ditto since Sept. 1	946,405 ..	929,741 ..	921,097
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	909,000 ..	735,000 ..	542,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to July 15, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	203,850	202,477	199,768
„ Manchester	221,737	203,010	227,627
Total Shipments to Great Britain	425,587	405,487	427,395
Shipments to France and Spain	120,614	114,227	04,103
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	214,188	194,694	186,287
Shipments to Russia	75,656	67,539	67,006
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,210	835	993
Total Shipments to Continent	412,668	377,295	358,389
Shipments to U.S. America	84,503	122,500	115,217
Ditto to India and Japan	21,647	19,924	18,854
Total Shipments to all parts	944,405	925,206	919,855
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. ——	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars 7,424,208

Steamers Sailed.

July 11.—"Orange Prince," Manchester.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—There has been no outstanding feature in the inquiry for Egyptian spot during the week. Business continues on a meagre scale, and the same apathetic listlessness so much in evidence of late still predominates. This state of affairs is likely to continue until the bad trade conditions existing show a brighter outlook and reports are of a more reassuring nature. Estimated sales amount to 1,100 bales, against the same total last week, and chiefly comprise medium grades Affi and Nubari. There were few transactions in Sudan-grown cotton, and top grades Joannovich and Sakellarides were entirely neglected. Quotations were raised five points during the early part of this week, but have again been reduced, and since our last report remain unchanged for all growths.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP, 1913-14.

(By Our Alexandria Correspondent.)

The Egyptian cotton crop for 1913-14 will probably reach 7,625,000 cantars in spite of the lack of water which prevailed in certain districts and the damage done by the cotton worm. The experience gained during the last eighteen years by the Irrigation Department shows that "the more water in summer within limits the better the crop." Now the Nile flood of 1913-14 was 40 per cent. less in volume than the normal; it was, moreover, very late. The water stored in the Assuan reservoir was exhausted before the arrival of the new flood, and certain cotton districts were forced to undergo a long period of drought during July and August. Certain districts in the South of the Delta were left for forty-five days without being watered. This lack of water naturally had an unfavourable result on the formation of the fibre and of the staple, both of which leave something to be desired in quality. It must not, however, be concluded from this that last year's stock of Egyptian cotton is not fit for spinning; it is only that the finer qualities are rarer than is ordinarily the case.

The acreage under cultivation in 1913-14 was 1,724,000 feddans as compared with 1,725,815 feddans in 1912-13, the yield per feddan was about 4.40 cantars as compared with 4.36 cantars in 1912-13, the highest percentage was 5.80 cantars in 1897-98, and the lowest 3.24 in 1909-10. From September 1, 1913, to July 3, 1914, 7,056,639 cantars were exported as against 6,941,908 cantars during the corresponding period for 1912-13. England bought 100,000 cantars and the Continent 275,000 cantars more than last year. On the other hand, the United States bought 265,890 cantars less. The stock in hand is 1,036,945 cantars as against 861,202 at the same date last year. There will probably be a large stock left on hand at the close of the present season, which must naturally have a somewhat adverse effect on the price of the new crop.

Dealings in the new crop this summer have been somewhat rarer than is usually the case. In view of the unsatisfactory conditions of the textile industry, it seems that cotton spinners are unwilling to cover future delivery to such a great extent as they have been accustomed to do during previous years.

The Egyptian cotton crop has now for several years been stationary at about 7½ million cantars. To satisfy the growing needs of the markets of the world a larger output would, however, seem absolutely necessary; and the Egyptian Government, anxious to provide for the welfare of the country and to satisfy the needs of Lancashire cotton spinners, has already began to drain large areas in the West Behera and Central Gharbia which will bring 790,000 feddans under cultivation. The irrigation system in Upper Egypt will also shortly be extended, and the preliminary works for the construction of a new reservoir on the White Nile near Khartoum for the exclusive use of Egypt have just been finished. When all these works have been completed Egypt should be able to produce a yearly crop of 10,000,000 cantars—the dream of Sir William Willcocks.

EGYPTIAN IRRIGATION.

The Edfu Contract.

It is understood that an agreement was finally concluded on Saturday last between the Egyptian Government and Mr. Percy W. Stout and Sir John Jackson, Limited, for the irrigation of 60,000 acres of land in Upper Egypt. Hitherto this land has received water for only two months yearly during the flood season, but henceforth it will be irrigated all the year round, and is expected to become as valuable as the Delta. The concessionaires will erect pumps, sink wells, cut canals, etc., and provide perennial water for the fellaheen landowners at a rate not exceeding the fixed maximum. It is understood that the capital involved is about £500,000, and the concession for forty-five years, at the expiration whereof all apparatus and works become Government property. The scheme should result in an increase in the productivity of Upper Egypt.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, July 22.

Business in our market shows no sign of improvement whatever. Sellers have been at their wits' end to secure fresh orders, but all in vain. A little inquiry has been met with here and there, but it has been of no use, except to very weak sellers. During the last few days, however, a slight change has taken place. Prices in raw cotton have made a turn in the firmer direction, and, in sympathy with it, quotations in our market have shown less irregularity. The curtailment of production which had been developing during the last week or two has been another favourable asset towards prices becoming more settled in appearance, but hopes as to better trade resulting from these inadverse signs has rather waned at the time of writing. There has been a fair amount of inquiry, it is true, but the bulk of it has been far less practicable than expected. Actual sales, therefore, have not been much more plentiful or voluminous than a week ago. Piece goods for the Near East have only moved off in retail lines to meet urgent needs, and reports from the other side are somewhat adverse rather than favourable. India has bought cloth sparingly, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta each giving about equal support. China trade has shown no improvement at any time this week. South America has continued to give support of a very meagre nature. Weaving districts as a whole are said to be still in a bad way. Loud complaints have been especially numerous from manufacturers in Nelson and Colne. The home trade has experienced no activity worthy of note. Home American yarns have been, on the whole, rather steadier during the week, but the demand has remained somewhat poor. Quietness has prevailed in export numbers for Egypt, and very little trade has been done. Other outlets have given weak support. Bolton counts in both carded and combed qualities have not shown much change in quotation, and the turnover has only been of moderate extent.

POTATO GROWING IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 17.

Potato growing in Egypt occupies a very important position. The new crop reaches the market in February, and could thus be exported on a large scale. Various kinds of vegetables—cabbages, artichokes, green peas, tomatoes, haricot beans, broad beans, etc.—are already exported during the winter. As it happens, however, this type of business is chiefly in the hands of Egyptians, who do not pay sufficient attention to packing and make no effort to develop the export trade.

The Egyptian potato does not keep well, and it is therefore necessary to import potatoes from abroad either for seed or to meet local needs for nine months out of the twelve. Potatoes have been imported from all countries, but the favourite variety is "Riccio," which comes from Naples. This potato keeps well, is a good cooker, and is very tasty. The native Egyptian prefers this variety, which is also cheaper than all the other imported kinds. The Naples potato is also a good seeder in light soils. The retail price of the Naples potato is from 5 to 6 frs. the sack of one cantar.

The import trade of potatoes from Marseilles and the North of France which at one time reached large dimensions has now almost disappeared. Potatoes of English origin which are grown in Malta and Cyprus have also been imported. They cost little more than the Naples variety, and are sold chiefly in Alexandria and Cairo. Although less tasty than the Naples variety, they are more floury and cook better.

The Ottoman Ministry of Education has placed an order for 300 Birmingham Small Arms air-rifles with the British Agencies Association, Constantinople.

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HAIFA GERMAN VICE-CONSULATE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Haifa, July 4.

The activity of the German Government in extending its relations with this country, commercially and otherwise, may be gauged by the step which has lately been taken. The German Vice-Consulate at Haifa has been abolished, and a Consulate has been created instead. Dr. Lloytved Hardegg, the German Vice-Consul here—who, by the way, is generally regarded as the most efficient and energetic consular officer of the whole Consular Corps stationed here—has also been promoted to the rank of Consul. This promotion is assuredly well merited, as Dr. Hardegg is a gentleman of outstanding abilities. His tenure of office here, of several years' duration, has been marked by the tireless persistency with which he has striven for the advancement of his country's interests in Palestine. Unlike his predecessor, Dr. Hardegg has won the favour of the Haifa populace. He was the first to realise the deplorable nature of the strained relations existing between the Germans and natives, and set himself to the task of creating a common understanding between both parties. Although the German colonists are still held in undisguised detestation by the inhabitants, his endeavours have greatly diminished the hostile spirit hitherto prevalent.

Advancing German Interests.

Passing in review the significant results that have ensued from the creation, some five or six years ago, of a salaried German consular post at Haifa, we find that Germany has more than trebled her export figures. This is doubtless mainly due to the combined vigilance of the salaried German consular officer and the German traders in seizing every possible opportunity for the advancement of their country's interests. German steamship services have been started and agencies established with extraordinary rapidity, so that shipping direct from Germany greatly exceeds shipping direct from England.

The recently converted German Vice-Consulate, in common with other foreign Vice-Consulates here—save, of course, that of Great Britain—possesses a large consular staff, which is composed of a highly-paid, proficient dragoman, a well-paid secretary, and two cavasses. In addition to that it has also two honorary dragomans. The Haifa British Vice-Consulate, however, in marked contrast to the undeniable efficiency of the German consular body, has no dragoman at all. Neither is there an official secretary; and it contents itself with one paid cavass only.

His Majesty's Government apparently regards the important improvements in the foreign consular offices with the utmost indifference. The Haifa Vice-Consulate, therefore, rigidly maintains its lamentable "status quo." Such an attitude is injudicious.

OIL IN PALESTINE.

We are informed that the Turkish Petroleum Company has secured an option on some properties of the Syrian Exploration Company and other areas in the oil-bearing districts lying between Haifa and Damascus, as well as in an area on the coast of the Dead Sea, extending over 150,000 acres. The company is sending out a geologist at once to examine and report on these areas.

The Standard Oil Company is actively engaged at present in developing the adjoining oilfields on the south-east coast of the Dead Sea, having lately exercised an option they held on this field. Regarding the operations of the latter company a Jerusalem correspondent informs us that the Americans are constructing a road 75 kilometres long from Hebron to the field. Under the terms of the contract this road is to be finished in four months. The correspondent adds that "the company apparently expects to get a lot of oil, as it is bringing out a large staff of engineers and workmen."

EGYPTIAN PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY.

Important Italian Concern.

The development of the extensive deposits of phosphates situated near the Red Sea coast, about 50 miles to the north of Kosseir, has during the past two years assumed important proportions, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

The mines, which are worked by the Egyptian Phosphate Company, a British concern, are connected by a railway line some twenty miles long with Port Safaga, on the Red Sea, where the rock is loaded on the steamers for export. The rock is extremely rich, containing 65 per cent. or more of tricalcic phosphate.

The Societa Egiziana per l'Estrazione ed il Commercio dei Phosphati, a company managed by Italians, and founded in 1912, has obtained extensive concessions about twelve miles inland from Kosseir, and also at Sebaia, on the eastern bank of the Nile, between Keneh and Assuan. The *Gazette* is informed by this company that the former concession is being linked up to the port of Kosseir with a light railway, which should shortly be completed, and the rock from the latter mines will be transported down to the Nile by a ropeway, and thence to Alexandria by boat for shipment. The company states that the work for development is being actively pushed on, and it expects to be in a position to begin exporting during the present summer.

Output of Phosphates.

The following table represents the total output of phosphates in Egypt for the years 1908 to 1912. These figures are taken from a note recently issued by the Survey Department, to which we are indebted for other information in this article:—

Years.	Output of Phosphates.
1908	700 tons
1909	1,000 "
1910	2,397 "
1911	11,925 "
1912	69,958 "

According to the Financial Adviser's report recently published, the output during 1913 exceeded that for 1912 by about 33,000 tons.

Although other beds of phosphates are found in various districts in Egypt on both sides of the Nile Valley, the Red Sea area is responsible for almost the whole output. The rapid development of the business of the Egyptian Phosphate Co., and the impending commencement of active operations by the other company mentioned above, leads one to expect a considerable increase in production in the immediate future.

Where Exports Go.

Practically all the raw phosphates produced is at present shipped from Egypt, principally to Japan. That country, in 1912, took about 49,000 tons out of a total export of 52,000 tons, and in 1913, 59,000 tons, out of a total of 64,000 tons. According to the Customs returns the average value of the raw phosphate shipped during 1913 at Port Safaga was about £1 per ton.

The local demand for raw phosphates for manure is practically negligible, but about 13,000 tons of superphosphates were imported during the last year.

Projects for the manufacture of superphosphates at Alexandria, with the aid of pyrites imported from Greece, are said to be under consideration, and the reported discovery of pyrites in the Sinai Peninsula is of interest, in view of the promimity to the Red Sea phosphate field. Should the manufacture of superphosphates be established on a considerable scale in Egypt, the working of other deposits might become commercially possible.

According to *The Moniteur Officiel du Commerce*, the region of Galatz offers an important outlet for apparatus used in the cultivation of the vine. Wine pumps and other vine appliances now come almost exclusively from Austria-Hungary and Germany; they are shipped in bulk on lighters which sail the Danube.

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Shipping Intelligence.

WELSH COAL FOR GREECE.

The Cardiff Correspondent of *The Times* states the Cardiff steam coal market was excited on Wednesday through reports that the recent inquiries for coal on Greek Navy account had resulted in ten or twelve steamers being chartered during the last two days to load best Welsh Admiralty coal for Piræus, Greece, within the next fortnight, principally through a German coal-exporting firm.

Particulars of the orders arranged were not disclosed, but the steamers chartered were understood to represent over 50,000 tons. As a result of the heavy requirement, and order-books being previously well filled, leading colliery firms were practically off the market, and those with small quantities to spare advanced prices 1s. per ton to 23s. Other classes of coal were in little demand. The Austrian Navy also are understood to have purchased considerable quantities lately, the prices paid being high to secure prompt delivery.

The urgent character of the Greek business was considered ominous in view of the state of affairs between that country and Turkey, while it was anticipated by colliery owners that the British Admiralty would also ask for additional supplies, although stocks at British depôts in the Mediterranean have been kept very heavy since the last Balkan War trouble.

ANOTHER NEW P. AND O. LINER.

The P. and O. Line has placed an order with Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Belfast, for a passenger and mail steamer, says *Shipbuilding and Shipping Record*. The new vessel will be about 13,000 tons, and will generally be on the lines of the "Maloja," the last vessel built by Harland and Wolff for this company in 1911.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—At Alexandria July 17. "Corsican Prince."—Left Constantinople for Black Sea July 18. "Creole Prince."—At Antwerp. "Egyptian Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria July 18. "Highland Prince."—Left London for Alexandria July 15. "Kaffir Prince."—At Alexandria July 16. "Merchant Prince."—At Manchester July 10. "Norman Prince."—At Alexandria July 12. "Orange Prince."—Alexandria/Manchester. Left Malta July 15. "Saxon Prince."—Left Tyne for Alexandria July 15. "Trojan Prince."—At Alexandria July 20.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Constantinople July 11. "Esneh."—Liverpool/Alexandria. At Gibraltar July 3. "Hathor."—Hull/Alexandria. Passed Gibraltar July 10. "Karnak."—At Liverpool June 18. "Khephren."—Left Syria for Liverpool July 12. "Merse."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria July 18. "Moeris."—At Alexandria June 20. "Sebek."—At Alexandria July 10. "Siptah."—At Liverpool.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—At Varna July 17. "Barnesmore."—At Volo July 19. "Barrowmore."—At Galatz July 10. "Cranmore."—Sulina/Rotterdam. Passed Gibraltar July 17. "Dromore."—Left Liverpool for Piræus July 16. "Edenmore."—Galatz/Antwerp. Passed Malta July 19. "Fenmore."—Left Swansea for Civita Vecchia July 13. "Foylemore."—At Leith July 15. "Gorsemore."—At Galatz June 27. "Heathmore."—Sulina/Antwerp. Passed Dover July 19. "Jessmore." — Immingham/Alexandria. Passed Dover July 8. "Kenmore."—At Immingham.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—At Leghorn July 19. "Castalia."—Liverpool/Bombay. Passed Perim July 20. "Circassia."—Left Bombay for Liverpool July 13. "Elysia."—Left Birkenhead for Bombay July 18. "Italia."—Left Palermo for New York July 17. "Massilia."—At Glasgow. "Olympia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left Marseilles July 18. "Perugia."—Left New York for Naples July 18. "Scindia."—At Bombay July 11.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—At Karachi July 14. "Chantala."—Bombay/London. Left Port Said July 20. "Chakrata." — London/Bombay. Passed Malta July 19. "Chinkoa."—Bombay/Antwerp. Passed Sagres July 20. "Chyebassa."—Calcutta/London. Left Marseilles July 19. "Culna."—At Bombay July 2. "Malda."—Calcutta/London. Left Aden July 18. "Manora."—London/Calcutta. Left Marseilles July 18. "Mongara."—London-Calcutta. Left Aden July 15. "Nevassa."—Calcutta/London. Left Colombo July 18. "Neuralia."—At Calcutta July 3. "Tanda."—At Calcutta July 17. "Varela."—At Bombay July 5.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arcadia."—At Bombay June 27. "Caledonia."—London/Bombay. Left Aden July 19. "China."—Bombay/London. Left Port Said July 21. "India."—London/Bombay. Left Gibraltar July 21. "Khiva."—London/Calcutta."—Left Aden July 21. "Moldavia."—Left Bombay for London July 19. "Nore."—Calcutta/London. Left Colombo July 18. "Nyanza."—Calcutta/London. Left Aden July 17. "Persia."—At Bombay July 10. "Simla."—Left London for Calcutta July 18.

Cunard Line.

"Caria."—At Batoum July 13. "Carpathia."—New York/Mediterranean. Left Gibraltar July 20. "Cypria."—At Liverpool. "Ivernia."—At Trieste July 20. "Lycia."—Swansea/Mediterranean. Left Gibraltar July 14. "Pannonia."—Palermo/New York. At Naples July 21. "Pavia."—At Liverpool June 29. "Phrygia."—At Naples July 19. "Saxonia."—Naples/New York. Left Lisbon July 17. "Thracia."—At Batoum July 14. "Tyria."—At Liverpool July 17. "Veria."—At Gibraltar July 21.

Ellerman Line.

"Andalusian."—At Corfu July 17. "Assiout."—At Panderma July 14. "Austrian."—Liverpool/Gibraltar. Passed Sagres July 17. "Bavarian."—Liverpool/Syra. Left Malta July 16. "Belgravian."—Left Patras for Malta July 16. "Castilian."—Venice/Liverpool. At Fiume July 10. City of Cambridge."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria July 5. Left Malta July 16. "City of Khios."—At Poti July 7. "Fabian."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean July 17. "Italian."—At Alexandria July 5. "Malatian."—Left Liverpool for Mediterranean July 15. "Oporto."—At Bushire. "Venetian."—Left Constantinople for Lisbon July 16.

A British Consular Report for Trebizond mentions that tenders for the electric lighting of the town were applied for last year. This concession is to be granted by the local authorities who, by Article 78 of the new Vilayet law, are authorised to grant concessions for periods not exceeding forty years. All available information has been sent to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that the cinematograph is a popular form of entertainment in Roumania, where every little town has its cinema theatres. In Bucharest alone there are now no fewer than eighty-two, and all are well patronised and giving a profitable return. Consequently there is a good demand for films, and the sale and letting of films is already a well-established and flourishing business. One of the best known French firms has had its own agency in Bucharest for some time, and another French firm has recently established its representatives in Roumania. A large British film-supplying firm has also appointed its agent for Roumania.

According to a U.S. Consular Report for Jerusalem, cotton goods continue to form the largest item of import into Palestine; the past year showed a slight decrease, the total being 5,937 bales, as compared with 6,077 bales in 1912. This importation is almost exclusively from England. The only serious competitor of English cotton goods are the Italian goods. Italy is fast regaining the position lost by the Italian-Turkish War. The trade in silks, woollens, textile fabrics, and manufactured articles of clothing remained stationary; the last-named goods come from Austria, and the others from France and England.

The almond is being extensively cultivated in Palestine, says a U.S. Consular Report, and will soon rank among the important exports of the country. Last year's exports amounted to 528,000 pounds, as compared with 317,000 pounds in 1912. France takes the largest portion of the crop.

Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co. report that the importation of coal into Egypt during the period January 1 to July 9 amounted to 804,927 tons, as against 709,066 tons during the corresponding period of last year.

A British Consular Report for Trebizond states that Russian trade with the interior viâ the Caucasus appears to be increasing, and that articles such as petroleum, iron, agricultural machinery and matches, which formerly passed through Trebizond, now take the direct route.

H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Tripoli-in-Syria reports that in 1913 there was an increase of nearly 160,000 barrels and cases in the export of oranges and lemons over that of 1912. These articles might quite well be shipped to the United Kingdom if there were a regular steamship service direct to the British ports. Some lots of onions found their way to Liverpool. Like oranges, these perishable goods need a fast and regular line of steamers. If such a service were created British ports would be their principal destination owing to the prices obtained there and to the usual straightforward way of carrying on business of British firms.

The Oesterreichisch-ungarische Konsular-Korrespondenz (Vienna) states that ready-made dresses for women find an easy sale in Roumania. Each year two Bucharest houses import mantles and ladies' jackets from Berlin to the value of one million francs. On the other hand, furriery mainly comes from France; these are for the most part imitation and ordinary furs. France also imports ready-made clothes for rich people. Millinery is mainly supplied by Austria-Hungary.

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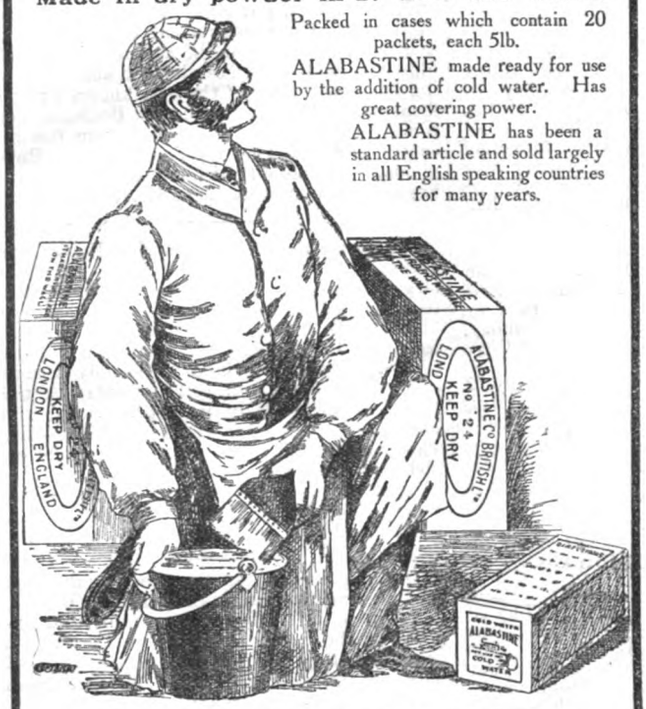

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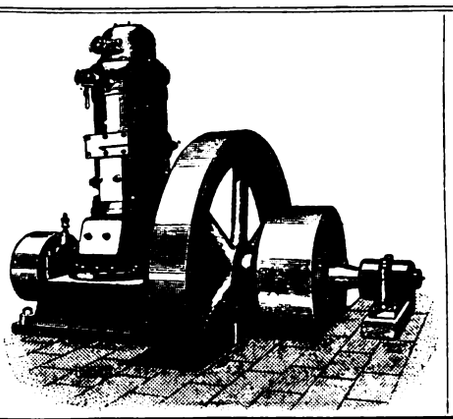

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Engineering Notes.

British Trade Marks.

The marked preference which Oriental buyers show for British goods, especially for machinery and cutlery, is perhaps the hardest point that foreign competitors have to contend with in the Eastern markets, and mean methods are often adopted by unscrupulous firms to secure customers. One mostly practised is the infringement of British marks or inscriptions on foreign-made machinery, implements, cutlery, etc., which lead the buyers to believe that such articles were manufactured in England. Some time ago, referring to this base practice, we announced in these columns that a Sheffield defence fund had been established for protecting the city's name from infringement by foreign competitors, and that from its beginning it had proved of great utility. The fund then amounted to nearly £12,000, amongst the contributors being several working men's organisations; and ever since, we hear, the amount has been steadily increasing. The existence of this fund has been an incalculable boon, for, apart from the successful prosecutions which the Managing Committee was able to undertake in various parts in cases of violations of trade marks, it has a deterrent effect upon those who may contemplate fraud.

An Important Case in Egypt.

Two firms in Egypt have recently been punished for selling German-made razors bearing inscriptions calculated to lead the public to believe that they were manufactured in Sheffield. The first of these firms is in business in Cairo, and the other is a firm of commission agents in the same city, from whom the razors were purchased. The firm which made them was also joined in the action. The razors were of a very inferior quality, retailing at about 8½d. each, but they were marked on the blade with words to the effect that they were best English quality, and on the handle was the word "Sheffield." The stocks of these razors have been seized and destroyed, and the defendants have had to pay the prosecuting Sheffield Cutlers' Company the sum of £50. The interesting and important point in this case is that it is one of the few in which the Mixed Courts have granted protection to a collective mark of origin or trade description, as distinct from a private registered trade mark. Just as we suggested in these columns some time ago, when the establishment of the Sheffield Defence Fund was announced, the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt now suggests that other British trades might, in a similar manner, take collective action to purify the markets of commercial frauds of this nature.

A New Resilient Wheel.

Those who want freedom from tyre trouble—and there are many in the Near East—will be very interested to hear of a new and promising spring wheel, which offers a great improvement on the plain, solid tyre. The inventor relies upon the resilient qualities of a steel ribbon in tension and the impression obtained is that the solid tyre is nearly the equal of the ordinary pneumatic. The wheel consists primarily of three parts, the inner rim carrying the steel ribbon, the outer rim carrying the tyre and floating on the ribbon, and the side ring which covers the working parts. The wheel is by no means clumsy in appearance, and contains no parts likely to give trouble. The ribbon is stretched in a series of tangents, and at four points there are straining bolts adjustable from outside the wheel, by means of which the tension of the ribbon can be adjusted. The outer rim carries inward projections, with slots through which the ribbon passes, the tangent arrangement of the ribbon taking the drive. It is quite evident that with the ribbon at proper tension, the outer rim carrying the solid tyre is floating on the ribbon. Also, the resilience of the wheel does not depend upon any one section of the ribbon, but any shock is spread over the whole ribbon, while there is very little variation in the effective radius of the wheel.

Aleppo Tramways—

A U.S. Consular Report, published in the Washington *Daily Consular and Trade Reports* (June 6), makes an interesting reference to the concession for the construction of an electric tramway system in Aleppo which was lately granted to Osman Bey, Union Han, Galata, Constantinople. According to the report it is understood that the concessionaire, not having the means to construct the plant himself, is negotiating with a Belgian firm to the end that the latter shall take over the concession and complete the work. The local government, evidently with the object of helping the enterprise forward, has already begun the widening of some of the principal streets which run through the ancient parts of the city, and which are too narrow to permit the passage of the cars. Between three and four miles of the line will be built to begin with, and later a number of short lines of track will be laid, running into other parts of the city where the streets must be widened by the demolition of buildings.

—And Lighting.

The foregoing concession carries with it also the illumination of the streets and public and private buildings, thereby doing away with the present antiquated and imperfect system of lighting with kerosene lamps. As the greater part of the city is not lighted at all at present, the completion of the installation of electricity will revolutionize its appearance. The Falls of Daphne, near the city of Antioch, will be utilized to provide motor power for both tramways and lights, the transmission of the current to be by cable over a distance of about sixty miles. The waterfall is said to be sufficient to produce 12,000 horsepower at all times of the year, otherwise the cost of fuel would make the project impossible, as coal or other fuel that could be used to operate the plant is not locally produced and its importation would be out of the question.

Mines in Anatolia.

Reuter's Berlin correspondent forwards a report published in the *Lokalanzeiger* to the effect that while staying incognito in Munich, the Khedive had a long conference with Herr Kemmerich, the Turkish Consul there, with regard to mining development in Anatolia, where his Highness has an extensive estate. A representative of a German-Turkish Mining Syndicate possessing large properties on the Anatolian coast was present at the conference.

Abyssinian Railway.

An Addis Abeba correspondent of the *Kolnische Zeitung* reports that the railway has already been completed to kilometre 312 (reckoned from Diredana) and kilometre 621 from Jibuti. But, as there is a scarcity of camels for the transport of materials from the terminus to the site of construction, the work is frequently interrupted, particularly in the mountainous district, where many bridges have to be erected and cuttings made. It is thought, however, that the section to the Mojo River, which is 73 kilometres from Addis Abeba, will be finished next November, and as the foundations for the permanent way from Mojo to Addis Abeba have now nearly been completed, the first train is expected in the latter place at the beginning of February.

Production of Hollow Bars.

By a new process, recently introduced in Sheffield, a bar, say ¾-inch diameter and 15 feet long, with a ¼-inch hole from end to end, can be rapidly and cheaply produced. The process consists of drilling a hole in the bloom or billet, in short lengths varying in size from 12 inches to 20 inches. This hole is then packed tightly with a special composition and the ends are plugged up. The bloom is then rolled in a rolling-mill until a bar of the desired dimensions has been obtained, the packing being elongated in proportion. The packing or core is afterwards removed by fluid pressure. By this process, round, square, hexagonal, and octagonal bars of the required length can be produced, and although the hole is not mathematically cylindrical or central, it is sufficiently accurate for many engineering purposes. When great accuracy is needed, as in the case of spindles, it is a comparatively easy matter to ream out the hole, which serves as a pilot.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Grey Cloth.—The Egyptian War Office invites tenders for the supply of 12,000 yards of grey cloth for overcoats. Firms who have not previously held a contract with the Egyptian War Office must forward two references (one from a bank). Date, August 27. (L.)

Air Compressing Station.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, on behalf of the Municipality of Port Said, for the construction of the Air Compressing Station Building and Engine Foundations at Port Said. August 15.

BULGARIA.

Steamer.—Tenders are invited at the Ministry of Marine, Sofia, by the Bulgarian Steam Navigation Co., for the supply of a steamer of 2,500 tons, of the type "Czar Ferdinand." August 25.

Railway Embankment, etc.—Tenders are invited at the Direction of Roumanian Railways, Bucharest, for the laying out and decoration of 28,067 metres of railway line. August 24.

Coal.—Tenders are invited by the Bulgarian State Railways for the supply and delivery at Varna and Bourgas of 14,000 metric tons of Cardiff coal for locomotives. August 5.

TURKEY.

Adjudication for Silver Lead Mine.—Offers will shortly be invited for the working of a silver lead mine. See our Constantinople Business Letter (page 428).

Purchase of Old Metal.—Tenders are invited for the purchase of about 10,000 tons of scrap iron See our Constantinople Business Letter (page 428).

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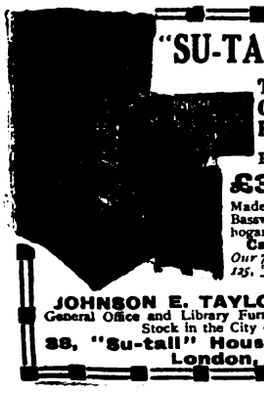

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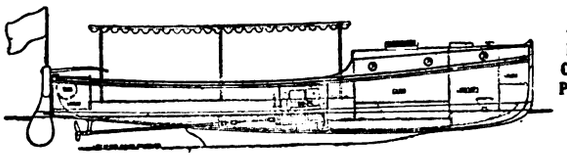

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The German Loan to Bulgaria.

An Incident Behind the Scenes.

(From a Correspondent.)

Writing last week on the death of M. de Hartwig, an occasional correspondent said that the late Russian Minister in Belgrade "was a diplomatic official of the forward school who carries out a more or less independent policy of his own creation, and is applauded or disowned by his Government in accordance with circumstances." In other words, the Russian Bear is an expert in the use of catspaws, and certain documents which have come into my hands only tend to show the extraordinary cleverness with which this policy is often carried out. Of course, in certain instances the policy, by reason of its very cleverness, oversteps itself, as appears to have been the case in the present instance.

The pages of The Near East have already borne witness to the probable jealousies which would arise among the Powers as a result of the contraction of the £20,000,000 between a German group and Bulgaria. Indeed, it is more than probable that without these jealousies Bulgaria might still be hungering for funds. The financial position of that State since the Balkan Wars has been, if not desperate, at least very stringent, and money had to be found somewhere. Leading French financiers were approached, but in view of the uncertain position of relations with Greece and the available securities offered, a deaf ear was turned to the entreaties of the would-be borrower.

A Russian Guarantee.

Ultimately, however, the banking firm of Périer came forward with an offer to lend Bulgaria all she might require, but on conditions. Chief among these was the *sine quâ non* that, in addition to the guarantees offered by Bulgaria herself, the loan was to be underwritten, so to speak, by Russia. The condition might seem a comparatively harmless one. Moreover, were this subsidiary guarantee accepted, the loan was to be issued at 87 per cent., instead of at 82 per cent., whereby a very considerable saving to Bulgaria would be effected. Behind the proposal lay the determination on the part of Russia once more to attract or force Bulgaria into her orbit, out of which recent events have combined to drive her.

In accordance with this preconceived policy the representatives of the Périer group presented a memorandum to the Bulgarian authorities pointing out that it was next to impossible for Bulgaria to secure a loan in any market. It was expected that she would again be engaged in hostilities with Greece during the present year, and her trade and credit generally had been so damaged by the wars that the Périer firm was in reality performing a deed which was almost charitable in consenting to grant a loan at all, and that in the circumstances the Russian guarantee was indispensable.

Two Suitors.

Far from Bulgaria's borrowing powers, however, being nil, negotiations were at once set on foot with a powerful German group headed by the Disconto-Gesellschaft. Here, too, very hard conditions were demanded, but rather than sacrifice her national freedom of action Bulgaria was ready to accept almost anything. She was now, moreover, in the favourable position of having two suitors, and found no difficulty in playing one off against the other. The German group demanded as security certain important tobacco concessions, and these Bulgaria was loth to surrender. The French group came to know that other negotiations were afoot, and immediately modified their conditions. The *sine quâ non* of the Russian guarantee was abandoned, and so anxious did French financiers become, and behind them Russia, lest Germany should secure a further financial lever in the Balkans, that they ultimately offered to treat with Bulgaria without guarantees and to advance her a loan on her sole written bond. Further, *communiqués* were issued by the French and Russian Legations in Sofia, categorically stating that their Governments had in no way been connected with the first offer made by the Périer group.

Bulgaria, however, had gained her point. The German financiers consented to modify the obnoxious demands with regard to tobacco concessions somewhat, and the loan was signed, sealed, and delivered. The first portion of it has already been paid, while as showing the price which Bulgaria has had to pay as the cost of her independence, Treasury bonds, against which the first advance has been made, are now on sale in London at a price which yields about 7½ per cent.

The Net Result.

This by-play partially explains also the violent opposition with which the loan proposals have been met in the Sobranje. It was not altogether disinterested opposition on the part of those deputies who were averse from increasing the national indebtedness of Bulgaria. The hostility was engineered by those members who belong to the Pro-Russian party and, no doubt quite justifiably, dread the extension of German influence.

The net result of the negotiations is definitely to incline Bulgaria towards the Triple Alliance as against the Triple Entente, and to make Bulgarian statesmen still more wary of the Muscovites—"et dona ferentes."

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 17.

Share Market.

The market has been slightly more active this week, and prices have been firm. The shares of the Agricultural Bank in particular have been in demand, and a large number have changed hands.

Many co-operative societies have been formed in the interior, which must very soon prove of great benefit to the fellaheen.

In spite of the large amount of gold which has recently left the country, £1,500,000 still remains. In view of the advanced season this sum will probably be left here now to assist in dealing with the new cotton harvest, which should begin in August.

Credit Franco-Egyptien.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Crédit Franco-Egyptien has been summoned to discuss the proposal to reduce the company's capital of 12,500,000 frs. (£500,000) by buying in the shares of the company, and to empower the board of directors to carry out this operation. Last year's net profits amounted to 662,513 frs., as compared with 703,834 frs. for the preceding year. The board has, therefore, thought it prudent not to declare a dividend, but to place the whole sum to reserve.

GREEK TREASURY BILL REDEMPTION.

Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son are requested by the Greek Legation in Paris to make known that the Greek Government calls in for repayment the following securities:—(1) On July 17, 1914, the loan of 40,000,000 frs. concluded in virtue of the convention of June 28, 1913, between the Government and the National Bank of Greece, approved by Royal Decree of July 8, 1913.

(2) On July 31, 1914, the advance of 40,000,000 frs. represented by the bills of the provisional loan contracted pursuant to the convention of December 19, 1912, and renewed for six months by the convention of January 26, 1914.

Greek Treasury Bills forming part of either of the above issues should be presented for payment at the offices of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street.

NEW COMPANIES.

British Indian and Persian Trading Company, Ltd.

A private company with the above title was registered on July 16 by T. G. Littlejohn, 88, Fenchurch Street, E.C., with a capital of £2,500 in £1 shares (1,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference). Its objects are: To carry on the business of importers and exporters of and dealers in hides, skins, grain, metals, precious stones and produce, provisions and materials of all kinds, ship and insurance brokers, warehousemen, shippers, stevedores, forwarding agents, ship charterers, etc., and to adopt an agreement with T. G. Littlejohn and C. C. Paqualin. The first directors (to number not less than three nor more than six) are: H. J. Verden, T. G. Littlejohn, P. Benham, and C. C. Paqualin.

London and Piræus Steamships.

The London and Piræus Steamships Company, Limited, has been formed, with a nominal capital of £10,000 in £10 shares, to acquire, contract for building of, equip, and maintain and alter ships and vessels of every description, and to sell, let out on hire, or otherwise deal with the same. The registered office is at 38, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

NEW OMNIBUS COMPANY.

The Near East has repeatedly pointed out the necessity for improving local communications in the Levant, and in some cases—at present all too few—services of motor-omnibuses have been established either as a preliminary to railway construction or to act as feeders to existing lines. Indeed, great hopes are built upon motor traction for the opening up not only of rural Egypt, but of Mesopotamia and Syria as well. There is a motor service from Laruaca to Nicosia. The Bulgarians are carrying their mails into the new provinces over the Rhodope mountains by car, and efforts are being made to supersede the horse-drawn vehicles between Aleppo and Baghdad with motor-omnibuses. In these circumstances, and with a prospect of abundant oil fuel to be obtained locally, it is possible to look forward to a great impetus to British commerce, as represented by the motor-car trade.

The General Omnibus Supply Company is making arrangements for travel facilities in the United Kingdom on an immense scale, and will be well advised to extend the sphere of its activities to the Near East as well, where there is a considerable and growing market for a trustworthy car of great power capable of negotiating inferior roads. Some country residents over here are inclined to repine at the "popularizing" of rural roads, but in Turkey, in Asia, or the Balkans a service of motor-omnibuses would be thrice welcome, and profitable to boot. The General Omnibus Supply Company is fitting its vehicles with Daimler chassis, and has such faith in the workmanship of this firm that a preliminary order for over £1,000,000 worth of material has been given.

We refer our readers to an announcement which appears on page 442 of the forthcoming issue of a prospectus of the General Omnibus Supply Manufacturing Company, which has been formed (1) for the erection of works to provide for the increasing public demand for the motor-bus; (2) for the manufacture and supply of omnibuses of the well-known "London General" system, which is a monopoly of the most exceptional kind; and (3) for the working of "All-England" routes and running omnibus services with this type of chassis, and the formation of subsidiary companies, etc. The General Omnibus Supply Manufacturing Company, Limited, proposes to link up towns and populous places and routes to London now to be furnished with some additional 400 omnibuses and charabancs, for which the promoters say a vast passenger traffic is now waiting.

ALBANIAN LOAN.

Turkhan Pasha, the Albanian Premier, is on his way to Vienna in connection with the loan of three millions sterling, which is not yet available. He will propose (says the Central News) that the director of the new Albanian Bank shall be an Albanian and the president a Frenchman.

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Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Paid up, £400,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £600,000.

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Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

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Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

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RESERVE	£210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

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Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 3 per cent. (Jan. 29, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, August 6.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is Aug. 10.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Mon., July 27	Tues., July 28	Wed., July 29
Tues., Aug. 11	Wed., Aug. 12	Thurs., Aug. 13

LONDON, July 22.

Markets have been depressed all the week mainly upon Continental selling. The well-informed people do not believe that there is any chance of war breaking out, and it is clear that the liquidation has been due to the closing of speculative accounts. This is shown by the fact that the heaviest falls have been in securities in which there is an account open.

New Issues.

The new issues go very badly. The Ontario loan was practically neglected, the underwriters having to take 90 per cent. The Imperial Ottoman Docks offered through the National Bank of Turkey a block of bonds secured upon certain tithes and guaranteed by the Turkish Government. The Canadian Northern offered a portion of the bonds that have been guaranteed by the Canadian Givernment. The issue price is 94. They do not appear particularly cheap.

Money Harder.

Money has hardened mainly because Paris has been buying gold. It is probable that when the political situation improves we may see a lower rate for money. Sir Felix Schuster takes an optimistic view of the situation, and thinks that rates will be maintained. But what is good for the banker is bad for the trader, and the general public would like to see the Bank Rate down to 2½ per cent.

Internationals Flat.

In the Foreign Market everything has been flat. French Rentes have fallen below 81. Some of the Russian issues have also been offered. Bulgarian 4½ are weak at 82. Egyptian Unified have been done as low as 99, some small lots having been sold from Paris. Hungarian Rentes are only 79½. Greek Fours are under 50. Turkish Unified are a shade under 81. All Servia and Near East stocks have been weak. Tintos slumped, but have recovered to 67½.

Home Rails Almost Slump.

The Home Railway market almost slumped on the news that the South-Eastern and Chatham net earnings have fallen £51,000. This was quite unexpected. The dividend on South-Eastern ordinary was reduced by ½ per cent. Evidently expenses have been largely increased. It is to be hoped that the other railways have been more economical.

Yankees Firm.

The American market has hardened, and Steels rose to 63. Unions are over 161, and even Baltimores were hard at 83½. It is improbable that this market will remain firm, as the general opinion in the States is that more small roads will go into liquidation.

Rubber and Oil.

The Lampard Trust report is very bad, and only 2½ per cent. dividend can be paid. Even this has not been earned if depreciation be taken into account. Eastern International figures are also bad, and no dividend is distributed. But the Board have written £90,000 off depreciation, leaving £60,000 still to be written off. Some of the smaller plantation reports appear fairly satisfactory. Oil shares have been offered from the Continent, and the whole Oil market is in a very distressed condition. Shells have been down to 4½, but have since recovered. Royal Dutch are only 46, and Urals are under 2. The news from Spies continues good, but the shares are barely firm at 18s. Anglo-Egyptian B have hardened, and are now a shade over 1. Suez are quoted at 7s. 9d., and Eastern Petroleum just hold their own.

Fall in Mines.

The main feature in the Mining market has been the heavy fall in Mysores, which have long been very much over-valued. In spite of a drop of 20s. per share, they still seem priced at an extravagant figure. Kaffirs have been unloaded from Paris. Tanks have been weak, and De Beers have been sold. There is no support for either the Canadian or the Russian groups.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market Hudson Bays have been sold, but Maypole deferred are a shade harder. Marconis hang about £2. The meeting was astonished to hear that Mr. Godfrey Isaacs had sold the bulk of his holding at £4, or double the present market price. His excuse for selling was that he thought the public would have more confidence in him if he reduced his holding. This was a very extraordinary statement to make.

Egyptians Idle.

The Egyptian market has been idle and lifeless. There is no business coming from the East, and Paris has been inclined to sell. National Banks have weakened to £14. Land Banks have been offered from Paris, and are a shade weaker, being well under 6½. Agricultural Banks remain steady at just under 5, and the deferred are 280. Bank of Abyssinia are 5s. Delta Light Railway prefs. remain steady, and show a fractional improvement at 8½. Delta Lands are called 9s., but there is very little business. Behera are uncertain at 8. There are more sellers than buyers here. Union Foncière are 1-1⅛. Alexandria Water are steady at 12½, and Aboukir Lands are unchanged at 21s. United Lands remain at 1s. 9d. Sidi Salem is nominally 6s., but without any business. Trusts are 5s. There has been some inquiry for Salts, which have been dealt in at 14s. 9d. New Egyptian business appears to have faded away, and the price is 9s. 3d.-9s. 6d. Markets are a shade harder at 23s. There has been a little business in Khedivial Mail, the preference being 3¾, and the ordinary have hardened up to 11s. Daira Sanieh remain at 3s., and Ginners at ¾, whilst Gharbieh Land are nominally 1¾.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

Mr. Charles Greenway has been elected chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Lord Strathcona.

Oriental Publicity Co.

The Oriental Publicity Company intends, it is said, to increase its capital to £E40,000 by the issue of 5,000 new shares. This decision has been arrived at owing to the company being desirous of founding branches throughout the Near East. It is also intended to start advertising in the Egyptian provinces by means of billposting.

Anglo-Ottoman Tobacco.

The Anglo-Ottoman Tobacco Co., Ltd., was formed in 1912, with an authorised capital of £200,000, divided into 25,000 6 per cent. preferred participating cumulative shares of £4 each and 25,000 ordinary shares of £4 each. The profits are divided between the two classes of shares as follows:—The preferred shares receive first a fixed cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. per annum; the ordinary shares then receive a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum. The surplus, after provision for reserve fund, is divided as to 35 per cent. to the preference shares and as to 65 per cent. to the ordinary shares. The company states that it has acquired one of the oldest established and most reputable businesses for the planting, buying, and sale of Turkish tobaccos. The plantations of the company are situated in the celebrated district of Kavalla, from which the finest qualities of Turkish tobacco are exported. During the first year of its inception the Anglo-Ottoman Tobacco Co., notwithstanding the war in the Near East, paid a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 17½ per cent. (less tax), and on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference and participating shares a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. on a total issued capital of £76,000. For the year ended March 31, 1914, the company has declared dividends of 22 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively on a total issued capital of £80,420, notwithstanding the unsettled state in the Near East during the first part of the financial year.

Ritz Hotels (Egypt).

The report of the directors for the year ended March 31, 1914, states that they have been unable up to the present to come to terms with capitalists for the purpose of raising money for the completion of the hotel. They have not, however, relinquished their efforts to endeavour to obtain the capital and have recently come into touch with an Anglo-American group who are interesting themselves in the matter. As, however, a question of this sort requires long and difficult negotiations, the directors are at present unable to state whether the negotiations will have any result. The directors regret that Baron Hans Pfyffer d'Altishofen has resigned his position on the board of the company and the shareholders are asked to approve a preliminary agreement made between the company and Baron Pfyffer whereby, in consideration of his foregoing a claim for a sum of about £700, he is released from his contract to act as managing director, which contract was signed at the formation of the company.

Union Steamship Co. (Hamburg).

The report states that the political changes which are going on in the Balkan countries make it practically certain that there will be an important economic revival in those lands, particularly as European capital is largely engaged for that purpose. The directors of the Union Company are accordingly of opinion that traffic in that quarter still offers a profitable field in spite of the already existing steamship connection. The directors have, therefore, purchased nine steamers, with a total capacity of 36,000 tons, and have concluded a contract with the Mercantile and Shipping Company of Antwerp, which has 23 steamers at its disposal, according to which the Union Company has established a regular steamship service from Hamburg and Antwerp to Levant ports. This service was opened in June, 1914, under the name of Aegaca Levant and Mediterranean Line.

Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria.

The report of the directors, just issued, shows that the transactions, carried out by the Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria in 1913 amounted to Frs. 781,066,205, as compared with Frs. 1,098,515,456 in 1912, a decrease of Frs. 317,449,251. This falling off is attributed to the events through which the country passed during the period under review. But the report emphasises the development of certain operations of the bank during this remarkable year. In fact, the total of the deposits has increased by five millions. In this connection the directors remark in their report presented to the Minister of Agriculture and Domains: "This increase, in a year when the country was carrying on one war after another, is worthy of notice. It demonstrates clearly the great confidence that our bank inspires in the minds of the people—confidence that remained unbroken throughout the sad days through which we have passed; for these five millions were deposited at a time when Bulgaria was cut off from all the world and when no export of cereals was possible." Advances to agriculturists show an increase of nine millions upon those of the preceding year, upon which fall the directors observe: "The bank has opened its coffers in order to aid with its credit the families of those agriculturists who suffered by the war. Apart form the granting of advances upon security the bank organized the supply of cereals for advances in kind to necessitous cases, and in this way it has been able to meet all the demands created by the needs of the moment, to alleviate the lot of the agriculturists and to second their efforts and their labour." Another point that speaks well for the Bulgarians as a nation is that the agriculturists have met their engagements to the bank: they have paid up fifty per cent. and have renewed their obligations for the balance, paying only interest. And it is to be noted, says the report, that this was at a time of exceptional stress, when the country was at war, and no export of cereals was possible. The gross profits for the year were Frs. 3,173,187 higher than those of the previous year. The capital and reserves of the bank amounted to Frs. 62,290,011 as compared with Fs. 59,962,293 in 1912, being an increase of Frs. 2,327,719.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

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H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

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E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 680,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN.—Messrs. Stern Brothers publish the numbers of 650 bonds of the Kingdom of Bulgaria Government 4½ per Cent. Gold Loan, 1907, which have been drawn for repayment at par, and will, together with Coupon No. 15, due the 1st prox., be payable at their offices on and after that date, Saturdays excepted.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—The receipts for the ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E.5,367 as against £E.6,003 for the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Receipts for week ended July 16 amounted to £670, showing a decrease of £12. Total receipts from commencement of year are £29,795, a decrease of £1,534.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.—The dividend for the first six months of 1914 has been fixed at 100 drachmai per share, same as for the corresponding period of last year.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for the week ended July 18 amounted to £9,120, a decrease of £743 as compared with the corresponding week of last year. The aggregate receipts from July 1 amounted to £21,252, a decrease of £3,235 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

OTTOMAN TOMBAC PRIORITY 4 PER CENT. LOAN.—The numbers are published of the bonds drawn for redemption at par of the Ottoman Tombac Priority 4 per Cent. Loan of 1893, due 14th prox. Copies of the list can be obtained on application at the offices of the Coupon Department of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 27, Throgmorton Street.

PRIVILEGED CO. TO PROTECT PRODUCTION, ETC., IN CURRANTS.—The half-yearly interest, due August 1, and the bonds drawn for redemption (the numbers of which are announced) of the Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants 5 per Cent. Loan, will be paid on and after that date at the offices of Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OIL.—Cable, dated July 16:—"Moreni well 29 struck deep oil source yesterday and is flowing very hard. New Baicoi well also flowing since yesterday; tanked 300 tons to the present."—Office note.—Moreni well No. 29 drilled through the Pontic and is in exactly the same formation as well No. 30 Moreni.

SUDD FUEL (SUDDITE).—Letters of allotment and regret in respect of the recent issue of debentures have been posted.

TRIAN ROUMANIAN.—Output for week ended 18th inst. was 339 tons

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The following was the position of the bank's encashments on June 30 last:—

	1913. £E		1914. £E
Existing Loans:—			
Category "A"	55,018	..	43,473
Category "B"	6,818,025	..	6,162,167
	8,873,043	..	6,205,640
Matured Loan Instalments:—			
Due	60,158	..	50,246
Falling due	1,327,168	..	1,159,889
	1,387,322	..	1,210,135
Perceptions:—			
Outstanding on Jan. 31	653,334	..	704,977
Balance	548,494	..	572,451
Encashed	104,840	..	132,526
Matured Loan Instalments:—			
Encashed	28,705	..	17,002
Total encashments of instalments due	133,545	..	149,528

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FORTY-THIRD DRAWING OF BONDS of the OTTOMAN TOMBAC PRIORITY FOUR PER CENT. LOAN of 1893 for £T1,000,010.

4101 to 4125	16776 to 16800	32831 to 32855
7851 „ 7875	17401 „ 17425	34081 „ 34105
9526 „ 9550	25356 „ 25380	39356 „ 39380
9926 „ 9950	26606 „ 26630	42831 „ 42855
10251 „ 10275	30031 „ 30055	43181 „ 43205
15926 „ 15950	30156 „ 30180	43256 „ 43280
16501 „ 16525	30656 „ 30680	44756 „ 44780

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. July 8.	Latest prices. July 22.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	103	100
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	82	82
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	99
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	95	96
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	99½	99½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	88½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	84⅛
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881	58	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	57⅛	57
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	51⅜	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	57
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	78	78
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	94
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	72½	72
Montenegro 5 % Loan	86	87½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	91½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92½
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	76½
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95	95½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84½	85
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	81	81
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	70	68
Do. 4 %, 1909	70	70½
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 1/16	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	80
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12¼
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7⅞
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	13
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6¼
National Bank of Egypt	14	14
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	—	98
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	88½
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	88½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	18⅛	18
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	87
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	102
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Pirsus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	90
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	61
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	1/16
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	2 1/16
Do. Do. Def.	—	¾
Béhéra Co.	8¼	8¼
Do. Pref.	—	4¼
Building Lands of Egypt	—	35/32
Daira Sanieh	—	2/3
Do. Def.	—	⅞
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/3	9/-
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	1/32
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	1½
„ „ Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	97½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	9/3
Sidi Salem Co.	—	7/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	7/16	1 7/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	97
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	102
Egyptian Hotels	—	1 5/16
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/-	1 7/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	¾	11/16
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	96
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	5/8
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3/8
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	87⅛
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	—	£181¼
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2⅛
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	24/-	23/9
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	8/-	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	5/3	5/-
Oilfields Finance Corporation	3/16	3/16
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	27/-	26/9
Shell Transport	4 31/32	4 31/32
Suez Oil	8/-	7/9

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. July 16.	Latest prices. July 23.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	583	565
Canal de Suez Shares	4850	4700
Do. do. Jouissance	4329	4329
Do. do. Founders	2300	2300
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	159	722
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	727	158
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	445	444
Do. do. do. Act.	204	200
Land Bank of Egypt	159	155
Mines Balia-Karaidin	441	426
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	133	133
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	504½	505
Do. do. Ord.	37½	34½
Do. do. Pref.	39½	35⅜
Tabacs Ottomans	418	391
Turkish Unified Con.	81.20	422
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	484	484
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	357	357

BRUSSELS BOURSE.

	July 9.	July 16.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	—	277.50
Do. do. Priv.	125	100
Do. do. Cap.	46	48.75
Do. do. Div.	35	26.50
Anglo-Belgian Co.	15	15
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	135	129
Do. do. Div.	145	139.50
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	422.50	421
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	60.50	58.75
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	427	423.75
Do. Priv.	542.50	129
Do. Div.	147.75	139.50
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	47	45
Do. do. Fond.	80	84
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	66.25	66.25
Do. do. Div.	44.75	41.25
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1330	1330
Do. do. Ord.	491	491
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	280
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	290	290
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	365	365
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	96.75	96.50
Do. do. Div.	80.50	80.50
Tramways du Caire Priv.	514	512
Do. do. Jouiss.	530.50	520.50
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	190	190
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	15.75	13.25

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.

	July 10.	July 17.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.453	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.451	Fcs.450
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.449	Fcs.446
Do. do. Shares	£14 9 6	£14 8 6
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.10	£T.6.37
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.392	Fcs.392
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.140	Fcs.140
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.112	Fcs.110
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.110	Fcs.105
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.38	Fcs.36
Mersina-Adana Railway 4%	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.28.95	£T.28.45

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

	July 8.	July 1
Agricole & Industrie. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. —	3⅜
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12⅜	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 48	48
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 87	87
Building Lands of Egypt	Lst. 37/32	35/32
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New	Fcs. 49½	49
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 728	728
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886	Fcs. 340	342½
Do. Do. 1903	Fcs. 268½	268½
Do. Do. 1911	Fcs. 271	271
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance	Fcs. 179¾	179¾
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	12/-	11/10½
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2 3/32	2 3/32
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. 1/32	1/32
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ½	½
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. 2	—
Port Said Salt Association	Sh. 18/3	18/-
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 8½	4 5/16
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 4 5/16	90
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 95	93
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 83	83
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New	L.E. —	—

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THE
GENERAL
OMNIBUS
SUPPLY,
LIMITED.

83, Pall Mall,
LONDON, S.W.

Send for Prospectus.

What Has Been Done.

Few people realise the enormous growth of the public motor vehicle.

The coming of the motor has revolutionised travelling for the Million.

THE
General Omnibus Supply Manufacturing Co., Ltd.,

is formed

(1) For the erection of works to provide for the increasing public demand.

(2) The manufacture and supply of Omnibuses of the well-known "London General" system, which is a monopoly of the most exceptional kind.

(In consequence of its success and popularity, as is well known, large orders are now being placed for the supply of fleets of the "London General" type of omnibus for populous Cities and Towns throughout Great Britain and in many other parts of the world.)

(3) For the working of All-England Routes and running Omnibus Services with this type of Chassis and the formation of Subsidiary Companies, etc.

Linking Up Town and Country.

The General Omnibus Supply Manufacturing Co., Ltd., proposes to link up Towns and populous places and routes to London now to be furnished with some additional

400 Omnibuses and Char-a-Bancs

for which a vast passenger traffic is now waiting.

A prospectus of the New Company will be published shortly, and copies may be obtained from:

THE
GENERAL
OMNIBUS
SUPPLY,
LIMITED.

83, Pall Mall,
LONDON, S.W.

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The LIST will CLOSE on or before SATURDAY, the 25th July, 1914.

Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals and Naval Constructions Company.

(Société Impériale Ottomane Co-Intéressée des Docks, Arsenaux et Constructions Navales.) SOCIETÉ ANONYME. Incorporated under the Laws of the Ottoman Empire in pursuance of a Contract between the Imperial Ottoman Government and

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Ltd., and Vickers, Ltd.

which firms together have subscribed on the terms of the Prospectus for £100,000 of the Bonds now offered.

OFFER FOR SALE OF £600,000 5½ PER CENT. GUARANTEED BONDS

Of the above Company (part of a total authorised issue of £1,100,000 like Bonds) unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Imperial Ottoman Government specifically secured by the assignment of an Annuity payable from the tithe revenues of the Vilayet of Sivas. The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt will collect these revenues and will pay the Annuity direct to the National Bank of Turkey, by whom it will be placed to the credit of the Trustees for the Bondholders for the service of the loan. The service of the loan is further guaranteed by the Government out of the General Revenues of the Empire.

The Bonds are repayable on or before the 14th November, 1943, by means of a Cumulative Sinking Fund of 1½ per cent. per annum, commencing forthwith, and to be applied by half-yearly drawings at par or by purchase below par.

The Bonds will be to Bearer in denominations of £20 (£T22, Fr. 500), £50 (£T55, Fr. 1,250), and £100 (£T110, Fr. 2,500) each, with half-yearly Coupons payable on the 14th May and 14th November in each year. They will bear the signatures of the Ottoman Minister of Finance, of the President of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, and of a representative of the Company, and will be countersigned in London by a representative of the Ottoman Government. The Ottoman Government has granted that the Bonds and Coupons shall be exempt in the Ottoman Empire from all Duties, Taxes, and Stamp dues.

The Company reserves the right to issue further Bonds beyond the said amount of £1,100,000 provided that such further Bonds shall have no right to any charge upon the tithe revenues from which the above-mentioned Annuity is payable.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, Lombard Street and Branches, and the NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

are authorised, as Bankers for the Purchasers (the National Bank of Turkey and others) to offer the above Bonds for sale

AT THE PRICE OF £94 PER CENT.,

payable as follows:—**£5** per £100 Bond on Application, **£10** per £100 Bond on Allotment, **£20** per £100 Bond on 14th August, 1914, **£20** per £100 Bond on 14th September, 1914, **£20** per £100 Bond on 14th October, 1914, **£19** per £100 Bond on 14th November, 1914—total, **£94.**

Payment in full may be made on allotment or on the due date of any instalment under discount at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum. Scrip Certificates of the Company will be issued after payment of the amount due on allotment, and will bear a Coupon of 16s. per £100, payable on the 14th November, 1914, representing interest to that date at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the instalments from the due dates of payment. The Bonds will in due course be delivered in exchange for fully paid Scrip Certificates.

Applications from holders of Shares, Stock, Debentures, and Debenture Stock in Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Limited, and Vickers, Limited, will receive special consideration.

DIRECTORS.

Nominated by the Imperial Ottoman Government:—

HIS EXCELLENCY BEDROS HALADJIAN EFFENDI (Deputy and ex-Minister of Public Works).

HIS EXCELLENCY AHMED NESSIMI BEY (Deputy).

CAPTAIN MOUSTAPHA ZEKAI BEY (ex-Chief of Staff in Imperial Ottoman Navy).

CAPTAIN IBRAHIM ACHKI BEY (Imperial Ottoman Navy).

Nominated by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Limited, and Vickers, Limited:—

SIR ADAM BLOCK, K.C.M.G. (British Delegate and alternate President of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt), Chairman.

F. E. WHITTALL, ESQ. (Senior Partner of J. W. Whittall and Co., of Constantinople).

ARTHUR VERE, ESQ., HARRY VERE, ESQ. (Joint Representatives in Constantinople of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited, and Vickers, Limited).

MICHEL EFFENDI MISSIRLI (Councillor of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

COLONEL SIR EDOUARD PERCY CRANWILL GIROUARD, K.C.M.G.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR CHARLES LANGDALE OTTLEY, K.C.M.G. (Directors of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited).

SIR VINCENT CAILLARD, FRANCIS H. BARKER, ESQ. (Directors of Vickers, Limited).

TRUSTEES FOR THE BONDHOLDERS.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS, AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED, Winchester House, E.C.

SOLICITORS FOR THE TRUSTEES.

SLAUGHTER AND MAY, 18, Austin Friars, E.C.

THE COMPANY has been incorporated in pursuance of the terms of a contract dated 2nd December, 1913, made between the Imperial Ottoman Government, Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited, and Vickers, Limited, and the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, under which Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited, and Vickers, Limited, agreed to purchase the present issue of 5½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds. These £600,000 of Bonds they have re-sold on terms which cannot in any event result in a profit to them of more than ¼ per cent. to the purchasers on whose behalf the Bonds are now offered.

The Capital of the Company is £250,000, consisting of £200,000 in Ordinary Shares issued as fully paid and £50,000 in 5½ per cent. Preference Shares. Of this Capital £130,000 (including the £50,000 5½ per cent. Preference Shares which have been subscribed in cash) is held by the contracting Companies, and £120,000 by the Imperial Ottoman Government, all shares having the same voting rights. Under the terms of the above-mentioned Contract and of subsequent undertakings of the Government confirmed by Imperial Iradé, the Imperial Ottoman Government has unconditionally guaranteed the Interest and Sinking Fund of the Bonds, and of the above-mentioned £50,000 of Preference Shares, by the exclusive and irrevocable assignment of an Annuity of £T88,550 (£80,500), payable from the produce of the Tithes of the Vilayet of Sivas, of which the average annual revenue for the past three years, as officially stated by the Minister of Finance, has been more than £T220,000 (£200,000). This Assignment is subject to a prior Charge on the said Tithes of £T63,600 (£57,819) per annum, which is reserved for the service of the 4 per cent. Ottoman Loan of 1909; it has priority over any other Charge. The service of the Loan is further guaranteed by the Government out of the General Revenues of the Empire. The Government has undertaken that it will not during the existence of the Company make any modification which might diminish or alter the assigned Revenues without the previous consent of the contracting Companies and without previously assigning other Revenues approved by the said Companies of at least equal value. The contracting Companies have agreed not to give any such consent without the concurrence of the Trustees for the Bondholders, and have further agreed that no claim shall be made on any sums paid or payable by the Government under the Guarantee in respect of any amount due to the holders of Preference Shares until the Bondholders shall have received in each half-year all moneys payable to them in respect of interest and capital.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt is charged with the collection and disposal as above mentioned of the whole of the said Tithe Revenues, and has agreed to pay out of such revenues as and when collected to the National Bank of Turkey for the service of the loan the amount required for each half-yearly Coupon and Sinking Fund, which will be held for account of the Trustees for the Bondholders.

There is good reason to believe that the yield of the above-mentioned Tithe revenues will increase in the future. The construction of a railway from the Port of Samsoun to Sivas has been begun, and when it is completed the value of the agricultural produce of the Vilayet of Sivas (and, therefore, of the tithe) should be increased, in consequence of the improved facilities for bringing the crops to market. Moreover, the collection of revenues by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt has been found in practice to be followed by an increase in their yield.

The Bond is an absolute and direct obligation of the Company, but having regard to Turkish Law and the conditions under which the Company enjoys the use of the Government Docks, etc., no charge of the nature of a mortgage can be created.

The Principal and Interest of the Bonds will be payable in London, at the National Bank of Turkey, 50, Cornhill, E.C.; or, at the option of the holders, in Constantinople, at the National Bank of Turkey, at the fixed exchange of £10 for £T11; and in Amsterdam at the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging in florins at the exchange of the day. The Interest will be payable by Coupon at the above Banks on the 14th May and 14th November in each year. The Sinking Fund will be applied by half-yearly drawings at par, or by purchase below par. The Company is further at liberty at any time to redeem any part of the Bonds at 105, if they cannot be purchased below par; and at any time after five years, to redeem the whole of the outstanding Bonds at par. Drawn Bonds will be paid on the 14th May and 14th November in each year, the first repayment being made on the 14th May, 1915. Coupons not presented for payment within five years from their due date, and drawn Bonds not presented within fifteen years, will, according to the terms of the above Contract, enure to the benefit of the Ottoman Government.

The following information as to the objects and prospects of the Company is given by Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Company, Limited, and Vickers, Ltd.

To THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY,
50, Cornhill, London, E.C. 20th July, 1914.

Dear Sirs, OBJECTS OF THE COMPANY.

The Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals, and Naval Constructions Company has been formed in Turkey by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Limited, and Vickers, Limited, in conjunction with the Imperial Ottoman Government, for the purpose of the repair and construction of war and merchant ships of all classes. With this object the Company has undertaken—

(a) To equip in the most modern and up-to-date manner the existing Docks, Arsenals, and Workshops belonging to the Imperial Ottoman Government in the Golden Horn, and

(b) To construct a Floating Dock to be placed in the Gulf of Ismid capable of taking the largest warships afloat or under construction, and to provide the necessary yards, workshops, etc., on shore.

An agreement has also been entered into by our Companies on behalf of the Company to acquire the control of the docks recently constructed at Stenia on the Bosphorus, and intended specially for the use of merchant shipping.

NATURE OF THE CONCESSION.

An agreement has been entered into between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the two contracting Companies (to which the Council of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt is a party) by which the Imperial Ottoman Government undertakes (subject to the usual clause enabling the Government to terminate the concession should the Company be proved to be incapable of carrying it out, but this without prejudice to the Government's guarantee to the Bondholders, and subject to the right of the Government to take over the Company's undertaking at the end of twenty years from its incorporation on repaying the outstanding Bonds at par and on paying the sum necessary to complete the redemption fund for the Preference Shares), to grant to the Company for thirty years rights which secure to it practically all Government shipbuilding and ship repairing in the Black Sea, the Straits, the Sea of Marmora, the Archipelago, and the Mediterranean generally, on terms which we consider will provide a satisfactory profit for the Company, and also the exclusive right of constructing and working naval docks, warship-building works, and arsenals in the same regions.

The Turkish Government have agreed, in return for an allotment, fully paid, of three-fifths of the Ordinary Share Capital of the Company, that the Company shall have free of charge the full and exclusive use of the whole of the present Arsenals, Docks and Work-

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shops situated in the Golden Horn at Constantinople, with the land necessary for the Company's undertaking, as well as the land requisite for the establishment of a Floating Dock and other Works in the Gulf of Ismid, together with all the fixed and moveable machinery and the tools in the said Arsenals, Docks, and Workshops.

The Company will be free of all Customs charges on any imported machinery, tools, and necessary implements for use in its shops, docks, and factories.

Our two Companies have agreed with the Imperial Ottoman Government, in return for an allotment fully-paid of two-fifths of the Ordinary Share Capital, to supply the Company with the necessary technical management and control, and to provide technical instruction with a view to training Turkish personnel. We have also jointly subscribed and paid in cash for £50,000 of Preference Shares of the Company, and are applying on behalf of our Companies for £100,000 of the Bonds.

WORK FOR MERCHANT SHIPPING.

The Company is at liberty to undertake repairs and construction work for Merchant Shipping when their plant is not occupied with Naval Work.

From the statistics available it would appear that there is an average annual movement of shipping at the Port of Constantinople of over 16,000,000 tons.

Dry Docks equipped with the most modern repair plant and latest appliances, installed at the sole approach to the Black Sea, and known to be associated with and under the supervision of the Contracting Companies, should get the bulk of the Mercantile shipping repairs of all nations in those waters.

It is impossible to frame an exact estimate of the revenue to be derived by the Company from this source, but we are of opinion that work of this character should give a very satisfactory result.

MANAGEMENT.

The technical and financial control of the management is in the hands of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Limited, and Vickers, Limited.

The Directorate of the Company is to consist of seven or nine members, and the Contracting Companies will nominate four out of seven, or five out of nine, the remainder being nominees of the Imperial Ottoman Government. The Chairman for the first five years will be one of the English Directors. In addition to the Board, the Company is to have a Financial and Technical Advisory Committee, which will consist of four Directors of the Contracting Companies.

Any difference between the Government and the Company on technical matters is to be referred to the arbitration of the Lords of the Admiralty in England, and on other matters to two arbitrators, and failing agreement between them, to an umpire to be nominated jointly by the Ottoman Minister of Marine and the Lord Chief Justice of England from among the legal members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague.

Yours faithfully

For Vickers, Ltd.,
V. CAILLARD,
Director.

For Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd.,
C. L. OTTLEY,
Director.

A copy of the Statutes of the Company, of the Clauses of the Contract of 2nd December, 1913, dealing with the Government Guarantee, and of the letters relating thereto exchanged between the Company and the Imperial Ottoman Government together with the Imperial Iradé, and of a letter dated the 6th July, 1914, from the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, together with a draft of the Bond (which is subject to the approval of the Imperial Ottoman Government) and of the Trust Deed, can be seen at the Offices of Messrs. Surtees, Philipotts and Co., the Solicitors to the Company, at 6, St. Helen's Place, E.C., or of Messrs. Norton, Rose, Barrington and Co., at 57½, Old Broad Street, E.C., during usual business hours whilst the list remains open.

Applications should be made on the accompanying form, and should be forwarded to Lloyd's Bank, Limited, Lombard Street, E.C., or Branches, or to the National Bank of Turkey, 50, Cornhill, E.C., with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and in the case of a partial allotment, the balance will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. will be charged on all payments overdue. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the amounts previously paid liable to forfeiture, and the allotment to cancellation.

An official quotation and settlement on the London Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course.

A commission of one-quarter per cent. will be paid to Brokers and other authorised agents on allotments made on applications bearing their stamp.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from Lloyd's Bank, Limited, Lombard Street, E.C., or Branches; from the National Bank of Turkey, 50, Cornhill, E.C.; from Messrs. Cohen, Laming, Goschen, and Co., 14, Austin Friars, E.C.; or from Messrs. Wise, Speke, and Co., Collingwood Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Dated 21st July, 1914.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

No..... £.....

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN DOCKS, ARSENALS AND NAVAL CONSTRUCTIONS COMPANY.

(Société Impériale Ottomane Co-Intéressée des Docks, Arsenaux et Constructions Navales.)

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OFFER FOR SALE OF £600,000 5½ PER CENT. GUARANTEED BONDS.

To LLOYDS BANK, Limited, Lombard Street, E.C. (or Branches); or THE NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY, 50, Cornhill, E.C.

GENTLEMEN.—I/we request that you will allot to me/us £..... ....sterling of the above Bonds, on which I/we enclose the requisite deposit of £5 per cent., and I/we agree to accept that amount of Bonds, or any less amount that may be allotted to me/us, and to pay the subsequent instalments thereon in accordance with the conditions of the Prospectus dated 21st July, 1914.

Signature .....

Name in full .....

Address .....

.....

Date.....1914.

Cheques should be made payable to Bearer and crossed.

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Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
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Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadina
Boulou
Brousa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denisli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
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Mitylene
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[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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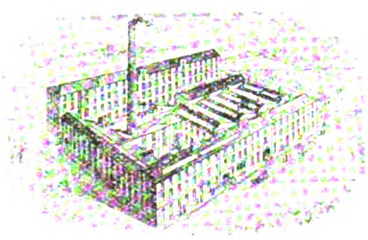
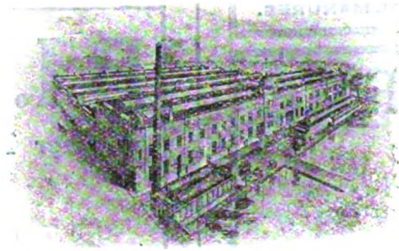

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 169.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The rapidity with which events have moved during the past week has surprised even those observers who are experienced in the kaleidoscopic effects of Balkan politics and the recurrent crises to which they give birth. Last week we were able to refer to the opinions and desires of the Government of Belgrade, a city which is to-day in the hands of an Austro-Hungarian army. The Servian capital has been established at Nish, while that of Montenegro has been withdrawn by King Nicholas to Podgoritza. Fighting has occurred, and there are signs of an Austro-Hungarian movement up the valley of the Morava.

As far as it is possible to see at present the vast boil of militarism which has afflicted the body politic of Europe for a generation past is upon the point of bursting from the pressure of its own accumulated matter. The rolling of drums in a steady crescendo over Europe is drowning the voices of those who cry for peace. The fighting-men prepare for instant war, the general order is

Blow the bugle, draw the sword,

and the Valkyries stir from their sleep of years once more to be the choosers of the slain. Meanwhile, like some poisonous exhalation from the ground, the fog of war has shrouded half Europe from sight, and the malevolent activities of a widespread mobilization are hastened in its obscurity. A Near Eastern question has been the excuse or the opportunity for this outburst, but the indications seem to point to another part of Europe being chosen for the settlement of the issues raised.

Whatever be the outcome of the present tension, the firm attitude adopted by Great Britain must have given pause to the most advanced Chauvinists, who were light-heartedly contemplating a European war. It may be assumed that Austria-Hungary would never have actually drawn the sword of vengeance against Servia had she not, rightly or wrongly, been convinced that those Powers most immediately concerned already had their hands full. Russia was seen to be in the throes of a great industrial strike, but the contention which has appeared in various quarters that this was an outward and visible sign of deep-seated unrest, seems to be discounted by the rapidity with which the trouble subsided when once the question of national honour was involved. In the same way the Continental Press has openly stated that Great Britain would probably be forced *nolens volens* to adopt the attitude of a spectator, owing to the imminent possibility of civil strife in Ireland. Here again such prophets have deluded themselves. Great Britain is very much "ware and waking." Germany is, of course, the key to the situation. Italy eagerly accepted Sir Edward Grey's invitation that the Ambassadors of France, Germany, and Italy should meet together in London to discuss possible solutions of the quarrel between Austria-Hungary and Servia; France also accepted. Germany, somewhat ominously, but in perfect loyalty to her ally, replied that she is unable to accept such an invitation unless Austria-Hungary herself expresses a desire for such mediation. The possibilities of diplomatic action have for the moment disappeared, and at the time of writing even the direct conversations between Vienna and St. Petersburg have been discontinued.

Apart from all other considerations, the Austro-Hungarian *dêmarche* against Servia must profoundly affect the relations of the Balkan States. Laments are not only inopportune, but the adage of spilt milk strictly applies in this case. It is, however, permissible for the armchair critic to point out that had the impossible been possible, and the various Balkan nations been able to sink their many differences, Austria-Hungary would never have dared to attack Servia, whatever the machinations of this State might have been in the south-eastern districts of the Dual Monarchy.

Things have not remained in the somewhat intangible state of conferences projected. As the very well-informed Berlin correspondent of *The Times* states, it may definitely be assumed that Great Britain has "with the necessary tact," informed Germany that there can be no European war with Great Britain left out. Such being the case, it is only a natural corollary that the Admiralty has issued orders that no manœuvre leave is to be granted to the crews of the First Fleet, recently engaged in tactical exercises, and that the ships of the Second Fleet are to remain near their home ports in order, at a moment's notice, to be able to take on board their full complement. Other precautions have been taken by the Admiralty, and the Press has been requested to refrain from publishing any military or

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naval information which might in any way tend to hamper what measures the Admiralty may see fit to take.

Servia has no ships of war, but, as during the annexation crisis of 1908, small vessels and launches may be manned by soldiers for the occasion, and may cause considerable annoyance. The Austro-Hungarian Danube Fleet is composed of six monitors, each carrying one or more 4.7-in. guns and several machine guns. The crews vary from sixty to eighty men, and the speed of the vessels from thirteen to eight knots. Two new boats of 527 tons, twelve knots, and five 4.7-in. guns are building, and are due for delivery this summer. The rest of the Austro-Hungarian Navy has its headquarters at Pola, in the Adriatic. The force regularly in commission includes four battleships, two being Dreadnoughts, with three battleships in reserve. It is understood that four cruisers and a torpedo flotilla are also kept in commission. The whole effective strength of the Austro-Hungarian Navy consists of eleven battleships, one armoured and six light cruisers, nineteen torpedo-boat destroyers, fifty-eight torpedo boats, and ten submarines.

The principal base of the Italian Fleet is at Spezia. The ships constantly in commission include ten battleships, divided into three squadrons, with two armoured cruiser squadrons of three ships each, five light cruisers, and a torpedo flotilla. Italy has altogether eleven effective battleships, nine armoured and seven light cruisers, thirty-six destroyers, seventy torpedo boats, and eighteen submarines. The fact that Italy has never abandoned her pretensions to certain of the Ægean Islands, which she has not surrendered since the war with Turkey, cannot be disregarded, and the Consulta is believed to favour an energetic application of what is known as the "Venetian policy."

It is interesting to note that experienced observers are of the opinion that Italy has not yet made up her mind to which side she means to incline should the present conflict spread. The "Venetian policy" which the Consulta is believed to cherish is one which provides for the acquisition of Corfu at least and perhaps others of the Ionian Islands as compensation for possible Austrian acquisitions further up the Adriatic. This policy, needless to say, involves a violation of the neutrality of the Ionian Islands, but it is at least possessed of that driving force which the newly awakened Italian earth-hunger provides. In any case the new position which the Italian fleet has taken up off Brindisi enables it to look both up and down the Adriatic.

It is understood that the Government has in contemplation the introduction of a Press Censorship Bill in view of the danger to the public interest from the indiscreet dissemination of news. It is a proposal which concerns the honour of the Press nearly, and in particular it is likely to affect the daily papers. In the circumstances, however, we welcome the proposal, and feel sure that the editors of our daily contemporaries will be far from resisting measures which will relieve them of the responsibility of deciding between the requirements of the national safety on the one hand and the demands of their circulation on the other.

Apart from rumours and counter-rumours—Zeppelin airships over Woolwich, mobilization of the Fleet, calling up of the Reserves—the most serious portent of all is that political parties should, for the moment at any rate, have agreed to sink their differences in face of a possible foe in order to present a united front. We have always contended that the Irish question was not a Polish one, and that politicians would in the end desist from playing bowls when the Armada came. At the same time Great Britain cannot dissociate herself from all responsibility for the present crisis. Had foreign statesmen not been convinced that the United Kingdom was head over ears in Ulster the crisis might never have reached its present dimensions. Here at home just now we are very quiet. It is unthinkable that we should have automatically to enter the arena on behalf of Servia. But, as in the days when the Russians were at San Stefano, "We don't want to fight, but by Jingo! if we do!" This time there will be no turning back, and France may be sure that in the event of attack the epithet of "perfidious" will not apply.

It is a trite observation that Great Britain is a Moslem Power. She is a Near Eastern Power as well, and, in addition, is bound by the bonds of her traditional policy of supporting the "balance of power." This may, to some, seem like a catch-phrase of forgotten history, but in sober truth we owe the nightmare of German aggression both in the North Sea and in the Near East to our lapse from that policy in 1870. The hand of fate once more holds out the apple of opportunity. It is the duty of the Government, having healed our differences at home, to grasp the chance of seeing that the balance of power is once more redressed. If this can be done without war, well and good. If not, then it is our plain duty to abide by our spoken word. The fact that it is known that Britannia intends to do so will in itself be of almost as great effect as the actual casting of her trident into the scales of war.

The reports which have been in circulation to the effect that Greece and Turkey have been vying with each other in their efforts to increase their respective naval forces at short notice may have been well founded. In view, however, of the demand for all naval commodities at the present it is safe to say that neither of the rivals will be allowed to acquire any vessels of war, large or small, in Europe at any rate. We have in these columns consistently condemned the folly of either country wasting its substance on further purchases of Dreadnoughts, and we can, therefore, afford to congratulate them both upon being prevented from indulging further in the ruinous competition.

One of the most unfortunate results of the crisis is to be seen in the hurried return of the Hellenic Prime Minister to Athens. Close observers have always cynically doubted whether he would meet in Brussels or elsewhere the Grand Vizier, or any other Turkish statesmen. On his arrival at Munich the situation looked so dark that Mr. Venizelos at once started back to Athens, a journey which, we expect, will prove somewhat of an undertaking, as Europe during the last few days has been closing up its communications in the most remarkable way. For the moment, then, at any rate, the hopes of a *conférence à deux* on Turco-Greek difficulties must be relegated to the background, and it is to be feared that the improvement in the situation on the coasts of Anatolia will not receive that stimulus which was confidently expected to result from the meeting of the two statesmen.

The attack on the Khedive in Constantinople on Saturday need not be taken as an outburst of Nationalist fanaticism. There are always a number of misguided beings, more especially among the student class, who regard it as incumbent on them to diminish the number of rulers upon earth. There will be no opportunity of inquiring into the state of the would-be murderer's mind, for he was shot dead by a gendarme, who fired in order to prevent his escape. At the same time it should be noted that an attempt is being made in Cairo to connect the crime with the Nationalist agitation, and to show that the assassin was in close touch with the notorious Sheikh El Shawish, who was chiefly instrumental in working up the campaign against Colonel Aziz Ali Bey El Masri. It is natural that the Egyptian authorities should seize the opportunity to point a moral on the working of the Nationalist propaganda, but against this attempt to fasten the crime on the Nationalists must be set the fact that the Young Egyptian Committee has telegraphed to the Khedive congratulating his Highness on his escape.

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The Khedive was returning from a visit to the Grand Vizier with his son-in-law, Jemal-ed-Din Pasha, son of the former Grand Vizier, Ferid Pasha Vlora. Just as the motor-car was leaving the courtyard of the Haridjieh a young student named Mahmud Mazhar stepped forward and fired several shots from a Browning pistol. One bullet struck the Khedive on the left cheek and came out on the right, while another grazed the bone of the right forearm. Jemal-ed-Din Pasha was wounded in the right kneecap and foot. At the sound of shots various officials and Ministers, including Damad Enver Pasha, Minister of War, and Talaat Bey, Minister of the Interior, who had both snatched up revolvers, rushed from the building. The Khedive and his son-in-law received first-aid and were then able to proceed to the Palace of Chibukli, on the Bosphorus, the Khedive's summer residence. Several people were arrested by the police on suspicion of being connected with the crime, but in the absence of evidence they were all released. This in itself tends to show that the plot was the creature of Mahmud Mazhar's own brain. Little is known of the man, but he is said to have been the son of a former magistrate in the Native Courts of Egypt, and seems to have failed several times to commit suicide, while he was addicted to the drug habit. The latest information states that both the Khedive and Jemal-ed-Din are progressing satisfactorily.

At almost any other time the resignation of M. Mornard, following so closely on the crowning of the young Shah, would have served to draw fresh attention to that painful subject which has come to be known as the Persian Problem. Stirring events nearer home have, however, practically monopolized the attention of Press and public in this country, and hardly a thought has been spared to Persia. This may be natural, but it is to be hoped that, however interesting events in Europe may become, affairs in Persia will not be left to look after themselves in the near future. Should that be the case we might find, when we had time to devote to them once more, that the Persian Problem had been solved—in a way that would commend itself as little to us as it would to the Persians. In view of that possibility it is, perhaps, fortunate that Parliament has sanctioned the contract between the Admiralty and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Having acquired such a substantial interest in Persia we are hardly likely to neglect it entirely.

If only the bursting of the storm cloud over Europe should distract Russian attention from Northern Persia for a while that unhappy country might have yet one more chance of showing what it could do in the way of helping itself; the elections for the Mejliss might be held in tolerable conditions, and certain changes in the administration that seem to be ardently desired in Azerbaijan might be effected. All that, however, seems too much to hope for. Nothing that may happen in Europe is likely to check that march of events in North Persia which has been causing so much uneasiness of late to friends of the country. On the other hand, many things may happen to accelerate that march, and it behoves us to keep a very close watch upon the development of the political situation in that region.

In a letter published in *The Manchester Guardian* an Englishman in Persia reports that in the course of an interview with the Vossuk-ed-Dowleh, M. Korostovetz, the Russian Minister at Teheran, announced *tout court* that "in future no *mamur* or other Persian Government official is to be allowed to go to the northern provinces, and the Persian Government is not to have any authority six farsakhs (twenty-seven miles) beyond Kazvin!" If this account be correct—and in view of all that has been done in the North of late, we see no reason to doubt it—it would seem that Russia does not intend to allow any scruples of false delicacy to deter her from collecting payment up to the uttermost farthing for any benefits she may have conferred on Persia in the way of "town improvements" or security of life and property. In such circumstances it is somewhat strange that she should think it worth while to maintain any show of consideration for the feelings of Persia—or of this country. Yet, according to the St. Petersburg correspondent of *The Times*, "Russia's reply to Sir Edward Grey's recent Memorandum regarding certain matters affecting the northern zone of Persia is couched in the most conciliatory spirit, and indicates Russia's willingness to abandon the consular collection of taxes from Russian subjects, initiated at M. Mornard's request." The correspondent adds that Russia has informed the Persian Government accordingly, but has stipulated that the taxes levied shall be paid into the Russian bank, as was done before 1912.

We referred last week to the unfortunate series of frontier incidents which were constantly taking place on the Bulgarian marches. Now, however, although the Government of Sofia is understood to have given assurances of its intention to preserve a strict neutrality, the Roumanian frontier forces along the Danube and the Dobruja frontiers have been increased. Roumania will be in a somewhat unfortunate position if her two great neighbours come to blows, and, it may be, she will keep her mind distracted from European dangers as long as possible by looking towards the Balkans as guardian of the Treaty of Bucharest.

We have, from time to time, found occasion to animadvert upon the tedious delays of diplomacy, and it is a case in point that the evacuation of Sasseno by the Greeks should have been accomplished more than a month after the Hellenic Chamber had regretfully authorized its cession. But it must be remembered that Mr. Venizelos is very gravely hampered by home politics in the punctual fulfilment of his international obligations. Further, we must point out that he is not personally to blame for the fact that Albania is in such case as to be almost unable to benefit from the belated cession. It is rather to his continental countrymen, according to Mr. Aubrey Herbert's letter to *The Times* of Tuesday, that the deplorable condition of Southern Albania is due, and that the Mpret's realm appears to be in danger of foundering. The studied neglect of the friends and sponsors of Albania has given ample opportunity for her enemies to advance their interests.

The Great Seal has been put in motion, and the grant of an Earldom to Lord Kitchener is now an accomplished fact, confirmed by the picturesque ceremony in the House of Lords. Good wine needs no bush, but, seeing that the realm is in emergency, through no fault on the part of his Majesty's Administration, we greatly hope that the new Earl will be entrusted with the temporary direction of the War Office until such time as the European situation shall be so far readjusted as to permit of his return to Egypt.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 23.

Fighting Egypt's Modern Plagues.

The hope held out by Lord Kitchener in his last report with regard to the fighting of the dread diseases that are, unfortunately, so prevalent in this country is now in process of being fulfilled. At its last meeting the Council of Ministers raised to £E12,000 the credit of £E3,546 which had been allocated in the budget of the Public Health Department for this purpose, and at the same time it created a new post of woman medical inspector, whose main duty will be the inspection of maternity schools, children's hospitals, and similar institutions existing in the provinces. In the above-mentioned £E12,000 is included the £6,000 which the Rockefeller Institute—on the advice of its delegates, who visited Egypt and inquired into the work already done and about to be undertaken—placed at the disposal of the Egyptian Government from the huge fund that Mr. Rockefeller had given for the express purpose of fighting ankylostomiasis in all parts of the world.

As the work progresses and fresh ground is broken, enabling more effective preventive measures to be introduced, it is hoped that more substantial amounts will be allocated to the Egyptian Government. It is, of course, admitted that at the start the work has been slow, and that it will of necessity continue to be so for some little time owing to the ignorance and apathy of the natives as a mass. In the meantime it is satisfactory to note that the Government is fully alive to the advisability of boldly tackling not only ankylostomiasis, but also bilharziasis, pellegra, ophthalmia, and infant mortality, all of which are closely connected in that the fundamental causes of the propagation of the germs and of the increase in victims are substantially the same, and that the Public Health Department, under its new head, Sir David Semple—who has organised the entire plan of campaign—is entering with praiseworthy keenness on the great fight which, from an hygienic and sanitary point of view, should result in a regeneration of Egypt similar to that already achieved from a financial and economic standpoint.

The Italian Advance in Tripoli.

A denial from Italian sources has been published here of the news circulated last week that an important battle had taken place near Solloum, close to the Egyptian frontier, between the Italians and the Arabs, resulting in the total discomfiture of the former. There seems, however, no doubt whatsoever that an engagement did take place on the 13th, and that the Italians had to beat a retreat to their gunboats after suffering much loss in men and arms. The fight occurred within sight of the Egyptian frontier, whence it was at once reported, and since then confirmation has been received from other sources.

The Situation in Arabia.

Turkish efforts at conciliation are evidently proceeding apace in Arabia. Last week we had the news of the appointment of Ibn Saoud as Mutessarif of Nejd, which had been rumoured in Cairo some time before. Yesterday Dr. Izzet El Guindi, who is the envoy of Sayed El Idrissi, and who received a cable of welcome from the Porte before his departure, left for Stamboul, whither Sherif Abdulla, the son of the Sherif of Mecca, had returned about a week ago from his mission to his father.

The Co-operative Movement.

Every effort is being made to give every opportunity for development to the co-operative movement, for the regulation of which a law was passed at the end of the session of the Legislative Assembly. The Minister of Agriculture has been touring Upper Egypt preaching the doctrine of co-operation to the fellaheen at all the important centres, and explaining the policy which the Government intends to adopt in its relations to the movement. We ought, very shortly, to see some good results from this propaganda in Upper Egypt, where co-operation will be of the greatest advantage to the local population—especially during periods of low water-supply and restricted cultivation, like the recent and present ones. Already there are signs that its benefits are being more widely appreciated in Lower Egypt, where, during the past few days, several new syndicates have been formed. It is interesting to note that the fellaheen and local notables are not at all keen on acquiring any independence of action, but that in fact they are eager for the Government to take full control of, and identify itself intimately with, the movement. This is quite contrary to what certain delegates contended was the country's wish when the Bill was before the Assembly, and it seems perfectly clear that their opposition to the small but necessary control which the Government proposed to exercise was actuated by motives of a personal nature, and that they either ignored or had failed to ascertain the true wishes of their electors.

The Wakfs Ministry.

There appears to be much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth in the Wakfs Ministry, and complaints from the staff have become an almost daily occurrence since the reconstruction of the Cabinet. All increases of pay already approved by the outgoing Minister have been stopped by his successor, who, not content with inflicting afternoon hours on his personnel at this hot period of the year, has set his face rigidly against his subordinates taking their usual leave. There may or there may not be arrears of work to warrant these drastic measures, but there would appear to be little doubt that the officials have good cause for complaint. For such treatment is not extended to the other administrations—indeed, the Government decided not long ago that the introduction of afternoon hours, however desirable it might be, was not possible owing to the peculiar circumstances under which the native staff lives—and it is, to say the least, arbitrary and unjust. Unless more consideration is shown by the head of the administration in question, his so-called reforms will have the opposite effect to that which he expects; for an overworked and discontented staff does not conduce to that co-operation and efficiency which should characterise the work, if the affairs of the Wakfs are really to be placed on a satisfactory and business-like footing.

Election of Abaza Pasha.

The by-election at Hehia in the Sharkia aroused an enormous amount of interest and excitement in the Province, and resulted in a victory for Ismail Pasha Abaza, who polled 354 votes against 290 recorded for his opponent, Mustapha Pasha Khalil. As Abaza Pasha challenged his rival to a meeting, where each should expose his political views and his programme it was hoped that some indication would be obtained of the attitude he would adopt, if returned to the Assembly. But Khalil Pasha declined the challenge, and so far the successful member has kept his thoughts on the subject to himself. He is, of course, far too
hand now, but there seems
, as I wrote you at the time
ed, Abaza Pasha, by reason
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e Assembly. It remains to
t in our conclusions. It is
ove to be correct; for a com-
o politicians could not be

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ENGLISHMAN'S TRAGIC DEATH.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Sudan, July 18.

A serious accident, resulting in the death of Mr. A. Backhouse, occurred on Tuesday morning. Mr. Backhouse, who had been acting superintendent of the Customs for the past two months, was inspecting the patent fire extinguishers in the Customs Buildings when the one he was handling exploded with a terrific report, striking him on the jaw and breaking his collar-bone. He was picked up unconscious, and died a few seconds later. His funeral took place the same afternoon, practically the whole European and Egyptian community being present. Mr. Backhouse was one of the most popular of the Customs officials in Port Sudan, and his early death has been a sad blow to his colleagues and many friends.

EARL KITCHENER.

The following notice appears in the *London Gazette*, dated Whitehall, July 27, 1914 :—

The King has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date the 27th instant, to grant the dignities of Baron, Viscount and Earl of the said United Kingdom unto Field Marshal Horatio Herbert, Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum and of the Vaal in the Colony of the Transvaal and of Aspall in the County of Suffolk, Baron Kitchener of Khartoum and of Aspall in the County of Suffolk, K.P., G.C.B , O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., his Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt and Minister Plenipotentiary in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service, by the names, styles, and titles of Baron Denton, of Denton, in the County of Kent, Viscount Broome, of Broome, in the said County of Kent, and Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and of Broome aforesaid, to hold to him and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, with remainder in default of such issue to his first, second, third, fourth, and every other daughter lawfully begotten, and to the heirs male of the body and respective bodies of such daughters severally and successively one after another as they shall be in seniority of age and priority of birth, and in default of such issue and after the death of every such daughter to Henry Elliott Chevallier Kitchener, Esquire, Colonel on the retired list of the Army, a brother of the said Horatio Herbert, Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and in default of such issue and after the decease of the said Henry Elliott Chevallier Kitchener to the heirs male of the body lawfully begotten of Sir Frederick Walter Kitchener, K.C.B., late Lieutenant-General in the Army, deceased, another brother of the said Horatio Herbert, Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum.

CO-OPERATION IN PERSIA.

Reformers in Persia have not lost all heart under their political misfortunes. A correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* reports that an attempt is about to be made to introduce the methods of agricultural co-operation into the country. The model will be Sir Horace Plunkett's organisation, and Arbershirji Edalji, the agent of the Parsee community in Persia, who is the promoter of the scheme, has got into touch with Plunkett House in Dublin. Mr. Edalji is a well-known and vigorous personality in Teheran, and, though a Parsee and a British subject, has devoted himself to national interests and the constitutional cause. The rough treatment he received from Liakhof's Persian Cossacks during the civil war illustrated very well the decline of British prestige in Teheran.

Communications with the Near East have been greatly interfered with this week, consequent on the outbreak of war between Austria and Servia, and the mails have suffered disorganisation. On this account we are unable to include several of the usual letters from our Correspondents. In the circumstances we hope our readers will make allowances for any shortcomings.

"PEARLS OF EGYPT" CIGARETTES.
A. CHELMIS & CO. Est. 1870.
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NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cyprus, July 17.

British Fleet's Visit.

From the 10th to the 15th instant the island was enlivened by the presence of the British Mediterranean Fleet. Some forty vessels of various types assembled in these waters, and each of the southern ports received some of the visitors. As has often happened before, the visit was made at the quiet season, when numbers of the Government officials are on leave and only one or two, perhaps, are to be found at each of the leading towns. In these cases, moreover, the official representatives are mostly living *en garçon*, their families having been sent up to Troodos for the summer. In such circumstances it is difficult to provide adequate entertainment for our naval guests, and the attempt to do so falls very heavily upon the slender resources of individuals, and we feel that, much against our wish, the welcome extended to them is very second-rate. On the present occasion, we understand, Government has furnished District Commissioners with a small entertainment allowance, and municipalities have in some cases come forward with contributions. At Larnaca and Limassol, especially, a good deal was done to give the visitors a pleasant time on shore. A garden party and ball were the leading events at Larnaca, where also the French Consul took an active part in entertaining the representatives of the naval Power in the "Entente."

At Limassol sports were arranged, and everywhere the ubiquitous cinematograph did a roaring trade. A party of 160 bluejackets and a dozen or so officers came up by train from Famagusta to Nicosia, and spent a few hours in the metropolis, where luncheons were provided, the officers being entertained at the club and afterwards shown round the town.

Salt for Roofing Purposes.

The salt requirements of the island are almost entirely provided locally from the salt lake at Larnaca. An exceptionally large collection was made last year, sufficient for four years' consumption, which averages about one and a-quarter million okes. It is distributed throughout the island to the Government salt stores, and is used not only for culinary purposes, but for various industries. It enters largely, of course, into the preparation of cheese, olives, hides, etc., and a new use for it has been found in one or two villages as a roofing material, as it has been discovered that if spread over the ordinary native mud roof it sets hard after rain and makes a smooth, durable surface.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST.

The question of soil erosion is still very much to the fore, especially in America, says *The Morning Post*, and Sir William Willcocks has been telling the Americans some home truths in contrasting their proceedings with those of the ancient Egyptians, who, he says, would never have allowed the Nile to do anything proportional to the mischief directly attributed to the Mississippi, as a general rule, but really due, says Sir William, to a great extent, to the unscientific blunders of the Americans themselves. He finds fault with nearly everything, not only with the actual construction of "levees" or embankments, but with the very reasoning applied to justify their construction at all. He gives an example from his Oriental experience to show the fallacy of common arguments on the behaviour of streams. The point he is desirous of making is the advantage to be gained by cutting off a bend in the river, to which the objection was raised that it would upset the navigation, as in the case of the Theiss, in Lower Hungary. He admits the spoiling of the Theiss, which he attributes to the cutting of too many bends at once, but quotes the Karun River, in Persia, where a long loop of eight miles brought the stream back to the same point, with a difference of 4 ft. in the level. All sorts of doleful predictions were made as to the disastrous effect of its breaking through at that point, as it was expected to do sooner or later. In actual fact, when it did break through the river adapted itself to its new channel in a week without any difficulty whatever. . . . Sir William Willcocks speaks with knowledge of Egypt and of the Euphrates valley, and his words of criticism will carry weight. It is interesting to note that some of the strongest opposition to the new schemes of storage reservoirs and cuttings came from the railway companies. Finding that they are now joining in urging the Government to do something, Sir William caustically remarks that it reminds him of the man who, having murdered his father and mother, appealed for mercy on the ground that he was now a poor orphan.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 24.

The Volunteers for Albania.

Apparently the volunteers who left here for Albania do not find the business quite so pleasant as it promised to be. Out of a party of just over 200 which arrived at Fiume by the steamer "Godollo" it was found that eight had deserted. These declared to the police that they had taken this course because they had not received the pay that was promised to them. Each man, they stated, had been promised that he would receive 200 francs immediately after leaving Bucharest and 4 francs per day after reaching Durazzo, but up to that time they had not received a centime.

Frontier Incidents.

What may reasonably be termed a storm in a tea-cup is the excitement caused during the last fortnight by the various "incidents" on the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier. The first of these occurred, as already reported, on the 15th inst., when a Roumanian soldier was shot and another wounded. The Bulgarians declared they acted in self-defence, as the Roumanians, though unarmed, tried to wrest the rifles from two Bulgarians, whose comrades fired. The Roumanian account speaks of a party who were marking the new frontier line being fired on without notice. The inquiry instituted has so far given no result, but the first account sounds the most probable. Had this been the only incident the matter would have ended, as usual, with an apology from the offending side and monetary recompense to the relatives of the men killed. But since then almost nightly the Roumanian pickets have been fired on by the Bulgarians, and, very naturally, have replied. To crown all, on the 17th inst., at Turksmil (Kukukla), two Bulgarians were killed during an attack on the Roumanian blockhouse. The incident in this case commenced by the Bulgarians shooting a dog belonging to a Roumanian picket which was going the rounds. These dogs, though mongrels, are much prized by the frontier guards, who spend much time in training them. A dispute ensued, and after a heated exchange of words the Roumanians retired to their blockhouse. They had not been there long when a shot was fired by one of the Bulgarians, which broke a window and narrowly missed two soldiers. At this the Roumanians, seizing their arms, rushed out and opened fire on the Bulgarian picket, their aim being so good that they killed two at the first volley.

Since then further, less important, "affairs" have occurred, but the local Press has so exaggerated matters that it is impossible to know what to believe. So much excitement has been roused by these reports that the Ministry of War has requested the Ministry of the Interior to take steps to put an end to their circulation by the less scrupulous papers.

So far nothing seems to have been actually done to put an end to the state of affairs I have described, but both Governments show every intention to settle the matter. The Bulgarian Government proposed that the Military Attachés from one capital or the other should meet at the scene and decide who was in the wrong, but the Roumanian Government refused the suggestion, saying that such an arrangement would be permissible only when all steps taken by the two countries themselves had failed to bring about an arrangement.

Bucharest, July 26.

The Roumanian Government's objection to a commission composed of military attachés has led to the appointment of a mixed military commission, composed of officers of both countries, to endeavour to adjust the frontier difficulties. On July 24 the delegates, consisting of Colonel Stratilexu, Captain Paltineanu, and the sub-prefect of the district for Roumania, together with Colonel Morfoi, Major Cobajieff, Major Ivanoff, and M. Athanasoff for Bulgaria, met at Turksmil, the scene of the incident. The commission proved the finding of Bulgarian bullets in the walls of the Roumanian blockhouse.

The pickets of both countries have now been withdrawn 100 yards from the frontier, and the troops have also been moved further back. These measures have exercised a pacifying influence on the population on this side the frontier, and the episode may now be considered to be closed.

'Pin Pricks."

Another of those affairs which go so far to prevent the maintenance of good feeling between Roumania and Austria-Hungary is reported from Caineni. A group of forty Roumanian students under a professor, whilst making an excursion to Siebenburgen, were requested by Hungarian gendarmes to remove the Roumanian tricolour favours which they wore. This they refused to do, using at the same time insulting remarks as regards the gendarmery and Hungary in general. Arriving at the frontier station at Rotherthum, they were arrested, and, having since been tried, have been sentenced to fifteen days' imprisonment. This really serves them right, as there is not a Roumanian on either side of the Carpathians who does not know that the wearing of national colours other than Hungarian is not permitted in Hungary, and the Roumanian colours were worn only in order to annoy the authorities and set them at defiance.

Roumania and the War.

The sudden change of events as regards Servia and Austria has given rise to considerable discussion here as to the attitude Roumania would adopt in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. A fairly general impression obtains that Roumania would remain passive unless Bulgaria attacked Servia. In this connection it is worth noting that the belief has taken root that Bulgaria could easily conduct a campaign on two frontiers. It is rumoured that a secret understanding was arrived at between Roumania and Servia after the close of the Balkan War, but the report lacks confirmation, and is not generally believed.

THE UNDIPLOMATIC DIPLOMATIST.

Under the heading "A Diplomatic Don Quixote" in *The Morning Post* (July 28), Mr. A. Maurice Low gives a character sketch of Mr. George Fred Williams, until recently American Minister to Greece. The man who amused and amazed Europe by his undiplomatic utterances on Albania is no "typical product of American politics, to whom diplomacy and Courts and Kings and the fine *nuances* of life were unknown," but on the contrary:—

George Fred Williams is a delightful companion and a gentleman by birth, education, and associations. He is no inexperienced man to whom the etiquette of polite society is unknown. His companions have always been men and women of refinement and culture. He is well read and a man of ability. Yet he went to Greece and made a spectacle of himself. The mystery is easily explained. Mr. Williams is an anachronism. He belongs to a past age and not the present. He would have been an heroic figure when men wore coats of mail and went up and down the world carving fortune with their swords. With equal indifference he would have rescued maidens, or rid the Holy Sepulchre of the infidel, or raised a rebellion, or refused to pay the latest tax imposed by a juggling Chancellor; he would have been found fighting wherever there was a minority, and he would have been the champion of all the lost causes. And if he had not ended his career prematurely at the hands of the headsman, his portrait would be in more than one great European gallery and there would be articles in the magazines explaining him for the benefit of posterity. Mr. Williams is a curious and interesting study in present-day American psychology. He is a radical, a crusader, a protagonist. He has a perfect passion for the "under dog," and in his zeal to find the "under dog" so that he may succour it, his vision is apt to become distorted, and his sympathies to overturn his judgment. What has been said of Lord Randolph Churchill applies with equal force to him: "Underlying his political inconsistencies and superficialities was a genuine sympathy with the ideal of popular government, a real dislike for privilege and oligarchy." Mr. Williams has not always been wise, he has frequently shown that his political wisdom was infinitesimal, but no one has questioned his sincerity or his passionate love for popular government, and his fierce hatred of privilege and oligarchy. His vitality and his ardour have carried him far, sometimes too far for his own good. Had Mr. Williams been a fox-hunting squire a hundred years ago he would have risked his neck and his horse's every time he went to a meet. Other men might go through a gate or around a stone wall, he would have gone over them no matter how high or wide; his enthusiasm would have blinded him to every danger, and compromise he would have deemed as despicable as cowardice.

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THE ALBANIAN DEBACLE.

We have received from a trustworthy correspondent in Valona a letter, dated July 23, from which we give below some extracts:—

As for Roumanian intervention here, some intervention is necessary; but having no personal knowledge of the Roumanians, I cannot say if they are capable of conducting themselves decently in dealing with another race. Judging by the newspaper reports, their treatment of the Bulgars is not inspiring. So far all evidence goes to show that the Balkan States (and Roumania is next door to being one) all revert to savagery and run amok when fighting.

It is possible that Roumanian troops might commit atrocities here when excited. And as "intervention" of one Power seems to lead to permanent occupation—*e.g.*, Bosnia and Egypt—it is questionable whether the other Balkan States would acquiesce in Roumania acquiring territory and parts on both sides of the Adriatic.

The true solution is one that I fear is impossible—viz., a small army composed of men from two strong Powers who have no political ambitions here—preferably England and Germany. Both Greece and Bulgaria when they were created were provided, the first with Bavarian and the second with Russian, troops to maintain order until local forces were organised.

Albania might conceivably have worried through her early years unaided had the Powers kept their word and enforced Greek evacuation—enforced it really, and had authorities on the spot to see it done. As it was, the "evacuation" was a farce, and the mass of imported Cretans, Thracians, Macedonians, etc., led by officers said to have "deserted" by the Greek Government—and deserted along with their artillery!—have, as you know, ravaged the land, and were on two occasions at least supported by large regular reinforcements from across the frontier. To cope with this was, of course, beyond the power of the local gendarmerie, though, aided by numbers of volunteers, they put up a good fight. For they had also to contend with the local rebellion which started at Shiak. That this is an artificial affair entirely engineered from without is certain. The Moslem population there is excessively ignorant, and Serb and Greek (and also, it appears pretty certain, Italian) agents have persuaded them that by revolting they will get back the Sultan. The few wounded rebels who were picked up and brought into the Durazzo hospitals all narrated that they had been told that the "Hamidieh," with Turkish troops, was waiting off Durazzo, and that all those who helped in the capture of Durazzo for the Sultan would receive handsome pensions for life.

The other day in the last Greek attack on Koritza the rebels were acting together with the Greeks. It was a combined attack. The Servians were supplying the rebels with ammunition, and were seen doing so by reliable witnesses. The Dibra gendarmes, who were enlisted by and were fighting on the Albanian side, then deserted to the enemy. The Albanians begged them not to, and they replied, "The Greeks have promised to restore to us our town of Dibra, which the Serbs have taken, if we help them. This army that is coming is coming to give us back our Baba" (the Sultan).

It appears also that the Moslems of Tirana and Dibra have all been told—presumably by Serb and Greek agents—that a Protestant king means that they must all turn Christian, and that incestuous marriages and other malpractices will be the rule.

The core of the rebel district is Essad Pasha's land. Essad is the leader of the affair, and he is supported by Italy as well as the Balkan States—all of these being willing to combine to prevent Austria ever getting a footing here.

The Prince's first great mistake was putting himself in Essad's pocket. His second was setting Essad free to return to Italy and contniue the game. The pathetic thing is the adoration with which the Mpret is regarded by the band of Koritza patriots, who have staked their all on freedom for their native town, and who consider him as the symbol of civilization, liberty, and all that is good.

I do not fancy his withdrawal would do any good, but rather harm. It would allow the rebel party to consider it had conquered and excite it to further folly; and it would cause such a bitter feeling of having been betrayed in the hearts of all those who have fought and suffered for him that a second king might meet with universal distrust.

At the same time he must have help. Europe cannot honourably send him here and deny him aid. If it is correct to keep a lot of troops—far more than necessary—eating their heads off in Scutari, it is surely equally so to send some here. Part of the Scutari garrison could be used, in fact, effectively.

RESIGNATION OF DUTCH OFFICERS.

DURAZZO, July 29.

General De Weer, in tendering to the Mpret the resignation of all the Dutch gendarmerie officers in Albania (on account of various differences of opinion, in part cular with the Roumanian officers of the Mpret), said that the Dutch officers would not leave Albania during the present crisis, but would quit the country together when the conditions had become more settled.

The two children of the Prince and Princess of Albania will be taken to-morrow to Sina a, the residence of the King of Roumania, near Bucharest.—(Reuter.)

THE OBLIGATIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We are under no obligation, expressed or implied, to defend Servia, and no considerations of interest require that we should do so. If Servia were to be blotted out from the map to-morrow it would make no earthy difference to us. Nor are we—as Sir Edward Grey has frequently assured us—under any obligations to assist Russia if she goes to war. If such a war is waged against Austria on behalf of the Serbs it will run decidedly counter to our sympathies, if not to our interests. Austria has always been a good friend of ours, and we could not view without sorrow any attack made upon her to prevent her doing anything that she is legitimately entitled to do. As for the alleged Slavophil impulses of Russian action—even if we were able to understand their bewildering variations—we have no concern in them. There remains the question of the Balance of Power, in which we are certainly interested, and which may be jeopardised by the intervention of Germany and France, which a Russian attack on Austria would render inevitable under the Treaties of the Triple and Dual Alliances. But this is a question which in our unfettered position can only be decided by the progress of the war. If we are objectively interested in the Equilibium as such, and apart from any preference for this or that combination of Powers, then we must wait to intervene until we see whether, and on which side, and in which direction hostile to British interests the disturbance is likely to take place.—Lucien Wolfe in *The Daily Graphic* (July 27).

THE NEAR EAST.

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THE LETTER-BOXES OF TABRIZ.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Tabriz, May 23.*

The agitation against Shuja-ed-Dowleh still continues, and appears to be gaining force. As a result of manifestoes against him having been sent by the city mail to prominent citizens, his Excellency forbade the use of the city letter-boxes that had recently been placed at various convenient places; but in consequence of protests from the Belgian postmaster, and "advice" from the Russian Consul, this order was soon repealed.

In addition to being made the receptacle for these manifestoes, the letter-boxes received a great many unstamped letters, sent, apparently, for the express purpose of making the addressee pay double postage on receipt; and very many unsigned letters, usually of a grossly insulting character, were also posted. To put a stop to such an abuse of the postal facilities, by order of Shuja-ed-Dowleh, a gendarme is now posted by each letter-box in order to see (1) that letters are properly stamped, and (2) that they are properly "signed." The Persian signature consists of a seal, and the letters proper are seldom signed, the seal being always placed outside on the envelope, so that anyone can tell who is the author. Now if any letter is not stamped and sealed the person endeavouring to post it is at once placed under arrest. Instead of mailing their manifestoes, the agitators and malcontents are now placarding the walls with same. To put an end to even this means of airing their views, Shuja-ed-Dowleh has ordered that notices and advertisements are only to be attached to the special boards which he has provided!

Shuja-ed-Dowleh is just finding out that there are certain things that he must not and cannot do; that the good old days of Maragha are no more; that a mere motion of his monster moustache is no longer sufficient warrant for the decapitation of any man. But he is still primitive enough to think that if he forbids the use of city letter-boxes the agitation against him will cease. That agitation, however, is organized by people who are more highly educated than he, and at least as intelligent.

Mirza Firooz Khan.

OTTOMAN ASSOCIATION.

Lord Lamington presided at the first annual meeting of the Ottoman Association, which was held at the Café Monico on Wednesday evening of last week (July 23).

Mr. E. N. Bennett, the secretary, presented the first annual report, which showed that the association was founded on January 21 last, and now had a membership of 110. Two memorials had been presented to the Foreign Office, a meeting in the City of London had taken place, questions had been asked in Parliament, and letters had appeared in the public Press with the object of correcting unsteadying, exaggerated, or false information regarding Turkish action which from time to time had been put into circulation. The accounts showed that on June 30 there was a credit balance at the bank of £21, and although there were one or two small outstanding accounts the subscriptions of thirty-seven members were in arrear.

Mr. Schaap called attention to an article which had appeared in *Truth* regarding the financial affairs of the Association, and alleging that £300 had been received from the Turkish Government. He asked whether this was true.

The Secretary (Mr. E. N. Bennett) said that he had not seen the article in question, but so far as he knew the £300 was an absolute myth. The Association had no subsidy from any Government, and entirely depended upon the subscription of the members. A suggestion had been made to him by a gentleman that a series of articles on the finances, ethnological, and other problems of Asia Minor might be written, and that influential papers should be purchased for the purpose of the Association. He (Mr. Bennett) had replied that such articles would entail a great deal of research among Blue Books and in the British Museum, and that no one would undertake to do them for nothing. A further suggestion was made that twenty articles should be written at a fee of ten to fifteen guineas each, which would work out at about £300. That letter, he alleged, was stolen, and that was the only foundation for the mention of £300.

The Secretary was instructed to write and contradict the statement.

The report was adopted.

Mr. Bennett was re-elected hon. secretary, and the executive committee were re-elected, with the addition of the names of Lord Newton, Sir Alfred Paget, Miss Grace Ellison, Major George Paget, and Dr. Pollen.

The Earl of Denbigh presided at the dinner which followed. In proposing the health of the King, his lordship said that under the present circumstances his Majesty's health would be drunk with more than usual heartiness. (Loud cheers.) He then read a letter from Mr. J. L Garvin, who had been prevented by the political crisis from attending the dinner. Lord Denbigh then proposed that the following message should be sent to the Turkish Senate, and the suggestion was received with acclamation:—

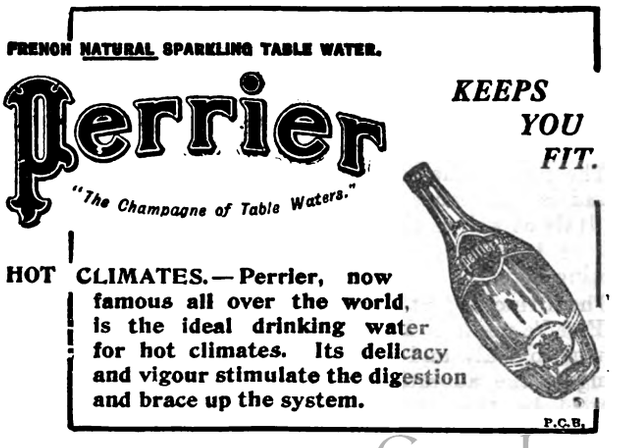
"That this assemblage of friends of Turkey sends cordial greetings of goodwill to the people of the Ottoman Empire through their representatives in Parliament engaged upon their task of consolidating the resources of the State by attention to the arts of peace no less than to preparations for defence."

There was, said Lord Denbigh, a great deal of undeserved prejudice in regard to the position of the Turk, and there were large numbers of people in the country who were ready to condemn the Turk unheard, and wished for nothing else than to hound him out of Europe. Whatever one might say with regard to the unfortunate things which had happened in Turkey, one could not help but admit that they had done a great deal to alienate the sympathies of other nations. He regretted that there always seemed to be a suspicion whenever anything Turkish was mentioned. This was supposed to be a conflict between Mohammedanism and Christianity, but when one realised what had happened during the war in the Balkan States he did not think Christians had much to flatter themselves about. (Hear, hear.) The unfortunate part of it was, in spite of the official denials which had issued from diplomatic circles, there was a great deal going on in the Balkan Peninsular which ought to make Christian people hang their heads with shame.

Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall said that diplomacy had never been a friend to Turkey. Diplomacy persuaded Turkey to disband her European army just before the war. They believed that religious fanaticism was inhuman and should be banished from the world. Up to the seventeenth century the Mussulman was far more tolerant than the Christian. Upon an independent Turkey rested the basis of European peace in the East. Turkey was at the head of a great forward movement which was very distasteful for Russia, and therefore this country did not care to recognise it. There was still some help for the Turk if the English would give him an honest opportunity.

Lord Lamington said he could not believe for a moment that this country would fail to support Turkey in Asia Minor, if only from the point of view of our selfish interests.

* Delayed in transmission.



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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Last week Europe was expecting a possible diplomatic strain within the Governments of Vienna and Belgrade. Events have marched. The latter capital is in the hands of hostile forces, for

An Austrian army awfully arrayed
Boldly by battery besieged Belgrade.

The world, at the moment of writing, waits to see whether or no

Cossack commanders cannonading come,

for in those circumstances it is inevitable that all the armed might of Europe will be engaged in

Dealing destruction's devastating doom.

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It is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that the publication of a Servian Supplement in THE NEAR EAST should again have been so shortly followed by the outbreak of war in which Servia is involved. It will be remembered that the beginning of the campaign of October, 1912, was preceded only by a few weeks by the Servian Supplement which was published by this journal.

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Even in a financial panic there are limits to what may be expected, and England has always prided herself on her credit either in gold or paper. It came, therefore, as a surprise to learn yesterday that a cheque for £200, signed by the directors of one of the most English of English institutions, and sent to its representatives in Paris, drew only 60 frs., probably, I take it, in centimes, from the close-fisted French banks. This is only a sample of what may happen should the war spread. The whole financial fabric of Europe will crumble. I remember that during another scare—one of those hardly annuals which come when the harvest is gathered in—a lawyer told me that he was seriously considering whether it would not be wise to collect all spare balances and to bury them at the bottom of his garden until the clouds rolled by. When all is said and done, a cheque is only "*un morceau de papier*," and as such worthless. England, which has developed the cheque system to a fine art, may find herself harder hit than anyone. Better far at the moment the fate of those barbarians who do not know the sight of a cheque, but who believe in "touching" the money, be it unwieldy five-franc pieces or Maria-Theresa dollars, than those whose liquid assets are bounded by the leaves of their cheque book.

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A portable capital for a European State would assuredly be an innovation of the first magnitude, but to that unique expedient, seemingly, Albania may be reduced. Some time ago an exhibition of Hungarian manufactures was opened at Valona. Acording to the United States Consul-General at Budapest, it was not so much the samples which aroused interest as the portable building in which they were housed. In the not unlikely event that Durazzo might not remain the capital of Albania, officials of the new Government and merchants established in Durazzo were faced with a perplexing problem. Satisfactory houses are very difficult to obtain in Albania, and to build permanent houses and offices in a town which might suddenly be bereft of its importance by the departure of the Court and Government would be a very risky speculation. The portable house seems to have been welcomed as a solution of the problem. I do not know whether residents of Durazzo have had the opportunity to develop the suggestion amidst the uncertainties and surprises of the last month or more. A town which could be pulled down, packed up, and transported to another site whenever the political or military situation necessitated a change of air would have its advantages—in Albania at any rate.

***

Talking of portable capitals, I see that the headquarters of both the Serb monarchies have flitted, if I may say so, overnight. It is a great thing for Court, Government, and Skupshtina to be able to shoot the moon in this way, though probably highly annoying to most official personages. It seems that both Belgrade and Cettinje were found to act admirably as capitals so long as Turkey was the enemy, as in each case they were removed as far as possible from the Ottoman foe and overlooked the territory of the Hapsburgs, positions which are highly inconvenient at the present juncture.

***

Humour marches shoulder to shoulder with the grimmest events in everyday life. I see, for example, that the foreign Press records the movements of the Austrian public executioner—is he perhaps a Lord High official, like the celebrated colleague of Pooh Bah, or is his office hereditary, like that of one of Mr. Crockett's heroes? At any rate, he has been commanded to Serajevo to fulfil his functions, and, in order to do so, has had to interrupt—his cure at Karlsbad. Here at least is an unsuspected patron of that celebrated source of health. Let us hope that the state of siege will not keep him too long from resuming his treatment.

Why is it that the opinions of East and West are so diametrically opposed? In Europe marriages between cousins are comparatively rare, but in the nearer East they are extremely common. Indeed in Arabia it may almost be said that custom, which has there the force of law, practically prescribes them. The subject was brought to my mind last week by the coronation of the youthful Shah; for I understand that amongst the Kajar tribe, to which the Persian ruling dynasty belongs, such marriages are not only common, but are actually rather encouraged. Cynics may be tempted to remark that that fact in itself is not conclusive proof that such marriages are entirely desirable. But as a matter of fact marriages amongst cousins are frequent amongst Moslems, and I have myself met several men whose parents were cousins, and who themselves gave no sign of being lacking either mentally or physically.

***

The mention of marriages in connection with the Kajars reminds me that that really remarkable man Nasr-ed-Din Shah not long before his death insisted on marrying his sister-in-law, the sister of one of his wives. And marry her he did, in spite of all manner of protests from the scandalised ladies of the harem. Their threats to leave the palace, as a protest, and to take *bast* at the British Legation left Nasr-ed-Din quite unmoved. At any rate, if he felt either fear or hope stir within him at the threat he gave no sign of it. But the British Minister at the time—Sir Mortimer Durand, unless I am much mistaken—must have felt somewhat anxious! To have the whole bevy of Court beauties taking refuge in the Legation grounds might have been an interesting experience, but it would have created a situation of extraordinary delicacy, which would have taxed even Sir Mortimer's powers to the uttermost.

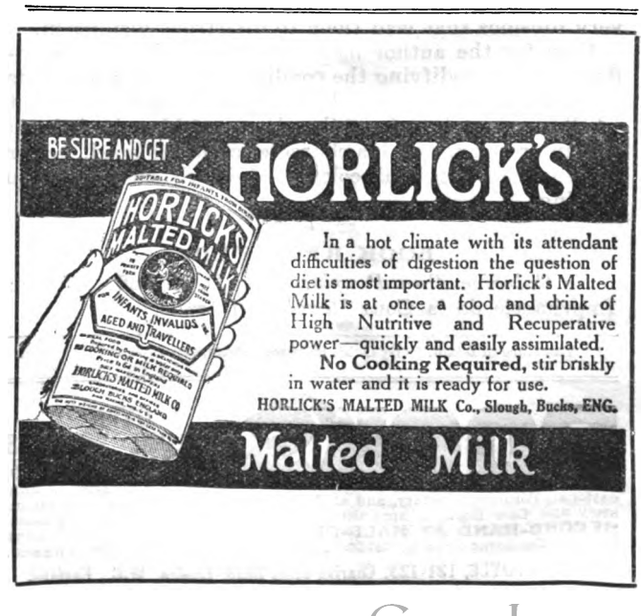
***

The pretty daughter of an Egyptian Pasha has put Cairo in a flutter by determining to take to motor cycling. At least, that is what I gather from the Egyptian papers. The lady in question, who is described by an obviously impressed writer as "young and charming," went to a well-known firm of dealers in motor cycles in Cairo quite recently and made a trial of one of their machines. As a result, a large crowd seems to have congregated in the neighbourhood of the shop, and the firm—unlike certain West-end firms here, which are keenly alive to the value of such things—not recognizing the value of such an advertisement, "have made it a condition of the purchase that the machine shall be delivered at the fair damsel's residence instead of being experimented with at the shop." On second thoughts, perhaps the firm is not quite so lacking in business acumen as I suspected at first. A motor bicycle is a difficult thing for a girl to manage. The firm may have done well to get it delivered before its full—er—beauties became known to the Pasha's daughter.

***

According to a letter in *The Times* of yesterday, an urgent appeal is made on behalf of the Albanian Relief Fund, Union of London and Smith's Bank, College Crescent, Finchley Road, London, N.W. The need appears to be pressing, and the destitution very real. Europe is the sponsor of Albania, poor little foundling State, and if the other five Powers are too busy with their own frontiers and other private affairs, the hope is that in the United Kingdom at least some charitable persons may realise that there is a responsibility in this matter, and subscribe to the fund.

CORSAIR.



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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

CONCERNING "MIXED MARRIAGES."*

This book should prove a surprise to any but those who are intimately acquainted with Cape Town conditions of life. We need not here explain—so carefully and explicitly is it set forth in the author's preface—what is a "Malay." Suffice it that he is a Moslem, and that the frequent inter-marriage of Moslems in Cape Town with white women of the poorer classes furnishes, in the present case, the problem for the author.

Mr. Prowse takes his problem in all seriousness, and presents a striking case against Islam, depicting the suffering and oppression, actual and possible, in such marriages. But it must be said in justice that he does not by any means exhaust his theme. Obviously when a woman marries a Moslem she courts disillusion; but what is disillusion except the dispelling of illusion? And why has she formed her illusions? In what, moreover, does the disillusion consist?

She finds on entering her new life that she is but one among several, liable to dismissal for the slightest possible reason or even caprice; she has practically no freedom, no ideal of sharing her husband's life; she has entered into a strictly defined and rigidly limited sphere of existence and subservience, and she must remain therein on pain of summary ejection.

All this is, of course, repugnant and even harrowing to our modern Western notions; but, then, Islam is Islam. Her methods and customs are known to all who care to learn them; she hides nothing, extenuates nothing, changes very little through the centuries. We can absolve Moslems from the charge of concealment or deception, in that those who fail to inform themselves have only themselves to blame if the fair pictures of their imagination fade before the ruthless light of reality. Moslems are not Mormons!

In fact, we fail to see why the Cape Town women should be so ignorant of the conditions and customs of the Malays who live in the same town as they themselves. They may, as the author would seem to indicate, find enlightenment from others, from the clergymen of their parish, and so forth, but that enlightenment must be supplied in a singularly ineffective manner, to judge by its results.

The Anglican clergy have every reason to cite their mandate for missionary work and the superiority of their creed over all others, but that need not blind them to everything in those other creeds, and to much that is admirable—above all, for its environment—in Islam. If they condemn, they should preface their condemnation by statement of absolute fact; they should represent the exact prospects of a Moslem marriage, and so enable the women to choose on the merits and demerits of those prospects. Above all, if Islam is to be rejected, let something of very definite value be set in its stead. Sympathy, authority, help, and the like should form the counterweight, otherwise it is natural that the drab and sordid existence offered to sensitive and ambitious young girls should provoke and enhance those very illusions that lead them to disastrous disillusion.

How far the author may succeed by his book in influencing or modifying the conditions of which he treats must remain to be seen. In any case, though we cannot wholly exempt him from the charge of bias, he is lucid and interesting, and his characterization is good, better indeed than his local colour, of which he is far too sparing.

R. F.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Le Calvaire d'un Peuple. Par D. Mikoff. (Sofia: Imprimerie de la Cour Royale. 1 franc.)

* "The Lure of Islam." By C. M. Prowse. (Sampson Low and Co. 6s.).

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NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Dr. David M. Beddoe's historical romance, "The Last Mameluke," has, we are pleased to note, been recently issued in the Wayfarers' Library. To all lovers of healthy, stirring fiction Dr. Beddoe's story may be unreservedly recommended. The author has chosen the most picturesque episode in the history of modern Egypt—the overthrow of the Mameluke régime by the Corsican conqueror—as a setting. He has evidently taken pains with the historical details, and no one can question his intimate knowledge of Egypt and the people of the land of the Nile. The characters are drawn with convincing skill, and in no way resemble the stereotyped figures of the many so-called historical romances that we have read to our sorrow. It will not be easy to forget the combat between Stephen Hales and Omar Bey or the glorious knock-out on the point of the chin with which the Englishman put his treacherous opponent out of action. There are two thrilling battle pictures—the battle of the Pyramids and the battle of Aboukir. Messrs. Dent merit all praise for introducing Dr. Beddoe's story, which deserves to be better known, to a larger reading public.

Messrs. Heath, Cranston and Ouseley will publish shortly "The Balkan Tangle," by Mr. Oliver Bainbridge. The book will be illustrated from photographs. The author's aim is to describe the condition of the Balkan States and to disentangle the motives and policies of the chief protagonists of Balkan politics. The price will be 10s. 6d. net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

A PETITION FROM CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—The Cypriote Greeks will shortly present to H.M. King George a petition, of which I enclose a translation. I am of opinion that comment will be superfluous, as the signatories of this petition are practically lost to all sense of shame.—Yours, etc.,

SUBSCRIBER.

[ENCLOSURE.]

To his Majesty the King of England and Emperor of India.

YOUR MAJESTY,—The Greek people of Cyprus, full of gratitude to your Majesty's grandmother, of blessed memory, the magnanimous Queen and Empress Victoria, for their release from the yoke of slavery, cherished the hope at all times that they were being guided, under the Liberal British rule, to their national restoration (Union with Greece!!). This steady hope has changed to a lively impatience ever since the accompliahment of the great facts that have to a large degree restored to the populations in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean their national rights under the generous and magnanimous support of your Majesty.

Do not overlook, great King, a natural, eternal longing on a part of the Greek race which is, upon the whole, grateful to Great Britain—the yearning to be united to the consanguineous Greek Kingdom.

Give back, great King, this happiness to the Cyprus people, who were provisionally placed under your liberal and glorious sway, that they may bless the name of your great grandmother from generation to generation.

God Save the King.

May 21, 1914 (date of drawing up of the document).

"PLIGHT OF ANATOLIAN GREEKS."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I have compared your two Smyrna correspondents' accounts of recent events in Long Island with that sent by Reuter, which appeared in the Press on Monday, July 20. I find that the three reports disagree in most important details, including :—

(1) The date.
(2) The composition of the landing party.
(3) The manner and locality of the alleged massacre.

(1) Reuter says the slaughter was on the 17th, rumours only reached Smyrna on the 18th, and corroboration on the 19th. Your correspondent, A, writing on the 15th, gives the date as the 10th.

(2) Reuter emphasises that the landing party consisted of a company of eighty regular soldiers, and that the outrage was not committed by refugees or Komitajis, by whom, presumably, he means Bashi-Bozuks, not Bulgarian bands

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Correspondent A, however, says there were eighty gendarmes and seventy Bashi-Bozuks.

Correspondent B, agrees with Reuter and says the party consisted entirely of soldiers, who were sent from a neighbouring fort under an officer.

(3) Reuter says the troops, under pretext of searching the houses for arms, began to loot. "The Greeks naturally protested," and were then driven on to a square and sixteen were killed before the eyes of their friends.

Correspondent A says the landing was made at three points. The inhabitants were driven off a hillside and butchered in a gully. Fifteen out of the total population of 300 then on the island were killed. (The "regular battue" was therefore singularly successful.)

Correspondent B says that fifteen men working peacefully in the fields were seized, bound and shot down.

July 20, a telegram was sent to Mr. Eric Whittall in these terms :—

"Reuter reports you confirmed slaughter sixteen innocent Greeks on Long Island by Turkish regular soldiers, is this true?"

July 21 the following reply was received :—

"Twelve Greeks Long Island killed gendarmes tenth. Consider some cause existed for skirmish between islanders and gendarmes, but that some Greek lives might have been spared. Have made no declarations Reuter."

So far as I am aware this is the latest information to hand, and warrants a protest against the lurid headlines in large black type under which Reuter's telegram appeared in some of your contemporaries :—

SLAIN IN COLD BLOOD.
TERRIBLE BUTCHERY BY TURKISH TROOPS.
16 MEN MURDERED.

Obviously eighty armed men under an officer, whether they were gendarmes or regular troops, were not landed on the island without reason. Judging from Mr. Whittall's telegram, in all probability there had been smuggling, gun-running, or some disturbance by the islanders. A force of gendarmes was sent under an officer to make a search. When they commenced to carry this out the islanders resisted. Some sort of a skirmish took place between them and the gendarmes. The latter got the best of the fight, drove the resisters into a corner, and gave them no quarter.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the gendarmerie of the Smyrna district is in charge of a European officer.—Yours, etc.,

C. F. DIXON-JOHNSON.

Croft-on-Tees, Darlington.

THE PRESS ON THE WAR.

Before the Declaration.

Austria has a genuine grievance which calls aloud for redress. Who has the right to assume that there are other impulses to account for any steps she may feel compelled to take? We sincerely trust that there will be no recrudescence of the racial conflicts which have deluged South-Eastern Europe with blood. At the same time, it must be contended that Servia has been receiving an amount of sympathy which is quite unwarranted by circumstances. The highly coloured portrayals of her as a gallant little nation fighting against odds in defence of downtrodden fellow-nationals is utter fudge. The Serbs have shown treachery and cunning to friends and foes alike until they have alienated every ally except the Great Power which may now find it awkward to offer practical support. If peace is to be assured the issue rests with King Peter and his advisers. Only by rooting out the pestiferous groups of conspirators who make Belgrade their headquarters can honour be satisfied.—*The Outlook* (July 25).

We recognise that Russia cannot tolerate the destruction of Servia and is bound to stipulate as to the limits of Austrian intentions. But let no one, on the other hand, lift a finger or raise a voice to encourage Servia in obstinacy or even to save her from the due measure of immediate punishment which the passions and follies of her extremists have deserved, and the negligent presumption of her statesmanship has courted. The psychology of Serb magalomania has been inflamed to a most mischevious degree since the successes of King Peter's subjects after the recent Balkan wars.—*The Observer* (July 26).

Peace, indeed, is the first interest of the Entente and the first interest of England. Both will spare no efforts to preserve it. But any plans which may be based on the supposition that the policy of either has changed, or is likely to change, are doomed to disappointment and to failure. Our friendships are firm, as our aims are free from all suspicion of aggression. While we can hope to preserve peace by working with the Great Powers who are not immediate parties to this dangerous quarrel, we shall consider that end above all else. But should there arise in any quarter a desire to test our adhesion to the principles that inform our friendships and that thereby guarantee the balance of power in Europe, we shall be found no less ready and determined to vindicate them with the whole strength of the Empire, than we have been found ready whenever they have been tried in the past. That, we conceive, interest, duty, and honour demand from us. England will not hesitate to answer to their call.—*The Times* (July 27).

So far, therefore, as the issue between the two countries is concerned, the British public will be guilty of a very foolish blunder indeed if it indulges in any sentiment of the "underdog" kind. Servia is a nuisance to Europe generally, and a very great nuisance to Austria in particular. If her Government practically gives its patronage to a propaganda leading to perpetual disorder and occasional frightful crimes, it cannot appeal for sympathy, however, unpleasant the consequences. While, however, refusing to look on Austria as a bully of small nations or a wanton disturber of the peace, we do think that she owes it to Europe to give the necessary operations an appearance as little disquieting as may be. . . . Our Foreign Office might in all friendliness suggest to Vienna the wisdom of disclaiming at once all notion of territorial expansion at the expense of Austria's unpleasant little neighbour.—*The Standard* (July 27).

If it should prove impossible at this late hour to prevent the outbreak of war between Austria and Servia, it is at least possible to isolate the struggle. If Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy, acting together in good faith, do not achieve that they will be responsible for the greatest crime in history.—*The Daily News and Leader* (July 27).

Whatever one may say and think of the precise terms of the Austrian Note which has led to the war, the Austrian attitude cannot on the whole but appear, in the light of the Greater Servian propaganda, as perfectly justified. It is idle to say that the Government of Servia was not responsible for the doings of the chauvinist section of the population. As representing the Radical peasant party, M. Pashitch and his colleagues were the initiators of the Pan-Servian idea, and by refusing to proceed against the mischievous agitation they have placed Austria in a position either to take the law into her own hands or to surrender to the Black Hand and the Narodna Obrana at discretion. It is not surprising that she has chosen the former way.—*The Daily Chronicle* (July 27).

If the word mobilisation is pronounced in St. Petersburg, Berlin, and Paris, it will have to be pronounced in London also. But why should it be uttered at all in any of these capitals? Servia has declared herself ready to make all reparation in her power, but not to commit national suicide. There is no vital quarrel at this moment between Germany and any of her neighbours, nor any reason why Austria-Hungary should seek to create one. If she persists, and if in that persistence she is able to plunge all Europe into war, the cause must be sought elsewhere than in Servia. Accordingly the question of peace or war, for England as for the other Powers, cannot be dismissed on the ground that England has no vital interests in Servia. Her vital interest is in the reign of equity and right in Europe and in the maintenance of her own character.—*The Morning Post* (July 27).

After the Declaration.

It is hard to know which would be the greater misfortune for Europe—the acceptance of the challenge and a great war, or its non-acceptance and the consequent domination of the Triple Alliance. It is for Englishmen as fast as they can to realise the situation and to make up their minds as to the country's duty.—*The Morning Post* (July 29).

Austria has suffered treatment at the hands of Servia which she cannot and ought not any longer to endure. She has our fullest sympathy in the action she is taking to obtain reparation for the past and guarantees for the future. That is the lesser issue, and we would not lift a finger to save Servia from the chastisement she has so richly deserved. It rests with Austria whether the greater issue shall also be raised.—*The Pall Mall Gazette* (July 29).

We have now to reckon with the accomplished fact of a declaration of war upon Servia by Austria-Hungary. It looked inevitable all day yesterday and was officially confirmed last night. It is not the end of all things, but it calls for the most strenuous and immediate efforts to localise the conflict. The best we can hope is a long period of tension, repeating in an acuter form the alarms of the Balkan war, while Austria-Hungary proceeds with her task, which may by no means be without difficulty, of subduing the Servians.—*The Westminster Gazette* (July 29).

The action of Austria in precipitating the war cannot be justified by the nominal circumstances that have given rise to it. The provocation which she has received from Servia, culminating in the assassination of the Crown Prince and the refusal of prompt and adequate reparation, has been great. But the character of the ultimatum she addressed to Servia and the rejection of the reply which came very near unconditional surrender, make it clear that she has used the incident as a means to an end. —*The Daily News* (July 29).

If, as they say, Austria is chiefly anxious to humiliate Servia publicly, and seeks no territory, the occupation of the capital ought to satisfy her, and fortunately Belgrade lies just over the River Danube, and its occupation ought not to give much trouble. There is no obvious reason why Austria should not be content with that. . . . If she grasps at more she will probably retain less. She would not be allowed, nor does she wish, to annex any part of Servia, and a prolonged campaign in the country would only inflame the hatred of the Serbs without hurting the Government more than the occupation of the capital would do.—*The Manchester Guardian* (July 29).

If Austria-Hungary with Germany's approval has decided to go forward in any event with her Servian campaign, it is for Russia to consider whether the peace of Europe should be destroyed in order to stop it at this stage. Having regard to all the circumstances, we cannot feel that it ought to be, if Austria-Hungary puts on a firm basis her promises not to encroach on Servian territory or independence.—*The Daily Chronicle* (July 29).

Everything points to the probability of the war in Servia being soon over, which in itself will conduce to the localisation of the conflict. The Servian army cannot hope to make a stand against the invaders. The country is thinly populated, and it has just borne the strain of two, or, we might even say, three wars.—*The Evening Standard* (July 29).

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Decree of Fate.

An article, under the heading "Servia and Austria: The Sarajevo Tragedy," contributed to *The Daily Telegraph* (July 25) by Mr. Chedo Myatovitch, gives the point of view of a fair-minded and cultured Servian on the crisis which Austro-Hungarian and Servian relations had reached at the end of last week. Throughout the writer seems, as it were, obsessed with what he calls the "strange fatality" which rules those relations. He writes:—

A part of the Servian Press never ceases to decry Austria as the personification of diabolical wickedness and of deep hatred of the Servian nation. That is not true. The truth is that Austro-Hungarian statesmen are not guided by hatred of the Servians, but by the consciousness of their duty towards their own country. To keep their position in the Adriatic is absolutely a vital interest of Austria-Hungary. To preserve and strengthen that position they must keep and develop Dalmatia. They cannot develop Dalmatia and make it prosperous without obtaining a hinterland for her. Looking at it from an impartial point of view, I do not see how the Austrian statesmen could have worked otherwise than they did. They, of course—doing only their patriotic duty—came into conflict with the vital interests of the Servian nation. The inevitable duty of the Servian statesmen was, and is, and for ever shall be to work at the unification of all the Servian territories into one independent self-governing national State. We Servians cannot possibly reconcile ourselves with the prospect that Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia should for ever remain the provinces of the Austrian Empire. Part of the Servian Press likes to represent the Austro-Hungarian *régime* in Bosnia and Herzegovina as most autocratic and oppressive, impoverishing and demoralising the Servian people of these provinces. I think that Press policy is quite wrong, because it is not based on the real facts. In truth, Austria has done very much to elevate the moral and cultural level of these countries and to increase the prosperity of the people. The truth lies in this fact: the Austrian *régime* may be ten times more humane, wise, and successful than it has been up to now, and yet the Servians will not be satisfied with that *régime*, simply because it is foreign, and they naturally desire to be their own masters. There is no doubt a serious and deep divergence between the vital interests of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Servian nation. It is a fatality, but it is a fact, and inevitably we must come one day to the supreme struggle for the great problem: to be or not to be.

Pan-Serb Propaganda.

An article on "Serb and Austrian," in *The Independent* (July 13) by Professor Michael I. Pupin, of Columbia University, provides another Serb view of the situation after the Serajevo tragedy. We quote below:—

The Pan-Serb propaganda does exist—I admit it frankly—and I ought to know whereof I speak, because I am a Serb and a former subject of the Austrian Empire. But this Pan-Serb propaganda is not a political conspiracy, born and bred at Belgrade or at any other place in the kingdom of Servia. It is a natural heritage of every true Serb, who is ever ready to obey the voice of the Serb minstrel, the gouslar, which commands him and has always commanded him for 500 years to struggle for the "honoured cross and golden liberty." This voice was always the supreme commander in all Serb struggles against the Turkish oppressor, and it is to-day the supreme commander in the Serb struggles against Austrian tyranny. The causes of the Pan-Serb propaganda are in Vienna and not in Belgrade. The tragedy in Sarayevo on June 28 was being prepared in Vienna during the last thirty-six years; it was enacted on the very day—Vidov Dan—when every true Serb celebrates the anniversary of the battle of the field of Kossovo, in 1389, when the Serb Empire fell. Its memory always served as a reminder to the Serbs that they must avenge the wrongs perpetrated upon their race, and that by united effort only can they regain the glories of their ancient empire which vanished at Kossovo.

A Tribute to the Khedive.

Commenting upon the attempt upon the life of the Khedive, the *Pall Mall Gazette* remarks:—

Egypt would have lost a most capable ruler had not the attack on the Khedive happily failed. Abbas II. is only forty, though he has reigned two-and-twenty years. He is an accomplished linguist, conversing fluently in all the principal European tongues, is strict in his attention to every duty of his office, eschews both alcohol and tobacco. . . . Agriculture is the Khedive's hobby, and his special pride are the model farm round the Koubeh Palace and the fine stock of his stables and kennels.

The Problem of the Ottoman Greeks.

An important article, under the heading "Ottoman Empire and Greece," is contributed to *The Daily Telegraph* (July 28) by Dr. E. J. Dillon. A careful and detailed survey is given of the difficult problem with which Turkey is faced owing to the anomalous position of the Ottoman Greeks. Dr. Dillon has been endeavouring to bring about a "workable arrangement" between Greece and Turkey. He writes:—

The statesmen who at present preside over the destinies of the Moslem Empire are convinced that the new lease of life accorded to their country after the Balkan war is conditioned by the consolidation of the ethnic elements of which it is composed, by the assimilation or nationalisation of the Christians and the welding of them all into one solid mass. Now the assimilation by Turkey of the Greeks, whose culture is so greatly superior to her own, is a sheer impossibility. Even the simpler process of nationalising them is beset with difficulties and might become a disturbing factor in home affairs. For it implies the political emancipation of the Orthodox Christians, the bestowal on them of a heavy stake in the country, and a powerful incentive to labour for its welfare. And even this bold line of action would be fruitless unless parallel with it went the cultivation of such amicable intercourse with the Kingdom of Greece as would warrant the firm conviction that peace between the two States was safeguarded effectually by the abandonment of land-greed and political ambitions on the one side and of schemes of revenge on the other side. But if these conditions could be fulfilled, the Greco-Turkish problem, and together with it the Balkan problem, would be solved for many years. And I fancied I could suggest to both Governments a feasible way of fulfilling them which would commend itself to both.

It seems, however, that Dr. Dillon's intervention was unfortunately powerless to stem the tide of passion. He continues as follows:—

The alternative to this method is the extirpation of the Hellenes of the Empire, their ejection from the land by open violence or petty persecution without regard for international usage, in the assumption that Europe—whose ardent desire it is that Turkey should hold together and thrive—will not budge to stop the experiment. That assumption was based on the quiescence of the Powers when Adrianople was retaken by Turkey and their own solemn decree was summarily quashed by my friend Talaat Bey. This process of eviction has already been inaugurated, and one of its results was to embitter both peoples, to estrange both Governments, and to render an amicable settlement of their differences more arduous than before.

How impossible it is for Turkey to acquiesce in the existing position is well shown in the following extract:—

These schemes [of Greek expansion], however wild they may seem to statesmen, are, it was further argued, living realities to those Hellenes of whose hopes and fears public opinion and sentiment in the Hellenic world are largely made up. Thus, they voluntarily taxed themselves for the increase of the Greek fleet. They sent their sons to be trained as soldiers and bluejackets in the army and navy of King Constantine as though they were already his subjects, and not those of the Sultan. A large number of them had actually enlisted in the King's army and fought against Turkey during the war. Pursuant to a clause in the Peace Treaty these offenders had to be included in a general amnesty, and allowed to continue their avocations in Turkey unmolested. But they were well known to their Moslem neighbours, who hated them cordially, and deemed death a mild punishment for their perfidy. The Government might pardon, but the people felt impelled to punish.

Servia—the Socialist State

Touching upon the Servian peasantry, a writer in *The Manchester Guardian* says:—

Fifty years ago the Servian peasantry still lived in village communities, each family consisting of several generations (so-called "zadrugas"), tilling its common land in tenancy, as it were, from the community, and periodically exchanging it with others. This was almost an exact replica of the conditions prevailing at that time in Russia, where, as is well known, the survival of the "Mir" gave rise among the young men to a theory that Russia offers the greatest facilities for direct transition to a Socialist State. The foremost exponent of that theory was then Bakounin, the father of Anarchism, who saw in the Russian village community a providential arrangement destined to place his country in the van of social progress. It is not surprising that the young Servians who were at that time receiving their education in foreign countries, having heard of these doctrines should have felt greatly attracted by them. Their "zadruga," then, was the nucleus of a Socialist State, and they had never suspected it. The times being revolutionary, all the young Servians became disciples of Bakounin—that is, Anarchists with a Pan-Slav flavour who worshipped the peasant as the unconscious bearer of a most glorious future and saw him as one who in his humble way was much wiser than all the statesmen and philosophers of that other bourgeois world of the West. Hence we find M. Pashitch and his friend M. Patchu, the present Minister of Finance, on the side of Bakounin, now listening at his feet to his Anarchist preaching, and then fighting with him in the International the "authoritarian" Marx and Engels. It was in this mood that they formed the Servian Radical party as the representative of the peasant class. It was still in this mood that M. Pashitch, then an engineer, employed on the construction of an iron bridge over the Save, raised as late as 1884 the standard of revolt, and had to flee to Crotia for his life. But gradually, of course, as the "zadruga" disappeared, as individual property in land became the rule, even in Servia, the old illusions vanished, and the Anarchism and revolutionism of the Radical party vanished with them, giving place to moderate Liberalism and, under the stress of rivalry with the Hungarian economic enemy, to very immoderate nationalism.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Sudan Loan. July 23.

Lord Strachie (Paymaster-General) moved the second reading of the Bill to increase the loan to the Sudan Government under the Act of last year to £3,000,000, to be allocated as follows: £2,000,000 for works for the purpose of irrigating the Gezireh Plain, £800,000 for the extension of the Sudan Railway system, and £200,000 for other irrigation works and contingencies.

The motion was agreed to without discussion.

Atrocities in Albania. July 28.

Lord Lamington asked his Majesty's Government whether they had any confirmation of the report that the streets of towns in Southern Albania were covered with the naked bodies of women who had been strangled and of babies hacked to pieces, and that the population were being exterminated, excepting for those refugees who are starving in and around Valona; whether, in view of the fact that Northern Albania was protected from these terrible atrocities by the presence of an international force, his Majesty's Government would not take steps to procure the despatch of international forces to Central and Southern Albania.

Viscount Morley said that surely the noble Lord knew that we could not enter into chivalrous enterprises of every kind that might present themselves to us as recommended by humanity. The noble Lord was quite wrong in supposing that his Majesty's Government were looking with indifference on the allegations of enormities which were referred to in the question. No details had been received as to the hideous atrocities named in the question. As to the numbers of those who had been rendered homeless the Government's only reports were from unofficial sources, and could not well be considered as much more than general rumour. It appeared from reliable private sources that in a part of Valona there were some 12,000 refugees from South Albania. In the surrounding country it could hardly be doubted that thousands more—it might be many hundreds—were in urgent need of the necessaries of life, but proposals had been made for their immediate relief, which it was hoped would be effective.

The Italian Government were prepared to send large quantities of maize, but, singularly in the circumstances, that maize was said to have been declined by the refugees. The International Commission of Control, seated at Durazzo, were reported to have placed 100,000 francs at the disposal of a Special Committee for the purpose of immediate relief. The six Powers were considering the dispatch from Durazzo of an international mission, who would endeavour to elucidate these past transactions and to further the restoration of something like order and confidence. On the second part of the question the noble Lord referred to past affairs, which seemed to place a special responsibility on the English Government, and as to which he seemed to impute the blame of almost wilful ignorance on the part of his Majesty's Government for what was to happen in the future. That was not so. The presence of an international force in Scutari was due to special circumstances connected with the evacuation of Scutari by Montenegro. For the present, after constant consideration of all the reports, his Majesty's Government adhered to their decision that the situation, involving any number of international points, did not warrant the dispatch of British troops to any other part of Albania. They had forces in Northern Albania, but it would be indefensible to repeat that operation by ourselves alone in Southern Albania. There would be no objection on our part, however, to that task being undertaken by any other Power which might think it its duty or desirable.

The Marquess of Lansdowne said that while they quite admitted that the noble Viscount was right in saying that we could not pose as crusaders and seek out grievances to redress wherever they might be found, here was a part of the world for the condition of which we have a certain amount of responsibility. He thought his noble friend was entitled to ask not only that we should not object, but that we should be glad to co-operate with any Power who would make it its business to see that something was done to arrest the carnage going on in that unfortunate country.

Lord Loreburn said that he quite recognised the difficulty. Nobody would desire to press the Government unduly, but he did not think what his noble friend said was adequate. He had said we should not be averse if any other Power was willing to come forward in a fair spirit. Could he not extend that by saying that we should be willing to assist if other Powers would share the task?

The Marquess of Crewe said that his Majesty's Government certainly would not say at that moment that the idea or possibility of certain occupation could not or ought not to be carefully considered. It was not the kind of enterprise in which the Foreign Office should lightly advise the country to engage, and although everything which had been said would receive the close attention of Sir Edward Grey, the notion of sending troops, even in concert with some other Power or Powers, was not a matter which should be treated as one of no great import or as one which in conceivable circumstances might not involve very serious consequences both to this country and generally in Europe.

Sudan Loan.

The Government of the Sudan (Loan) Bill passed through Committee.

Earl Kitchener. July 29.

Lord Kitchener, who was introduced by Earl Roberts and the Earl of Powis, took the oath and his seat as Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Anglo-Persian Oil Company. July 27.

The House went into Committee for the consideration of a resolution authorising the application of the £654,813 from the old Sinking Fund to the acquisition of share or loan capital in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

The resolution was carried by 191 to 67.

Persia's Financial Trials. July 28.

Sir George Scott Robertson asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had official information to the effect that a sum of £42,000 belonging to the Persian Government, and set aside by them for the payment of police and gendarmerie, had been impounded by the Russian authorities, and that, in consequence, the police were clamouring for arrears of pay and the Swedish officers of gendarmerie threatening to resign, and, if so, what steps he proposed to take?

Sir E. Grey: It appears that the surplus of the northern Customs has been used to meet certain unexpected Russian demands. This has naturally increased the difficulties of the financial situation, but I have no information to show that the failure to pay the gendarmerie has been solely due to this fresh claim on the Treasury. I have instructed his Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg to discuss the whole matter with the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Replying to supplementary questions, put by Sir G. S. Robertson and Mr. Worthington Evans, Sir E. Grey said that this particular sum, which, according to his information, was not £42,000, had been retained to pay Russian claims. It was very inadvisable at this time to press claims on Persia which might increase her financial embarrassment. The sum was not part of the loan which was made to Persia, which was earmarked for the purpose of the Gendarmerie.

Sir George Scott Robertson asked whether the Russian authorities had signified their intention to permit the removal of Shuja-ud-Dowleh from the Governorship of Azerbaijan by the Persian Government; whether any withdrawal of Russian troops from that province was made dependent upon an increase of the Persian Cossacks commanded by Russian officers by an equal number of men; and whether an augmentation of the Persian (Swedish) gendarmerie in the North must be met by an identical increase in the Cossack Brigade?

Sir E. Grey: I cannot give information as to possible or prospective changes in the Governorship of Azerbaijan. The withdrawal of Russian troops is stated to be dependent on the degree of order in Azerbaijan. The question of an increase in the Cossack Brigade and of strengthening the gendarmerie is still under consideration.

Sir Edward Grey's Statement.

On Monday, to a crowded House, Sir Edward Grey narrated the steps he had taken to bring about a Conference of representatives of Germany, France, Italy, and Great Britain, in the hope of arranging a settlement of the question in dispute between Austria-Hungary and Servia. His statement was made in answer to a question by Mr. Bonar Law. He said that on Friday morning he had received from the Austria-Hungarian Ambassador the text of his Government's communication to the Powers. In the afternoon he saw other Ambassadors and expressed the view that, so long as the dispute was one between Austria-Hungary and Servia alone he felt that we had no title to interfere, but that, if the relations between Austria-Hungary and Russia became threatening, the question would then be one of the peace of Europe. After he heard that Austria-Hungary had broken off diplomatic relations with Servia he instructed by telegraph his Majesty's Ambassadors in Paris, Berlin, and Rome to ask the Governments to which they were respectively accredited if they would be willing to arrange a Conference in London, at which he should meet the French, German, and Italian Ambassadors in London. At the same time he had intimated to the Governments in Vienna, St. Petersburg, and Belgrade the proposal of a Conference, through the usual channels, and requested them to suspend military operations pending the result of the Conference. In conclusion, he said: "It must be obvious to any person who reflects upon the situation that the moment the dispute ceases to be one between Austria-Hungary and Servia, and becomes one in which another Great Power is involved, it can but end in the greatest catastrophe that has ever befallen the Continent of Europe at one blow. No one can say what would be the limit of the issues that might be raised by such a conflict; the consequences of it, direct and indirect, would be incalculable."

Financial Help for Albania.

Mr. Fell asked if the Government had made any loan or advance to the State or Kingdom of Albania, or was under any financial obligation to make any such loan.

Sir Edward Grey: An advance of £5,000 was made by his Majesty's Government last December towards the relief of distress in Albania, as was stated in the House on February 19, but this was not strictly speaking an advance to the Government of Albania, as it was not under their control. The question of an international loan is under consideration, but his Majesty's Government are under no obligation to contribute anything to it.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. July.	1914. July.		1332. Ramadan	5674 Ab
31 Aug.	18	Friday	8	8
1	19	Saturday	9	9
2	20	Sunday	10	10
3	21	Monday	11	11
4	22	Tuesday	12	12
5	23	Wednesday	13	13
6	24	Thursday	14	14

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Sixtus of Parma, half-uncle of the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Greece, the younger brother of the Diadoch.

Monday is the birthday of His Majesty the King of the Hellenes.

Wednesday is the birthday of Sister Maria Benedicta, of the Convent of St. Cecilia at Ryde, who used to be H.R.H. Princess Adelaide of Parma, the half-aunt of the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

H.M. King Constantine is proceeding this week to Moudros on board a destroyer to follow the grand naval manœuvres. His Majesty will then inspect the fleet.

H.M. the Queen of the Hellenes, accompanied by H.R.H. Princess Frederick of Hesse, arrived in London on Thursday morning last week from Eastbourne, returning to Eastbourne in the evening.

H.M. the Queen of the Hellenes and H.R.H. Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse visited their Majesties Queen Alexandra and the Empress Feodorovna of Russia, on Monday afternoon.

H.R.H. the Crown Prince of the Hellenes has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Eastbourne.

H.M. King Nicholas has returned to Cettinje from Venice.

H.R.H. the Regent of Servia has left Belgrade for Nish.

H.R.H. Prince Christopher of Greece is among the guests of Captain and Mrs. W. A. Grant, at Westergate House, for Goodwood.

The Khedivah Mother is rebuilding her palace at Ramleh, near San Stefano. The building dates from the time of Ismail Pasha and has been in a dilapidated state for some time past. The improvements will cost over £E10,000, and a section of the palace has already been made fit for habitation, but the entire work of restoration will not be finished for two or three months.

The Right Hon. Sir Louis Mallet, (his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Constantinople) had an audience of the King on Monday.

Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, left Cairo on Monday morning last week for Port Said en route for England.

Mr. R. W. Graves, C.M.G., is at present in London.

Mr. Take Jonescu, formerly Roumanian Minister of the Interior, left London on Wednesday in company with Mr. J. D. Bourchier, the Balkan correspondent of *The Times*, in hopes of reaching Bucharest by an indirect route.

Count Leopold von Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, spent four years in London at the Austrian Embassy. He came to London from Paris in 1899, and was transferred from London to St. Petersburg in 1903.

The style and titles of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum are, in future, to be Baron Denton of Denton, in the County of Kent, Viscount Broome of Broome, in the County of Kent, and Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and Broome. The viscounty and the second title of the earldom are, of course, derived from the Kent property purchased from the Oxenden family.

Earl Kitchener called at the Foreign Office on Monday and saw Sir Edward Grey.

Earl Kitchener will be among the members of the Earl and Countess of Powis's house party at Powis Castle at the beginning of August.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough are expected at Bessborough House, Kilkenny, next week, where they will remain until the autumn.

Sir David Semple, Director-General of the Egyptian Public Health Department, left Cairo last week for England, where he intends spending a couple of months.

Lord Oranmore and Browne left 12, Cavendish Place, for Ireland, on Wednesday.

Sir John Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Roper Parkington, have left Green Street, Mayfair, for Harrogate.

Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., left Malton last Saturday for Deganwy, Wales, where he will be in camp for a fortnight with the 5th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, of which he is lieutenant-colonel.

Mme. Misu, the wife of H.E. the Roumanian Minister, has left London for Kruznack, near the Rhine, where she will stay for some weeks, later proceeding to Aussee, Austria.

Sir Murland Evans has left the Elysée Palace Hotel, Paris, for London.

Mr. Wallace H. Turrell, of Smyrna, has arrived in London.

Dr. S. P. Perestianos, of Athens, has arrived in London.

Colonel B. Semenoff, Military Attaché to the Russian Legation, has arrived in London from Bucharest.

Ali Islam Bey, of Cairo, has arrived at the Piccadilly Hotel.

According to the Roumanian papers Mr Dinu Stolojan, the Prefect of Tulcha, has resigned.

An engagement is announced between Francis Edward Oakes, Sudan Government Railways, youngest son of the late Colonel R. F. Oakes, R.E., of Tunbridge Wells, and Kathleen Frances, youngest daughter of the late Frederick Gregory Jones, of Liverpool and Hawarden, Flintshire.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Leonard F. P. de Smidt, Egyptian Irrigation Service, and Miss Violet Wingfield will take place on Wednesday, August 26, at St. Augustine's, Queen's Gate, at a quarter past two o'clock.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Ford-Hutchinson, D.S.O., who has retired on completion of four years in command of the 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers, saw service with the Dongola Expedition of 1896, as a special service officer, and from the following year until 1899 he was employed with the Egyptian Army, taking part in the Nile Expeditions of 1897 and 1898, being present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum. For his services he was twice mentioned in despatches, received the D.S.O., two clasps to his Egyptian medal, and the British medal.

Viscount Falmouth, who celebrated his sixty-seventh birthday last Friday, was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir and took part in the Nile expedition.

Brigadier-General F. C. Heath Caldwell, C.B., who has been promoted to Major-General, served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and was at the engagement of El Magfar and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, receiving the medal with clasp and bronze star. Three years later he was again on active service in Egypt, and was present at the action of Hasheen, being awarded the brevet of major and receiving an additional clasp.

WHERE TO STAY.

LAUSANNE-OUCHY (Switzerland).

SAVOY HOTEL.
Near the lake, with splendid park.

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In the town and 5 minutes from the station.

Two First-class Family Hotels.
High-class Cuisine. French Chef.
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First-class Hotel. Entirely renovated and beautifully situated in the centre of the city, near Post Office, Theatre, Museums, Banks, etc. Electric Light. Central heating. Baths. Garage. Telephone. Garden. French Restaurant. Good wines. Café. Foreign newspapers. Most frequented by English and American Visitors. Interpreter meets all trains. Rooms from 4 frs.

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LIMASSOL (Olympus Hotel).
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For Summer Seasons—
PLATRES (Platres Hotel). 4,600 ft. from the sea level. Opens from May till Oct.
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Perfect Situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms. Also Excursion to Mount Troodos.
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FAMOUS ROUMANIAN BAND.
Admirably situated in the very centre of the Town.
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Mr. John Lawrence Caldwell and Mrs. Caldwell arrived in London last week and are preceeding to Teheran, where Mr. Caldwell will take up his duties as American Minister to Persia.

Amongst the passengers by the P. and O. Company's s.s. "Maloga," which left London last Friday and is due at Marseilles to-day, are the following:—Lieutenant - Colonel Knaggs and Colonel Wright, London to Port Said; and Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. Thacker, Marseilles to Aden.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, K.C.M.G., Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, and Lady Macdonald are in London.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to grant unto Captain Henry Eric Dumbell authority to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Mejidieh, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the Khedive, authorised by the Sultan in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

On Friday last, at St. Helens, Bushey, Herts., Mrs. Murrell-Wright, the wife of F. Murrell-Wright, Tantah, Egypt, gave birth to a son.

The death is announced in Paris of the widow of the late Dr. Zambaco Pasha, the leprosy authority. This lady, who was the daughter of the late Mr. Demetrius Giovanni Cassavetti of London, and Zagora, Thessaly, was herself a sculptor of some distinction, and had frequently sat in her youth to Rossetti and Burne-Jones.

Captain Flower, Director of the Gizeh Zoological Gardens, has brought with him from the Sudan a large collection of Sudan animals, which will be housed in the gardens.

Surgeon-General W. W. Kenny, who has been placed on retired pay on reaching the age limit, took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1885, and was at the actions at Hasheen and Tofrek, and the affair at Tamai, receiving the medal with two clasps and the Khedive's star.

Colonel the Hon. Augustus Murray Cathcart, who died on July 14 at Scarborough, aged eighty-three, served in the Crimea, being present at the battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, and at the fall of Sebastopol.

Major-General O. H. A. Nicolls, who entered his ninetieth year last Friday, served in the Crimea during 1855-56, and was present at the siege and fall of Sebastopol.

We regret to announce the death, which took place at Odessa, of Mr. J. St. Vincent Corcoran, a well-known writer, who acted as correspondent of THE NEAR EAST in South Russia.

The death was announced last week of Count Alexander Roma, member of the Chamber of Deputies for Zante and formerly President of the Chamber and Minister of Education. Count Roma was the leader of the Greek Garibaldian Legion, and was wounded in the last Balkan war.

The death took place at Cairo on Wednesday last week of Dr George Bey Zeidan, the only Arabic man of letters in Egypt with a European reputation. He edited the literary review *Hilal* and was the author of many historical works and a history of Arabic literature.

The death is announced, on July 23, at Paris, of Mr. John R. Reeves, of Alexandria.

On Tuesday Sir William Corbett presented the certificates and medallions, awarded by the Queen Mother of Greece, to nurses from the Manchester Royal Infirmary for services to the wounded in the Greek and Turkish and Greek-Bulgarian wars of 1912-13. The certificate was in Greek, and the medallion in the form of a small silver cross bearing on one side a smaller cross in red enamel. The donor was described in the certificate as "High Protector of the Red Cross." The following are the recipients of the awards:—Nurses Davidson, Gooseman, Cowie, Sloan, Bell, Jackson, Gordon, Green and Scott.

Mr. S. H. Benson, who died on July 21 at his residence, Beechgrove, Sydenham Hill, in his sixtieth year, was before embarking on a commercial career for some years in the Royal Navy. In 1882 he was serving with the late Vice-Admiral Sir William Hewett, V.C., Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies during the first Egyptian Campaign. On the occupation of Suez by the Naval Brigade, Mr. Benson was placed in charge of the commissariat arrangements, and was mentioned in dispatches for his services (Egyptian Medal and Khedive's Bronze Star). Suffering from the effects of the Suez climate in summer, Mr. Benson—then only twenty-nine years of age—was invalided home the same year, and after acting as secretary to various committees at the Admiralty, was eventually invalided from the Navy, never having completely recovered from his breakdown in Egypt. Mr. Benson was governing director of the well-known firm of S. H. Benson, Ltd., Kingsway Hall.

The death took place on Wednesday at Malta of Monsignor Pietro Pace, Archbishop of Rhodes and Bishop of Malta, who was the only Roman Catholic ecclesiastic who has received the K.C.V.O. In 1877 he was appointed Bishop of Gozo, and was translated to Rhodes and Malta in 1889.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Commandant Crainiceanu, the new Roumanian Military attaché in Greece, has taken up his post.

Major M. P. Buckle, Royal West Kent Regiment, has been appointed Acting General Staff Officer, 2nd Grade, Skutari.

H.E. Sir George Barclay, H.B.M. Minister in Bucharest, has returned to his post.

The journey of the British Minister to Servia, Mr. des Graz, has been facilitated by the Austro-Hungarian authorities.

Mr. Neradovitch, the Servian Minister to the Porte, arrived in Constantinople on Friday.

Djevad Bey, the new Ottoman Minister in Belgrade, left Constantinople for the Servian capital on Thursday last week.

The appointment is announced of Lord Inchcape of Strathnever, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., as one of the two Government ex-officio directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. The other is Vice-Admiral Sir Edmond J. Warre Slade, whose appointment was announced in THE NEAR EAST of July 3.

Essad Pasha, the newly appointed Commander of the Angora Army Corps, will shortly take up his command.

The following diplomatic and consular appointments are announced in the *London Gazette*:—

Charles Louis Des Graz, Esq., to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the King of Servia (February 8); Ernest Gabriel Lomas, Esq., to be his Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rabat (May 1); Lieutenant-Colonel Keith David Erskine, C.I.E., to be his Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad (June 1); Raphael Antonio Fontana, Esq., to be his Majesty's Consul for the Villayet of Aleppo, to reside at Aleppo; John Selden Willmore, Esq., to be his Majesty's Consul for the Vilayet of Adana, to reside at Adana (June 15); William Richard Howson, Esq., to be his Majesty's Vice-Consul for Lingah, the Shibkuh Ports, and the Islands of Farur, Kais, Hindarabi, and Sheikh Shuaib, to reside at Lingah (June 16).

The *London Gazette* announces that the following foreign consular appointments are approved by his Majesty:—

Mir Ayoub Khan as Vice-Consul of Persia at Karachi (June 10); Remzi Bey as Consul-General of Turkey at Johannesburg (June 15); Mr. William J. Grace as Consul-General of the United States of America at Aden (June 15); Mirza Ali Akbar Khan as Consul of Persia at Bombay (June 15); Mr. W. Meek as Consul of the Netherlands at Aden, with Consular jurisdiction also in British Somaliland (June 27).

During the absence on leave of Sir David Semple, Director-General of the Egyptian Public Health Department, his duties will be undertaken by Dr. Goodman until the return of Colonel Garner, Sub-Director, who is at present absent on sick leave.

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Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

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Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.
At foot of the Great Pyramids.

GRAND HOTEL, HELOUAN.
Excellent Family Hotel, adjoining Golf Links.

HOTEL DES BAINS, HELOUAN.
Opposite Sulphur Baths Establishment.

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A first-class Family Hotel, with moderate terms.

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French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 80 (16s.) per day.
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Patronised by the Elite.
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WHY AUSTRIA DECLARED WAR.

The break-up of the Roman Empire of the West was accomplished, so we are told, largely owing to the influx of barbarian races in such numbers that the Roman civilization could not cope with or assimilate the flood of immigrants. In other words, the Western Empire struck upon a rock and foundered. When it was restored it specifically claimed for itself the position of being the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation. In the course of time the dignity of the Holy Roman Empire tended to become hereditary in the House of Hapsburg, but owing to religious difficulties and other internal disruptive forces the strength of the Imperial dynasty had to be drawn from genuinely hereditary dominions outside the area of the elective Empire. Thus it came about that the Hapsburg monarchy obtained numerous non-German subjects. Apart from the Tchechs who were within the German territory, the Hapsburgs ruled over the Magyars in Hungary, Italians in Lombardy, Slovenes in the Illyrian provinces, and, in the course of time, over Roman Catholic Serbs in Croatia, and Roumans in Transylvania. It is beside the point to trace the method by which these heterogeneous dominions were acquired. As a rule it was by marriage in the first place and subsequent reconquest from the Turk. When, however, Poland came to be partitioned, Austria, by a definite act of political aggression, became possessed of a certain number of Polish subjects, and of a considerable population of Ruthenes who had been a subordinate race in the Polish Republic. After the Treaty of Vienna in 1815, Austria thus found herself standing partly in Germany, with actual dominions within the boundaries of the German Bund, and influence extending far beyond her own frontiers; partly in Italy, where she possessed the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom; partly in Poland, which she divided with Prussia and Russia; partly in what has since come to be considered the Southern Slav area; and partly in that Carpathian region inhabited by the Rouman race. This territorial distribution had within it the germs of political disruption; for with the exception of the Magyar nation in Hungary and the Tchech people in Bohemia, Austria ruled over races of whom only a comparatively small part were within her dominions. During the nineteenth century racial controversies became one of the chief factors governing the political developments of Europe, and inevitably the monarchy that was composed so largely of partitioned peoples suffered in consequence of this revival. The Lombard subjects of the Hapsburgs were attracted by the ideal of Italian unity, the chief protagonist of which was the little kingdom of Sardinia. Three wars were required before the Government of Vienna fully capitulated to this militant ideal, and surrendered all but a few of its Italian subjects. The variety of its interests prevented the Hapsburg monarchy from devoting its whole attention to any one national outlook, and in consequence of the war of 1866 Austria was excluded from the German polity. As a result of this a Teutonic state has grown up, which tends to attract, by the force of its nationality, those subjects of the Hapsburgs who are of German origin. It has been the fate of this historic dynasty to see grow up, beyond its territorial frontiers, small and vigorous states which have become centres of attraction to considerable populations within its dominions. If some of his Teutonic subjects were attracted by Pan-German ideals, the Emperor Francis Joseph also rules over many men whose eyes are caught by the glitter of the Servian or the Roumanian crowns. It is true that he does not rule over the whole of the Polish nation, or over the whole of the Ruthenian people. In the former case, however, there is no independent Poland, and it is probable that the lot of the Poles under the Hapsburgs is more tolerable than under the Romanoffs or the Hohenzollerns. Within the year we have observed signs of uneasiness among the Austro-Hungarian Ruthenes, who are being inspired with the long-dormant national consciousness, although for the moment there is no independent Ruthenia to espouse their cause. In the case of the Roumans resident in Transylvania the position is different. A vigorous and sturdy monarchy is seated at Bucharest, and a national propaganda has made that portion of the Roumanian race which lives to the north of the Carpathians vaguely conscious of its ethnical solidarity with the free people beyond those mountains.

Until recently dynastic and other considerations had prevented this question from becoming more than academic, but of late the policy of Bucharest has shown signs of a new orientation, and the magnet of the national crown of King Karl has begun to pull more strongly at the heartstrings of *Rumania Irredenta*. In the case of the Serb populations of the Monarchy, the process has been somewhat similar, although Croatia was acquired by the Hapsburgs by conquest from the Turks. At the end of the seventeenth century Austrian arms had failed to extend its sway over the whole of the territory inhabited by the Serb race. The independent Serb Monarchy focussed the national aspirations of the race, and when the tardy advance of the Hapsburgs into Bosnia took place it was regarded, not as had been the acquisition of Croatia, as the rescue of a Christian population from the Turks, but as the enslavement of a population which desired to become part and parcel of the national Monarchy seated at Belgrade. There are those who maintain that the history of 1849 or 1859, when Sardinia endeavoured to release the Austrian-Italians of Lombardy from foreign rule, is about to be repeated. They say that Servia plays the part of Sardinia to a Bosnian Lombardy, while Roumania is the Sardinia of a Transylvanian Lombardy. Some will even go so far as to assert that the Teutonic provinces of the Monarchy must also of necessity be attracted into the neighbouring German Empire. Meanwhile, the racial difficulty is further complicated by the fact that in the Hungarian portion of the Dual-Monarchy the dominant Magyars are intolerant of racial minorities, and have deliberately neglected to treat the Roumanian and Slavonic subjects in such a way as to win either their loyalty or their co-operation. The late Archduke Francis Ferdinand is believed to have held that it was necessary, in order to counteract the disintegrating propaganda at work among the races of Hungary, to take special measures to make residence within the Monarchy not only tolerable, but enviable. This, it is said, was particularly his aim in the case of the Serbs and Croats of Bosnia and Croatia. Those who supported him not only desired to improve the lot of these populations, but also to extend the influence of the Church of Rome, with which the dynasty had on several occasions identified itself. It is a perfectly comprehensible ambition if, Belgrade being the champion of the Orthodox branch of the Servian race, Vienna should aspire to be that of the Roman Catholic or Croatian branch; and with proper treatment there is no knowing what might not have been the result of such a duel. The Austrian ambitions were, however, handicapped by the political requirements of the dominant Magyars, and Trialism could not be fairly tested. Consequently the propaganda of the Orthodox Serbs had a great measure of success, and the spirit of national unity under a native dynasty, which is its greatest asset, was immensely strengthened by the military successes of the Servian kingdom. Similar, but moderate, achievements, as the result of a deliberate break with Austro-Hungarian traditions, have increased the activity of the Roumanian racial propaganda, and the governing class of the Dual-Monarchy has for some time been face to face with the conviction that decisive and drastic action was neces-

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sary in order to keep the Monarchy from falling to pieces as the result of centrifugal nationalist attraction.

The Servian successes have had another, but indirect, effect upon the situation. The temper of the Servian Press and public, which has never at any time shown restraint in its attitude towards the powerful neighbour on the north, has undoubtedly risen. Servians consider that the victors of two considerable wars have every right to express themselves more freely than was the case when their country was an insignificant State, stamped with the record of defeat. The unusual, unlooked-for success against the Turk and the Bulgar has so inflamed the national ambitions that for a year past, and more, it has been the chief topic of conversation and composition that Bosnia and Croatia must be redeemed in the near future, just as Macedonia had been in the immediate past. The situation thus arises in which the haughty Austro-Hungarian Monarchy finds itself marked down for partition at the hands of its small neighbours, as though it were a second Poland. Moreover, in spite of their victories, the smaller States do not rely entirely upon their own strength, but calculate upon the support to be obtained from Russia on behalf of a policy which would extend the territorial Empire of Slavdom. Austria has, to a certain extent, the force of religion as well as that dynastic devotion which has so often confounded political prophets in their calculations about the dominions of the Hapsburgs. In any case the present struggle is racial in its origin and racial in its intensity; there is also the added bitterness of religious difference. The dominant Teuton and Magyar are determined to crush the dangerous aspirations of the southern Slav, and to that end invoke the dynastic loyalty of heterogeneous subject races and recall the historic memories of Prince Eugene.

ON THE ROAD TO TROÖDOS.

By Margaret Bovill.

In the month of August Nicosia lies gasping in the arid Mesaoria plain. A tropical sun blazes over the sleeping bazaar, and the officials whose duties do not take them to the summer station of the Cyprus Government work in semi-darkness behind closed shutters. Sheltered from the blinding glare, they read, on the arrival of the Troödos post, the letters of their wives and families, and for a moment the aromatic scent of bracken and pine ousts the familiar atmosphere of minute papers and red tape. Cyprus is famous for its domesticity; and occasionally some devoted wife remains below until, unable to stand the heat or connubial bliss with the temperature at 103° in the shade, she flies with her children to the hills. It is a brief description of such a migration that this letter is intended to convey.

After a week of feverish packing, the house is left gutted. Carpets and curtains are put away, and the fishmoth deprived of an artistic meal by the simple expedient of turning the pictures with their faces to the wall. Even a fishmoth cannot digest glass! The "bread-winner" is left with a mosquito-curtained bed, some chairs and tables, a minimum of crockery, and is up early on the morning of the day of departure, strapping the last box, with perspiration running down his face. All heavy baggage has gone on ahead in bullock carts: linen, cutlery, glass, in fact every extra which a by no means primitive existence entails, from a card table to the "Handbook of Cyprus." Years ago the officials rode up on mules, sleeping one night at a village by the foothills; the children rode in front of the muleteers, and even babies in arms were carried by these rough but tender guardians. Now all is changed! Instead of a tent with only the necessary furniture, there are huts, rude still, but secure from wind and rain. A member of the Public Works Department meets the occupant with an inventory of the contents of No. 1 or No. 2 (for all the huts are numbered), and together they solemnly ring each plate, and religiously count the teacups. A sure Nemesis waits at the end of the season for the careless housewife whose list is short, or whose china does not give out the true metallic ring.

A small train on a narrow gauge starts from Nicosia at 9.30 a.m., and the distracted father packs wife and children, maid and the nursery cat into a comfortable carriage. Buried amidst impedimenta of tea baskets, rugs, books, and a collection of last things, they steam slowly out of the station, leaving him to support a hot, but perhaps a not unendurable existence of two months of bachelordom.

For an hour and a-half the engine puffs through the bare plain, dotted with mud villages, and far away to the south the Troödos range stands shrouded in mysterious blue mist. It seems so far away, and yet by the agency of a motor they hope to reach its cool fastnesses in five hours. Northwards the horizon is marked by a chain of hills lower but not less beautiful than those on the south; their slopes are clad with cypress and pine, and a mediæval castle crowns one of the jagged peaks. The train stops continually at wayside stations, and with much fuss and confusion a Turk gets out, gaudy in brilliantly striped stockings and snowy *vraka;* or a Greek Cypriote woman dressed in the native dress, her long hair hanging in braids under a coloured *mandil*, drags out a heavy basket. A chattering group surrounds her on the platform, anxious to hear the latest news from the capital.

The scenery has a vivid charm, though the spring flowers are withered, and the barley fields have long since ripened to golden yellow and been reaped. The brownness is not all of one tone; it melts into softest ochre splashed with vermilion, and the blue summer thistle adds a spot of colour to the permanent way. On a rounded slope a solitary shepherd pipes to his flock on a reed pipe such as Pan used, a melancholy music, weird and penetrating. A relentless sun strikes vertically down as the train stops at Kopia, where children and baggage are extracted from the hot carriage and packed into a motor shielded from the glare by a hood. The boxes are fastened behind, the cat condemned to a solitary existence in a basket, the chauffeur turns his back on Nicosia as they glide swiftly away past melon fields where the flat green plants cling tenaciously to the parched soil. At Astromeriti, misnamed the Star, the streets are crowded with pariah dogs, who rush with hideous clamour in front of the car; the villagers throng the doorways, dressed in red and yellow, purple and green, the small girl children ridiculous miniatures of their mothers in *mandils* and tight bodices; a baby toddles across the road, and with a jerk the car pulls up as a woman runs out, shakes her unfortunate offspring, and appeals to the "Panayia" (Mother of God) in piercing accents echoed by a dozen female voices all pitched in the same key! With a phlegmatic shrug the chauffeur starts his engines again, the tortuous alleys of Astromeriti are left behind, and a broad stretch of country spreads away towards the mountains. Heat waves shimmer and dance over the thirsty earth. Vegetation there is none, save where an oasis, watered from a well primitive as those of Biblical days, has been created by a frugal villager. A donkey ceaselessly turns in a circle, and the owner sleeps beneath his trees until the midday heat has passed and he can labour once more. A stately string of camels pads along the road, laden with fodder and kerosine tins, the wild camel-drivers sitting motionless as they

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slowly leave the miles behind them; dreaming and nodding, typical symbols of the East, they scarcely glance at the motor as it rushes past, eternally undisturbed by the energy and progress of the West.

Presently the gradient becomes steeper, the foothills lose insignificance, and deep gullies seam the sparsely wooded summits. In a deep valley to the right lie villages buried in a luxuriance of fruit trees, apricot, almond, and plum. Above the road is a rock wall rising stony and precipitous, and here and there are some nasty corners. The car glides skilfully round them and runs down a slope to Galata village. In a ravine above, a stream bordered by pink oleanders is in full spate, springs of water gush across the road, and a cool breeze from Chionistra, the Snow Mountain, mingles deliciously with the breath of balsam and ripening vineyards.

The last stage of the journey now begins up a road with a gradient of one in twenty, which contours the mountain sides, crawling along dizzy edges. The bare plain lies below; a resinous scent of pine trees, water herbs, and green things innumerable fills the air; arbutus, alders, and poplar clothe the lower slopes; until the pine trees (*Pinus halepensis*) reign alone, carpeted round their feet with greenest bracken. Beneath a group of planes the chauffeur stops to take in water, coolest, freshest water which murmurs all round, and trickles from a mossy bank over an earthen tile. Once again the car starts, the emerald softness and shade of the plane grove is left behind, and for an hour the engines toil laboriously up the hill.

Below, a wide panorama is unfolded, spreading away to the sea sparkling in the sunlight; between it and the mountains are a hundred evanescent shades of brown, relieved by green patches of forest and irregular red-roofed villages. Over it all fleecy white clouds sail in a sky blue with the azure glory which England never sees. Still, the car breasts the steep mountain road between the solemn pine trees, where a hoopoe perches on a low branch, or a jay gaudy in summer plumage flashes across the path. Up and up until the white gleam of tents catches the sun's rays, and the summer quarters of the company of British troops stationed in Cyprus becomes visible. At the last turning a small walled-in cemetery marks the place where the dead of bygone regiments lie peacefully at rest. A level road runs along the top, and buried amongst the trees are huts built of stone and wood or galvanized iron, each with its path carefully outlined by stones and with a number painted on the door.

The air is sharp and incredibly dry; only sound lungs can breathe its rarified purity, and the strongest man finds quick walking a difficulty.

The journey is ended; mother, nurse, and children alight; and while the former work diligently to reduce order from the chaos of boxes, beds, and bundles which lie in confusion on the ground, the latter play happily among the fallen pine cones. Towards evening beds are made up, a hasty meal has been cooked, and the labours of the day are ended.

A gorgeous sunset, crimson and orange, floods the sky, then fades away as in the dark blue heavens the moon rises, silvering the pine trees, and the branches, shaken by the night wind, sough mournfully with a sound like distant surf.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

It has always been said that the surest barometer of public anxiety is the Stock Exchange, and although to the man in the street the crisis which has suddenly gripped Europe means as yet but little, a measure of the gravity of the crisis may be taken by the crumbling of prices on the Stock Exchanges. It is true that so far London has been comparatively free from the panic and paralysis which has overtaken Continental markets. True, Consols have touched 70 and other stock has fallen in proportion, but the main cause of the disorganisation has been the panic-stricken selling from the Continent. There have been many failures, but on the whole the larger houses have withstood the shock well. Speculative firms at any crisis must be a cause of weakness, and their stronger brethren are not averse from seeing them eliminated. When once outstanding accounts have been settled, the market should assume a more level tone. Already on Wednesday prices in many leading securities had fallen so low that large buying orders were being received, even from Berlin, which brought about a small revival. The Bank rate was raised yesterday from 3 to 4 per cent.

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One result of the war has been a wholly unprecedented financial crisis which has swept the Bourses of Europe, leaving behind it a pathetic wreckage of failures and insolvencies. In actual commerce shippers in the Near East will be gravely inconvenienced, to say the least of it, by the extinction of Russian lights in the Black Sea, and the consequent rise in insurance rates. I see that Antivari is blockaded, but this is a matter of small moment. Far otherwise is the necessary and praiseworthy action of the Admiralty in prohibiting the export of Welsh coal. Ere long ten thousand funnels will tell the story of this privation, but the Navy will have what it wants, and possible rivals will be reduced to the betrayal of their presence at sea by the use of soft coal.

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Some time ago, unless I am very much mistaken, reference was made in THE NEAR EAST to the copper mines of Arghana, which are at present worked by, or on behalf of, the Turkish Government; and it was hinted that given adequate capital to provide for their efficient working and the transport of the ore, the mines should prove worth attention. Now I see it reported that an English firm has made an offer of an advance of a million and a-half for the grant of a concession, and that American and German firms are also after the prize. This really looks as if the West was beginning to think that it was safe to invest capital in Turkey; for in the old days the Turkish Government, if it had desired to get rid of the mine, would have had to beg and pray someone to take it on, instead of finding three rivals ready to bid against one another for the privilege.

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A correspondent has written to *The Egyptian Mail* complaining—and very justly so—of the difficulties that have to be overcome by anyone who wishes to forward a parcel from this country to Egypt C.O.D. He gives two instances that have fallen within his own experience. In one case a friend who had undertaken a small commission for him had (to quote his own words) to go "to three different (London) post offices . . . to fill in five different forms, and write all kinds of things on the box itself"; and it took him three quarters of an hour at the post office, "as the people said they had never done such a thing before, *and payment on delivery was unknown.*" In the second case a firm that had been asked to send out goods C.O.D., forwarded the goods, but asked for a cheque, "as they had sent the parcel to the post office, and it had been returned with the information that the *C.O.D. system was not in vogue between England and Egypt.*" The italics are mine, in both cases.

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But what an extraordinary state of affairs those italicised sentences indicate. The C.O.D. system has certainly been available for use to Egypt since 1908, and yet it is "unknown" in a London post office to-day! If that is a fair specimen of the intelligence of the Post Office, one can only wonder that the department makes a profit at all. The *Mail's* correspondent suggests that our Postmaster-General should be asked to have printed notices put up in the London Post offices "detailing the method of despatching a parcel for Egypt C.O.D." That should not be necessary. If the counter clerks were obliged to study the Post Office Guide—by the way, why not make their retention of their positions depend on proficiency as tested by periodical examinations in the Guide!—there should be no difficulty in the matter at all. As it is, I can only suggest that any one anxious to send a parcel to Egypt C.O.D. should himself (or herself) study the Guide. It may not save him (or her) having to fill in forms "and write all kinds of things on the box itself," but it should save him (or her) saying (or thinking) "all kinds of things" about the Post Office and its incapable assistants.

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It is natural that the Anglo-Persian oil scheme should suffer almost total eclipse at the present moment when journalists and members of Parliament have more exciting and agitating topics for exercising their pens and their tongues. However, the scheme which has been consistently supported in these columns has now received the sanction of Parliament. On Monday, the House of Commons authorised by 191 to 67 votes the application of £654,813 from the old Sinking Fund for the acquisition of shares in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The passing of this financial resolution synchronised with the announcement in the Press of the appointment of Lord Inchcape as Vice-Admiral Slade's colleague on the company's board of directors. In spite of the strong opposition of many of those interested in the oil business, the scheme commended itself to the judgment and good sense of most fair-minded people. It only remains for the Government to cultivate its own garden.

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The announcement that Lord Inchcape has been chosen by the Government as one of its representatives on the board of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is good news, both for the country and for the company. Lord Inchcape strikes me as one of the strongest and most able business men we have to-day. He knows the Near East—and the Farther East, too, for that matter—well, and he is able to take the wide view which is so very desirable in regard to Near Eastern affairs.

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I have just received an interesting pamphlet which has been reprinted from an article on "Politics and British Trade in the Near East," contributed by Captain Dixon-Johnson to the last number of *The Asiatic Review*. The writer points out the losses which British trade has suffered in the Near East as a result of the Balkan wars. The transference of territories formerly under the rule of the Sultan to the Balkan States and the Chauvinistic economic policy of the latter has seriously damaged the interests of British traders. This, I suppose, we shall have to accept with the best grace possible in the circumstances. But Captain Dixon-Johnson directs attention to future developments and possible dangers. He warns us that this loss in the former European provinces of Turkey "is insignificant in comparison with what it would be should the enemies of Turkey succeed in dividing up her Asiatic provinces. . . ." When will our statesmen understand that we have a vital interest in preserving the integrity and developing the resources of the Ottoman Empire?

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In view of the fact that so many Egyptian cigarettes are smoked in this country, it may be a surprise to some to learn that no tobacco whatever is grown in Egypt. The cigarettes, so-called Egyptian, are made of Turkish or Greek tobacco, which may be cured and made up in Egypt, but nothing more. The soil of Egypt is not over-favourable for the cultivation of tobacco, but the real reason why the "weed" has not hitherto been grown is that the Ottoman in his wisdom feared the Egyptian variety might compete with the Turkish output. From the additions which have been made to the Greco-Egyptian Commercial Treaty, which has just been renewed for a further nine months, it rather looks, however, as if the Egyptian Government were contemplating the cultivation of tobacco. It was laid down, among other things, in the original version, that should Egypt begin to cultivate tobacco, Greece may be at liberty to denounce the agreement. For this clause has, however, been substituted one granting Egypt complete liberty of action so far as the creation of a monopoly and the introduction of tobacco cultivation is concerned. The treaty has been renewed for nine months only in order to give ample time for the study of this and other points, and also to ensure that whatever new agreement is reached, it should come into force as from the beginning of the financial year.

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The Constantinople Lighterage Corporation.

(From Our Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 25.

I referred in my letter of June 27 last to the action of the shipping delegates appointed by the several Embassies to assist at the meetings of a sub-commission sitting under the presidency of Sir Richard Crawford to regulate the means of transport in this port, in making it a condition at the first meeting, held on June 16, that their participation in the labours of the sub-commission should not be interpreted as implying the abandonment by the foreign shipping companies of the rights of these companies to own and acquire lighters, to use them with all liberty in accordance with their requirements, and the consequent adjournment of the meeting, at the request of the delegates, on the sub-commission declaring that the question was outside its attributions.

The action of the delegates met with the approval of the International Chamber of Shipping convened in the meanwhile, and at the adjourned meeting of the sub-commission, which took place on June 18, the delegates put in a long memorandum, which they proposed communicating to their respective Embassies, by whom they had been nominated. The memorandum invited an expression of the views of the Imperial Ottoman Government as to its attitude towards the acquired rights of the foreign shipping companies to possess lighters and to increase their numbers as circumstances required, and if the Imperial Government contested these rights the delegates regretted their inability to take part in the labours of the sub-commission, and were so reporting to their respective Embassies. The delegates offered the suggestion that with the object of putting an end to the existing unsatisfactory state of affairs the owners of the lighters at present forming the Guild be incorporated into an Ottoman commercial company, to be administered according to modern procedure, and offering consequently all the necessary guarantees to foreign shipping.

The contents of this memorandum having been communicated to the Sublime Porte at a meeting of the sub-commission, held on July 6, the Government authorised its delegates at that meeting to make a statement which was formally communicated to the delegates of the foreign Embassies. The substance of this statement, while emphasising the inconvenience of suppressing the Lightermen's Guild, is decidedly conciliatory, and can be summed up in its two closing paragraphs, of which the following is a free translation:—

"The question of deciding upon the liberty of transport by lighters, irrespective of the monopoly of lightermen, and irrespective of the Ottoman nationality of the owners or the crews of lighters, is one of the attributes of the Mixed Commission.

"There is, therefore, cause to adopt regulations on the other points mentioned above. The participation of the members of the sub-commission being in their capacity of delegates of the Sublime Porte and the Embassies, it follows without question that their participation cannot imply as a consequence a renunciation on the part of shipping companies of the point of view they have always upheld, in so far as regards their demand tending to obtain authorisation to make use of their own lighters."

On the basis of this declaration of its views by the Imperial Government, of which the foreign delegates took note, the sub-commission entered upon the study of the points submitted to it at a meeting held on July 8, and made the following recommendations:—

1. The means proper to assuring always a sufficient number of lighters to the companies.

(a) That the military and maritime authorities of the Imperial Government meet their own requirements by means of their own transport services in the port, and that lighters and other craft affected to the transport of merchandise be exempted from requisition by the authorities.

(b) That the authorities responsible for the control of the circulation of the port take steps to assure that the number of lighters available for the operations of loading, discharging and transit of merchandise (not including coal) in the port shall not be less than 1,000, of a capacity varying from 25 to 50 tons each, not including the "salapurias" (lesser lighters) now in service.

(c) That the Imperial Government take the necessary steps without delay to give effect to the decisions of the Commission formed to investigate the existing deficiencies of the Port of Constantinople (as enumerated in my letter of April 11, viz., (1) Insufficiency of quays; (2) insufficient Customs depots and warehouses; (3) absence of Customs depots for goods in transit; (4) insufficient number of lighters and the bad state of those in use; (5) insufficient mooring buoys in the harbours). In so far as item 5 of this report is concerned, relative to harbour buoys, the sub-commission is of opinion that this question merits serious attention on the part of the Prefecture of the Port, with the assistance of the shipping agencies, and at the same time taking into consideration the project drawn up by the International Commission in 1910.

(d) That the Imperial Government take the necessary measures as soon as possible for the fusion of all the owners of lighters and other craft in Constantinople into an Ottoman Commercial Company, to be administered according to modern procedure and offering consequently all the necessary guarantees to Ottoman and foreign shipping.

2. Establishment of a maximum tariff of charges to be paid in remuneration of services rendered by lighters.

The sub-commission is of opinion that it would be preferable to examine the question of tariffs at the time of the fusion of the owners of lighters and other craft into a transport company, in view of the fact that this tariff could then be based on a sliding-scale in accordance with the operations undertaken by the company. It is of opinion, however, that the maximum tariff of charges should be submitted to the approval of the competent Ministries in consultation with the General Direction of Indirect Contributions (Customs Department), at the same time taking into consideration the observations which may be offered by the Chambers of Commerce and the Maritime Chamber.

3. Responsibility of the owners of lighters for the losses and damages to goods committed to their care during transport, if these losses and damages are imputable to them.

The sub-commission is of opinion that the only effective solution to this question is the formation of the transport company recommended by it under paragraph 1 (d). Such a company would offer all the desired security to commerce and the shipping agencies, in so far as concerns the losses and damages occasioned during transport.

4. Responsibility of the Imperial Government for the integral execution of the abovementioned points in the matter of the service of maritime transport within the limits of the regulations to be elaborated.

The sub-commission is of opinion that if the Imperial Government were to take the necessary steps to carry into effect the recommendation enumerated under paragraph 1, the responsibility of the authorities interested in the regular working of the transport service in the Port of Constantinople would be adequately covered by the execution of the projected regulations annexed with the few modifications suggested by the sub-commission.

So far, I have used the actual phraseology of the sub-commission in the study of the questions put to it. The report ends with yet another reiteration of the proposal for the formation of an Ottoman company to take the place of the Guild. It would seem that this proposal of the sub-commision meets the case, and it is stated that the Government is actively engaged in the formation of such a company.

OTTOMAN DOCKS AND ARSENALS CO.

Sir Adam Block's Position.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr. King asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that Sir Adam Block, British delegate and president of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, was chairman of the Imperial Ottoman Docks Arsenal and Naval Construction Company; whether he had considered the position of the British delegate in connection with the objects and work of this company; whether Sir Adam Block informed the Foreign Office that he was undertaking the position of chairman; whether the permission or sanction of the Foreign Office in this matter was given to Sir Adam Block; and whether any communications on this subject had passed between the Turkish Government and the Foreign Office?

Sir Edward Grey: In the early part of this year I was informed unofficially that the Constantinople Dockyard and Arsenal Company was desirous of obtaining the services of Sir Adam Block as chairman. I replied that the matter seemed one for private arrangement between the company and the Council of Foreign Bondholders in whose service Sir Adam Block was. The Turkish Ambassador, in reply to an inquiry from him, was informed of this view. Understanding from a subsequent communication from the Turkish Ambassador that the Turkish Government desired the appointment and hoped no objection would be made to it, I expressed myself as favourable to it on general grounds. There was no question of my giving permission or sanction to Sir Adam Block, who is not, as British delegate on the Council of the Debt, appointed by or under the control of his Majesty's Government.

Mr. King has given notice that he will ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that Sir Charles L. Ottley, late secretary of the Imperial Defence Committee, is a director of the Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals and Naval Construction Company, and that this company has been formed for the building and repair of the warships of a foreign Power; and whether he will take steps to provide that any servant of the Crown holding a position of the character held recently by Sir Charles L. Ottley shall be debarred on relinquishing his post from entering directly or indirectly the service of a foreign Power.

Mr. King will also ask Mr. Winston Churchill whether he has been informed that by an arrangement between the Turkish Government and the new Arsenals Company formed for naval construction and dockyards in Turkey any difference on a technical matter is to be referred to the Lords of the Admiralty in England; and whether this arrangement has been sanctioned by the Admiralty.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

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Turkish Finance.

(BY A FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 22.

Recent Budgets.

The Budget of the present year should be studied in conjunction with those of the past three years if any correct idea is to be formed as to its real value.

The Budget of 1327 (1911-12) was sanctioned by Imperial Iradeh on May 25, 1911, and by it credits were allowed to the various Ministries to the extent of £T35,314,995. The war with Italy broke out in September of the same year, and supplementary credits to the amount of £T2,967,450 were allowed by the Government, making a total of £T38,282,445. On January 5, 1912, the Chamber was dissolved and was to meet again after three months, during which time the elections were to take place. In January and February of that year the Government expended £T2,001.570 of the abovementioned supplementary credit.

The Budget of 1328 (1912-13) was never discussed by the Chamber, nor was it voted, but it was drawn up by the Government on the lines of the Budget of 1327, and, having received the Imperial sanction, came into force. Towards the end of the year Mahmoud Shevket Pasha's Cabinet came into power and raised the necessary money for the continuation of the war by means of numerous short term loans and advances, of which mention is made below. The Budget allowed a credit of £T33,135,860, to which should be added the supplementary credits of £T12,798,556, making a total of £T45,934,416.

The Budget of 1329 (1913-14) was never discussed or approved by the Chamber. The form of the 1327 Budget was therefore of necessity adhered to, and the system of provisional laws and supplementary credits was employed again. The total credits allowed were £T49,066,631.

We have, therefore:—

Total credit allowed for	1327	£T38,282,445
" "	1328	45,934,416
" "	1329	49,066,631
Or a total of		£T133,283,492

From these should be subtracted:—

Estimated revenues for	1327	£T29,895,988	
" "	1328	28,459,079	
" "	1329	29,169,048	
Or a total of		£T87,524,115	87,524,115
Giving an apparent deficit on three years of			£T45,759,377

It should, however, be borne in mind that the whole of the supplementary credits of these three years were not made use of.

The Floating Debt.

During his speech on this year's Budget the Finance Minister referred to the amount of the floating debt in existence at the date of the contract of the 1914 loan (April 15, 1914) as being roughly £T32.5 millions, which is £T13,260,000 less than that arrived at by the above Budgetary calculations. This floating debt was composed of £T24.5 millions of Treasury bonds, advances, etc., and £T8 millions of Government officials' salaries in arrears and money due to Government contractors. The 1914 loan yielded to the Turkish Exchequer £T17,545,000, the greater part of which was used to pay off this floating debt; but neither the long term advances nor the Treasury bonds guaranteed on the land tax (£T5.5 millions) were repaid out of the loan. The former are repayable in three years, and the latter are to be repaid in September, when the second half of the 1914 loan is expected (estimated yield, £T10,000,000). The factor which is most likely to swell the real deficit on the three years' working is that of the requisitions for military purposes. These bonds are now being verified as they are presented at the Ministry of Finance, and the total amount of the debt thus incurred is at present unknown. It will be repaid from the latter half of the 1914 loan.

An Economic Budget.

The Budget of 1330 (1914-15) allows for a credit of £T33,145,828, and for revenues of £T31,112,244, giving a deficit of £T2,033,584, or, in round figures, two millions. It has been compiled on the lines of the strictest economy, but both the Government and the Budgetary Commission are anxious, if possible, to effect still further economies. The item which is receiving principal attention is that of the pensions allowed to retired Government officials and their dependents, and it is pointed out that a State which pays away about half of its total revenue in interest and sinking fund for its various debts cannot afford an official pension list of another 10 or 12 per cent. of its total revenue, for the amount of this credit is roughly £T3.5 millions. Some of the Deputies and also the Budgetary Commission attack the amounts of the salaries of many of the higher officials, especially those who have recently received increases. The Minister of Finance vigorously defends these interests, and justly argues that it is necessary to pay men well if they are to hold responsible positions and to give loyal service.

The Government are striving to remove taxes that tend to hinder the economic development of the country; that is to say, to shift some of the very heavy burden of taxes from the shoulders of the agricultural population on to those of the nation as a whole. This it is hoped to do by means of the 4 per cent. increase in the Customs duties, by the extension of the "temettu" or professional tax to foreigners, and by the establishment of various monopolies, such as sugar, petroleum, playing cards, etc., as was fully described in the newspapers at the time of the signing of the agreement with the French Government.

Increasing Receipts.

It is an undeniable fact that the receipts of the empire are slowly increasing, this increase being mostly due, of course, to the tithes on cereals in the Asiatic provinces. The Greek emigration will have a temporary bad effect in some localities on these revenues, but this should not be of a lasting nature. As soon as the numerous ports and railways contemplated are constructed the receipts will undoubtedly again increase. A sorely felt want is the scientific education of the masses of the people in farming and agricultural matters. This is already being attempted in a most practical way in that the soldiers, who are very largely drawn from the agritural classes, are being given this instruction whilst they are undergoing their military training. This should have most beneficial effects.

As stated above, the Government allow a probable revenue of £T31,112,244. To this the Budgetary Commission adds a sum of £T698,408, which is really not an increase of revenue, but rather an expense not to be incurred, since it is the amount of the first "coupon" of the 1914 loan which has already been deducted by the banks from the capital sum placed at the disposal of the Turkish Exchequer. There are other small changes which make the Budgetary Commission's estimate of revenue £T31,875,205, while its estimate of expenditure is £T32,638,658, leaving a deficit of only £T763,453, against the Government's estimated deficit of £T2,033,584.

Extraordinary Expenses.

The Government's total estimated expense, which is about 34 millions, includes several items which may well be called non-recurring. Prominent among these are:—

1. The annual charge for the part of the debt incumbent on the Roumelian vilayets. This is about £T1,000,000, and it is confidently hoped that at the next meeting of the Paris Conference, which should take place in October of this year, the States now in possession of those vilayets will agree to take over this debt.

2. The annuity of £T1,300,000 on the £T5,500,000 of Treasury Bonds 5 per cent. issued to find the purchase money for the Dreadnought "Sultan Osman." This item will have disappeared entirely when the Budget for 1917-18 is presented for discussion to the Chamber.

If allowance is made for non-recurring expenditure of this sort, it may be said that Turkey has, in theory, at any rate, achieved her Budgetary equilibrium. On July 20, however, the Chamber voted an extraordinary credit for the Ministry of War of £T5,500,000 over a certain number of years, the sum to be procured by the Government by "a special financial operation." It is a small paragraph, but it upsets all calculations of budgetary equilibrium for the present, at any rate.

Djavid Bey's Hopefulness.

Djavid Bey, the Minister of Finance, in introducing the Budget, made, as always, a remarkable and eloquent speech, in which he gave a financial survey and history of the last two years, with an outline of the Government's financial plans for the future. He laid emphasis on the fact that the country must have great recuperative power, as it has been able to survive the Tripoli and Balkan campaigns with far less prejudice than was to be expected, although subjected to a financial boycott by Europe. He foresaw a brilliant economical future if Turkey was prepared to apply to foreign capitalists for the execution of public works with the object of opening up the rich agricultural districts of the country. He enjoined the strictest economy on all classes of the community, coupled with faith in the Government and patient labour for the good of the Empire.

As mention has been made above of different natures of credits, it may be of interest to quote the following extract from the finance laws of the Empire:—

During the session supplementary and extraordinary credits can only be obtained by means of a special law.

When the Chamber is not sitting the Government may increase the amounts of the credits by means of supplementary credits under the following conditions:—

The credits to be increased should have been indicated in the Budget as credits liable to fluctuation.

As soon as the Chamber meets again the supplementary credits are to be submitted to it for approval.

Any heading not marked as fluctuating can be increased by means of extraordinary credits.

Extraordinary credits can only be obtained to balance new and unavoidable expenses which were not foreseen at the time of the formation and voting of the Budget.

When the Chamber is not sitting extraordinary credits are to be obtained by means of a temporary law.

Transfers from one heading to another in the Budget are to be considered as extraordinary credits.

The Ministers are responsible that the above rules be adhered to.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is extracted from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East :—

Damascus. July 18.

The yield of the cereal crops at Hauran, especially that of wheat, is seriously deficient. On the other hand, the crop in the oat-growing lands is excellent.

The prospects of the next vintage are generally favourable.

The prices of raw wool are comparatively high in spite of the abundant supply this year.

The import of manufactured goods has suffered a decline owing to dull trade.

Constantinople. July 18.

Supplies of wheat from Anatolia are still deficient. Better prices are offered for good white qualities of flour. The opium market is active, prices range high, and the demand is good. Mohairs have not improved. Coffee prices are stationary.

BRAILA GRAIN TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 25.

For some time past the grain trade at Braila has been stagnant. According to statistics now published from January 1 to June 1 some 1,250,000 tons of grain were exported from Roumania, of which only 260,000 tons was shipped viâ Braila, or 20 per cent. of the whole. During the same period of last year 65 per cent. of the whole was exported viâ Braila, which is about the average of this port's exports.

The principal cause of this decline is that Hungary and the Bukowina have of late been importing direct, paying much higher prices than Braila export merchants can afford. Freights have generally dropped severely, and tugs and lighters find little employment, as the Hungarians import with their own river craft.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending July 17, 1914 :—

The sales this week on our market amount to 45 cases of new crop at 15s. 6d. to 17s., as to quality. It has rained again in many districts in the interior, in consequence of which very high prices are being paid, and in the Carahissar market as high as 19s. to 21s. has been paid for new crop. Owing to this, it is not possible to expect lower figures this season. The arrivals are 625 cases, against 990 at same date last year.

IVORY REPORT.

In their report dated July 24, Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartleet state :—The quarterly sales of the year commenced on the 21st inst. and terminated on the 22nd inst. The supply offered was again moderate, totalling about 72¾ tons. The supply offered consisted of the following assortments: Zanzibar, etc., 10¾ tons, Egyptian 31½ tons, West Coast 10½ tons, Abysinnian 1½ tons, Land Carriage 5½ tons, Waste 11 tons, etc., remainder Rhinoceros, Walrus Teeth, etc. The demand was not so good as usual, and large and medium soft teeth showed a decline of £3 to £4 per cwt. Hard teeth also showed a similar decline. Small sound tusks sold well at full rates, and ball ivory met a good demand at £2 to £3 per cwt. dearer.

East Indian, Zanzibar, etc.—Mostly sold at £3 to £4 decline. Ball ivory very firm at £2 to £3 advance. Egyptian and Tripoli. —In good supply and sold fairly well. Large teeth £3 to £4 easier, smaller teeth full up. West Coast African.—Sold well at about steady values. Abyssinian on the same basis as Zanzibar.

PERSIAN AND TURKEY PRODUCE.

Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartleet report as follows for July :—

Asphaltum.—*Egyptian.*—Market remains dull and no sales to report. Value nominally 70s. per cwt. Syrian character, large business has been done for this commodity at full values.

Gum Ammoniacum.—Demand extremely quiet and no transactions to report. Values unchanged. 70s. asked for good pale free drop, 60s. for blocky, and 50s. for low seedy descriptions.

Gum Assafœtida.—Stocks of common heavy grade are still large, no business whatever having taken place. Good pale almondy might be encouraged.

Gum Arabic.—*Egyptian.*—The position of this article is extremely strong. Spot supplies in the open market are cleared here, and consequently no business can be reported. On the other side all available supplies appear to have been cornered by one firm, and therefore extreme prices are being asked which make business impossible for the moment. *Persian Insoluble.*—No change to report, stocks are small, and higher prices are being demanded for the new crop. Buyers would do well to cover in their requirements at the present moment.

Gum Tragacanth.—Business is still very quiet, and only spasmodic sales are being made. Fine white grades are extremely scarce and very high prices are benig asked. £22 has recently been obtained, and there is no reason why still higher prices should not be realised. All other grades are very dull and prices are easier. Stocks are heavy, but consist chiefly of pickings, under £6 per cwt. Bagdad low grades, also Hog and siftings are particularly neglected.

Gum Mastic.—Prices in the producing market seem somewhat easier, and no further sales have been made. Value on the spot 2s. 6d. per lb.

Galls.—We are pleased to report a revival in the demand for this article, and a large business has been done both in Blues and Greens, and dearer prices have been realised. Blues and Greens are now practically cleared from this spot, but there are a few bags of Whites still available. The new crop is reported to be very short.

Ivory.—Next sale October 20, 1914.

Opium.—"*Druggists.*"—At the beginning of the month reports were circulated that heavy rain had set in through the producing districts, and as the harvest was in progress the opium was very considerably damaged. This news at once excited the market and prices rose from 15s. 8d. to 17s. per lb. c.i.f. for 11½ per cent. within two days. The price to-day for 11½ per cent. is 18s. 3d. and 17s. 6d. 11 per cent. c.i.f. On the spot 11½ per cent. is worth 19s., but even at this price it is exceedingly difficult to find sellers, as the stock here has been materially reduced by the demand caused by the above-mentioned news. "*Soft Shipping.*"—At the present very little is known as to the quality or quantity of the new crop, but we have received an offer of new "Malatia" from Constantinople at 17s. 3d. per lb., c.i.f. London, which so far has not resulted in business. To-day's spot prices are 21s. for finest and 19s. 6d. for good. *Persian.*—We have to report a continued demand for manufacturing, and there is now very little opium testing 9 per cent. or over in this market. A small business has been transacted to arrive at 17s. 6d. for 10 per cent. landed terms. To-day's quotations for spot are : 10 per cent. 18s. 6d. to 17s. 6d., and 8 per cent. 15s. 6d. to 16s.

Senna.—*Alexandrian.*—Consumers are apparently full up, and therefore it is almost impossible to make any progress with the parcels now offering Pods are quiet but firmly held.

Scammony Root.—No demand.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, July 30.

The political situation is naturally causing considerable anxiety in the produce markets, but so far there has been no material change in prices.

Sugar.

The demand is, as has been expected, poor, and will continue so until the August holiday is past. Beetroot, after a fair amount of business during the week at some fluctuations, is now closing steady at ½d. to 1d. advance; Aug. sold at 9s. 5¼d., Sept. ditto, Oct. 9s. 6d., Oct.-Dec. 9s. 7d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Refined: English is firm to 1½d. advance for Tate's cubes, whilst Lyle's goods are 3d. dearer. Foreign is fairly active, business being done at irregular prices. Granulated: Lebaudy's fine prompt, 14s.; W.S.R. prompt, 12s. 7½d. Cubes: Say's prompt, 15s. 4½d.; German and Austrian, 13s. 5¼d. to 13s. 10½d. Crushed: W.S.R. prompt, 13s. 3d., all f.o.b.

Coffee.

The offerings at auction this week have been moderate in quantity and assortment, with fair competition ruling. Costa Rica fine ordinary sold at 68s., Mexican fine ordinary 65s., Uganda small 57s. to 58s., Mocha 88s. to 100s., Colombian low mid. to mid. 68s. to 70s., and bold fair to fine 74s. to 83s. The speculative market, owing to heavy realisations and depressing foreign advices, has ruled weak, and prices show a further decline of 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d., Sept. sold at 39s. 9d. to 40s., Dec. 39s. 10½d. to 41s. 3d.

Currants.

The market has been rather quiet. Provincial and Amalias are attracting some attention on account of the discrepancy between present prices and those quoted for new. The remaining stocks of present crop currants are all of excellent quality, and considered as worthy of particular attention during the two months which must elapse before the new crop is on the market. In the meantime news of adverse weather in Greece is to hand, and that the growing crop is likely to suffer to a considerable extent, especially in Zante. Provincial is quoted 23s. to 23s. 6d., Amalias 24s. to 25s., Patras 27s. to 28s., Gulf 26s. to 30s., Vostizza 30s. to 33s., and smalls 24s. to 32s.

Sultanas.

The market is inactive, but no further decline has taken place. The growing crop is progressing well, but high prices are predicted, and the prospect of labour trouble is becoming acute. Smyrna fruit is quoted 27s. to 55s., and Greek 32s. to 50s.

Figs.

Quotations for naturals from Smyrna are dearer this week, but buyers still continue their stand-off policy. It is expected, however, that next month buying will become more general, and from present appearances there does not seem any likelihood of any reduction in quotations.

Dates.

Prices for new crop, although moderate, do not attract buyers in comparison with spot parcels. Persians are quoted 9s. to 12s. (old crop).

Seeds.

Linseed opened firmly this week, but became quieter, London-Calcutta afloat is quoted to-day at 52s. 6d., July-Aug. sold 52s. 9d., Aug.-Sept. 53s., Sept.-Oct., 53s. 6d. to 53s. 9d. Rapeseed is quiet but steady, brown Cawnpore July-Aug. quoted to-day 50s. 6d., yellow Guzerat 55s. 6d., Ferozepore July-Aug. (new terms) 49s. 6d. Cottonseed remains quiet, London-Egyptian spot offered at £8 1s. 3d., August £8 6s. 3d., October £8 8s. 9d., November-January £8 8s. 9d. per ton. Canary seed is easier, for Turkish, in view of the new seed coming on the market; supplies, however, are very restricted. Haricot beans, in limited supply, are quiet, and without much alteration.

Oils.

Linseed oil has improved in value, and the market closes with a strong tone; spot pipes (landed) 26s. 4½d.; barrels 26s. 9d. Rape ordinary brown naked spot 30s., refined (casks) 32s. 3d. Cotton oil, crude, is dearer, but refined is unaltered.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool Report.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—The inquiry for Egyptian spot since our last report has been of a very moderate character, and although a slight improvement is to be noted we do not regard this as likely to prove permanent in view of the grave European complications. At moment buyers refrain from entering into obligations except where compelled, and are adopting a waiting policy. It is exceedingly difficult to foretell to what extent our market might be affected should the present situation be prolonged. Estimated sales amount to 1,400 bales against 1,100 for the corresponding period last week.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following telegram **from Alexandria, dated Wednesday:—**

Market depressed. November, 17, January, 17 3/32. Exchange, three months' date, 96 1/4.

	This week. Cantars.	Same time. 1912-13. Cantars.	Same time. 1911-12. Cantars.
Receipts (Int. gross weight)	700 ..	600 ..	1,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	7,610,236 ..	7,456,760 ..	7,258,394
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	2,250 ..	Nil. ..	2,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	206,100 ..	203,691 ..	201,757
Shipments to Manchester	Nil. ..	1,750 ..	Nil.
Ditto since Sept. 1	221,737 ..	204,664 ..	227,627
Shipments to Continent, India & Japan	2,500 ..	1,750 ..	3,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	438,722 ..	401,475 ..	381,611
Shipments to U.S. America	2,500 ..	Nil. ..	3,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	87,003 ..	123,325 ..	118,189
Shipments to all parts	7,250 ..	3,500 ..	8,000
Ditto since Sept. 1	953,562 ..	933,155 ..	929,184
	Cantars.	Cantars.	Cantars.
Stock	855,000 ..	709,000 ..	482,000

Exports from September 1, 1913, to July 22, 1914.

	1913-14 Bales.	1912-13. Bales.	1911-12. Bales.
Shipments to Liverpool	203,850	203,691	199,768
„ Manchester	221,737	203,010	227,627
Total Shipments to Great Britain	425,587	406,701	427,395
Shipments to France and Spain	121,157	114,678	104,608
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	215,250	195,461	186,933
Shipments to Russia	75,771	68,767	67,006
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,210	835	1,034
Total Shipments to Continent	414,388	379,741	359,581
Shipments to U.S. America	84,503	123,325	115,217
Ditto to India and Japan	21,834	19,974	18,904
Total Shipments to all parts	946,312	929,741	921,091
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars.	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars 7,424,208

Steamer Sailed.

July 22.—"Italian."

MANCHESTER AND COTTON.

A correspondent of the *Financial Times*, referring to the traffic returns of the Manchester Ship Canal, says that for several seasons now the direct shipments to Manchester of Egyptian cotton have amounted to more than one-half of the total shipments from Egypt of this class of the staple to Great Britain. The imports to Manchester amounted to 215,800 bales, as against 203,100 bales in the corresponding season. Many of the more enthusiastic supporters of the waterway see in the foregoing figures considerable hope that in the not distant future it will be possible to establish a "spot" cotton market in Manchester, despite the strength of Liverpool.

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EGYPT'S TRADE IN 1914.

Returns for the First Half-year.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 21.

The bulletin just published by the Customs Administration for June, gives the figures for Egypt's foreign trade for the first six months of the current year. The total comes to £E29,320,975, or £2,585,407 more than for the first half of 1913. The exports account for £E15,352,530, and the imports for £E13,958,445, representing increases of £E1,482,086 and £E1,103,321, respectively. Since specie imported increased by £E471,216, and that exported decreased by £E1,378,135, the balance of trade has turned against the country to the extent of £E1,470,586.

Amongst imports, increases are noticeable in sesame (£E49,242), cotton-seed oil (£E42,268), wood for construction (£E53,032), coal (£E112,443), chemical manures (£E159,220), cotton tissues (£E290,705), railway material (£E94,636), agricultural machinery (£E106,868), and copper (£E62,432); while flour decreased by £E170,382, and sugar by £E88,684.

On the other hand, exports of onions rose by £E786,676, although the quantity shipped fell off by 43,000 tons. Cotton, however, increased by £E1,348,092 in value, and 523,179 cantars in quantity. Tanned skins rose by £E24,173, and cotton-seed and cake by £E25,994. The only commodity that showed any falling off was rice, which dropped £E30,391 in value and 1,660 tons in quantity.

Great Britain's share of the imports rose by £E334,526 to £E4,438,495, and of the exports by £E1,090,385 to £E5,998,153, so that more than half of the total increase in trade—and, in fact, two-thirds of the extra exports—has gone to that country. Germany has increased her exports to Egypt by £E247,051, and her imports by £E171,319, Italy hers by £E263,862 and £E63,867, respectively, whilst the third partner in the Triplice has dropped in both categories. France is £E164,244 up in her imports, and all the Balkan States have improved their commercial positions.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, July 29.

The week under review began with hardly a sign of more activity showing itself. Buyers have operated indifferently, and few bids of a practicable character have been heard of. On Friday last quotations became rather steadier, partly as a result of the short time movement, and some sellers were rather more hopeful as to better trade passing in the near future, but their hopes were daunted soon after the opening on Monday, when things began to have an unsettled look and the state of foreign affairs began to weigh far heavier in the balance than any short-time proposals. Quotations began to assume a downward tendency of irregularity, and sellers were placed in a worse position than before. This state of affairs has been considerably accentuated since the conditions abroad have begun to have a black look, and at the time of writing, since the news that war is declared, our market is at present in a most unsettled condition, and all trade for those parts of the world involved is beginning to be at a standstill. Piece goods for Egypt have moved off in odd lots, but buyers have only operated in cases where necessity demands, and advices from the other side have not shown much improvement. Trade for India has been of meagre dimensions. A few fair offers have been reported earlier on in the week, but wires have been received later quoting lower rates and making them unworkable. China business has continued to drag, and operators have been in no mood to buy. The other outlets have been very quiet, and for those affected by the war business is now being suspended. More short time is being talked about in the weaving districts. Manufacturers of coloured woven goods in Nelson and Colne have continued to complain. Home American yarns have not shown much change in quotation until now, when an easier tendency is prevailing. Export numbers have moved off slowly. Bolton counts have met with a featureless demand, but at the time of writing the conditions are getting worse and prices are becoming more irregular.

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Shipping Intelligence.

PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, July 27.

A Bill of Lading Case.

An action of vital interest to the shipping world has recently come before the Mixed Tribunals here. A Greek commission agent of the town claims damages against the North German Lloyd agents for alleged loss sustained through non-delivery of goods. It appears that the cargo was taken in at Naples, and on arrival of the steamer here, the consignee asked for delivery against a deposit of the cash value of the goods, in the absence of the bill of lading, which had not then come to hand. The steamship agents refused to deliver except on production of the bill of lading, and the consignee alleges loss of market owing to non-delivery.

After two hearings the Court postponed judgment until September next, when further evidence will be heard as to the custom of the port in such cases.

"The Harbour Lights."

The first standard for the electric arc lamps which are to light the harbour was erected a few days ago, and it is intended shortly to put up five more in order to try the effect of the lighting before proceeding further with the project. About twenty-four lamps would be necessary to light the harbour properly, but some doubt exists as to the utility of the scheme. It is thought that instead of being an aid to navigation the lights may have a contrary effect, and a trial is accordingly being made with a few lights in order to decide whether to proceed with the scheme or not.

Heavy Monsoons.

Homeward-bound steamers report bad weather in the Indian Ocean, where the full force of the monsoon is now being felt. Most steamers are behind time. The P. and O. mail "China," was slightly behind her usual time, while the North German Lloyd s.s. "Goeben" arrived two days late. One steamer arrived to-day, having taken thirty days to make the passage from Colombo.

SHIPPING AT JAFFA IN 1913.

According to the Consular report on the trade of Jerusalem during 1913 by Mr. Consul P. J. C. McGregor, there was an increase in the total number of steamers calling at Jaffa, mostly due to the resumption of the Italian service after the war. British steamers were slightly less in number, but it may be noted that the falling off was not in the regular services of coasting vessels plying between Syrian ports and Egypt, nor in the regular Liverpool orange steamers, which continue to hold their own well against the competing lines recently established. During 1912, eighteen British boats and fourteen foreign orange boats left for Liverpool. The figures for 1913 were twenty-one British and twenty foreign.

British lines continue to take the majority of passengers as shown by the following table.

Number of passengers of all classes embarking at Jaffa during 1913 :—

Steamers.	Passengers.
British	10,215
Russian	9,032
Austro-Hungarian	8,177
French	6,503
Italian	1,055
United States	680

Travellers embarking with return tickets previously issued are not included in the above table, except in the case of returning Russian pilgrims.

As a brief but sufficient instance of the difficulties under which shipping labours at Jaffa in the absence of a harbour, it may be mentioned that in December, 1913, there was a period of twenty days during which communication with the shore was impossible, except on one occasion, when the sea abated sufficiently to allow the mails to be landed.

LEVANT SAILINGS.

The three-weekly service to Levant ports, begun in October 1910, by the Levant Steamship Conference, but interrupted by Balkan disorders, is now resumed from the port, says *The Manchester Guardian*. There are to be sailings in August to Gibraltar, Malta, Smyrna, Constantinople, Odessa, Batoum, and elsewhere. The Moss liner "Karnak" departs on the 1st of the month, followed in twenty-one days by the Cunard liner "Thracia."

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Taganrog July 27. "Esneh."—Liverpool/Alexandria. At Gibraltar July 3. "Hathor."—Hull/Alexandria. Passed Gibraltar July 10. "Karnak."—At Liverpool June 18. "Khephren."—At Liverpool July 26. "Meroe."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Algiers July 26. "Moeris."—At Alexandria June 20. "Sebek."—At Alexandria June 26. "Siptah." At Liverpool.

Johnston Line.

"Arranmore."—Left Sulina for Galatz July 23. "Barnesmore."—At Salonica July 23. "Barrowmore."—At Galatz July 10. "Dromore."—Liverpool/Piræus. Passed Gibraltar July 22. "Edenmore."—Galatz/Antwerp. Passed Gibraltar July 24. "Fenmore."—At Cevita Vecchia July 24. "Gorsemore."—At Galatz June 27. "Jessmore."—At Alexandria July 21. "Kenmore."—Left Immingham for Alexandria July 24.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—Left Alexandria for Syrian Coast July 23. "Egyptian Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria July 18. "Highland Prince."—London/Alexandria. At Malta July 25. "Kaffir Prince."—At Alexandria July 16. "Merchant Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria July 27. "Norman Prince."—Alexandria/Black Sea. Left Constantinople July 25. "Orange Prince."—At Manchester. "Saxon Prince."—Left Tyne for Alexandria July 15. "Soldier Prince."—Novorossisk/Hamburg. Passed Constantinople July 21.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—At Leghorn July 19. "Castalia."—At Bombay July 26. "Circassia."—Bombay/Liverpool. Left for Port Said July 27. "Elysia."—Birkenhead/Bombay. Left Gibraltar July 23. "Italia."—Palermo/New York. Passed Gibraltar July 20. "Scindia."—Left Bombay for Liverpool July 26.

Cunard Line.

"Brescia."—At Liverpool. "Caria."—At Constantinople July 25. "Carpathia."—Left Patras for Trieste July 26. "Ivernia."—Left Trieste for Patras, July 28. "Pannonia."—Palermo/New York. Left Gibraltar July 25. "Pavia."—At Liverpool. "Phrygia."—At Catania July 27. "Thracia."—At Constantinople July 25. "Tyria."—At Liverpool July 17. "Ultonia."—Left New York for Mediterranean July 25. "Veria."—At Patras July 27.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arcadia."—At Bombay June 27. "Banca."—Left Singapore for Bombay July 20. "Caledonia."—At Bombay July 24. "China."—Bombay/London. Left Marseilles July 27. "Himalaya."—At Bombay July 19. "India."—London/Bombay. Left Brindisi July 27. "Isis."—At Port Said July 8. "Khiva."—London/Calcutta. Left Aden July 21. "Moldavia."—Bombay/London. Left Aden July 25. "Nyanza."—Calcutta/London. Left Malta July 27. "Osiris."—At Port Said July 22. "Persia."—Left Bombay for London July 25. "Salsette."—At Bombay July 20. "Sicilia."—Left Calcutta for London July 25. "Simla."—London/Calcutta. Left Malta July 27.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—At Bombay July 23. "Chantala."—Bombay/London. Left Algiers July 27. "Chakrata."—London/Bombay. Left Suez July 24. "Culna."—Left Bombay for Antwerp July 23. "Malda."—Calcutta/London. Left Port Said July 24. "Manora."—London/Calcutta. Left Suez July 24. "Mashobra." — London/Calcutta. Passed Ushant July 27. "Mongara."—London/Calcutta. Left Madras July 28. "Nevassa."—Calcutta/London. Left Aden July 27. "Neuralia."—Left Madras for London July 25. "Tanda."—At Calcutta July 17. "Varela."—At Bombay July 5.

Ellerman Line.

"Andalusian."—Left Trieste for Fiume July 25.— "Assiout."—At Smyrna July 24. "Asturian."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria July 25. "Austrian."—Liverpool/Alexandria. Left Malta July 24. "Bavarian."—At Constantinople July 23 "Belgravian."—Patras/Liverpool. Passed Gibraltar July 23. "Castilian."—At Palermo July 22. "City of Cambridge."—Left Alexandria for Bona July 23. "Fabian."—Left Swansea for Mediterranean July 17. "Italian."—Left Alexandria for Malta July 22. "Locksley Hall."—Left London for Odessa July 19. "Malatian."—Left Malta for Syra July 24. "Mardinian."—At Constantinople July 19. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12. "Venetian."—Constantinople/Lisbon. Passed Gibraltar July 25.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Writing on July 17, our Cyprus Correspondent says :—Two large fires have taken place during the last ten days. One was at Amiandos, on Mount Troodos, at the premises of the Asbestos Mining Company, where damage to the extent of £4,000 is said to have been done; the other was at the fine new flour factory of Nicosia, which has been seriously damaged, the loss being estimated at £7,000. It is said that in both cases the property was fully insured.

The Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, announces that for the purpose of supplying accurate time to the residents of Beyrout and vicinity and to visiting navigators a time ball has been erected on the tower of the main building of the Syrian Protestant College in Ras Beyrout.

A Cairo correspondent of *The Daily Graphic* writes that, owing to the falling of the Nile, Egypt will have to import nearly all her rice this year. The Nile has not been so low for nearly 100 years, and the facilities for water storage have been insufficient to relieve the distress.

Owing to the declaration of war in the Near East, the Post Office on Wednesday gave notice of delay to the following countries :—Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Montenegro.

Mr. W. L. Balls, a former Government botanist, has calculated, says Mr. A. B. Geary, British Vice-Consul in Alexandria, that one seed of cotton, given the application of all possible care and skill, would produce 40,000,000,000 seeds in six years, and gives an actual case of the production of 11,000 bushels of seed of a pure strain of wheat from a single grain in five years, without the exercise of any special care.

The Cairo police have been making searching investigations into the attempt on the life of the Khedive, without, however, discovering any accomplices in Egypt.

Reuter's Agency is informed that a large number of retired British officers have applied to the Servian Legation for service with the army.

The Education Department of the Dakalia Provincial Council (Egypt) intends to erect an up-to-date tannery, which will be placed in charge of a foreman from Leeds, on a three years' agreement. The building is expected to be started in about six weeks.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education has decided to send several native girls of the Government training schools in Cairo to England for higher education.

According to the British Consular Report for the Consular District of Alexandria, just issued, letters, cards, etc., to the approximate number of 87.000,000 passed through the Egyptian post last year, representing an increase of 6½ per cent. on 1912. Parcels carried amounted to 1,069,715, or 41,000 more than in 1912.

The number of depositors in the Egyptian Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1913 was 282,401, and of these 5,248 were British and 249.997 were Egyptian. The deposits amounted to £E642,678, or an increase of over 12 per cent. on 1912.

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The Upper Egypt Irrigation Concession.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 21.

On Sunday last an agreement was made with an English syndicate by the Egyptian Government, under which the former was granted a concession for the supplying of water for irrigation purposes to a large area in Upper Egypt, which at present only enjoys what is known as basin irrigation. I am now in a position to give some particulars of this concession, which is one of the most important granted for years past by the Egyptian Government and should, if properly worked, confer very great benefits on the local cultivators and the country at large.

The concession has been granted to Mr. P. W. Stout, who represents the syndicate, in which it is understood Sir John Jackson, Limited, are very largely interested, and who has been carrying on negotiations with the Egyptian authorities for some considerable time.

Its object is the provision of water for "Sefi" irrigation to land situated at Edfu, in the Mudiria of Assuan, and at Sohag, in the Mudiria of Girga, which hitherto for the most part has been able to obtain water only during the period of normal Nile floods, and during the rest of the year has had to lie unproductive. The area that will be eventually affected amounts to about 60,000 feddans, 27,000 feddans of which are situated at Edfu, and the remainder at Sohag.

The syndicate undertakes to erect and work pumps for the purpose of lifting the necessary water from the river on to the areas in question, and to purchase land for the execution of the canalization and drainage works necessitated thereby. It is authorized to take whatever water is required for the purpose from the Nile, and to use for the purpose of distributing this water any existing public canals. The Government, on its side, undertakes not to grant during the duration of the concession any licences for pumping from the Nile or from any public canal to any persons who may intend to make use of such water within the area covered by the agreement. The only exceptions made to this are existing licences and pumps on artesian wells.

In granting this concession the Egyptian Government has taken care that all the rights of the local landowners shall be safeguarded, and that there shall be no opening for the practice of any abuses. Thus, the syndicate is authorised to levy a rate for the supply of water but it is bound to fix and communicate to the Ministry of Public Works the standard rates that it proposes to charge. In no circumstances may such standard rates exceed P.T.30 for water per feddan of any crop, nor may the total charge for all waterings in any one year exceed P.T. 330 per feddan, unless the consent of the Council of Ministers is obtained.

No landowner or cultivator within the area of the concession is bound to take water from the syndicate, and no contract shall be made for more than three years, renewable afterwards year by year. Moreover, although permission is given to execute works that may be inconsistent with the continuation of the present basin system of irrigation within the area of the concession, the syndicate is bound to supply, upon demand and without payment, to all cultivators within the area who may have made no contract with it, at least two waterings during the flood season sufficient to assure the maturing of a flood crop, and to secure to those cultivators as favourable flood irrigation as they would have obtained if the concession had not been granted. This free service is to be made in any year in which the Government certifies that the land in question would have received free flow water. In years where any land would not have received free flow water the syndicate is still bound to provide flood irrigation upon demand to such land, but if no "sefi" water is taken it will be entitled to charge P.T.80 per feddan for one watering, or P.T.40 per feddan for the two first waterings and for subsequent ones at the standard rate.

Provision is made for arbitration in case of dispute between the syndicate and its clients; but in no case may any land situated within the area affected by the concession be seized or sold in payment of any sum due for water supplied by the syndicate.

Pending the completion of the drainage and irrigation system proposed by the syndicate, the latter will have to bear the expense of and, if necessary, carry out all such temporary works as the Government may consider requisite to prevent the work already executed from interfering with the irrigation as basin land of any part of the area affected by the concession for which the syndicate cannot for the time being supply water. Further, even after the proposed system has been completed and is working, the syndicate must permit the Government to execute, at the latter's expense, of course, any works of public utility on the area affected by its concession.

Water is to be distributed by means of canals, and drainage water resulting therefrom is to be disposed of by means of drains constructed by the syndicate upon land acquired by it in full ownership. Public canals may be made use of by the syndicate under certain conditions and after the express consent of the Government has in each case been obtained, and drains constructed may discharge either into existing public drains or into the Nile, and either by free flow or, where that does not exist in adequate manner, by means of suitable pumping installation. All the expense connected herewith or with the upkeep and clearance of public drains and canals utilised by the syndicate will have to be borne by the latter.

The general scheme for the canalisation and drainage of the areas in question must be approved by the Ministry of Public Works before it is put into execution. In fact, no works of any description may be carried out except with the approval of the Ministry and under the supervision of one of its representatives.

In the event of the syndicate failing to provide either water for any portion of the area conceded to it or drainage facilities considered necessary by the Government, the latter will proceed to carry out the necessary work at the syndicate's expense. Similarly, if pumping operations are for any reasons suspended at a time other than that at which a sufficiency of water is available by free flow, the Government has the right to step in and work the whole or a part of the undertaking on behalf of and at the expense and risk of the syndicate.

Not more than 40 per cent. of the holding of any cultivator taking "sefi" water from the syndicate may be planted with "sefi" crops or receive "sefi" water in any one year, until the prohibition to water land with a view to preparing it for a flood crop is removed; and the syndicate undertakes to see that this condition is adhered to in the districts affected. The canalisation and drainage scheme is to include and is to be limited to such canals and drains as can, in the opinion of the Government, be conveniently taken over as public canals and drains at the expiration of the concession. In principle all subsidiary irrigation and drainage channels are to be left to be constructed by the owners of the lands served thereby.

The concession is granted for a period of forty-five years, starting from November 1, 1914. On the expiration of the concession the pumping installations, the drainage and canalization system, and all lands, buildings, and plant used by the syndicate in connection therewith will revert to the Government. The latter will pay the syndicate the value at that date of the main pumping installation, to be fixed if necessary by arbitration in the manner laid down; but no compensation will be payable in respect of any other part of the undertaking.

After November 1, 1939, the Government may, on giving twelve months' notice, expropriate the entire undertaking, and in that event compensation will be paid for the then value of the main pumping installation and for the unamortized cost of the system of canalization of drainage and of all land used in connection therewith. If the expropriation takes place within the nine years following November 1, 1939, the then present value is to be increased in a manner based on a calculation of the profits that might have accrued from the date of expropriation to November 1, 1949. The agreement lays down the manner in which the unamortized capital is to be calculated and the anticipated profits are to be estimated.

If the syndicate has not completed by March 1, 1917, a sufficient portion both of the main pumping installation and of the system of canalization to enable it to supply sefi water to and to discharge its other obligations in respect of an area of 5,000 feddans in the Edfu area, and if by March 1, 1922, the entire undertaking is not in operation, the Government has the right to cancel all or part of the concession. If, on the other hand, the Government introduces perennial irrigation—this is more likely in the Sohag area—the syndicate must transfer its entire system of canalization and drainage, with the subsidiary works and pumping installation, at a price the calculation of which is laid down in the agreement.

The syndicate pays to the Government a deposit in guarantee of the execution of its undertakings and at the same time it agrees to indemnify the Government for any claims it may have to meet in respect of the granting of the concession or the execution or non-execution of the conditions laid down. It also undertakes not to supply water to any land situated outside the area covered by the agreement, and not to assign the benefit of the concession without the consent of the Egyptian Government.

The foregoing are the salient points in the agreement that has been made, the fulfilment of which should considerably increase the productivity of Upper Egypt. The area affected will be in the main devoted to the cultivation of sugar-cane; cotton is as yet not to be extended there, although the land in question is excellent and only requires levelling. The average rental at present is £E4 per feddan, but the scheme should increase it to at least £E10 per feddan.

The water to be used is that provided by the heightening of the Assuan Dam, which was intended to supply reclaimed areas further north and to enable the Government to give perennial irrigation to these and a few other areas in Upper Egypt which had hitherto had only basin irrigation.

PIANOS IN PALESTINE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Haifa, July 21.

Within a period of six months a travelling representative of an Austrian piano factory has been able to sell the large number of sixty pianos in Palestine alone. This is not astonishing in view of the ample facilities accorded for payment. The vendor, who is a German by nationality, is allowed to sell on the credit system, provided the purchaser's status is good. To facilitate the sale of his pianos this agent takes old pianos in part exchange for new ones. The average price of these pianos is 1,000 frs. The agent intends to try Damascus and Beyrout, where he should find an excellent market.

Pianos are ordinarily ordered by wire and are shipped from Trieste on the Austrian Lloyd steamships direct to Haifa, thus enabling the vendor to deliver an order within three or four weeks. Here is an opportunity for British competition, for if British traders really care to strengthen their commercial relations with this country, they can easily do so through the instrumentality of travelling agents. That an opportunity is being missed in this line can be seen from the fact that even the local British Vice-Consul has bought two Austrian pianos, while the English mission at Haifa has also bought one.

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Engineering Notes.

Railway Carriages for Roumania.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—The various offers for the railway carriages announced some time ago are now being considered by the Director-General of Railways for fifty-two passenger carriages. According to the specification they must be lit by electricity, and delivery must take place in six months. The order is divided as follows: (a) one lot of fourteen carriages, first-class; (b) one lot of fourteen carriages, mixed first and second-class; (c) one lot of fourteen carriages, second-class; (d) one lot of ten carriages, third-class. Apparently no British house made any offer, but tenders have been received from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Switzerland. The results will be published shortly.

Electric Battery Omnibuses.

Tramways have proved the most popular conveyance in the Near East. They are patronised by all classes and at all seasons. The introduction of electricity increased their popularity and success, for there has been a remarkable increase of electric railways in those regions during the last few years. In most towns, however, the tramway service is confined to one or two lines through the more central quarters of the town, with extensions to suburban districts; thus it often happens that other largely populated quarters derive no benefit from the existence of such a service. Some tramway companies in such cases employ horse-drawn 'buses or motor-cars as feeders to their tramway system, but it is stated that the method is expensive and does not pay. It will, therefore, be of interest to such and other electric tramways companies to hear of the trials of an interesting new vehicle which took place in London some days ago. It is an electric omnibus, with Edison accumulators, constructed to the order of an electric tramway company, to be used, with two or three more of similar construction, as feeders to the company's tramway system. It has been proved that systems of battery-driven vehicles in connection with existing electric tramways offer very considerable advantages, as compared with other methods; the economy in utilising the same source of power as the tramcars is secured, while there is no expenditure on fixed equipment such as is involved with a trackless trolley line.

Description of the Vehicle.

The most noticeable characteristic of the vehicle is its simplicity. There is no bonnet, no gear-box, not even any obvious sign of the battery, which is stowed under the seats. These features all make for cleanliness in appearance, to which is added mechanical efficiency and durability. The framing, suspension, and steering follow the usual practice, and the transmission is by means of roller side-chains from a level differential layshaft, the motor being geared direct by propeller shaft to the latter. The motor, specially designed on this service, is carried on a subframe immediately under the driver's floorboard, and is of the series-wound, four-pole, totally enclosed type, with commutator of extra large diameter and width, and shaft on dust-proof, oil-retaining ball bearings. A continuous torque drum type controller gives four forward and two reserve speeds. This is actuated by means of a lever on the steering column. The battery equipment, consisting of sixty A8 type cells, giving a capacity of 300 ampère hours with a voltage of 65, will allow of a run of about forty-five miles on a single charge. The total weight of the complete vehicle is about 8,000 lbs., of which 1,800 lbs. is accounted for by the battery. The body work is designed to accommodate twenty-two passengers. Entrance to the 'bus is from the front end, a folding door, opened and closed by driver, being provided. Thus, fares being collected by the driver, no conductor will be needed.

The Trial.

Two separate trips were made at the trial, the first being an ordinary round trip through some of the busiest and most crowded streets, but giving an admirable demonstration of the remarkable ease with which the vehicle can be handled even under the most exacting of traffic conditions. On the second trip, tests of hill-climbing ability were made, the most striking being up a 1 in 9 gradient; this, a narrow winding thoroughfare, with a very rough surface, was ascended from a dead stop with perfect smoothness at a speed of six to seven miles an hour, with a full complement of passengers. Despite the trying and exceptional nature of these two runs, comprising a total mileage of thirteen, the current consumption was well below the average, being only eighty ampère hours in all, corresponding to a mileage per charge of forty-eight.

A New Process of Case-hardening.

The methods adopted by Oriental ironworkers for case-hardening iron or steel are as a rule primitive, and sometimes objectionable. A new process, invented recently by an American, may be of use to them, as being much easier, cleaner, and more effective than theirs. A compound of the following materials is prepared:—Potassium cyanide, two parts (by weight); sodium bicarbonate, one part; potassium bicarbonate, one part; bone dust, half a part. The ingredients are powdered and thoroughly mixed. The iron or steel to be case-hardened is heated and covered with the mixture, after which it is again heated to a bright red and plunged into water. The depth of the case-hardening may be regulated by the number of times the iron or steel is heated with the mixture.

Iron in Roumania.

H.M. Consul at Galatz (Major Baldwin, C.B.) reports that practically all the iron that comes from the United Kingdom is in the form of sheets, and especially tinplates. In 1911 the value of the sheet iron imported from the United Kingdom was £626,520, or over 70 per cent. of the total. In the market for tinplates, galvanised sheets, and the thinnest black sheets, United Kingdom manufacturers occupy an unchallenged position, but in the thicker gauges of black sheets they are unable to compete against Germany and Austria-Hungary. It is also to be feared that in the market for galvanised sheets they will soon begin to suffer from the competition of the local galvanising mill at Galatz. Although this mill was only erected in 1912, it already appears to have met with considerable success. It has now been taken over by a limited liability company, and, although its present output can only cover about a fifth of the demands of the country, its operations are likely to be extended considerably in the near future.

BRITISH ENGINEERS FOR GREEK FORTS.

The London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post* says he learns from an official quarter that the Hellenic Government have approached our own with a view to enlisting the services of a number of engineer officers to superintend the reconstruction of the fortifications at some of the most vital of the Greek coasts. The decision of the authorities at Whitehall is expected to be given in about a week or ten days, but it is obvious that the request is a somewhat delicate one, and of a character different from the engagement, whether by Greece or Turkey, of officers to superintend the reorganisation of their naval forces.

BRITISH TRADE IN MOROCCO.

A commercial agency which may prove of the highest importance to British manufacturers has been established in London with the object of promoting the sale of British goods in Morocco.

Trade returns show that while French and German trade with Morocco is on the increase, British trade has for some time past been declining, and this in spite of the fact that the markets of Morocco, since the French occupation became effective, have considerably expanded. It is recognised that the keen competition of foreign countries cannot be more effectually met than by establishing an efficient organisation on the spot to give information to British manufacturers and to bring their goods to the attention of the inhabitants. It is understood that the London Chamber of Commerce is taking a sympathetic interest in the new enterprise.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Tentage.—Tenders will be received by the Survey Department, Giza (Mudiria), Egypt, for the supply of tentage required during 1914. August 5.

Construction of Road Bridge.—Tenders will be received at the office of the Inspector of Irrigation, Zifta Circle, Mansura, for the construction of a road bridge with swing span of eight metres clear opening, to be erected over the Bahr Bassendila. August 15.

Iron Chains.—Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Delta Barrage, for the supply of the following articles, required for Barrages and Regulators:—Iron Chains 1 inch 14.80 metres long. Iron chains 1 inch 10.40 metres long. August 8.

Candles.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office, Cairo, for the supply and delivery of 10 tons of candles (c.i.f. Alexandria, Port Said, or Port Sudan.) September 14.

Brass Rings, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office, Cairo, for the supply of 6,500 brass rings and 2,000 brass dees. August 17. (L.)

Calico.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office, Cairo, for the supply of 10,000 yards of blue cotton calico. September 7.

BULGARIA.

Construction of Electric Power Station.—Tenders are invited at the District Finance Offices, Sofia, for the construction of an electric station (power and lighting) for the port of Bourgas. Estimated cost about £10,000. August 13.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

The Need for European Capital.

(From a Correspondent.)

Alexandria, July 15.

The Share Market, both in Alexandria and Cairo, has during the past year been greatly depressed, and speculation is completely demoralised. The effects of the crisis of 1907 are, strange to say, being felt more and more every day. The local credit establishments and industrial enterprises have given fairly satisfactory results during the past twelve months, but the land companies have severely felt recent legislation, and shares in land companies are quoted at rubbish prices. Hotel securities, too, have depreciated generally in spite of the excellent tourist season we had last winter. Small speculators, who have been hardly hit by the slump in prices, are leaving speculative stocks severely alone, and buying the three per cent. lottery bonds of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, Lots Turcs, Panama bonds, etc.

The depression of our financial market is in strange contrast to the economic situation of Egypt, which is now more prosperous than ever. The vital forces of the country remain unimpaired, as the 1907 crisis was only a crisis of credit which made itself felt more particularly in financial circles. Where is the country that can, like Egypt, boast of an increase of 40 per cent. in State revenue within less than ten years, in spite of a number of reductions having been made in the Customs dues on coal, wood, iron, salt, etc.? The commercial balance is distinctly favourable to Egypt. The Public Debt is being rapidly reduced, and the new drainage and irrigation projects will shortly double the country's powers of production. In such circumstances, it simply shows a lack of discernment in those pessimists abroad who are continually proclaiming the bankruptcy of Egypt.

Cause of the Depression.

What is, then, the real cause of the prevalent depression in this country? The main cause, we think, is the sudden and unexpected withdrawal of credit and of the capital which had been so largely invested here by Europe. It is often asserted that Egypt is overburdened with mortgage debts, and in support of this assertion the figures appearing in Lord Kitchener's last report are quoted. The fact, however, is overlooked that it is with European capital that modern Egypt has been built up. Fifty years ago there were no large towns in the Interior, no irrigation, no railways, no trade, and no Government worthy the name. Egypt produced hardly any cotton, and the cultivated area was comparatively very limited. The fellah lived in the direst poverty.

The influx of European capital since then has regenerated the country, but there remains yet a great deal to be done. Egypt is still in need of capital to reclaim land for cultivation, to improve salt lands, to build towns, endow them with comfortable dwellings, schools, hospitals, etc., and to establish industries, of which the country is almost completely derived. Now, instead of supplying Egypt with the necessary capital for reproductive works, foreign capitalists, who are alarmed at the trend of recent legislation, are mercilessly withdrawing their money. This exodus of foreign capital is an alarming phenomenon which threatens to arrest the rapid progress of the last few years, and to cause a profound perturbation in the economic conditions of the country. There is already a very appreciable depreciation in the value of urban and rural lands, and the scarcity and dearness of money have brought about an epidemic of judicial sales of property.

To guard against these inconveniences, the Government should reorganise agricultural credit, which has radically suffered by the establishment of the Five Feddans Law. The agricultural syndicates will then be co-operative associations for purchases rather than associations of credit. On the other hand, the Government should show more solicitude for the capitalists, on whom so much of the prosperity of the country really depends.

SERVIA'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

The financial position of Servia is discussed by the *Berliner Tageblatt*, which states that the accounts of the Monopoly Administration in 1912, inclusive of the Customs revenue, showed gross receipts amounting to 52,787,000 francs, as compared with 56,678,000 francs in the previous year. As the service of the State debt and the purchase of materials absorbed 47,933,000 francs, there remained a surplus of 4,853,000 francs in favour of the Treasury. The gross revenue in 1913 was more favourable at 54,151,000 francs, and the surplus was much higher at 11,444,000 francs. During the first five months of 1914 the gross revenue amounted to 37,125,000 francs. as contrasted with 17,787,000 francs in the equivalent period in 1913, although the large increase has to be taken into consideration in conjunction with the fact that the monopolies have been extended to other branches. An official announcement made last November estimated the surplus for 1914 at 25 to 26 millions of francs, so that ten millions would have remained for the Treasury after the redemption of all annuities, including the requirements for the loan of 250 millions of francs, which has since been concluded in France. The estimate was naturally based upon the continuance of peaceful times. The proceeds of the loan of 1913 negotiated in France, which have probably not yet been fully placed at the disposal of the Servian Treasury, served for the repayment of Treasury bills and requisition notes. Some time ago the question of floating a new loan in Germany was brought forward. But the rumour was characterised as having no foundation, especially as the time-limit or embargo placed on the Servian-French loan has not yet expired.

RUMOURED ROUMANIAN LOAN.

Application of the Funds.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 25.

A Government journal states that negotiations are in progress with the Roumanian Ministry of Finance and foreign financiers for a fresh loan of £16,000,000, which is to be applied to the purposes of the expropriation of land which is shortly to take place.

Two years ago a bill was passed providing for the expropriation of many monasteries and other corporations, and that the lands thus released from the grip of "the dead hand," and also certain State lands, should be divided amongst the peasants on easy terms of payment, the former owners being indemnified by bonds to the value of their property. The Ministry of Domains is now actively engaged in completing the scheme for the parcelling out of this land amongst the peasantry.

ROADS AND RAILWAYS IN NEW ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 25.

For five months now the work of constructing high roads and improving and constructing country roads in New Roumania has been pressed on with all activity. The most important of the first-named is the high road from Constantza to Dobritch, 106 kilometres long, which joins the Dobritch-Turtukai, about 60 kilometres in length. These two principal arteries of the new territory are already completed. Apart from these, all high roads and country roads between Dobritch-Armutli and Dobritch-Pealarevo have been macadamized and otherwise repaired. In other words, all high roads which connect the principal centres and produce regions of the new territory with the old have been put in excellent order and opened to traffic.

The construction of the railway lines to connect Tulcea with Constantza and Czernavoda with the new territory is also being pushed on as rapidly as possible. Up till now, of the 83 kilometres between Cobadin and Dobritch at least two-thirds have been built, and the rest will be completed by the end of the year. Here some 800 metres of rails are being laid daily. Of the line Tulcea-Medjidia 35 kilometres are completed, from the latter town to Esser, and the remainder from this point to Tulcea are partly laid. When this is completed direct railway connection from Constantza, Czernavoda and Tulcea with Dobritch, will be established, the advantages of which are considerable, both from the commercial and strategical point of view.

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MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Bank Rate 4 per cent. (July 30, 1914.)

SETTLING DAYS.

CONSOLS.
Wednesday, August 6.
STOCKS AND SHARES.
In Mining Shares the next carry-over is Aug. 10.

Continuation Day.	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.
Tues., Aug. 11	Wed., Aug. 12	Thurs., Aug. 1

LONDON, July 30.

To say that the Stock Market is demoralised pre-supposes a market. There is none. Dealers in the House wisely refuse to take any stocks of any sort or description. In cases where a buyer and a seller can be matched no doubt business can be done. But it can only be done on a cash basis. The old idea of dealing from account to account has disappeared. Wall Street, London, and Berlin are the only Bourses to keep open, for in Paris the Parquet has restricted operations, and the *coulisse* is closed. Almost every member of the House considers a European war inevitable. As such a war means the destruction of credit, and its attendant paper securities, no Stock Exchange man will purchase such securities.

Bank Rate Raised.

Exchange markets are completely disorganised. The Bank rate has been raised to 4 per cent. as a preliminary to a much higher rate.

Internationals Unsaleable.

It is perhaps useless to give prices of foreign securities, for the quotations that appear in the newspapers are purely nominal. Not even Government bonds can be dealt in. The Government broker made a feeble effort to support Consols, but it is clearly understood that the effort was only for the sake of effect. Consols are nominally round about 70. Colonial securities are quoted at very much the same prices as a week ago, but it would be impossible to effect sales, although there is no doubt that, whatever the result of the war, the English colonies will continue to pay the interest on their loans. As the foreign markets are all closed, the newspapers continue to print quotations which are quite stale. Egyptian Unified, for example, are quoted 95-97, but it would be difficult to either buy or sell £500 worth of stock at these prices. Greek, Servian, Bulgarian, and Turkish stocks are quite unsaleable at any price at all. But French rentes and German Threes can certainly be dealt in for cash, although the price of rentes at 76 is as nominal as that of German Threes at 71.

Railway Slump.

All the Home Railway dividends were on the whole quite as satisfactory as the Stock Exchange had expected. But there has been a tremendous slump in Dover A, which are now nominally 33 as against 57½ a year ago. Great Easterns paid the same dividend as last year, but a Continental war would seriously affect the traffics of this road, and the price is therefore 43 nominal. South-Western and North-Eastern both maintain their dividends, but the Midland increased its expenses, and as its traffics had also decreased, the dividend was cut by ¼ per cent. Hull and Barnsley did badly, but this was expected.

Americans Benefiting.

The American market has held its own well, and Wall Street has bravely taken all the stocks offered. The general feeling is that the United States would benefit largely by a European war. The wheat crop is magnificent, and corn up to the average. Therefore, the gold bonds of the leading American railways should certainly be held, as they are an admirable security, unlikely to depreciate seriously. Canadas have been the storm centre of the panic during the whole week. It is futile to quote the price, but they are probably saleable round about 155. Grand Trunks, being largely held by finance houses, must fall on every attempt to realise, irrespective of the bad traffics and gloomy reports from Canada in regard to the wheat.

Rubber and Oil.

The Rubber market needs no comment, as the dealers will not purchase shares, and all business has practically ceased. Rubber itself is weak round 2s. 1d. No reports of any importance have been issued during the week. Oil shares have had very serious falls. Royal Dutch and Shell have been persistently offered. If the war extends, Roumania, Galicia, and Russia would be unable to bale any oil, and this would have a serious effect on the above companies. It is not possible to quote prices, but the newspapers put Royal Dutch at 40 and Shells at about 3½. The latter share has been dealt in. Holders of Mexican Eagle may continue to keep their shares, as, now that peace in Mexico is assured, the company should do well.

Mines Collapse.

Paris has attempted to sell Kaffirs, but the dealers here decline to buy. Prices have shaded off a little, but the falls have not been serious mainly because there has been no business. Chartered have been offered. The Russian and Canadian markets have collapsed. In each case the shops have refused support.

Egyptians Featureless.

The Egyptian market really needs no comment. Paris has not offered very much stock here, and business in Alexandria and Cairo is non-existent. A few National Banks have been dealt in at 13, and a seller of Agriculturals managed to disposed of a small block at prices ranging from 4½—4. Land Banks are quoted 6. Bank of Abyssinia 5s. Delta Light Railway prefs. are nominally 8. Delta Lands have been sold in small lots round 8s. Behera is quoted 8, but without any business. Union Foncière are nominally 1. Alexandria Water keep steady at 12½. Aboukir Land are called 21s. United Lands are 1s. 9d. Trusts 5s. Salt and Soda 14s., and New Egyptian 9s. Markets are said to be 23s. Khedivial Mail preference have not been dealt in all the week, and the price remains unchanged. But a few buyers of ordinary at 11s. have come into the market. In all cases it must be understood that the prices given are subject to arrangement between the broker and the jobber.

Miscellaneous.

In the Miscellaneous market Hudson Bays have been down to 7. Marconis are 1½, and even Vickers and Armstrongs have been sold. This seems an absurd anomaly, as if any security ought to rise it should be those of an armament firm. P. and O. and Royal Mails have been pressed for sale, but the market generally refuses to take stock.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The Government have appointed as ex-officio directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Lord Inchcape of Strathnaver, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., and Vice-Admiral Sir Edmond J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O.

Mines de Kassandra.

In spite of the conclusion of the Balkan war—during which the company had to suffer by the shortage of labour incidental thereto—the total production during the year 1913 amounted to 102,854 tons, compared with 157,812 tons in 1912. Taking into account the stock of coal left over from 1912, which amounted to 46,806 tons, the total amount of coal available for sale was 149,660 tons. Of this 135,978 tons were exported, leaving a stock of 13,682 tons. The balance-sheet shows a loss of £T7,424, after payment of £T7,537 for interest and amortisations. The loss is carried forward.

Banque Francaise d'Egypte.

An amalgamation has taken place between the Banque Française d'Egypte and the Banque Hypothécaire Franco-Egyptienne. At a general meeting of the shareholders of the Banque Hypothécaire in Paris it was decided that the liquidation of the bank should take place, and that all its effects should be taken over by the Banque Française d'Egypte. In future, the Banque Française will continue the mortgage business of the Banque Hypothécaire with its ordinary banking business. The management remains unchanged, and Count Cressaty will continue to act as chairman. The Banque Française's capital has been increased to seventy million francs in consequence of the transaction.

NEW COMPANIES.

Anglo-Oriental Oil Co., Ltd.

A company with the above title was registered on July 18, by Osborn and Osborn, 2, Coleman Street, E.C., with a capital of £100, in £1 shares, the objects being to acquire petroleum-bearing grounds, lands and hereditaments in the region of Bustenari (Department of Prahova), in Roumania, and to carry on the business of an oil, mining and refining company. Minimum cash subscription, 15 per cent. of the shares offered to the public. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than seven) are: G. O. W. Cheke and A. Gutman. Qualification, £5. Remuneration (except managing director), as fixed by the company. Registered office, 2, Coleman Street, E.C.

Gemsah Oil Reefs.

Under the title of Gemsah Oil Reefs, Ltd., a company was registered on July 24, with a capital of £150,000, in £1 shares, to acquire and deal with any oil wells, mines, oil-bearing, petroliferous and metalliferous lands in any part of the world, and to adopt an agreement with Reefs, Ltd. The minimum cash subscription is seven shares. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than six) are R. Hamilton Edwards, 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C., and W. Wallis, 233, Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, S.E. Directors' qualification is £100 and remuneration £100 each per annum (chairman £150). Registered office, 52, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—Message received last Friday states:—Production of crude oil for the week ended Friday, 17th inst., was 338 tons. Bordeni well No. 24 still flowing intermittently.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production (week), 2,102 tons, of which Hurghada 84 tons.

BANQUE DE SALONIQUE, CONSTANTINOPLE.—This bank is increasing its capital by ten million francs, making it thirty million francs.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—The receipts for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E5,732 against £E5,860 for the corresponding period of last year.

EAUX DE CONSTANTINOPLE.—Net profits for 1913 were 776,000 francs, as compared with 677,325 francs in 1912. Dividend 80 piastres, as compared with 75 piastres.

OTTOMAN ANGLO-AMERICAN SYNDICATE.—As from July 29, the offices of this company will be situated at No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—Receipts for week ended July 25 amounted to £10,539, against £10,748 for the corresponding period of last year.

PORT OF HAIDAR PASHA, CONSTANTINOPLE.—Net profit for 1913 rose to 1,466,871 francs from 1,408,158 francs the previous year. Dividend is maintained at 8 per cent.

ROUMANIAN FOUR AND A-HALF PER CENT.—The Royal Roumanian Finance Ministry announces the numbers of 1,289 bonds of the Royal Roumanian Government Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1913, amounting to £46,213 4s. which have been drawn for payment on October 1, at the counting-house of Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. The numbers are also published of bonds which were drawn for repayment on April 1. and had not been presented for payment on the 1st inst.

SMYRNA-CASSABA RAILWAY.—The net profits for 1913 amounted to 1,659,816 francs, as compared with 1,082,407 francs in 1912. Dividend remains 25 francs per share.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Receipts for the week ended July 23 amounted to £659, an increase of £46 over those of the corresponding week of last year.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Mai, 1914, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etats et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	884,036
Titres divers	634,392
Comptes-Courants	400,272
Avances sur Marchandises	1,603,169
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,436,984
Avances sur d'autres garanties	747,403
Effets sur l'Etranger	837,315
Effets sur l'Egypte	556,925
Immeubles et mobilier	255,710
Placements à courte échéance	589,948
Comptes Banquiers	370,579
Gouvern. du Soudan	256,906
Encaisse:	
Especes:	
Or £E.371,117	
Argent et nickel £E.424,160	
£E,795,277	
Billets de Banque £E.355,025	1,150,302
Divers	98,183
	£E.9,822,124

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,462,500
Fonds de Prévoyance	24,375
Comptes-Courant, Dépôts et autres	2,495,581
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,761,026
Ministère des Finances	510,592
Ministère Compte spécial	42,916
Comptes Banquiers	164,600
Chèques et effets à payer	160,677
Divers	274,857
	£E.9,822,124

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.1,200,157
Titres	1,199,843
	£E.2,400,000
Billets émis	£E.2,400,000
	£E.2,400,000

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, JULY 5-18, 1914.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve: Gold 153,907,453; Foreign bills payable in gold 56,642,000		210,549,453
Silver and other coins		934,740
Roumanian and foreign bills		180,699,214
Advances against Government securities	24,183,800	
On current account 46,450,800		
Unused balance 23,511,668	22,939,132	47,122,932
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,924,059
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,546,177
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,762,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,036,281
Premises		6,720,472
Furniture and printing machinery		1,075,309
General expenses		25,264
Government and other securities deposited		131,002,117
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		134,760,280
Current accounts		21,479,956
Security accounts		23,664,690
Sundry accounts		8,4 0,277
Total Lei		810,734,098

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,179,870
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	414,287,200
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	157,143
Current accounts and drafts at sight	14,244,484
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	265,762,397
Sundry accounts	57,766,218
Total Lei	810,734,098

Bank Rate, 5½ per cent.

OTTOMAN, SMYRNA, AND CASSABA RAILWAY AND EXTENSION COMPANY.

ISSUE OF £2,252,400 FOUR PER CENT. BONDS, of 1894.

At the 20th DRAWING of the above Bonds, which took place in Constantinople on the 15th July, 1914, the following NUMBERS were DRAWN:—

Nos.		Nos.	Nos.		Nos.	Nos.		Nos.
38136	to 38140		59756	to 59760		78201	to 78205	
40736	,, 40740		62056	,, 62060		78831	,, 78835	
41011	,, 41015		62706	,, 62710		78976	,, 78980	
41321	,, 41325		63366	,, 63370		80371	,, 80375	
41426	,, 41430		63526	,, 63530		81066	,, 81070	
41431	,, 41435		65896	,, 65900		81621	,, 81625	
42101	,, 42105		70011	,, 70015		82316	,, 82320	
42971	,, 42975		70671	,, 70675		84491	,, 84495	
45721	,, 45725		70906	,, 70910		85206	,, 85210	
48221	,, 48225		74971	,, 74975		86261	,, 86265	
49926	,, 49930		76571	,, 76575		86951	,, 86955	
52881	,, 52885		76961	,, 76965		87076	,, 87080	
54206	,, 54210		77476	,, 77480		87426	,, 87430	
55296	,, 55300							

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

Quotations of Near Eastern Securities on the various Exchanges.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Last Make-up. July 28.	Latest prices. July 29.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.		
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	98	99
Do. 5 % Gold Loan, 1902	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	—	82
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	80
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	—	99
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	95½	95
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	—	93½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98¾	95½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	—	87½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	—	82½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	—	80½
Greek 5 %, 1881	56½	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	55½	55
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	48
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	44½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	55½	55
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	—	54
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	76½	75
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	—	94
Do. 4 % Bds. (Lon. Iss.)	70	70
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82	82½
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	—	90
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	—	92
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	—	67
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	—	103
Do. 4 %, 1891	95	94½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84½	84
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	—	82½
Do. 4 % Unified	80	78
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	67	65½
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	68
BANKS.		
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	—	7¾
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	—	80
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	—	83
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	—	12
Bank of Abyssinia	—	¼
Bank of Athens	—	2
Bank of Roumania	—	8½
Eastern Bank	—	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	—	7¾
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	11
Ionian Bank, Limited	—	3⅞
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	—	6¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	13½
RAILWAYS.		
Egyptian Delta Light Bearer	8½	8
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	—	98
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	—	88
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	—	88
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	—	17¾
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	—	22
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	—	87
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	—	101½
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	—	80
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	—	90
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	—	61
LAND.		
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	—	2⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	—	½
Do. Do. Def.	—	¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	8½
Do. Pref.	—	4½
Building Lands of Egypt	—	1 3/16
Daira Sanieh	—	2/3
Do. Def.	—	⅞
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	8/6
Do Estates	—	—
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-
Do. Land & Gen. Trust	—	—
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1¾
,, ,, Founders	—	¼
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4½ % Debs. Red.	—	—
Do. 4 % Deb. Stock Red.	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	—	9⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	—	97
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/3
Sidi Salem Co.	—	5/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alexandria Water Co.	—	12¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	—	97
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	—	102
Egyptian Hotels	—	1½
Do. Hotels, 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—
Do. Markets Ord.	23/3	1 3/16
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	99½
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	14/9	⅜
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	—	98
Khedivial Mail Ord.	—	⅜
Do. do. Prefs.	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	—	90
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	—	£179½
Upper Egypt Hotels	—	2¼
OIL.		
Anglo-Persian Pref.	1 5/16	22/6
Cyprus Oil Trust	—	2/3
Eastern Petroleum	6/-	—
Egyptian Oil Trust	—	—
European Oilfields	4/9	4/9
Oilfields Finance Corporation	1/16	⅜
Red Sea Oilfields	—	—
Roumanian Consolidated	1 3/16	1
Shell Transport	4 1/16	4
Suez Oil	6/-	5/6

PARIS BOURSE.	Last week's prices. July 16.	Latest prices. July 23.
B nque Imperiale Ottomane	583	565
Canal de Suez Shares	4860	4700
Do. do. Jouissance	4329	4329
Do. do. Founders	2300	2300
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	159	722
Crédit Franco-Egyptien	727	158
Damas.-Ham. Rail. 4 % Priv.	470	470
Do. do. rev. var.	265	265
Etablisse. Orosdi Back. 4½ %	445	444
Do. do. do. Act.	204	200
Land Bank of Egypt	159	155
Mines Balia-Karaidin	441	426
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers	—	—
Société d'Heraclée	133	133
Sucreries et Raffineries Debs.	504½	505
Do. do. Ord.	37½	34½
Do. do. Pref.	39¼	35½
Tabacs Ottomans	418	391
Turkish Unified Con.	81.20	422
Do. 4 %, 1894	438	438
Do. 5 %, 1896	484	484
Do. 4 %, 1901-5	405	405
Do. 4 %, 1904	369	369
Do. 4 %, 1908	365	365
Do. 4 %, 1909	357	357

BRUSSELS BOURSE.	July 16.	July 26.
Agricole et Industrielle 4% Debs	277.50	275
Do. do. Priv.	100	195
Do. do. Cap.	48.75	46
Do. do. Div.	26.50	80
Anglo-Belgian Co.	15	14.25
Cairo Electric Railways Cap.	129	125
Do. do. Div.	139.50	135
Caisse Hypothécaire Act.	421	421
Do. do. (10eme p.b)	58.75	56
Chem. de Fer Basse Egypte 3½ % Debs.	423.75	428
Do. Priv.	129	543.75
Do. Div.	139.50	142.75
Chemins de Fers Orient.	940	940
Compagnie Immobilière Deb.	344	344
Do. do. Cap.	45	48
Do. do. Fond.	84	80
Enterprise and Developmt. Cap.	66.25	66.25
Do. do. Div.	41.25	41
Ezbekieh (Belge-Egypte.) Priv	1330	1330
Do. do. Ord.	491	491
Heliopolis Palace Hotel Cap.	220	220
Do. do. Div.	26.50	26.50
Salonika-Constant. Rail.	280	270.25
Salonika-Monastir Rail.	290	277.50
Smyrna-Cassaba Rail. 4%, '94	405	405
Do. do. do. 4%, '95	365	365
Tramways d'Alexandrie Priv	96.50	96.50
Do. do. Div.	80.50	80.50
Tramways du Caire Priv.	512	502
Do. do. Jouiss.	520.50	520.50
Travaux Publics du Caire Priv.	190	190
Do. do. Ord.	—	—
Do. do. Div	13.25	13.25

CONSTANTINOPLE BOURSE.	July 17.	July 24.
Anatolian Railway 4½% Debs. I.	Fcs.453	Fcs.453
Do. do. do. II.	Fcs.450	Fcs.450
Do. do. do. III.	Fcs.446	Fcs.448
Do. do. Shares	£14 8 6	£14 0 0
Assurances Ottomanes	£T.6.37	£T.6.45
Eaux de Constantinople	Fcs.392	Fcs.385
Heraclée, Société d'	Fcs.140	Fcs.140
Kassandra Mine Priv.	Fcs.1 0	Fcs.109
Do. do. Ord.	Fcs.105	Fcs.105
Laurium Grec.	Fcs.36	Fcs.34.50
Mersina-Adana Railway 4 %	£16 12 6	£16 12 6
Trams. de Constantinople Act.	£T.28.45	£T.28.40

ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.	July 15.	July 22.
Agricole & Industrle. Ord.	Fcs —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Alexandria & Ramleh Rail.	Lst. 3⅜	3⅜
Alexandria Water Co.	Lst. 12⅜	12⅜
Banque d'Athènes	Fcs 48	48
Banque d'Orient	Fcs. 87	87
Building Lands of Egypt.	Lst. 3/32	3/32
Cassa di Sconto Ord. New.	Fcs. 49	48
Compagnie Agricole du Nil.	Fcs. —	—
Co. Immob. d'Egypte Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Crédit Foncier Egyp. Ord.	Fcs. 728	728
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. —	—
Do. 3 % Bonds, 1886.	Fcs. 342½	342½
Do. Do. 1903.	Fcs. 268½	268½
Do. Do. 1911.	Fcs. 271	271
Eaux du Caire Capital	Fcs. 108	108
Do. Do. Jouissance.	Fcs. 179¾	179¾
Egypt-Levant Steamship Co.	11/10½	11/10½
Egyptian Hotels, Baehler.	Lst. —	—
Enterprise & Devel. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Found.	Fcs. —	—
Entre. Urb. & Rurales Ord.	Lst. 2 3/32	2⅛
Ham. & Anglo-Amer. Nile.	Lst. —	—
Heliopolis Oases Co. Ord.	Fcs. —	—
Do. Do. Def.	L.E —	—
Industrial Building Co.	Lst. 1/32	1/32
Menzaleh Cnl. & Nav. Ord.	L.E. —	—
Nile Land & Agricultural	Lst. ¼	¼
Nungovich Hotels	Lst. —	2
Port Said Salt Association.	Sh. 18/-	10/6
Société du Behera Ord.	L.E. 4 5/16	8⅛
Do. Do. Pref.	Lst. 90	4 1/16
Tramways d'Alexand. Pref.	Fcs 93	95
Do. Do. Def.	Fcs. 83	82½
Upper Egypt Hotels, Old.	L.E. —	—
Do. Do. New.	L.E. —	—

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بانق عثمانی

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

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Vol. 17.1

THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 170.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

We are at war. It was not a war of our seeking, but when it became inevitable we did not wait to be struck. We firmly assumed our Treaty obligations and drew the sword. Too often of late have the written and attested words of diplomatists been disregarded on the Continent of Europe, and it is therefore the more creditable to Great Britain that she should have sprung to arms in defence of a document nearly seventy years old. But if the parchment date from 1839, the policy to which it gave effect is far older. From a remote period, when the crown of St. Edward ceased to overshadow French territory, it has been of importance to the inhabitants of these Islands that the adjacent Continent should not be dominated by any one Power. We fight to-day for the freedom of the Narrow Seas, for the freedom from aggressive control of the Low Countries, for the right of the small peoples to exist untroubled by mightier neighbours. We fight to-day with Imperial Hohenzollerns as we fought yesterday with Imperial Bonaparte, or the day before with Royal Bourbons, or before that with the Royal Hapsburgs. History throughout the centuries has dictated our duty; it has fallen to the lot of the present generation once more to take up that task in the performance of which the men who were our ancestors died. It is for us, their descendants, to show that we, too, are fighting men, not unworthy of their reputation, ready, as they were ready, to cease to be dwellers in the kindly sunlight if so be the performance of our duty demand that sacrifice.

A century ago, after best part of a generation of perpetual war, we Islanders reaffirmed our mastery of the Narrow Seas. Many kings and peoples have disputed it with us, and we give credit to the Dutch for having for a moment wrested it from us. But for many a long year our proud claim in war has been that the British frontier is the enemy's coast. That means we claim the freedom of the high seas, and we have ever fought to pin an enemy in his ports. So now we must fight to keep open the food routes to our metropolitan isles and our trade routes to our Dominions, east and west. The sea paths of empire must lie open to us. The motto of England applies to what we have; we invoke Heaven's aid to help us hold our own—*Dieu et mon droit*. Our attitude towards the rest of Europe has been wholly unaggressive. It was only the unjustifiable acts of men avid of conquest upon our friends, and through our friends upon us, which have compelled us to act upon the motto of Scotland, *Nemo me impune lacessit*.

Mr. Redmond's remarkable words in the House of Commons have helped the world to realise that in the face of the German aggression, which is to overwhelm Europe in war, we, like the Romans in Macaulay's Lay, are almost in the happy position when none are for the party and all are for the State. The Nationalist leader has enabled a United Kingdom to face the foe, and, as when last we fought for the freedom of Europe on the fields of Flanders, the enemy has to deal with a Union Brigade.

The Cat of Fate is being very closely watched in Rome and Bucharest. Anxious statesmen in those capitals eagerly await an indication of the direction in which the celebrated animal proposes to jump. The Germans are prodding the beast with bayonets in hopes of influencing its action, and thereby that of their potential allies. Meanwhile "Wait and see" is the *mot d'ordre* of the descendants of Trajan, whether on the Dumbo Vitza or the Tiber. We may point out that it is but a step between a refusal to consider the terms of the Triple Alliance as binding in Rome and a determination to act as opportunity offers, even contrary to the interests of the discarded Allies. If a "Venetian policy" envisages the acquisition of Greek islands it can also be directed against the Dalmatian coast lands which, as was pointed out in THE NEAR EAST of last week, belonged for centuries to the Republic of St. Mark, and for a few years actually formed part of the Napoleonic kingdom of Italy.

At the moment of writing it is being asserted that the Government of Berlin has demanded the assistance of Italy under the terms of the celebrated Treaty which has hitherto bound the armies and navies of King Victor Emmanuel III. to the war chariot of militant Teutonism. The moment is ill-judged for demanding assistance—with menaces, as it is alleged—as Germany is almost universally considered as the outlaw of Europe, and will be treated as such. Should the truculence of Potsdam thrust the sword into the hands of yet another enemy and compel a fourth Great Power to fight against Germany and her ally it will be found that four of the Western nations who owe so much of their civilisation to Ancient Rome will be in arms to uphold

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the Roman tradition of the supremacy of law in opposition to an onset of Germans from beyond Rhine and Danube who seek to establish the sovereignty of their sword, and affirm the barbarian conception of the dominion of force.

The action of the Porte in ordering a mobilization is as ominous as it is deplorable. The presence of General Liman von Sanders Pasha in Constantinople renders the renewed Ottoman military activity profoundly menacing in the present circumstances, and tends to give colour to the supposition that Germany, not content with measuring strength with us in the North Sea, intends to strike also, but by proxy, in the Levant. Our position as the chief Moslem Power is at stake, and it is essential that we should take definite and drastic steps to affirm our predominant position, and make it clear to all comers that that position is not to be shaken. It is to be feared, moreover, that the orders issued from the Seraskierate will be re-echoed among the neighbouring States, and that the Balkans will once more be plunged in war. The ambition of the Young Turks to recover Salonika, the cradle of their movement, may lead them once more to launch the legions of their Padishah upon the Greeks, careless of the Bulgarians, across whose Thracian provinces they are believed to be preparing to march.

Roumania has asserted that she intends to maintain the integrity of the Treaty of Bucharest. The Ottoman mobilization may mean that she is to be called upon to take action in support of her words. In view of the unenviable position of Bulgaria, it is idle to suppose that King Carol's Government can expect that country to resist the passage of the Turks in order to benefit the Greeks solely under threat of fresh Roumanian aggression on the Danube. Roumania may have an opportunity given her of wiping away the evil memories of yester year from the hearts of the Bulgarians. It may be that she will be called upon to pay a heavy price for her new provinces in the Dobruja in assisting her despoiled neighbours defend the Greeks, whom they detest, from the Turk, who appears to be upon the point of assailing the tottering edifice raised by force at Bucharest. A hegemony cannot both be gained and kept without effort. Roumania must be prepared to defend and enforce what fell into her lap last year, or it will pass to another.

The news, with which we deal more fully on another page, that two foreign banks in Egypt have closed their doors, would in ordinary circumstances excite but little attention as of political significance. In this case, however, it is asserted that an energetic propaganda has been directed from one at least of these establishments, a propaganda which was directed against British interests in Egypt. In view of what has occurred it is not surprising that the Germans should have endeavoured to undermine British influence in a country where it is of vital importance to us that no hostile interests should assail our position. We cannot afford to see a foreign Power astride of the Suez Canal, nor is it easy for us to tolerate the presence of conspirators against the peace of Egypt who shield their nefarious operations under the Capitulations with which the country is cursed. If it is solely due to the existence of the Capitulations that such attacks upon the welfare of Egypt, for which Great Britain is responsible, are rendered possible, then it is manifestly our duty to assist the Egyptian Government to rid itself of these obsolete and unnecessary entanglements.

The appointment of Earl Kitchener as Secretary of State for War, a step which was advocated in these columns last week, has had a highly satisfactory effect not only on home opinion, but also among our Allies. It is felt that his Majesty has been able to make an exceptionally happy appointment, and that the services of an experienced organiser of victory have been directed into that channel where they are most required at the present moment.

In view of the situation in Egypt and the paramount necessity of maintaining the influence of Great Britain in that country and our prestige in the Levant we are glad that it is not proposed that Earl Kitchener's absence from Cairo should be permanent. It is, however, a matter of the first importance that his *locum tenens* on the Nile should be an energetic and capable man ready to deal with any situation which may arise and fully equipped for the purpose. Proposals have been made that part of the Army of Occupation should be withdrawn for service in Europe, but to take such a step would be a blunder of the first magnitude. It is to be hoped, rather, that if any garrisons are to be depleted at the present juncture troops will be drafted into Egypt, and not out of it. To the lay mind it appears feasible that some of the Australian contingent might well be detailed for service on the banks of the Canal which unites them with the Homeland.

The countries of the Near East cannot fail to be affected by the state of war. Algerian ports have been attacked by the enemy, and the whole of French North Africa is in a state of mobilisation. A partial moratorium has been declared in Egypt, and martial law is now in force in Cyprus. In view of this it is to be hoped that in that island, as in Ireland, the voice of agitation will be stilled. The publication of the diplomatic correspondence reveals the fact that the enemy has designs—or had them—upon the Port of Salonika, and there are other indications that the Near East will not be so much "out of the picture" as British opinion was at one time inclined to expect.

Amid the crash of war and the perpetual rolling of the drums, if there be any sympathy left and to spare we may at least extend it to the Emperor Francis Joseph. This aged monarch seems to be faced for the third time in his reign with military disaster. The policy upon which he has embarked does not appear to have been his own, and it is due to the headlong megalomania of the Potsdam militarists that Austria-Hungary was put forward as the disturber of peace, and must now abide by whatever outcome the fortune of war may accord. We cannot think that His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty will be able to ride back in triumph to Vienna, but at least the unswerving loyalty of so many of his peoples to his person and his dynasty will be a comfort, as in 1859 and 1866. Military experts seem inclined to doubt whether the Danube campaign was ever seriously undertaken or meant, but all allow that Servia has put up a creditable resistance, and is likely to prove a formidable antagonist to the Dual Monarchy when the time comes for her to take the offensive into Bosnia.

At a time like this, when those in peril on the sea are menaced also by ships of war and hostile airmen, many of us are feeling the keenest anxiety for friends and relatives embarked upon the Mediterranean, or on their way to or from the mail-ports of Europe which serve the Indian and Egyptian traffic. We know of many who have emerged upon our coasts pathetic jetsam—not of war—but of the mobilization which preceded it. We most earnestly confide that the Franco-British Fleets will prevent commerce-raiding in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, for while troops are assembling on the Continent the overland route is almost closed to passengers.

THE NEAR EAST.

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LETTER FROM ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, July 29.

Sympathy for Servia.

The sore trials of Servia and the dangers threatening her have not only produced in Greece a feeling of profound sorrow, but have also given rise to the greatest anxiety. The bonds of brotherhood which have united the two peoples ever since they fought side by side, first against Turkey and subsequently against Bulgaria, are so strong that Greek anxiety on Servia's account at the present time is easily explained. It is obvious that on the coalition of all the States signatory to the Treaty of Bucharest depends the security of the territorial partition effected under that treaty. The weakening and ultimate exhaustion of Servia would necessarily expose all the States concerned to very grave dangers. Greek opinion is now chiefly interested on the all-important question of determining whether Austria merely desires to chastise Servia for what she regards as her unfriendly acts or whether she has designs on the territorial acquisitions of the Balkan States under the Treaty of Bucharest.

This trial has come to test the strength of the pact between the Balkan States of which the present territorial arrangement is the outward and visible sign. Of all the States concerned Greece is perhaps the most seriously affected by the prospect of the re-opening of the Eastern question in its most acute form. For her the trouble could not have come at a worse time, for when the storm burst Mr. Venizelos and the Grand Vizier were on the point of entering upon negotiations in which the existence of the Balkan necessarily exercised a dominating influence.

The ostensible causes which provoked the Austro-Servian conflict had no actual connection with the Balkan question proper, and as long as Bulgaria—either with or without Turkey—refrains from hostilities against Servia, the attitude imposed on Greece as upon Roumania is that of benevolent neutrality. It would appear also that the treaty of alliance between Servia and Greece imposes on neither party the obligation to come to the other's aid where the *casus fœderis* is not invoked. Servia has, at any rate, not suggested as much. The Greek Government, nevertheless, realizing that her moral obligations in this instance coincide with her material interests, has by diplomatic means spared no effort either at Belgrade or in Vienna to save her ally from destruction. If the efforts of the Great Powers fail to stop the war, Roumania and Greece—particularly Greece, by reason of her geographical position—must make active military preparations in order that they may be ready to meet any eventuality; and if Bulgaria mobilizes they must immediately do the same.

This unexpected complication which threatens to deprive Greece at any moment of her chief guarantees for security, and places in danger a part, great or small, of her recent conquests gives food for much reflection.

The Brussels Meeting.

The Austro-Servian trouble, which broke out directly Mr. Venizelos left Athens, and which has completely changed the Balkan situation, will in all probability prevent this meeting which had been arranged at Brussels between the Greek President of the Council and the Grand Vizier. Up to the time of writing Mr. Venizelos is reported to be still at Munich, having decided not to retrace his steps and abandon his project until the last hopes of a peaceful solution of the present trouble had been destroyed.

According to the most reliable information available, the principal question on which the discussions at the projected meetings would have turned would have been the possibility of arriving at a better understanding between the two States. To this end, Mr. Venizelos leaving Athens convinced that a league embracing all the Balkan States would have ensured the dissipation, at his interview with the Grand Vizier, of all the misunderstandings existing between the two nations, the relations of which have always been inspired far more by sentimental considerations, traditional hatred, and the like, than by a proper appreciation of the interests—material, political, and economic—which they have in common.

A tendency to favour such a *rapprochement* with Greece was noticeable among the Turks shortly after the proclamation of their Constitution. These friendly tendencies, it will be remembered, were warmly reciprocated in Greece, but the chauvinism of the Young Turks, and above all their irreconcilable attitude on the Cretan question, checked these good dispositions among the two peoples. To-day the question of the islands is the cause of discord, but it presents itself in a form which allows the Turkish Government to give in and submit to the decision of the Powers without risking its popularity, which would never have been possible when Crete furnished the question at issue. Now that the Greek population of the Asiatic littoral has been replaced by Turkish immigrants the Young Turks might, perhaps, find it easier to renounce their claim on the islands, since the danger they foresaw of the patriotism of the Greeks of the littoral being influenced by the proximity of islands under Greek government has now been removed. In exchange Turkey would gain the friendship and support of Greece in maintaining her territorial status, and would be assured of the possession of Thrace, which Bulgaria will never cease to covet. Greece, on the other hand, has no designs on the European possessions of Turkey, and only asks to be left in the peaceful possession of her recently acquired territories. Turkey has, in fact, everything to gain by a better understanding with Greece. Such an understanding would further relieve the two States of a terrible competition in naval armaments, which if allowed to continue might prove ruinous to both. But Greece may well ask, Are the Young Turks really capable of taking the broad view without which an arrangement between the two States on the lines suggested would be impossible? Unfortunately the declarations of Talaat Bey in the Chamber do not suggest as much. They seem indeed to justify the belief that the Turks are bent on continuing their present adventurous policy. In certain quarters it is suggested that one of the Great Powers (Italy and Austria are both suspect) is hindering Turkey from coming to an understanding with Greece. On the other hand, for reasons already explained, Greece cannot give way on the question of the islands. It would be only after a disastrous war, say the Ministerial journals, that Greece could consent to discuss that question. The Opposition Press expresses the conviction—a conviction shared to some extent in Government quarters—that Chios and Mytilene only constitute the first part of the Young Turk programme, and that if they should ever recover them it would only whet their appetite for a reconquest of all that Turkey has lost in Thrace and Macedonia. Consequently there was little reason for hoping that even if the two Presidents had met their conversations would have led to any practical results.

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NOTES FROM THE SUDAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, July 23.

Slatin Pasha's Wedding.

The announcement of Sir Rudolf Baron von Slatin Pasha's wedding has been received here with pleasant surprise, as it was generally believed he was a confirmed bachelor. It is hoped that his marriage will indicate a renewed lease of his stay in the Sudan, where his presence is invaluable, his unrivalled knowledge of the people, more especially of the Arab tribes, coupled with his perfect familiarity with the language, being unique.

As showing the esteem and affection with which Slatin Pasha is regarded, the following incident may be related:—When Mr. McLean, the well-known aviator, arrived in Khartoum in March last, after a harassing and strenuous flight, the Inspector-General (which is Slatin Pasha's official title) was one of the first to welcome him, and he was also one of the few passengers whom Mr. McLean consented to take for a short flight. This journey, which took place early one morning, was witnessed by large numbers of spectators, and the banks of the two rivers were lined with wondering sightseers. There were few who did not regard with amazement the "tair" (bird), which became the native name for the aeroplane. But few knew who was being carried as a passenger, and when it was eventually discovered that it was no less a personage than his Excellency himself there was something akin to dismay among the notables and sheikhs, who at once proceeded to take action. Within an hour or so a number of them met together, and were soon interviewing the Inspector-General about the propriety of risking his life in this way; and rumour has it that a promise was extracted that there should be no further flights.

The Late Captain Hobart.

Captain G. B. Hobart's death, which took place at Kassala on July 1, was very unexpected. He was Acting Governor of the province at the time, and had for many years been attached to the Sudan Government, doing valuable work as a civil officer. Captain Hobart belonged to the York and Lancaster Regiment, and was gazetted to the Egyptian Army in 1906. His death came as a great shock to his friends, who will always remember his devotion to duty, especially at a time when his health was never very robust.

Irrigation Service.

The post of the Inspector-General of Irrigation in the Sudan has been abolished, and the service is divided into three divisions. These are as follows:—The Blue Nile: This includes the Gezira Plain, where preparations are now being made for the irrigation of 100,000 feddans for the cultivation of cotton, and it will also embrace the river and its tributaries from Khartoum to the Sudan boundary with Abyssinia. This division will be in charge of Mr. L. N. Cooper, who will act as Director-General. His headquarters will be at Sennar.

The White Nile: This will extend from Khartoum to the Uganda boundary, and will be in the charge of an inspector, who will have his headquarters at Khartoum.

The Dongola Division: This will include everything on the main Nile and its branches from Wadi Halfa to Khartoum, and as a temporary arrangement Kassala and Tokar. The headquarters will be at Dongola and in charge of an inspector. The inspectors of these divisions will be directly under the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo.

Rains and the Prospects.

At the present time all eyes are anxiously turned towards the rainfall. It is difficult always to realise how much depends on the necessary rains. Without rain in abundance the very life-blood of the country is endangered, and a time then comes when there is but a thin dividing line between being able to exist and absolute starvation.

The Sudani has yet to be taught that in years of affluence he should put by for a rainy day, and until this first economical rule is obeyed the danger of lean years must always remain.

PUBLIC HEALTH OF EGYPT.

At a meeting of the British Medical Association, held in Aberdeen last week, Dr. A. F. MacCallan, F.R.S.S., of the Department of Public Health, Cairo, gave a contribution on "The Ankylostomiasis Campaign in Egypt." He said that up to a few months ago no serious effort to check the ravages of ankylostomiasis had been undertaken in Egypt, although a certain number of cases were being treated in the wards of the Government general hospitals and at the Church Missionary hospitals. In September of last year arrangements were made by the Department of Public Health, on the initiative of Lord Kitchener, to investigate the disease at a temporary annexe, and the annexe was converted into a travelling hospital in tents with beds for 100 patients. The hospital was inaugurated by the Khedive in the presence of Lord Kitchener on December 1, 1913, at Galiub, a town of 16,000 inhabitants about ten miles from Cairo. The number of ankylostomiasis cases treated up to April 30 had been 1,011; of these, 628 had been cured and 383 relieved. Every endeavour was being made by the Department of Public Health to make the campaign a successful one. The great interest which Lord Kitchener felt in public health was apparent in his report on Egypt for 1913, and it was due to him that a beginning had been made in the organisation of such measures of treatment and of elementary sanitation as would in the course of time lead to an enormous improvement in the present conditions, if not entirely free Egypt from ankylostomiasis.

Professor Sandwith said Lord Kitchener deserved great praise for his interest in the matter, and the organisation was a wise move on his part.

Professor M'Kerron, Aberdeen, gave his experiences of combating the disease in Jamaica and the West Indies; and Dr. Llewellyn Phillips spoke similarly with regard to the eradication of the worm in Egypt.

The Chairman said the papers showed the tremendous advance that had been made in the matter, and they were very glad to hear of the campaign that had been inaugurated by Dr. MacCallan. One looked forward to seeing great advantages being derived from it. He did not know how much of the money was going in the treatment of the disease. Sanatorium treatment for consumption was very good in its way, but they would have to come back to the primary cause, which was bad housing.

Dr. MacCallan said it was hardly possible to put the whole of the affected population through the somewhat expensive treatment, but they hoped in the course of time, if they were able to show sufficiently good results to the Government, to get larger grants of money, and in the course of the next ten or fifteen years they would be able to carry on a universal campaign throughout the Delta and half-way up towards Assuan.

Professor A. R. Ferguson, Cairo, read a paper on "Bilharzial Infection of the Spinal Cord."

JEWS IN ROUMANIA.

The Bucharest correspondent of *The Zionist Gazette* writes:—"The Union of Roumanian-born Jews have once more addressed a petition to the Parliament asking for equality of rights for the Jews born in Roumania. Following up this step of the Roumanian Jews, the Secretary of the Roumanian Culture League, Professor Bogan Duica, answers by a manifestation of an extremely exciting character, published in all the Roumanian newspapers, in which he expresses his thought that the Jewish question is a question of power, at the same time threatening that the slightest attempt at a solution of this problem in favour of the Jews would be answered on the part of the Roumanian population by a pogrom similar to the examples Russia has given. The Roumanian Government maintaining their unfriendly attitude towards the requests of their Jewish citizens, our friends will probably have to face not inconsiderable danger."

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THE ELECTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN.

TABRIZ, June 15.*

The elections for the coming Mejliss have been finished long ago in all the provinces, except in Azerbaijan.

Some months ago Shuja-ed-Dowleh—either obeying an order of the Home Minister or trying to show that he is not an anti-Cabinet Governor—gave the Tabriz citizens permission to hold elections, choose their Vakils and send them to Teheran before the Coronation of Sultan Ahmed Shah. Those of the electors who believed in the sincerity of the Governor-General came to vote in large numbers; but when they arrived at the voting places, another party—opposed to elections and to "mashroota"—also arrived and began to disturb the regular process and progress of voting. This finally resulted in active hostilities between the two parties, the "Nationalists" and the "Royalists," and in fists, clubs, and Oriental bad language doing good service in causing black eyes, bleeding noses, and broken teeth to such an extent that the military and the Persian Cossack force were called out to separate the parties and restore order and peace. The result of this quarrel was that finally no elections took place.

Now, as permission was granted by Shuja-ed-Dowleh to hold elections, *how did the rioters dare to disturb them?* Did they act in such a "bold" manner of their own accord? If not, who sent them?

The excuse given for the non-participation of Azerbaijan in the elections was that "the *Mujtahids* of Nejef have given their *fetva* that the Constitution is opposed to Islam in its principles." I may observe that during the Constitution period these same *Mujtahids* had succeeded in finding some verses in the Koran to prove that the *Constitution is in harmony with the Koran and with Islam!*

However, this frank non-participation in the elections is much better than the so-called "elections" which have taken place in some parts of North Persia. Most of the members (vakils) "elected" by the people to uphold the Constitution are men of the most *mustabbid* (absolutist) type, men who own scores of villages and believe in the "divine right" of the landlord to do with his peasant subjects as he pleases, men who squeeze their far-away subjects to get all they can out of them. And the trouble is that these peasants themselves believe in the "divine right" of their landlords! And the new members, when they get to business, will do their best to further the interests of all those who believe in "absolute monarchy" and hate the Constitution. All this will be done actually in the Persian Parliament buildings and in the name of that Parliament; and these men are "elected by the people," because, in the beginning, they were wise enough to present themselves as believers in the Constitution!

The following official letters concerning the elections were exchanged between H.E. Mr. Orloff, the Russian Consul-General, and H. E. Shuja-ed-Dowleh, and have been permitted to be published in the *Jaridé-i-Islam*, a new weekly organ of the Governor-General.

I.

Letter of Mr. Orloff to Shuja-ed-Dowleh:—

"Be it known to his Excellency the highly placed, glorious, kind, graceful, noble, honourable friend,—

"The Foreign Office of His Imperial Majesty and the Legation of H.I.M. at Teheran have informed me that the great Government of Iran have ordered your Excellency to have representatives elected in Azerbaijan for the coming Mejliss. The great Government of Iran have the idea that the prosperity of the population depends upon the election of vakils in order that they may have talks (in Mejliss) and make remedies for the diseases of the nation.

"And they (the Persian Government) believe that if only they could have sincere and non-partisan representatives to look after the interests of the State, the Mejliss could liberate the country from its present anarchy and lawlessness by introducing law and order. And this step of the Government of Iran has been approved by the Government of the Emperor; and by their command I beg to inform your Excellency, in order you may take the necessary steps during the elections, so that nothing will hinder them and that the present fortunate peace may be preserved.

"Taking advantage of this opportunity, I express my respects."

II.

From Shuja-ed-Dowleh to Consul-General Orloff.

"Be it known to his Excellency the highly-placed, glorious, kind, graceful, noble, honourable, respectful friend,—

"Your honourable epistle No. 339 received and the contents noted. Regarding the elections in Azerbaijan, which you mention, I received a telegram from the glorious Ministry of the Interior some time ago, and also one recently. I have informed my friend before and now I will mention again to your honourable memory how grateful the people of Iran in general and the people of Azerbaijan in particular will be for some law and security of religion.

"In foreign lands the constitutional régime confirms the customs, manners, and characteristics of that nation, but, on account of personal hostilities, ignorance, lack of (military) power, actions of the wicked, the evil-minded, the trouble-makers, and the lovers of disturbances during these few years, the unfortunate people of Iran have seen exactly the opposite. The orders of the Government have not been obeyed, and the laws of faith and of religion have been laughed at. The ulema and the chiefs of religion, who were an obstacle, were hanged! In Tabriz and around it the "insurgents" killed over 20,000 people, and the houses of *Mujtahids* and the honourable Ulema were destroyed and looted and they themselves were murdered. And how much property, belonging both to foreign and Persian merchants, was looted by the Karajadoghli and Shahsevan tribes! Both the Russian and the Persian Governments spent large sums of money in compelling these tribes to return their stolen goods and the Government taxes which they had refused to pay for seven years.

"For over five years the commerce of Azerbaijan was asleep; roads were blocked, security of person and property were gone, and the people were in want of one night's bread.

"And now that the Grand Imperial Government and the Grand Government of Iran command me to begin the elections, there is no way of escape but to surrender! But I must make known to you what I think necessary for this purpose (for elections) until we see what will happen later on.

"It must be kept in mind that some of the people of Azerbaijan, especially the tribes of the frontiers, understand the meaning of mashroota as they did before. As soon as they hear the word "mashroota," they will again expect to act as they acted formerly—make trouble, kill and loot, damage the person, the honour, and the property of people, and do harm to the rules of faith and disturb all the law and order of the country! Considering all these things, the elections can take place only on certain conditions:—

(1) "To prevent all these troubles and disturbances, especially the disturbances of evilly disposed persons in this city and the unruly tribes of the frontiers—and more particularly of the atheists who are continually trying to hurt the Islamic faith and religion—we shall need an army of 5,000 men, infantry and cavalry, chosen of the people of Azerbaijan, some of whom shall remain in the centre (in Tabriz) and the rest be sent to the provincial towns, according to their size and need.

(2) "The first condition for those who are willing to be elected as Vakils in Azerbaijan is that they must see to it that not a single word is spoken (in the Mejliss or outside) against the Moslem faith and against the command of the great word of God. Not a word against the holy Koran and its commandments. As soon as a word against our Jaafari faith is spoken and they do not condemn it they must consider themselves as having resigned the Vakilship of the people of Azerbaijan. For the whole fear of the people is from this infidelity which might creep in.

"During the first mashroota the first point of 'Ganoon-Asasi' (the fundamental law) was to protect the Jaafari faith; but as soon as 'men of known character' crept into the business and took charge of State affairs, the first thing was to deny their faith, criticise our religion in newspapers, and write books[1] against Islam!

"No one can show a nation on the face of the earth where the people, after having 'mashroota,' should change their national religion for some other religion. Disturbance-lovers and others who, during mashroota, were in charge of the State affairs, became infidels, and also compelled the people to deny their religion, and the Government had no (military) power in Azerbaijan to punish these disturbers and mean persons.

(3) "At present our kingdom is independent in name only.

(4) "As long as no order and security have been established in Azerbaijan and the neighbouring Powers (Russia and England) will not testify to that effect, Azerbaijan will have to be governed as at present—by military law.

(5) "Absolute safety of person and property must be guaranteed to the representatives in all respects.

"With all these precautions, again, *it will never work!* For mashroota should be by the will of the people, and the great majority of the people of Azerbaijan will never want mashroota, unless it be by the orders of the Governments of Russia and Persia!

"And the small force of soldiers which I have mentioned to my friend certainly will not be considered any too large, *nor* (will it be thought) *that I would desire to take a contrary step.* For if the old books in Teheran and Tabriz be consulted, it will be seen that during the reign of the martyr

* Delayed in transmission.

(1) The book referred to by Shuja-ed-Dowleh is "Sehol-Nabi," published in Teheran during mashroota, which criticises the life and doctrines of Mohammed.

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King Nasr-ed-Din Shah, as well as during the kingdom of Moozaffar-ed-Din Shah—may he have his habitation in the light of God!—when there was not the slightest disturbance anywhere, there was always in Azerbaijan an army of 6,000 men, both infantry and cavalry, ready for service. At present; with all these disturbances, there is in Azerbaijan no army worth mentioning!

"Taking advantage of this opportunity, I express my respects.

"SHUJA-ED-DOWLEH."

Shuja-ed-Dowleh also sent a long telegram to the Minister of the Interior, informing him of the contents of the letter of the Russian Consul-General, and of his reply, and the five conditions which he had proposed to the Consul-General as absolutely necessary during and after elections. He made an excuse for not replying to the former order of the Home Minister by saying: "I made a few suggestions to you (after receiving your order for elections), but you took no notice of my suggestions; hence, I left your orders for holding elections without a reply."

MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The amazing rapidity with which events have marched during the last fortnight is, as it were, put on record by the August magazines and reviews. Most of them contain articles which touch on the situation created by the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand. But between the writing and printing of the articles events took place which falsified many prophecies and judgments. One writer committed himself to the statement that "it seems unlikely that the murder of the Archduke will lead to war between Austria and Servia." The others are all in the same boat. But in this amazing whirl of events even less deliberate contemporaries are liable to be out of date when published.

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It is remarkable what a change was effected in public opinion over here by the German invasion of Luxemburg. Not only did it irritate those who had purchased cheap tickets for holiday tours through the Ardennes, Luxemburg and the Eiffel, but it gave even lawyers food for thought. Many folk thought it unkind (to say the least of it) to the young and pretty Grand Duchess; others began to realize that Germany, in spite of the assurances of the "Potsdam Gang," *was* capable of an aggressive act. It must have been a sad blow to professional pacifists—and I gather that many of them shed bitter tears because in defending, or avenging, the neutrality of small and weak States in the Low Countries, Great Britain has to find herself in the position, odious and monstrous in the eyes of the preachers of peace-at-any price, of standing by our friends in the hour of need.

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Writing as a Scotsman, I cannot help wondering what we of North Britain can have done to deserve these constant attentions from persons of High Dutch extraction. Time was when we Scots clung to the fortunes of a fallen family, and many of us were greatly vexed in consequence by Kings from Hanover. In those days we made an uncomplimentary song about the Parliamentary Sovereigns who ruled over our heads but not our hearts. That was lang syne, and now King Geordie holds King Jamie's place in our affections and is rightfully seized of the Honours of Scotland; but it has come upon us that with high hearts we must go forth once more to war to show another "wee, wee German Lairdie" who seeks to come out from "his ain kailyairdie" and take his neighbours' fields, that, as of old, "oor braw thistle will jag his thumbs." We of the North never loved dragoons—least of all German ones—and many an old memory will stir as the claymore of Scotland leaps from its scabbard.

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I am told that many diplomatists are greatly shocked that the present conflict should have broken out before the Balkan War had been entirely concluded. No Treaty of Peace has yet been signed between Montenegro and the Porte, but for some time past it is believed that an armistice has been respected by both belligerents. In any case, it must be gratifying to King Nicholas to find himself at war simultaneously with two, if not three, Emperors.

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Of late years the medical profession has paid considerable attention to the historical factor in disease, with a view to discovering any useful formulas regarding the prevalence or recurrence of epidemics. In this connection Sir John Bland Sutton's address to the members of the British Medical Association in the Mitchell Hall, Aberdeen, on July 30, is of considerable interest. He took for his subject the comparison of old and modern methods of surgery, and in the course of his speech referred to the theories that now obtain concerning the plagues of Egypt. His remarks form an apt illustration of the devastating effect of the application of common sense to the so-called miracles of ancient times. Viewed in the light of modern knowledge, he declared, it was a reasonable hypothesis to assume that a dust storm killed the fish and drove the frogs to take refuge on the land. The dead fish and frogs would prove excellent breeding-places for flies, and they would naturally hatch out in myriads. The last plague was the death of children, and this was probably due to the flies, coupled with an intense heat wave similar to that which oppressed Cairo in the spring of 1909.

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The "bad language" of the West is usually very bad indeed, by which I mean that it is very poor stuff. When it is not utterly silly, it is generally foul beyond expression, but *merely* foul, not "terrible," as it is sometimes called; and though it is sometimes relieved by humorous touches, of the conscious kind, it is far more likely to run to mere vulgar abuse. The "bad language" of the East—or, at any rate, of the Near East—on the other hand, is often excruciatingly funny, though the individual using it is never aware of it, and yet at the same time, compared with Western "langwidge," it does seem to be extremely efficient. I have seen a quite peaceably disposed muleteer, stung to blazing, raging, mad anger by a single word spoken, quietly enough, by a zaptieh; and I know that a good many men who have travelled in Turkey, Persia, and Egypt are of opinion that Arabic is the "finest of all languages for cursing a man in." But I must admit that when I read Mirza Firooz Khan's description of the fight between Constitutionalists and Reactionaries at Tabriz I was indeed surprised to learn that Oriental profane language could actually be responsible for the loss of teeth—at least, in the way that Mirza Firooz's epistle seems to imply. It must indeed have rasped like a file!

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The Concert of Europe! International Law! Phrases emptied of meaning in face of the grim realities of to-day. The mailed fist has swept aside all pretences that as between nations there is any law but the will of the stronger. In the report of the Executive Committee of the Balkan Committee for the years 1912-13 it is stated that the records "show that its policy had been a consistent demand for the intervention of the Concert of Europe—a demand based on a recognition of the responsibility of the Powers under the Treaty of Berlin for the evils resulting from the restoration to Turkish rule of the territories and peoples that had been rescued from it by Russian arms." Recent events have charged those words with unconscious irony. The Great Powers assumed a superiority over the quarrelsome little Balkan States. Now, where is this vaunted superiority? But it will probably be remarked by the future historians that the relation between the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 and the Great War which broke out in 1914 was that of cause and effect. The report refers later to "the futility of action by the Concert of Europe." The jealousies which were responsible for that "futility" have now precipitated the European nations into a terrible and ruinous war.

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I have just read in an Egyptian paper a curious story about an attempted burglary at Assiout. It is to the effect that a respectable householder, hearing a noise, went in search of the explanation thereof, and found it—in the form of "a harried skeleton, stark naked and immovable." After reading this horrible description, which is surely worthy of the late Guy Boothby, I expected to find the curious householder in hot retreat. But, no! He "did not believe his eyes," the sceptic!—so "raised his candlestick over his head to get a better view." And *then*, finding that "it was a living creature, entirely naked, who regarded him with a fixed and piercing gaze," the investigator, having paid the tribute of one "horrified shriek" to the conventionalities, locked the apparition in the room and called in the police. The "skeleton" proved to be the chief of a band of robbers who had intended burgling the premises of the National Bank, which were next door; but he proved game enough to refuse to give his associates away. To me the strangest part of the story is that the writer asserts that in the (Egyptian) provinces it is a common trick of burglars to pursue their operations in a state of nudity "in order to make their victims afraid by pretending to be the devil in person." I could understand the indelicacy if it were practised in order to avoid giving any hold to an indignant householder who might come to grips with the burglar; but to picture even the timid Fellah as being paralysed with fear on seeing "a stark-naked man, making horrible grimaces, in the dead of night," is rather difficult. Is the writer of the story sure of his facts? Or is the practice borrowed from countries further East, and do the robbers rub their bodies with oil? Perhaps some reader in Egypt can tell me. I never heard of such practices in any of my visits to the country.

CORSAIR.

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A BALKAN WAR INQUIRY.

THE REPORT OF THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION.

Inter armis silent leges. Whilst Europe quivers in anticipation of an approaching conflict in comparison with which the recent war in the Balkans seems trivial, it is no time to be discussing who did most or least to offend the susceptibilities of an age which had hoped that war had forgot most of the barbarisms of the past.

And yet, in mere justice to the Dotation Carnegie, and to the one Balkan people which opened its archives, and its territory, to the inquest which all had professed to desire, it is well to chronicle *en passant* the appearance of the Report of the Carnegie Commissioners.

And the first thing one asks is: What is it doing here and now? Why did it not see the light last Christmas? The labours of the Commissioners were concluded in October; why this discreditable and unexplained delay? Why, again, is the French version, the only one yet "published," so difficult to obtain? We have found it impossible to get it through our bookseller. A fortnight back and the London Press had received no copies; the Bulgarian Legation had a single volume, and could obtain no more from Paris. Members of the Balkan Committee were equally destitute.

When the English version will appear seems quite uncertain.

Upon a cursory examination of the text two or three things stand out saliently, to wit, that while no nation or army was wholly guiltless of infringements of the laws of civilized war (and, when in the past, has any army of any race been wholly guiltless?), the degrees in which the combatants offended are widely different.

The commissioners regard the facts as established beyond any reasonable doubt that about *one hundred and sixty villages and towns* in what was Bulgarian Macedonia, and is New Greece, were deliberately destroyed by the Greek army during July, 1913, for the most part without any military necessity whatever. Also that this appalling ravage was done upon a system, and in accordance with orders, or at least after the issue of a General Order by King Constantine inculcating revenge for alleged Bulgarian excesses, which apparently at the time of the issue of the proclamation had not taken place.

They also regard the much-controverted "Intercepted Letters" as genuine documents. They publish facsimiles of some, and have handled and examined many others, and are perfectly assured that there is no ground for holding them to be forgeries.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember that in these artless self-revelations by Greek soldiers, who address members of their families at still-existing addresses in Athens, Alexandria, Milwaukee, and scores and hundreds of other places, and who sign their names to the letters, which bear the Greek field-postmarks, the writers glory in having burnt multitudes of villages according to order, whilst some gloat over scenes of torture and violation.

If the present writer may venture upon a single expression of criticism of a work which must have been difficult in the extreme, and repulsive beyond measure, it would be in the too-great credit extended by the Commissioners to the allegations of the awful Ashmead Bartlett letter in *The Daily Telegraph* of August last.

It does not appear that the Commissioners visited Adrianople. If they had done so, the topographical details of the letter would have been so out of accord with what one sees as to give them grave doubts as to whether the alleged "Russian Official" (since disavowed by Russia) has any personal knowledge of the city since the siege. Writing from my own experiences in Adrianople within ten days of the storm, and from my observations of the surrounding country, I cannot recognize the descriptions or collate the facts.

H. M. WALLIS.

MILITARY SERVICE IN PALESTINE.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

JERUSALEM, July 20.

A regular state of terror prevails in Jerusalem, on account of the military service rules just now coming into effect. Everyone from the ages of twenty-one to thirty-five is liable for service, and neither money nor excuses are accepted. A man who paid £T30 less than two years ago has just been called again, and as he cannot pay (even if it were of any use), he must leave the country. Just now hundreds are being summoned for fourteen days' training; but everyone is terrified, as last time the training cry was raised the men were forced to stay on for three and even six months' service. Absolute uncertainty prevails everywhere, and the deepest mistrust of the Government. The Greek Patriarch has been summoned to give up 250 monks within his Patriarchate (Greeks by race, but Ottoman subjects) for service. Last week 125 young men, Christians and Moslems, tried to escape, but many were discovered, and detained in Jaffa. This morning thirty-two are reported to have got away. The land is fast becoming depopulated, and the remnant left simply do not feel it worth while to do much in the way of cultivation of the ground, or of trade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

OTTOMAN ASSOCIATION MEETING.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I do not know from what source you secured the report of the annual meeting of the Ottoman Association, but I emphatically protest against a phrase which is put into my lips, "that influential papers should be purchased for the purpose of the Association." I never said anything in the world of the kind, as anyone will tell you who was present at the meeting, and, in any case, the words in question are ridiculous.

The suggestion made to myself was that I should arrange for the compilation by English experts of pamphlets or articles dealing with the commercial resources, development, administration, and so forth of Asia Minor, on the lines of similar articles published in English newspapers in connection with Russia, the Argentine, Canada, Spain, and other countries. The further suggestion that such articles should be paid for by the Turkish Government at the rate of £15 each was made by another gentleman entirely without my knowledge. The proposal, as a matter of fact, fell through, but, in any case, it was made to myself privately as a writer interested in Nearer Eastern problems, and had no concern whatever with the Ottoman Association.—Yours faithfully,

E. N. BENNETT.

July 31, 1914.

[Our report was prepared from shorthand notes made by a News Agency reporter, but, of course, we accept Mr. Bennett's disclaimer, and apologize for any annoyance that has been caused him by the reporter's slip.—ED.]

THE HAIFA VICE-CONSULATE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I fully agree with "Interested Onlooker's" comments on the Haifa Vice-Consulate, published in your issue of the 10th instant. I may further add that the Vice-Consulate leaves a good deal to be desired. It is the generally accepted view that British representatives in Palestine are either inattentive or indifferent to her prestige and trade interests in this locality.

The Vice-Consul's prolonged absences have been continual during the past year. During his absence the duties are ordinarily vested in the hands of the Acre Dragoman, who, besides being ignorant of the English language, is not conversant with consular business, being a mere honorary Dragoman. In consequence, he is not authorized by the Vice-Consul to perform notarial work, a circumstance which causes considerable inconvenience, not only to British trade interests, but also to people who may be either directly or indirectly concerned in the affairs of the consulate.

People who have the welfare of British interests at heart will undoubtedly agree with me that the time has come for the proper authorities to look into this vital question.—Yours, etc.,

Haifa, Palestine, July 22, 1914. "OBSERVER."

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MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON AT CYPRUS.

A Larnaca correspondent sends us the following particulars of the British Fleet's visit to Cyprus:—

The British Mediterranean Squadron arrived in Cyprus on July 10, the units being divided as follows:—"Famagusta," fourteen destroyers, and the cruiser "Blenheim"; Larnaca, the flagship H.M.S. "Inflexible," with Admiral Sir A. Berkeley Milne, K.C.B., on board, in command; the battle cruisers "Indomitable" and "Indefatigable," the cruisers "Dublin" and "Gloucester," and the torpedo-boat "Harpy," and the admiral's yacht the "Hussar." Three cruisers were sent to Limassol and one to Papho.

Friday morning was occupied in visits by the Commissioner, leading officials, and Consuls. In the afternoon an At Home was given by the Commissioner and Mrs. Wodehouse in St. Lazarus Gardens, which was largely attended by officers from the Fleet and the general public. On Saturday a most successful dance was given by the members of the Larnaca Club, which was attended by Admiral Berkeley Milne and many officers and most of the leading officials, residents, and their families. Dancing took place on the tennis court and was kept up until the early hours of the morning. The buffet and supper arrangements, which had been supervised by Mrs. Patrick, were universally admitted to be the best ever provided at any entertainment in Larnaca.

On Sunday the massed bands played in the Square, by kind permission of the Admiral, and the music was thoroughly enjoyed by the many people who were promenading there.

On Monday afternoon his Excellency the High Commissioner and Lady Goold Adams arrived by motor from Troödos. They at once proceeded on board the "Hussar" and were received with a salute of eighteen guns. The pier had been prettily decorated and was illuminated at night, and this, together with the searchlights from the Fleet playing on the town, attracted great crowds to the Marina. The same night a concert in aid of the Larnaca Hospital was given in the Pathé open-air theatre by the combined theatrical parties of the Fleet, accompanied by the band of H.M.S. "Indomitable." The entertainment, which was under the direction of Lieutenants Acland and Corbett, was pronounced the best ever put before a Larnaca audience. About eighty officers and 250 men from the Fleet attended, and the gross proceeds amounted to about £28, resulting in a handsome balance being handed over to the hospital.

On Tuesday a reception was given on board the flagship in the afternoon, which was largely attended and much enjoyed. On Wednesday morning the Fleet left for the Syrian Coast, and H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Goold Adams landed from the "Hussar" and proceeded by motor viâ Limassol to Troödos.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Condition of Albania.

To the current number of *The Nineteenth Century* Mr. Anthony Dell contributes a profoundly interesting article on "Some Recent Experiences in Albania." As a special correspondent of a daily contemporary he traversed Albania from north to south, and his testimony to the condition of the country is therefore specially worthy of attention. With reference to the Catholic tribesmen of the north he writes:—

The Malissori are poorer than the Mirdites. They have never had a prince or leader, and have fought among themselves, burnt each other's houses and crops, raided each other's cattle, till it is a marvel how they manage to live at all. The Mirdites, on the contrary, have their Prince—Prenk Bib Doda—for whom and for whose family they have unbounded respect. They have also the advantage of possessing in the Abbot of Oroshi—Monsignor Doci—one of the most enlightened men in Albania. Exiled from Mirdita with Prenk as a young man, Doci travelled in Europe, America, and India, and when he came back to Mirdita as the mitred abbot of Oroshi he introduced an European energy into that corner of Albania which made it a little oasis of civilisation in a Turkish desert. . . .

Anarchy in Mirdita is tempered by the influence of the Abbot and of Prenk, who is said to have almost exterminated the blood feud in his territory. In Malta it still rages unchecked.

Mr. Dell shows that the Mpret's present difficulties are with Mohammedan Albania:—

Albania of the south was, until the present troubles, well on the way to becoming an up-to-date State as far as the towns were concerned. Albania of the north was, and is, in a state of complete barbarism, from which, however, it might be wakened in the course of a generation, such is the natural intelligence of the people. But there is also a third Albania—Mohammedan Albania—which occupies all the central part of the country. Here the influence of the priest or hodja is paramount, and is an influence directed against reform of the old Turkish *régime*. In the demand for roads and railways, for unsectarian schools, and, above all, in the demand for the Latin alphabet the hodjas detect the trail of the Christian. The Prince is Christian, and many of his counsellors are Christian, whereas Albania, as they say with truth, is Mohammedan, and has a right to a Mohammedan *régime*. It is this third Albania which is now menacing Prince William's throne.

It will be recalled that Mr. Dell was captured by the Insurgents and held prisoner for some time at Elbasan. He gives an amusing account of his experiences and his intercourse with his captors:—

Discussion of the political situation was rather difficult, but I was given very clearly to understand that Turkey was good and all other countries bad. When I was allowed to sit on the balcony where the Turkish flag was flying men would come and point to it, saying "Osmanli good; Prince of Wied bad." Their distrust of the present *régime* seemed to be centred in antipathy to the Prince. But as I watched the new Government being set up in the town on the ruins of the old, and saw how the new officials were conducting their work, it seemed to me that the issue was a far greater one than the unpopularity of the Prince. Prince William's *régime* is European, or is in danger of becoming so, now that Essad Pasha has gone. The *régime* that the insurgents set up in Elbasan was Turkish. Ex-gendarmes, wearing Prince William's uniform, pinned a star and crescent badge on to their arm when they took service with the rebels. Coffee and cigarettes were brought to every person of quality who came to transact business at the Prefecture. The officials wrote in Turkish on scraps of paper held in the palm of the left hand while they sat cross-legged in their chairs. The hateful Frankish "do it now" system had been swept away, and the old Turkish "wait till to-morrow" *régime* re-established.

Albania has been a prey to foreign intrigue, and as an example of its methods the writer states that "the man who was leading the rebels in Elbasan was an agent of the Young Turks," and "when I was captured the Young Turk agent advised me to say I was Italian, because, as he said, 'Italy is our friend.'"

The Late Archduke.

In the current number of *The Contemporary Review* there appears a noteworthy article on "The Archduke Francis Ferdinand" by Dr. Seton Watson. An able estimate of the late Archduke's character, policy, and aims is given. We quote below:—

Time after time in recent years journalists have discussed the question whether Francis Ferdinand was Slavophil, Roumanophil, Magyrophobe. All such speculation was on utterly wrong lines. From first to last his policy never wavered; it was neither German nor Slav, but simply Hapsburg. He weighed men and tendencies in a dynastic balance, and accepted or rejected them simply as they rose or sank in the scale of dynastic interests. He has often been accused of hatred of Hungary, but this charge was based upon a misconception. With a true instinct he realised the dangers threatening the Monarchy and the dynasty from the oligarchical clique which has so long been permitted to control the destinies of Hungary. He made no secret of his disapproval of Magyar racial policy, and he is believed to have expressed himself on the subject in no measured terms to at least one prominent Hungarian statesman. On the other hand, he showed his sympathy for the Slovaks, Roumanians, and other nationalities of Hungary by maintaining close touch with their political leaders, whom he more than once received in private audience. But there is good reason to suppose that he distinguished carefully between the corrupt and chauvinistic oligarchy and the Magyar people as a whole, and fully realised their innate possibilities as one of the strongest bulwarks of Hapsburg rule as almost the only race in the Dual Monarchy which has no future to hope for beyond the existing frontiers.

The writer's remarks on the alleged Servian complicity in the assassination are especially important. He writes:—

Those who seek to establish a connection between the murder and the "regicides of Belgrade" are on a false scent. It is but the latest—the most infamous because the most successful—in a series of political crimes, of which all the authors without exception were Croat or Serb subjects of the Habsburg Crown. The attempt of Zerayitch upon General Vareshanin, the Governor of Bosnia, of Jukitch and Planinshtchak upon the dictator Cuvaj, of Doytchitch upon the present Ban of Croatia, Baron Skerlecz, were merely symptoms of a discontent which is universal, and which will grow deeper and fiercer unless Vienna and Budapest apply themselves to a radical solution of the Southern Slav question. Bosnia, Dalmatia, and Croatia are a seething pot which needs no stirring from outside; the initiative lies within. The furious language employed by the German-Austrian and Magyar Press against the Serbs, and their arrogant abuse of Servia, was only too comprehensible in the days immediately following the murder. But calmer reflection ought to show that while a connection between the assassins and Belgrade has been definitely established, it is as absurd to accuse official Servia of complicity as Italy of inspiring the Irredentist assassin Oberdank in 1886. The coffee-house politicians of Belgrade may denounce Austria-Hungary as the arch-enemy, but all responsible Servian statesmen are fully aware of the urgent necessity for improved relations between Servia and her great neighbour. This hideous crime not merely accentuates tenfold all causes of friction between them, but is calculated to revive in Europe the not unnatural prejudice against the "nation of regicides," and renders the lot of the Serbs within the Monarchy more unenviable than ever.

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THE PRESS ON THE WAR.

Turkey and Egypt.

The Express understands that the Turkish mobilisation is not directed against any of the Balkan States, but has Egypt as its objective. The advance is to be through Syria, and use will be made of the various recently constructed railways. The railway to Mecca will especially aid in a rapid transport of Turkish troops towards the Egyptian frontier, while the various forces in Arabia will be transported to the north. The Khedive is now in Constantinople, and is not over-friendly to Great Britain. Enver Pasha, the Turkish War Minister, is a pro-German. He has whipped up the remnants of the Turkish army into a respectable fighting force. There are now something like 200,000 Turkish troops available for any enterprise which this ambitious young man—egged on by Germany—may care to undertake. A large proportion of these troops are already in Asia Minor.—*The Daily Express* (August 6).

The Aims of Germany.

Germany aspires to supremacy, and to supremacy as complete as that claimed by Napoleon. She would have all the other Powers her subordinate allies. She would drag them all in *Schlepptau* in her wake. She would endow them with independence indeed, but independence of the kind which Prussia enjoyed after Jena or the South German States when Napoleon bestowed crowns upon their princes as the reward of their complaisant subservience to his mandates. Her present conduct to Belgium is the measure of her ideas of the independence of others, as it is the measure of the trust that can be reposed in her plighted faith.—*The Times* (August 6).

The Spirit of the British People.

Now that the nation realises what are the issues at stake, there is no hesitation and no weakness. The fervent and stubborn patriotism of the British people has asserted itself in the most unmistakable fashion. . . . It is preparing to face what lies before it in a grave, sober, and steadfast spirit. It is under no illusions as to the nature of the contest on which it is entering. It knows that its whole heritage, indeed its very existence, is at stake. It is well aware that even the most complete victory will entail heavy losses, great hardships, cruel sufferings for all classes of the community. But it is doggedly resolved to endure all sacrifices in order to uphold the honour of the Flag and maintain the integrity of the Empire.—*The Morning Post* (August 6).

The Duty of Great Britain.

The British nation is always at its best in a war crisis. What is, or at any rate what appears to be, apathy or indifference in small things turns in great matters to coolness and steadiness. There are, of course, here as elsewhere, in all times of crisis, doubts, hesitations, anxieties, and confusion, but these are superficial. What is fundamental, what is the essential, the dominant note, is the determination to keep at all costs a straight course. Translated into terms of the present crisis, this means that the British people are going to maintain the pledges which they have given to others by deed, if not by actual word. They are going to do what they have openly and clearly allowed others to expect they will do—they feel their obligation to be just as sacred as though it had been set down on paper and sealed with a hundred seals. Our duty is to stand by our friends, and we shall stand by them, be the burden never so heavy. But though duty is a sufficient consideration, it is not immaterial to remember that even if we were in no way bound in conscience and honour to stand by France and Russia, we must stand by them in the last resort merely from motives of self-interest.—*The Spectator* (August 1).

The Great Illusions.

The great illusions of well-meaning English pacifists and the honest anti-Russian fanaticism of English Radicals were called in aid of the widespread sympathy which all Englishmen must feel for the finer aspects of German culture, whilst in the background lurked the less reputable influences of German cosmopolitan finance. Englishmen, knowing their Imperial Germany better, hesitated rightly enough to hamper the desperate efforts of British diplomacy. They could, indeed, afford to remain silent, being convinced that in the end Germany herself would betray the true inwardness of her purpose.—Sir Valentine Chirol in *The Times* (August 5).

FRENCH NATURAL SPARKLING TABLE WATER.

Perrier

"The Champagne of Table Waters."

KEEPS YOU FIT.

HOT CLIMATES.—Perrier, now famous all over the world, is the ideal drinking water for hot climates. Its delicacy and vigour stimulate the digestion and brace up the system.

P.C.B.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Haifa Vice-Consulate. July 30.

Sir J. D. Rees asked whether the British Vice-Consulate at Haifa was to be raised to the level recently attained by the consulates of other Powers at that place.

Sir E. Grey: As at present advised I see no reason for altering the present status of the post. I understand that the fees received at this post were only £30 last year, which does not justify a salaried appointment.

Parcel Post to Persia.

Answering a question put by Sir J. D. Rees, who asked for a cheaper parcel post to Persia, Mr. Hobhouse said: In the absence of a parcel post agreement between this country and Russia, the parcel post with North Persia can only be conducted through the intermediary of some third administration having agreements both with this country and Russia. The present service is carried on between the United Kingdom and Germany, all parcels being forwarded to Germany for onward transmission by such routes as Germany employs for her own service. Negotiations for an agreement with Russia have been in progress for some time past, and, in the event of their successful issue, it would probably be possible to set up a parcel post by way of Liverpool and Batoum. I fear, however, that such a service would serve no useful purpose. Apart from the consideration that it would be very slow and infrequent, as compared with the present daily service over the overland route, the postage on a parcel of the maximum weight (11 lbs.) sent by the suggested route would be actually higher than that on a similar parcel sent by the existing route.

Suppressed Newspapers in Egypt. August 4.

Sir William Byles asked whether the Egyptian Government had allowed *Wadinnil*, one of the suppressed papers, to reappear without giving any reasons for such exceptional treatment; whether the Egyptian Government intended to consider the case of other suppressed newspapers; and whether instruction would be given to his Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt so to modify the Press law in that country as to enable newspapers to defend themselves in open trial before suppression.

Mr. Acland: I am making inquiries as to this case, and will inform my hon. friend as soon as possible.

Banned Egyptian Paper.

Sir William Byles also asked whether Mr. Kyriakos Mikhail, who represented the Coptic cause in this country some time ago, had been refused permission to start a newspaper, and, if so, why?

Mr. Acland: The fact is as stated by the hon. member. Mr. Mikhail applied for permission to publish a newspaper in two languages, but his application was refused, as no such publications are allowed by the Egyptian Government.

The Egyptian Frontier.

Sir J. D. Rees asked whether an arrangement had been concluded between the Italian Government and the Senoussi, of the Djarabub and Kufra Oases, and whether there was a prospect now of the delimitation of the Western frontier of Egypt being undertaken.

Mr. Acland: I have no knowledge of such an arrangement, and there is no immediate prospect of the delimitation in question being undertaken.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Contract. August 5.

On the order for the third reading of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Bill,

Mr. Gretton (Rutland, Opp.) asked for an assurance that the Treasury felt justified at the present moment in issuing bills for the money required for the purposes of the Bill.

Mr. Montagu (Cambs, Chesterton) said the Bill was being passed in pursuance of an agreement already made and assented to by the House. There is nothing in the situation, he added, which would justify us in withdrawing from our obligations.

The third reading was agreed to.

MAILS TO THE NEAR EAST.

On inquiry at the General Post Office yesterday morning our representative was informed that so far there had been "no interruption in the dispatch of mails to the Near East," but that the uncertainty for what the near future will bring in its train may compel the postal authorities at any moment to refuse acceptance of letters for each or any mail.

"The main point to be borne in mind by English correspondents," remarked an official to our representative, "is that, whilst we dispatch mails as best we can in accordance with scheduled time, we are in doubt as to whether letters, newspapers, and other communications will ever reach those to whom they are addressed. In any case, there is bound to be considerable delay in the delivery consequent upon the necessity of sending mails by sea instead of overland. No advice or notice will be issued to the public either as to transmission or delay of mails unless circumstances arise which will compel their publication.

"So far as incoming mails are concerned, matters are not nearly so satisfactory. Mails from the Near East which ought to have reached England on August 1 are not yet to hand."

The P. and O. liner which left this (Friday) morning is taking the mails for Egypt and India that are generally dispatched in the evening *viâ* Brindisi, that route being obviously closed.

Telegrahic communication with Germany, Austria, and Hungary is completely suspended. Telegrams for Roumania, Bulgaria, and Montenegro are only accepted at the sender's risk, and are subject to censure. The normal route to Servia is interrupted.

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LORD KITCHENER'S NEW POST.

The announcement of Lord Kitchener's appointment as Secretary of State for War has been received with expressions of unqualified approval in the Press.

The Times (August 6) says:—

We need hardly say with what profound satisfaction and relief we hear of Lord Kitchener's appointment as Secretary of State for War. . . . It was unthinkable, indeed, that so great a military asset should be wasted at such a time, and we heartily congratulate the Government on the promptitude with which they have confirmed the popular choice. In the huge task of equipping and dispatching and supporting our land forces, as well as in perfecting the measures for protecting these shores, Lord Kitchener's services will be invaluable. Let us repeat that the appointment will be equally welcome to our friends on the Continent.

The Morning Post (August 6) says of the Prime Minister:—

He has taken a step which will commend itself to the judgment of his countrymen, and in particular will be welcomed by the Army, in recommending his Majesty to appoint Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener to succeed him as Secretary of State for War. This is entirely in accord with the principle long advocated in these columns that the Cabinet should have among its members at least one qualified by military knowledge and experience to take part in its deliberations upon questions of foreign policy. That in time of war a tried General should have charge of the direction of the military administration accords with the dictates of common sense, and is not inconsistent with the traditions of Cabinet Government. The appointment will especially at this moment contribute to strengthen the public confidence.

Adverting to the same subject, *The Daily Telegraph* (August 6) says:—

Lord Kitchener is, above all, an organiser, and we hope we may also adopt the French phrase and call him an organiser of victory. He is at his very best in carrying out all those laborious preliminary details and those minute and important arrangements and correspondences on which depends the ultimate success of an army in the field. He understands the nature of his human instruments; he knows how to choose his subordinates, in whom he can inspire unswerving obedience; he has an iron will, and is not moved from his purpose by any of those distracting accidents which often mar the resolution and spoil the judgment of weaker men. Nor is it the least of his recommendations that his name is famous abroad, and that France, in especial, in whose defence he originally drew his sword, will welcome his appointment as the best proof of our determination to see this weighty matter through.

BALKAN COMMITTEE REPORT.

We have received the Report of the Executive Committee for the years 1912-1913, presented and adopted at the annual meeting of the Balkan Committee on July 15. We quote some extracts:—

The records of the Balkan Committee show that its policy had been a consistent demand for the intervention of the Concert of Europe—a demand based on a recognition of the responsibility of the Powers under the Treaty of Berlin for the evils resulting from the restoration to Turkish rule of the territories and peoples that had been rescued from it by Russian arms. . . . They testify also to the desire of the Committee that the Turks might some day introduce reforms, under outside pressure, if not spontaneously, and to its practical and sustained efforts to strengthen the hands of the genuine Turkish reformers. They prove that the Committee, so far from being actuated by blind and unconditional hostility to the Turkish people and Turkish Empire, availed itself of every opportunity to encourage and support any plan of reforms that might be proposed by Turkey herself or imposed on her from without, and it steadfastly abstained from aiding or encouraging any revolutionary movements among the subject populations of the Porte; and even as late as April, 1912, recognising the difficulties with which the Young Turks were faced, enhanced as these difficulties were by the war with Italy, the Committee addressed a letter to the Turkish Government suggesting a spontaneous plan of reforms whereby the proposals for international control might be countered and checked.

After referring to the unexpected success of the Balkan Allies, which "opened out a prospect of the realisation of Mr. Gladstone's noble ideal of a confederation of Balkan States, and the peaceful and happy possession of their lands by the peoples who inhabited them," the report continues:—

But what the unity of the Balkan peoples had achieved was largely frustrated by the unhappy disunion of the Balkan Governments, and territory won from the Turks was retaken by them as a result thereof. True to its principle of impartial interest in all the Balkan peoples, the Balkan Committee urged his Majesty's Government to take the initiative in urging the Concert of Europe to support mediation between the Balkan States, and pressed upon the Governments of the latter a partition amongst themselves of the territories wrested from the Turks, based on the recognition of racial affinities and the wishes of the local populations. . . . It has recently addressed an appeal to the Balkan States to summon a conference to discuss means whereby the civil and religious disabilities of the alien minorities may be diminished by mutual concessions, and to the Powers to withhold their recognition of the Treaty of Bucharest until they are satisfied that real efforts are being made by the States themselves towards the realisation of conditions of justice for all the populations within their territories.

In appealing for continued support, the report urges:—

The power of Turkey, though weakened and diminished, is still a factor to be reckoned with in the political life of South-Eastern Europe and in Asia Minor, and so long as there still exist subject populations exposed to that lawless domination the friends of freedom must carefully watch its actions. And until happier and more equitable conditions be established in the new Balkan States, and the danger of renewed racial and religious strife be finally averted in those lands the Balkan Committee must continue its efforts to secure justice, liberty, and peace for all the Balkan peoples.

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The New School Year will begin in September, 1914. An Entrance Examination will be held on the first day of term.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN AMERICAN IN MOROCCO.*

At the present moment those who are interested in the inter-relation of Christendom with Dar-ul-Islam will read with attention that chapter in Mr. Holt's recently published book which deals with the numerical might of the Moslem. He uses the phrase "Islam must not be awakened by the noise, either of the approaching footsteps, or of war in Europe." Within the next few weeks the latter sound will probably assume proportions unparalleled in history. The conditions against which the author warns his readers will then have been realised. Will Islam awake? That is the question which is of peculiar importance to this country, inasmuch as his Majesty is Padishah over more Mohammedans than is the Khalif in Constantinople. Great Britain is in contact with Islam from Gibraltar to the remotest recesses of Asia, and over an immense area of Africa, and even Polynesia. Mr. Holt suggests that Islam is at the beck and call of the Khalif, and that its fighting strength may at any moment be aroused against the Nazarene by the proclamation of a Jihad. We do not attempt to deny that considerable potentialities are contained in the threat of a Holy War, but we must remember that modern hostilities demand an expensive scientific equipment, and that civilisation has for years past been elaborating mechanical protection against the daring onslaught of a *Ghazi* rush.

In the battle of Omdurman very many gallant men sacrificed their lives almost in vain, from their point of view, to the cry of "Din! Din!" It is, of course, possible that the Maxims should jam, or that ammunition should fail, and then it would go back to the old days when battles were settled by put of pike. In such cases the religious frenzy which inspires the *Ghazi* in his war-like enthusiasm would doubtless be a very serious factor, and we are far from belittling the danger of a religious rising on the part of militant Islam. It is, however, permitted to us to question the accuracy of Mr. Holt's figures in spite of the missionary activity that has signalized the rapid advance of the Mohammedan religion and civilization in Africa during the last generation. We are of opinion that Mr. Holt has been very seriously misled as to the actual number of Moslems; this is more particularly the case in his estimates for Africa and the Russian dominions, and we cannot agree that "Mohammed is supreme" in the Austrian provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the latest information, the number of Bosniaks is a little over 600,000, while the Christian population is considerably more than double that number. The expressions which the author uses lead us to believe that he may contemplate as possible a fresh advance of Turks into Europe. This, indeed, at the present juncture, is more than probable, and we must remember that in the past amid the dissensions of Europe, when Germany and Austria were convulsed with war, both internal and with several of their neighbours, the opportunity arose which enabled the Horse-tails of the Ottomans to appear before the walls of Vienna. At a period such as the present it is idle to prophesy; the future is more than depressing. The military activities in the seat of the Khalifate are ominous, and we confine our criticisms of this important chapter to reiterating our belief that the author has very considerably over-estimated both the numerical and the fighting strength of Islam, which, it should be remembered, is far from united within itself.

In the rest of his book Mr. Holt, who for a long time held a diplomatic position as United States' representative in Morocco, has collected a number of diverting personal experiences and anecdotes about Moghreb-al-Aska. Not the least humorous of his adventures was that when he went in consular state to hold a court some distance south of Tangier, and was permitted to realize that Morocco is East, and that as a rule in the East they hurry no man's cattle, as time is but a detestable invention of the foreigner, and a matter wholly beneath the consideration of a native gentleman.

Justice and Jews are also matters upon which the author regales his readers with much illuminating information. He also tells us how to make a salad, and the recipe which he provides is so alluring as to make the reader impatient of our callous insular methods of compounding so delicate a dish.

Time was when Portuguese, Spaniards, and English had dominion over Tangier town. It is an historical fact that it has had the least possible influence upon the appearance of the city, or the manners of its inhabitants. It so happens that this delectable spot is actually west from Greenwich, so far as compasses are concerned, but for all that it is East, and even now as one rides out of the gate *en route* for Tetuan or Al Kazar one passes into a country where Islam is still militant, and the Christian is a despised intruder—a country where primitive traditions still hold undisputed sway—where dignity forbids that a father should deign to sit at meat with his son, and custom prescribes the use of a wooden plough, and permits the infliction of judicial penalties which were discarded in Europe centuries ago.

Mr. Holt writes in a pleasant style, and has produced a collection of reminiscences well worth reading by that numerous class of tourists which has "touched at Tangier," for there are few who travel to Gibraltar or cruise in the Mediterranean without doing so.

* "Morocco the Piquant." By George Edmund Holt. (Heinemann. 6s. net).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Western Awakening to Islam. By Lord Headley. (J. S. Phillips. 1s. net.)

The Balkan Wars, 1912-13. By Jacob Gould Schurman. (Princeton University Press. 4s. 6d. net.)

Messrs. Harrap will have ready very shortly a book which has been written by Mr. Woislav M. Petrovitch, Attaché to the Servian Legation in London, entitled "Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians." Chapters are included on the national customs and characteristics, and translations are given of some of the ancient ballads still sung by the bards to the peasantry. The book will be illustrated in colour by Messrs. William Sewell and Gilbert James.

H.M.S. "AGINCOURT."

One of the warships which the British Government has taken over on the outbreak of war is the "Sultan Osman I.," which is at present at Devonport. The previous history of this battleship is distinctly curious. It was originally laid down in 1911 for the Brazilian Government as the "Rio de Janeiro." In 1913 its owners decided the vessel was unsuited to their requirements; it was placed on the market, and found a ready purchaser in Turkey.

Originally the "Sultan Osman I." was intended to be of 31,600 tons, but a change in the Brazilian Presidency resulted in a change of the design, and the vessel is actually of 27,500 tons displacement.

The most remarkable feature of the new Dreadnought is the large number of turrets. British ships have never had more than five turrets, but the "Sultan Osman I." carries no fewer than seven. Its armament consists of fourteen 12-in. guns, with a subsidiary armament of twenty 6-in. guns, while there are three 21-in. torpedo tubes. The speed of the vessel is given as 22 knots, while her armour belt is nine inches in thickness. The "Sultan Osman I." is now to take her place in the British Navy under the name of "Agincourt."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Aug.	1914. July.		1332. Ramadan	5674 Ab
7	25	Friday	15	15
8	26	Saturday	16	16
9	27	Sunday	17	17
10	28	Monday	18	18
11	29	Tuesday	19	19
12	30	Wednesday	20	20
13	31	Thursday	21	21

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the wedding, in 1889, of Princess Militza of Montenegro, to H.I.H. the Grand Duke Peter Nicolaievitch of Russia.

Sunday is the birthday of H.I. and R.H. the Archduke Joseph of Austria, grandson of the last Palatine of Hungary, and nephew of H.M. the Tsar of the Bulgarians.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Christopher, youngest brother of H.M. the King of the Hellenes.

Wednesday will be the anniversary of the wedding, in 1883, of H.M. the King of Servia to the late Princess Zorka of Montenegro.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.I.H. the Cesarevitch.

King Constantine of Greece celebrated his forty-sixth birthday last Sunday.

H.M. the Queen of the Hellenes, with T.R.H. the Princesses Irene and Helene, has arrived at Kronberg (Taunus) from England, and has proceeded to Friedrichshof Castle.

T.R.H. the Crown Prince of Greece and Prince Christian of Greece left early this week for Southampton to embark on the yacht "Miranda."

A Reuter's telegram from Durazzo, dated July 29, stated that the two children of the Prince and Princess of Albania would be taken on the following day to Sinaia, the residence of the King of Roumania, near Bucharest.

According to the *Wady-el-Nil*, the Khedive has transferred the accounts of the Khedivial Khassa from the National Bank of Egypt to the Banco di Roma, the closing of whose doors is referred to in another column.

We understand that Bishop Blyth is now on his way to England. A Jerusalem correspondent writes:—The Bishop of Jerusalem left Jerusalem by the afternoon train on July 21, on his way to England. The station was crowded, at least 200 people being there to see him off, including foreign consuls, workers of the C.M.S. and L.J.S., Christians of all creeds, Moslems and Jews. The Pasha sent his secretary to represent him. The Bishop went straight to his compartment, and everybody went in there to see him and say good-bye. The Greek Patriarch, who had not heard in time the exact date of his departure, telegraphed his farewell to the Bishop at Jaffa; he also telegraphed to the Greek Archimandrite at Jaffa to meet the Bishop at the station there, and to call upon him at the hotel the next morning. Past and present pupils of St. George's Schools, both boys and girls, swelled the numbers at the stations at Jerusalem and at Jaffa. On Wednesday, July 22, the Bishop left Jaffa by Russian steamer for Port Said, where he embarked for England on the Union Castle s.s. "Llandovery Castle." The Bishop, who is well, is travelling by long sea in order to get a little rest, in view of the work awaiting him in England.

Sir Valentine Chirol has postponed his departure for India.

Mme. Grouitch is shortly leaving town for Servia, but before going she is organising a volunteer corps of surgeons and nurses for the Servian auxiliary hospital. Mme. Grouitch during the last Balkan war was personally in charge of one of the largest hospitals.

Bishop Brindle, who is so well known and popular in Egypt, has been lying seriously ill at the Bishop's House, Nottingham, since July 20. We are glad to learn, however, that the condition of his lordship has lately shown a decided improvement.

On July 31, Mrs. Chafy, the wife of Ralph Evelyn Westwood Chafy, Acting Consul at Port Said, gave birth to a daughter.

Aberdeen University last Friday conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Sir John Bland Sutton.

Mr. W. Lawrence Balls is proceeding to the South-Western States of America as a consulting expert on the development of Egyptian cotton growing in that region.

Sir Reginald Wingate, who left London last Sunday for Egypt, travelling by way of Marseilles, was amongst the travellers by the last train of the regular Continental service from Charing Cross. Lord Kitchener was on the platform to see Sir Reginald off.

At Firle Church, Sussex, on Wednesday, the marriage took place of Major Cyril Eustace Palmer, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, attached to the Egyptian Army, son of the late Colonel Robert H. Palmer, Bengal Staff Corps, to Miss Nina Kathleen Scarlett, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scarlett, of Prestone, Firle. Mr. Scarlett gave away his daughter, and Captain Poston, R.A., was best man. The bride's gown was of white satin trimmed with Brussels lace (the gift of her mother), with a lace and chiffon train. There were two pages and five bridesmaids. A reception was held at Prestone, Firle, but there will be no honeymoon, as Major Palmer is under orders to return to Egypt.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Ronald Devereux Carty, F.I.C., of Heliopolis, Cairo, and Eileen Maude Pile, only daughter of Sir T. D. Pile, Bart., of Kenilworth House, Willesden Lane, will take place at Trinity Church, Cricklewood, at half-past two o'clock on the 29th inst.

The marriage arranged between Hilary Gresford Evan-Jones, 1st Battalion Welsh Regiment, youngest son of the Rev. R. and Mrs. Evan-Jones, of the Vicarage, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, and Nancy, only child of Major W. N. Bolton, late Wiltshire Regiment, and the late Mrs. E. K. Bolton, will take place on Friday, the 28th inst., at Troodos, Cyprus. The bride and bridegroom will leave for England immediately after the wedding.

The engagement is announced of Ione, second daughter of Anthony P. Ralli, of New York, to Henry Butler Allen, of Philadelphia.

The marriage took place on July 30, at the Armenian Church, Manchester, of Armenak H. Kehyayan, youngest son of the late Mr. H. Kehyayan and Mrs. Kehyayan, of Beyrout, to Marjorie Arouceyak, only daughter of the late Mr. S. Eliazarian, and Mrs. Eliazarian, of Westpoint, Hale.

Mr. Drewitt, engineer of the Central Gharbieh Drainage Scheme Service, has been authorised by the Egyptian Government to go on a mission to England and Switzerland in order to study on the spot technical questions in regard to drainage schemes that may be applicable to the Baltim Pumping Station.

Ismail Pasha Abaza, the newly elected member for Hehia, in the Egyptian Legislative Assembly, left Alexandria ten days ago for Constantinople, where, it is understood, he will be received in audience by the Khedive. He had intended to make a tour of Europe and to return to Egypt in the autumn, but this plan will no doubt be altered now.

Colonel A. W. Collard, District Barrack Officer, Irish Command, who has been granted an extension of one year in tenure of appointment from October 1 next, was present at Suakin in the Sudan Expedition of 1885, and received the medal with clasp and bronze star.

Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B., whose will has just been proved, left the Green Standard of the Khalifa, taken in the Battle of Omdurman, to the Royal United Service Institution.

Mrs. Irene Osgood, the well-known novelist, writes from Guilsborough Hall, Northampton:—"I should like it known to the military authorities that I am prepared to place my houses and grounds in this district at their disposal for the reception of wounded officers and men. Altogether I could find room for a considerable number who may require nursing, and I feel confident that many other owners of country houses will gladly do the same."

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Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel N. J. G. Cameron, who has been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General in the Irish Command, served in the Nile Expedition of 1898 at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, being mentioned in despatches, and receiving the medal with two clasps.

Major-General C. J. Blomfield, C.B., D.S.O., commanding the 1st (Peshawur) Division in India, who has been appointed colonel of his old regiment, the Lancashire Fusiliers, saw service with the Nile Expedition of 1898, and was present at the battle of Khartoum.

Mr. Boutigny, managing director of the Société Orientale de Publicité, and proprietor of several newspapers in Cairo and Alexandria, left for Athens lately on a tour through the Balkans.

Mr. John R. Reeves, whose sudden death at Asniéres, near Paris, on July 23, we announced last week, was formerly General Manager in Egypt of the Imperial Ottoman Bank and Chairman of the Board of the Société Anonyme de Commerce, formerly G. Franger and Company.

Count Alexander Romas, who died on July 23 at Castella, was born in 1863, and belonged to a noble family of Zante. He studied at Athens and Paris, and early in life, maintaining the tradition of his family, devoted himself to politics. As an adherent of the party of Theodore Delyannis he was several times Minister of Public Instruction, and President of the Chamber. After the assassination of Theodore Delyannis, President of the Council, King George, in agreement with the Delyannist party, offered the succession to Count Romas, who, however, declined it, declaring that he did not consider himself equal to the task. This courageous refusal only increased the respect of the Greek people for him. In 1897, when Ricciotti Garibaldi led his legion to the help of Greece, Count Romas, then President of the Chamber, offered himself as a simple volunteer to the Italian general, and by his valour won the rank of captain. In 1912, when the Balkan States began their mobilisation, Count Romas set to work to mobilise volunteers, largely at his own expense. This right was specially granted to the veteran of Domokos. With his volunteers, he entered on the campaign of Epirus, and was wounded at Driskos, before Janina. This spring, when Epirus rose, Count Romas was the first to answer the appeal of the Provisional Government with his volunteers.

Oliver Bainbridge, the traveller, author, and lecturer, who enjoys the personal acquaintance of the Queen of Roumania, tells the following interesting story :—

During the Russo-Turkish campaign of 1877, many Roumanian soldiers were wounded, and Queen Elizabeth—"Carmen Sylva"—who constantly visited the hospitals, found that some of the patients died because they chose death rather than disfigurement.

It occurred to her that if one yielded others would follow, and one day, when the surgeon was turning away sorrowfully from an obstinate patient who could be saved only by an operation, she approached and added her own entreaties. Still the soldier reiterated that, if his leg were amputated, he should be taken for a mendicant like the wretched outcasts of the Carpathians. "I am not a beggar," said he, proudly, "I will lose my life, but not my honour." "It is true," said the Queen, "you are not a beggar, but I am"; and she threw herself on her knees at the bedside. "I have never prayed but to God, but now I supplicate you to listen to His wish and mine. Let your leg be taken off, and spare your life to your country and me, and——" "And if I consent, my lady, what then?" "Why, then," she said, joyfully, rising and seizing his hand again, "I will give you the most beautiful cork leg in Europe; it shall work with springs, and when the war is over, you shall come and dance at the palace with your sons." "I consent," he said, softly, "but you must hold my hand during the operation." After that there was no more opposition to the surgeon's wishes since they were also those of the beloved lady of the land.

Until recent years the Roumanian had a strange pride which caused him to abhor the idea of medicine and surgery, and to consider the loss of a limb as terrible as that of life itself. He had become accustomed to the idea that only beggars are so disfigured, and believed that no necessity should constrain him to such a loss.

Mr. Littlewood, Director of the Veterinary Service at the Ministry of Agriculture, and Piot Bey, the chief veterinary surgeon of the Domains Administration, had been authorised by the Egyptian Government to take part in the tenth International Veterinary Medical Congress, which was to have met in London in a few months' time.

Herr Fritz Kreisler, the famous violinist, who is a captain in the Austrian Army, has rejoined his regiment, and is now stationed at Graz. Mme. Kreisler has accompanied her husband and has become a Red Cross nurse.

On August 1, at 8, Kensington House, Kensington Court, Mrs. Herbert, the wife of Reginald Herbert, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, gave birtl: to a daughter.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Earl Kitchener has been appointed Secretary of State for War.

The following statement was issued from 10, Downing Street on Wednesday: "In consequence of the pressure of other duties, the Prime Minister has been compelled to give up the office of Secretary of State for War. The King has approved of the appointment of Lord Kitchener as his successor. Lord Kitchener undertakes the duties of the office for the time being, in view of the emergency created by the war, and his post in Egypt will be kept open.

A Reuter's message states that President Wilson has nominated Mr. Garrett A. Droppers, a professor at the Williams' College, as United States Minister to Greece.

Lewa Drake Pasha, Adjutant-General, Egyptian Army, has returned to the Sudan from leave.

Mr. J. Harris, recently appointed to the British Consulate in Cairo, has arrived there and taken up his duties.

The Cyprus Gazette announces that his Excellency the High Commissioner has been pleased to appoint Mr. Alan Lenox Conyngham Stuart, Acting King's Advocate, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Island from July 4, 1914.

The Cyprus Gazette announces the following Acting Appointments :—Captain A. E. Gallagher, D.S.O., Local Commandant of Police, to act as Chief Commandant of Police and Inspector of Prisons (June 18). Mr. A. J. Cunningham, Assistant Island Postmaster, to act as Island Postmaster (June 18). Mr. A. L. C. Stuart, President, District Court, Limassol, to act as King's Advocate (July 4). Mr. P. P. Higgins, Assistant Locomotive Superintendent, to act as Traffic Inspector in addition to performing the duties of his substantive appointment (July 10). Mr. A. Merrifield, Assistant Engineer, to act as First Divisional Engineer, Public Works Department (July 10). Dr. S. Constantinides to act as District Medical Officer, Limassol (July 11).

A Reuter's telegram from Vienna, dated July 30, states that a despatch to the *Albanische Korrespondenz* from Durazzo announces that Colonel Schaeffer has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Albanian Forces. Colonel Schaeffer was at one time an officer in the Cretan gendarmery.

Captain G. M. Ponsonby, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, has been selected for employment with the Egyptian Army.

Dr. Fabricius, German Vice-Consul in Cairo, has been transferred to Constantinople.

The members of the foreign military and naval missions in Greece have been granted two months' leave, Reuter states.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

COOPER.—On July 23, at Sheffield, the wife of Mr. Henry Cooper, Ministry of Agriculture, Tantah, of a daughter.

TITE.—On July 22, at Croydon, Surrey, the wife of Mr. Herbert W. Tite, of a son.

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Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, LONDON." *Telephone No. 618 London Wall.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1914.

THE WAR OF THE NATIONS.

The march of events in the course of a single week has been fateful indeed. From the possibility that the conflagration lighted by Austria-Hungary on the banks of the Danube might spread to other parts of the Continent we have passed to the grim reality of Europe at war. The quarrel between the Dual Monarchy and Servia can now be viewed in its true perspective. Where in the manifesto to his people the Emperor Francis Joseph declares that the intrigues of a malevolent opponent compel him to grasp the sword after long years of peace, he would have spoken more truthfully if he had used the word "ally" for "opponent." Belgrade, defended only by a few Servian rifles, has been bombarded from the safety of Hungarian territory across the Save and Danube; but for more than a week the Austro-Hungarian army has been content apparently to be foiled of its intention to invade Servian territory. From this circumstance it can only be inferred that the desire to chastise Servia for her malevolence was entirely a secondary consideration with the Austrians in their declaration of war. The attitude of Russia, if Servia were to be attacked, was known beforehand, and there could be no doubt that France would stand by her ally; if the neutrality of Great Britain were counted upon, there was little justification for the serious miscalculation. In the face of the inevitable result of her action Austria-Hungary, supported, or more probably egged on, by Germany, threw down the gauntlet. The quarrel with Servia provided the pretext; the actual issue was between the Teuton and the Slav, as a stepping-stone to the establishment of a German hegemony in Europe, and thus in the world as a whole. Towards this latter goal Germany has been striving with set purpose ever since the Emperor William II. took over the direction of the nation's affairs. But the success of the Triple Alliance has been checked by the formation and subsequent consolidation of the Triple Entente. In neither of the attempts which Germany has made to weaken or break that entente has she succeeded, while on the top of her failures came the Balkan wars, with the Turkish reverses and the aggrandisement of Servia and Greece. Simultaneously the inherent weakness of the Triple Alliance began to make itself felt with the clash of Austrian and Italian interests in Albania. To allow things to drift would mean to pave the way for an ultimate breach between the two countries, and with it the final shattering of the Emperor William's ambitions. Germany's actions have shown that her resolve was taken and her plans matured before the delinquencies of Servia supplied the *casus belli*. With Austro-Hungarian support she has embarked upon a desperate attempt to place her heel on the neck of Europe.

The realization of Germany's ambitions involve the humiliation of Great Britain and the dismemberment of the British Empire. However much the Slav peoples may impede the march of Austria-Hungary to the Ægean or French prosperity constitute Germany's *bête noir* in Europe, it is the British Empire which places a barrier across Germany's path. On the battlefields of the Continent, therefore, and in European waters will be fought out the grave issue whether Great Britain shall retain what she holds or whether Germany shall take possession of our heritage. Minor issues there will also be. Germany's methods of waging war, her violation of Belgian territory, prove that she recks nought of the dictates of civilisation or her pledged word when these stand in her way. Under the hegemony of a nation so unprincipled not a single one of the smaller States of Europe could feel assured of its liberty and independence. In this struggle that has been forced upon her Great Britain is fighting for the future of free government, not only in Europe, but in the world at large. But while indirectly we champion the cause of Belgium, Holland, and the Balkan States, our position as a Moslem Power has been directly challenged. It is in this direction that Germany's eyes are mainly fixed. The Moslem world, which looks to us for guidance and protection, has made no complaint to Germany, nor does it labour under the impression that it would be better off under German guardianship. Germany, on the other hand, is not inspired by concern for Moslem interests. Altruism has never taken root in Berlin, and the German Government sees in the Moslem nations merely suitable quarry in its hunt for the exercise of world power. Let the Moslem world bear this in mind, as it follows the fortunes of the nations of Europe now engaged in a life and death struggle. Military exigencies may require that the fighting take place in the North Sea or in the heart of Europe. But on the results of that fighting depends the position of Great Britain on the banks of the Ganges, the Nile, and the Euphrates.

With such issues at stake our risks in this European war are greater than those of our antagonists. Our efforts must, therefore, be proportionate. The struggle was not of our seeking, but now that the gauntlet has been thrown down we take it up with the greater readiness, as we know that the hopes of those whose existence we have safeguarded and whose interests we have fostered in the past are centred in the result. Although we might have postponed the challenge, we could not have avoided it permanently. If Germany could have arranged things to her own liking, she would have preferred to deal separately with Russia and France before she turned her attention to the final goal of her ambitions. Events, however, shaped themselves inconveniently for her, and in company only with Austria-Hungary she faces Russia, France, and Great Britain. Momentarily the tide of war seems to have rolled back from the Balkans; but it is not to be expected that, if Austria-Hungary finds that all her efforts are required elsewhere, she will be content to see the Near East at peace. Left to themselves, the Balkan States can hardly fail to appreciate the lesson which recent events will have brought home to them. If the Balkan Alliance that took the field against Turkey were in existence to-day, with or without the inclusion of Roumania, the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum could never have been delivered. Whatever the issue of the present war, these States will be able to look with but little confidence towards the future if they remain still divided. Austria-Hungary will have realised this fact, and must be anxious to prevent any influences at work for consolidation. Whether her preoccupations elsewhere will prevent the success of her diplomacy in this direction remains to be seen. Turkey has already mobilized. The reason given is concern lest her neutrality should be violated. We trust that the explanation is the correct one, and that neither Turkey's readiness for war nor an Austrian undertaking to redress by an attack on Greece the Greek naval superiority in Turkey's favour will lead the chauvinists of the Committee of Union and Progress to sacrifice Ottoman interests for fresh schemes of adventure. Although the naval strength of Great Britain is in the North Sea, the Triple Entente is capable of acting in the Eastern Mediterranean as well.

THE PUBLISHER

would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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INDIA AND THE WAR.

[We reproduce below the leading article from to-day's *Indiaman*, which will, we feel sure, appeal to many of our own readers almost as forcibly as it must to the readers of our companion journal.—ED. *N.E.*]

We write in the heart of an anxious but absolutely tranquil London. Britain thinks too little in ordinary times upon the influence of the example of her people upon the Asiatics and Africans, for whose welfare she is ultimately responsible. Despite their Empire, the British are an insularly minded race. But we can imagine the thrill of pride with which Anglo-Indians in India are now reading the cabled reports of the serene confidence in which Britain has faced one of the supreme crises of her history. It is thus, and not otherwise, that a mighty nation confronts its fate. And yet there is no harm in saying now that it might very easily have been otherwise. On the last three days of last week there were signs of panic—a general anxiety to obtain supplies of cash and food, a general difficulty in meeting the sudden rush. An accident saved England. The practice of half a century has made the first Monday in August a public holiday, and in the ordinary course of events all business would have been suspended from midday Saturday till Tuesday morning. The real causes of the suspension were in actual fact unprecedented; but the suspension itself was accepted as usual, and before Tuesday morning came the temper of the nation had adjusted itself to the cruel circumstances of the time.

Much of what is happening now will have been half forgotten by the time that this paper is circulating in India—buried beneath the rush of subsequent events. But there are one or two facts of a kind to govern the whole development of affairs with which we can profitably deal. The first of these outstanding facts is the declaration of Italian neutrality. This will probably prove to be of immense moment to India. Even before British action was determined upon, the news meant that the Mediterranean was still open for such ships as cared to use it. Had Italy joined Austria the allied squadrons would have been slightly superior in strength to the French Fleet. Holding the mouth of the Adriatic, the Allies would have been in a position to attempt to prevent the junction between the French ships moving eastward from Toulon and the British ships moving westwards from Malta. Anyone with a strategic eye would have discerned in this situation the prelude to a ding-dong struggle for Mediterranean supremacy, during which the waters of the inland sea would have been dangerous to peaceful vessels. No one wants to run unnecessary risks, and but for Italy's neutrality the *mot d'ordre* would have already gone forth that passenger and cargo ships bound for Western Europe from the East should return to the course of the old Indiamen and make for port viâ the Cape. It may be that some owners are adopting this course now. At the time of writing the Austrian Fleet is still in being, and has some capacity for mischief. But the Austrians are hopelessly outnumbered at sea, and their tale will soon be told. Meanwhile the passage to Britain viâ the Canal and the Mediterranean, though not without an element of risk, cannot be described as a piece of reckless bravado. This tremendous difference in the situation has been created entirely by the attitude of Italy, who is thus in the rare position of being able to practise with dramatic effect a policy of masterly inactivity. Sir Edward Grey's statement in the House of Commons on the fateful Monday before the war began shows how concerned British diplomacy was to give the Germans no opportunity of representing Britain as the aggressive party, and of thus invoking the aid of Italy under the terms of the Triple Alliance. The issues which Italy had to determine were both grave and complex, and it may at first sight seem special pleading to suggest that the question of the Indian mail service had any bearing upon her decision. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that Italy attaches the greatest importance to the maintenance of the Brindisi arrangements, and the suggestion that the mails will in future be carried viâ Marseilles or sent viâ Piræus when the new Greek railways are built is the signal for much excited comment in the Italian Press. Italy seems to regard the service as the visible emblem of her high place among the world's commercial Powers, and as the modern revival of the great Venetian tradition of intercourse with the East. Her position in this respect has certainly been strengthened by a decision which leaves the Canal route still practicable.

Finally, we would speak of Russia. Opponents of the war in England made great play of the danger of creating a stronger Russia, and one hysterical sheet even spoke of us as intending to leave her in a position to absorb India at her leisure. We propose to honour this argument, in its more moderate form, with some consideration. Indian opinion has had reason to fear Russian aggression in times past. The point we now desire to bring out is that this aggressive Russian policy has always been spasmodic. Russia has been consistent in her endeavour to obtain access to the warm water, but has not been consistent in her choice of her sphere of action. Her pressure has shifted from Northern Sweden to the Black Sea, from the Black Sea to India, from India to the Far East, and from the Far East, with a slight pause at Persia, to the Adriatic. All the time she has sought to take the line of least resistance, and everywhere the resistance has been too great for her. It is this continual variety in her aim which has made it doubtful whether Russia was a Europan or an Asiatic Power. A parallel doubt as to whether Britain would become an Asiatic or an American Power existed, we may note, in the middle of the eighteenth century after Canada had been won and before the American colonies had been lost. Now we hope that the issue of this war will settle Russia's position for all time, and will settle it by giving her the status in Europe which has always been her dearest ambition. We shall be told that Russia established on the Adriatic is really as great a menace to the maintenance of British rule in India as a Russian move in Afghanistan. Before exposing the fallacy underlying this argument let us note that such a change in the direction of Russian influence would at least relieve the special pressure on India, and by converting the necessities of policy from army corps into ships would distribute the burden more equably over the whole Empire. But the real point is that Russia herself does not contemplate the extension of her own direct sovereignty to the Adriatic. Her grievance is that, under present conditions, a Slav who enters the area of Western European thought is lost to Slavdom. He abandons his faith, embraces Latin Christianity, and regards Holy Russia as an heretical Power. Russia's established method of redressing this evil is to create Slav States strong enough to touch Western Europe without being absorbed by it, but maintaining their connection with Mother Russia by means of an Orthodox National Church. The establishment of a strong Roumania, a strong Bulgaria, and a strong joint Serbo-Montenegrin State will carry Russian influence to the Adriatic in precisely the way that Russia desires. It will realise her aim of maintaining her touch with the Westernised Slavs. In pouring out her blood and treasure for the furtherance of that aim, we believe not only that Britain is accelerating the inevitable tendency of European policy, but is relieving India from her one serious external menace.

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کزرینور و قطعه‌سی پك ظریف اولمقله‌برابر بوزلمق امکانی دخی اصلا یوقدر .
عموم دوائر رسمیه‌جه مظهرقبول‌و تقدیر ایدلمش اولوب استعمال ایدلمکده‌در .
اشبویاری دخی مذکور ماکنه‌ایله یازلمش اولوب نمونه اوله‌رق تقدیم ایدیلور .

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AGENTS IN THE NEAR EAST:—

ALEXANDRIA:—W. E. BIRCH, 7, Rue Gare de Ramleh.
ATHENS:—E. BONNISSEL, 46, Rue d'Eole.
CONSTANTINOPLE:—EDWARDS & SONS, Dilsiz Zade Han.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Two years ago our financial people looked upon the moratorium which existed in the Balkans much as though it had been a rare beast in a cage, and its unfortunate possessors were pitied in their unenviable plight. The creature has now been imported and may be inspected daily in the City of London. He is not nearly so dreadful as was reported, but his diet is peculiar, as it takes the form of 10s. banknotes. Still, those of us who know the Levant have fared well enough on tenpenny paper, so there is nothing to worry about. Doubtless the sanitary authorities will see to it that the half-pounders do not remain in circulation too long. In any case we have a splendid opportunity for restoring the crown piece into general circulation. Timid folk will find that five or ten pounds' worth of these admirable coins convey a very satisfying sensation of wealth to the possessor. I suggest that banks might fitly crush the panic-monger, should there be any left now that the Germans are gone, beneath the weight of these comforting coins.

***

I gather that the financial dislocations of the past ten days are now regarded as being almost a nightmare of the past. The great machine of commerce has been readjusted during the prolonged Bank Holiday and the issue of £1 and 10s. notes and the increase in the amount of silver in circulation has enabled it to come to its new bearings. Hopes are freely expressed that it will work well and efficiently in its altered circumstances. I have, indeed, heard it stated by an eminent authority in the City that the new position is very much more prosperous than could have been expected a few days ago, and that prospects were favourable, if account were taken of the numerous restrictions to which British trade is for the moment subjected. We now know where we are and upon what we have to calculate. Most people seem to be fully determined to practise reasonable economy and patience and to make the best of the situation, which is not nearly as bad as it might be.

***

The fall in the Bank rate is in itself a most welcome sign of the return of confidence. Normal conditions naturally cannot be restored until the end of the war, but trade can prosper in sub-normal conditions. What it wishes to avoid is the financial "temperature," which is indicated by a Bank rate in double figures.

***

The various strands of international finance are so closely intertwined that there is small wonder that many countries wholly outside the area of the original disturbance have been most disastrously affected. Egypt has been no exception to the rule, the export of food has been prohibited and a bank holiday proclaimed. Moreover, two foreign banks have had to close their doors, while the Government has considered it necessary to make National Bank of Egypt notes legal tender to any amount. The failure of the Deutsche Orient Bank and the Banco di Roma is hardly to be wondered at, inasmuch as a great deal of their financial activity appears to have been directed to political rather than strictly commercial ends. This may account for their collapse, as these banks have expended money on abstracts which in time of crisis cannot figure as realisable assets.

***

I do not think that when the history of the past week comes to be written our descendants will have any need to feel ashamed of the way in which the nation faced the serious trouble that has been forced upon it so suddenly. As to what has been done by our statesmen and politicians, it is not my province to say anything. But I am proud of the way in which our financiers, merchants, and business men, big and small, have kept their heads, and set to work to adapt themselves to the change of circumstances without delay. The people as a whole, too, as far as I have been able to judge, have taken the coming of war wonderfully well. Here and there a selfish individual has rushed off in haste to lay in a stock of provisions, and here and there there has been a foolish panic regarding the possible shortage of gold; but on the whole the selfish members of the community have been conspicuous by their fewness.

***

"A Lloyd's telegram from Monte Video states that a Government Decree has been issued ordering a general moratorium till August 8. The Stock Exchange and banks are not to open." When my eye caught the above announcement in an evening paper on Tuesday the full significance of the financial crisis was borne in upon me. It is indeed surprising that the shock of European events should affect South American finance. But that Uruguay—stable, peaceful Uruguay—should be embarrassed is almost beyond belief.

***

On Thursday of last week, I notice, Sir J. D. Rees, in the House of Commons, asked questions in connection with two subjects that have been prominently before readers of THE NEAR EAST of late—the Haifa Vice-Consulate and the parcels post to Persia. As to Haifa, the questioner wanted to be informed whether our Vice-Consulate was to be converted into a Consulate. Sir Edward Grey replied quite bluntly that he saw no reason for altering the present status of the post, and added that the fees received at the Vice-Consulate last year were only £30, which would not justify a salaried appointment. If Sir Edward's hands were not so full as they are I should suggest to him that in this instance he is taking a rather narrow view of the case. It is the advertiser who secures customers nowadays; even nations cannot afford not to advertise; and a Consul—of the right kind—is a very fine advertisement for his country. Moreover, as I understand it, one of the chief points urged by those who are agitating for a salaried, "full-blown" Consul is that, owing to the existing state of affairs, we have not secured anything like the share of trade we might have if we had such a representative—which, in turn, would, of course, mean that with a salaried Consul in charge the fees would mount up.

As to the parcels post to Persia, Sir Edward thought something might eventually be done in the way of setting up a post by way of Liverpool and Batoum, but he was inclined to "fear that such a service would serve no useful purpose." I suppose very little is to be gained by talking, or writing, about this topic just now; but I must remark that it does strike me as an unbusinesslike arrangement that British parcels for Persia, which have to be delivered by Russia, can only be sent by a service "conducted through the intermediary of some third administration having agreements both with this country and Russia." In fact, the arrangement strikes me as so roundabout and unsatisfactory that I can hardly regret its breakdown, since I feel sure it must result in the evolution of a better system.

***

I saw by a Reuter's message from Teheran that the officer commanding the "Swedish" Gendarmerie had notified the Persian Premier that he must ask his Government to withdraw the Swedish instructors unless their arrears of pay and expenses are paid up by the 1st of this month. But either no report has since appeared in the Press on the subject or else I have missed it in the exciting events of the past three or four days. At any rate, I am wondering whether Persia managed to put her hands on the £23,000 odd that the bill amounts to. I hope so; for I should be sorry for the sake of our trade to see the Swedes leave Persia just now.

***

Egyptian cotton growers will note with satisfaction that the demands for raw material made upon them by Lancashire spinners will in no respect be minimised by the decision arrived at on Friday of last week for compulsory short time in the mills. Only users of American staples will be affected by the policy, over 80 per cent. of whom voted in favour of short time for three months between now and October 10. It is estimated that there are ten million or so spindles engaged in the spinning of Egyptian cotton, and these will continue to run full time. This description of yarn is gaining popularity among manufacturers on account of its superior quality.

***

I have been interested in an article on "The Export Trade of Egypt," which occupies the place of honour in the July *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. Apart from cotton and cotton seed, the principal articles exported by Egypt, of which we take a considerable share, are: Onions, oil cake, eggs, wool, hides, leather, and leather goods. In these we appear to have been increasing our purchases of eggs and wool; but in all other items our imports have fallen off considerably since 1895—the date to which the statistics published in the *Journal* go back. Thus for the years 1895-1899 the average value of exports was £E13,068,373, of which our proportion was 51.9 per cent., whereas in 1913 our proportion of the total exports (£E31,267,087) was only 43.1 per cent. And over the same period our proportion of the total cotton exports has sunk from 49.1 per cent. to 43.1 per cent.; of cotton seed from 89.5 per cent. to 56.5 per cent.; and of sundry exports from 36.3 per cent. to 30.1 per cent. If these figures should depress them, non-smokers may find some consolation in the knowledge that whereas in 1895 we took 27 per cent. of the total of Egypt's export of cigarettes, our purchases for last year were only 15 per cent.—represented by the paltry sum of £E59,160.

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British Shipping in War.

For more than a year the highly important subject of the insurance of British shipping in time of war has been under the consideration of a sub-committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence. The Sub-Committee was composed of Mr. F. Huth Jackson (chairman), Lord Inchcape, Sir Norman Hill (of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association), Sir R. Beck, Mr. A. Lindley, and Captain M. P. Hankey. The question they had to consider was whether a practical scheme could be devised for submission to the Government for the prevention of British steamers being laid up in time of war, and for the protection of over-seas commerce against excessive rise of prices in insurance rates. The report of the sub-committee is now available, and on Monday Mr. Lloyd George announced that the Government propose to give immediate effect to the scheme.

The scheme proposes that the State shall assume 80 per cent. of the war risks on vessels leaving port after the declaration of war. The State is to file the premiums on vessels for new voyages within certain limits; and no premium is to be charged (by the State) in respect of voyages already begun at the outbreak of war. The sub-committee assumes that 5 per cent. of the British vessels at sea or in the enemy's ports at the outbreak of war will be captured, and that a further 5 per cent. of steamships available for foreign trade will be captured in the course of the six months following.

The Times (August 4) summarizes the recommendations of the sub-committee as follows:—

(*a*) in the case of hulls:—

(1) That arrangements should be made with the existing clubs, or mutual war risks associations, that they shall extend their existing standard forms of policy to cover the King's enemy risks up to the arrival of the vessels at the final port on the voyage which they are making when war breaks out or hostilities have begun, and for ten clear days after such arrival.

(2) That arrangements should be made with the existing clubs or mutual war risks associations for the issue of policies covering the King's enemy risk on vessels starting on voyages after this country is at war.

(3) That the State shall reinsure 80 per cent. of all these risks.

(4) That no premium shall be charged by the State in respect of voyages current at the outbreak of war.

(5) That for voyages begun after the outbreak of war the State shall fix the insurance premium to be charged on a voyage basis, and shall receive 80 per cent of such premium.

(6) That the State shall have the right to fix and vary the premiums from time to time, as may be considered necessary, within a suggested maximum of 5 per cent. and a minimum of 1 per cent.; but a rate agreed for a specific voyage shall hold good if the vessel sails on that voyage within fourteen days of the completion of the insurance. On the other hand, if the starting of a voyage is delayed under the orders of the Admiralty the assured shall have the option of cancelling the policy and receiving back the premium paid.

(7) That the clubs shall run the remaining 20 per cent. of these risks, both before and after the outbreak of war, receiving for voyages commencing after the outbreak of war 20 per cent. of the premiums fixed by the State.

(8) That all expenses shall be borne by the clubs.

(9) That the club policy shall contain the following warranties:—

(*a*) That no ship insured by the State shall start on a voyage if ordered by the Admiralty not to do so, and that under both the policy relating to a new voyage and the policy relating to the completion of the voyage any orders that the Admiralty may give as to routes, ports of call, and stoppages shall be obeyed. Provided that, in case of breach, the above warranty shall not operate if the assured can satisfy the Committee of the Club that such breach happened without the fault or privity of the assured and of the owners and of the managers of the ship.

(*b*) That the ship insured shall be deemed to be at all times fully insured against all perils covered by an ordinary Lloyd's policy (with collision clause attached) and containing an F. C. and S. Clause, and no claim whatever against which the ship is deemed to be otherwise insured as aforesaid, or against which she is in fact insured by any other insurance policy, shall be recovered under the Club policy.

(10) That ships so insured undertake, as far as possible, to carry out the orders of the State in regard to their routes, ports of call, and stoppages. Failure to carry out such orders will involve an appropriate penalty, but such failure shall not be treated as a breach of warranty.

(11) That each Club and its constitution shall be approved by the State.

(12) That the State shall be represented on the Committee of each Club.

(13) That the basis of values for the purposes of State insurance shall be the value accepted for income-tax purposes—that is to say, the first cost of the vessel without allowance for the cost of alterations or additions, less depreciation at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, but without any minimum limit per ton.

(14) That the Club shall not be bound to pay a loss if the ship be recaptured or released, or restored to the assured within six months after the date of capture.

(15) That claims shall be dealt with and settled by the Committee of the Club. If a claim be settled with the approval of the State's representatives on the Club Committee, the State to pay on the agreed figures. If the State's representatives protest against a proposed settlement, the liability of the State under its policy of re-insurance to be settled (failing agreement to refer to arbitration) by the Courts of Law.

(16) That in the event of loss by destruction or capture, the first payment by the State shall be made at the end of six months after the event.

(17) That the liability of the State shall be discharged in three equal instalments at six, nine, and twelve months from the date of loss or capture, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

(18) That a Board of Experts shall be appointed to advise the State on the question of rates and variations of premiums, and that the State shall have one or two representatives on this board.

(19) That this arrangement shall only extend to vessels which are in the Clubs and which are under the British flag and registered in the British Isles.

(20) That the State should be prepared, if necessary, to make similar arrangements with other bodies than the existing Clubs, provided such other bodies represent a sufficiently important amount of tonnage and can provide satisfactory machinery for the protection of the State in the matter of values and of claims.

92. (*B.*) In the case of cargoes—

(1) That no arrangement shall be made for the insurance by the State of cargoes afloat at the time of the outbreak of a war in which we are a belligerent.

(2) That immediately after the outbreak of such a war a State insurance office be opened in London for the insurance by the State against King's enemy risks of cargo starting on a voyage after the outbreak of war.

(3) That the rate of premium charged by the State for covering these risks be a flat one, irrespective of the voyage or the character of the cargo insured.

(4) That the State shall have the right to fix and vary such rates of premiums, within a maximum of 5 per cent. and a minimum of 1 per cent. But a rate agreed for a specific voyage shall hold good, provided the cargo starts on such voyage, within fourteen days. If, however, the voyage is delayed under the orders of the Admiralty, the assured shall have the option of cancelling the policy and receiving back the premium paid.

(5) That the values of cargo for State insurance shall be the values agreed in the marine insurance policies covering the same cargo.

(6) That these marine insurance policies must be produced at the State office, when the State insurance of war risks is finally arranged.

(7) That the premiums for insurance must be paid in cash to the State office when the provisional insurance is effected.

(8) That if, when the marine insurance policies are produced, the values in those policies shall be less than the amount provisionally insured in the State office, the premium on the excess value will be refunded, but no increased value on a shipment will then be accepted.

(9) That marine insurance policies will only be accepted by the State if issued by members of Lloyd's British Insurance Companies, and other approved Insurance Companies and Underwriters.

(10) That claims under the State insurance policy shall be settled on the basis of the marine insurance policy, but such marine insurance policy shall be deemed to contain such standard clauses (if any) as may be approved by the State in regard to the particular class of cargo insured.

(11) That the State insurance of cargo shall be confined to cargo on vessels insured by the State.

(12) That the State shall be prepared to insure all cargo on such vessels, irrespective of the nationality of the owner of such cargo, except, of course, enemy cargo.

(13) That a Board or Boards of Advisers shall be established to assist the Government both with the administrative work of the State office and with the settlement of claims.

(14) That one of these Boards should be appointed at once with a permanent secretary.

OTTOMAN DOCKS AND ARSENALS CO.

In the House of Commons last week, replying to Mr. King, who asked whether he had considered the objects and conditions of the Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals and Naval Construction Company; and whether the British Ambassador in Constantinople had taken any part in furthering the formation of this company. Sir Edward Grey said:—"As I stated on March 5 last, I am informed that the Turkish Government has granted a concession to a combination of the firms of Armstrong and Vickers for the organisation and reconstruction of the existing dockyards at Constantinople. This agreement was the result of private negotiation between the Turkish Government and the firms interested, in which his Majesty's Government had no participation."

Mr. King also asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that Sir Charles Ottley, late Secretary of the Imperial Defence Committee, was a director of the Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals and Naval Construction Company, and that this company had been formed for the building and repair of the warships of a foreign Power; and whether he would take steps to provide that any servant of the Crown holding a position of the character held recently by Sir Charles Ottley should be debarred on relinquishing his post from entering, directly or indirectly, the service of a foreign Power.

Mr. Asquith: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the last part I would refer my hon. friend to the replies which I gave on this subject on March 20, 1912, and January 9, 1913.

AN ALGERIAN EGYPT.

Among the many interesting papers read at the Congrès des Colons Français de l'Afrique du Nord at Lyons few attracted the audience more than that of M. Edouard Buchère on "Le Sud-Constantinois: une Nouvelle Egypte Algérienne" (says a Paris contemporary). M. Buchère described the region as a country very little known and of remarkable fertility, situated at the entrance of the Algerian Sahara, more extensive than Egypt, and containing enormous areas of excellent land, which are enriched each winter by the detritus brought down by the torrents descending from the phosphate mountains of the Aurès. There are more than a million hectares of these excellent lands lying dormant.

M. Buchère has successfully cultivated the soil in those regions for many years past, having obtained good results from dates and cereals as well as from sheep-farming. The production of cotton, however, is to be greatly extended, as the climate and soil of South Algeria appear to be identical with that of Egypt.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum. July 27.

For the month of June the rain reports are on the whole well up to the average. In the southern provinces the latest indications are everywhere promising, and in the Gezira, where heavy cultivations are always in progress, the news of good rains is encouraging.

In Dongola locusts have done serious damage, and the young dura in the Korti district was completely destroyed. At Damer, in the Berber province, where there are cultivations of maize and cotton, the locusts were at their worst, devouring most of the trees.

CROPS IN THE S. BALKANS.

According to the French Vice-Consul at Baurgas, the corn prospects in the South of the Balkans will be inferior this year to that of last year, from the point of view both of quantity and of quality. Recent storms which had been preceded by dryness were the cause of great havoc in the fields.

On the other hand, the corn having been scorched by the sun after having greatly swollen under the influence of persistent rain, the grain was not able to ripen into a good condition, and in many places it shows signs of blight. From this concourse of unfavourable circumstances, the Consul adds, it seems safe to surmise that the harvest of 1914 in Southern Bulgaria will be inferior by a third to that of 1913, which was a good average.

THE ARABIAN DATE HARVEST.

The date harvest in Turkish Arabia this year promises to be a bumper one, according to *The Egyptian Mail*, but there are other factors which make date exporters view the situation with some apprehension. A shortage of labour is apprehended. Owing to the unsettled state of affairs, those Arab tribes who come once a year to the towns, bringing with them wool and other articles for exchange, are, it is stated, likely to remain in their homes, and consequently the labour of their women folk will not be available. This will hinder considerably the packing of the dates.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna. report as follows for the week ending July 24:—

The sales this week on our market amount to 77 cases of old and new qualities at 17s 6d. to 19s. 6d. as to quality and crop. To-day's price for 11.1/2 per cent. mixed goods is 18s. 3d., and for uniform selected quality same render 18s. 6d. Heavy showers of rain have again fallen early in the week in some of the interior districts, causing further damage to the poppy. Next month we shall be able to give a more or less correct estimate of the crop, but from all accounts we don't think it will be over 7,000 cases, some dealers of which make it out only 5,500 to 6,000 cases. The arrivals are 753 cases.

PORT OF TANGIER CONCESSIONS.

The International Technical Commission which has been considering the question of concessions for the port of Tangier concluded the examination of the new proposals of the International Society for the Development of Tangier in Paris last week. Agreement was almost reached on the technical and financial bases of the concessions. The Commission will meet again in November to draft the final text of the convention and specifications.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, August 5.

Business in the market during the past week has been entirely suspended. Such abnormal conditions have never existed before in the lifetime of the oldest member of the Exchange. Owing to the extension of the Bank holiday and the closing of the American and Liverpool raw cotton markets, it was decided yesterday (Tuesday) by the directors of the Manchester Exchange to close that building until Friday morning. Trading on ordinary lines, of course, has been quite impossible, and the bulk of the time of buyers and sellers has been spent in dealing with old contracts and making arrangements for stopping deliveries wherever possible. Manufacturers of cloth find it useless to press supplies upon customers which are not wanted and cannot be shipped. The owners of many weaving sheds have decided to close down for an indefinite period, and unless there is a distinct change in the situation, the Lancashire industry will be at a standstill within the next few weeks. A special meeting of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation was held yesterday (Tuesday) when it was decided to urge the members to complete the short time working, already arranged, without delay. This, of course, refers to the American section. It was also decided to ask spinners producing Egyptian yarns to consider the matter of curtailing production on an organised scale. The prospects are very uncertain, and home users of yarns have instructed spinners to stop deliveries until further notice. Of course, contracts of this character are delivered against as required. For the time being, export trade has come to an end.

SUDAN MARKETS REPORT.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government:—

Gum.—During June 1,717,900 kilos. of gum, valued at £50,319, were exported viâ Port Sudan, and 2,013 kilos, valued at £54, viâ Halfa. During the five months, January to May, 1914, 7,379 tons of gum were carried on the Kosti—El Obeid Railway, as against 7,873 tons during the corresponding period of last year.

A Kordofan Province report states that the amount of gum brought into the El Obeid gum market during June was 11,020 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos.). This compares with 23,612 kantars in the corresponding month of 1913 and 22,507 kantars in 1912. Prices have continued high. According to a Kassala Province report, the quantities of gum imported and exported at Gedaref and Mafaza during May were as follows:—Gedaref: Exported, Hashab, 1,670 kantars of 110 rottles (49 kilos.); Talh, 457 kantars. Imported: Hashab, 1,564 kantars, Talh, 433 kantars. Mafaza: Exported, 557 kantars Hashab, and 83 kantars Talh. Imported: Hashab, 583 kantars; Talh, 120 kantars.

Cotton.—A Berber Province report for June states:—At Zeidab a start has been made in cotton growing on the native-owned land. Cotton seed has been taken up readily, especially in Berber District, where over twenty ardebs were distributed among 500 sakias which had sufficient water available and some of it is coming on well. Ashmuni seed has been distributed in Shendi District, Zeidab Nyassa round Zeidab and Damer, and Darmali American in Berber.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, August 6.

Sugar.

The last few days have witnessed a state of great suspense in speculative circles, and a considerable enhancement in the value of available sugar. At the time of writing, although the market is practically closed, some business has been done in spot sugar at from 10s. to 25s. advance. Crystallized Trinidad sold at 30s., and foreign refined at 25s. to 40s. Tate's and Llye's goods are still not offering.

The general supplies of sugar in stock and afloat were:—In Great Britain, according to Board of Trade Returns, June 30, Raws, 231,600 tons; and refined, 83,700 tons; in Germany, July 1, 783,200 tons; Hamburg, July 25, 112,640 tons; Austria, July 1, 436,700 tons; Trieste, July 22, 14,700 tons; France, July 1, 261,130 tons; Holland, July 1, 49,000 tons; Belgium, July 1, 80,490 tons; and afloat, July 30, 59,350 tons. Total for Europe 2,112,510 tons.

Coffee.

Owing to the extension of bank holidays and the political crisis, the coffee and other markets are closed. The actual spot market, however, has not altered. The whole of this year's crops have been received here, and the present stocks will have to last until the end of the year, so that there is no reason to fear serious alterations.

Currants.

It is difficult to foretell to what extent the market will be affected by the war, but it is fortunate that existing stocks are quite sufficient for average requirements for the next two months, but any attempt to inflate prices might be attended with undesirable results.

Sultanas.

Stocks on the spot, with the exception of fine fruit, are fully ample for all immediate requirements. There has been a fair demand, with a more general enquiry, for fruit from 38s. to 42s. The position respecting the new crop is, so far, unchanged, and no news has been received reporting any further damage.

Seeds.

Oilseeds remain nominal. Canary seed is inclined to be weaker. Blue Peas' prices have advanced 10s. per quarter, and business is very difficult; holders of any stock are more inclined to await developments than to sell. Haricot Beans are in a worse position, dealers refusing to sell. Butter Beans have been a very strong market, apart from any war news.

MORATORIA IN THE BALKANS.

In the House of Commons, in a written question, Sir Godfrey Baring has asked the President of the Board of Trade whether the merchants of either Bulgaria, Greece, Servia or Turkey had demanded a moratorium because of the crippling effects of the recent conflict in the Balkans; and, if so, the date at which the merchants of each country first availed themselves of the privilege afforded by such a moratorium?

Mr. Burns writes:—As far as I am informed, a moratorium was declared in Bulgaria on October 2, 1912, and expired on September 25, 1913. In Greece a moratorium was declared on October 6, 1912, and expired on January 21, 1914. In Servia a moratorium was declared on October 14, 1912, and expired on January 30, 1914. I am not aware that any moratorium was declared in Turkey. I have no information as to the dates at which the merchants of each country first availed themselves of the privileges afforded

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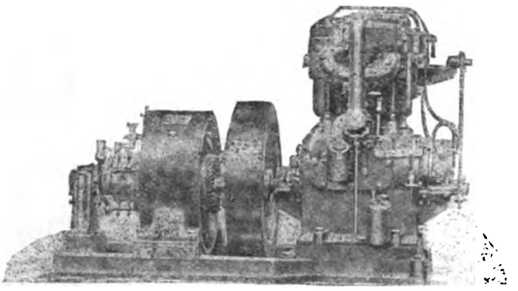

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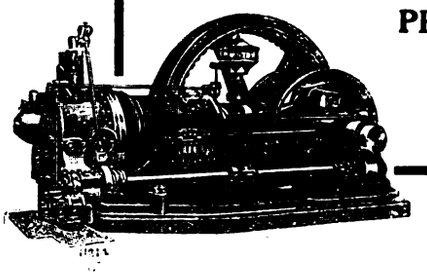

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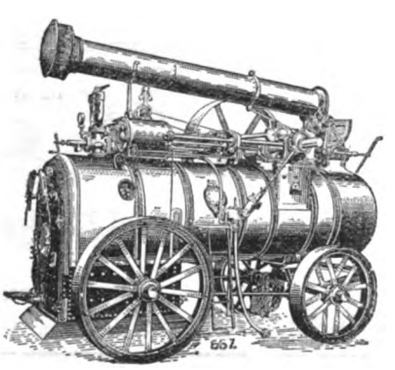

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Engineering Notes.

Sewage Farming in Egypt.

In his report on the trade of the consular district of Alexandria for 1913, Mr. Vice-Consul Geary writes:—Sewage farming in Egypt is profitable, although it does not pay in Europe, because the water, which constitutes the bulk of sewage, is the greatest need of Egypt, but for the most part superfluous in Europe. On the completion of the purification works of the Cairo drainage scheme a large stretch of desert will be irrigated, which has proved to be capable of producing the finest garden produce; for sewage in Egypt practically consists of Nile water enriched with special plant foods deficient in the soil and necessary for the production of crops. Purified sewage is quite inoffensive, and drinkable water can be created by increasing the degree of purification. Sewage farms should prove a great success in this country.

The Engineer in Egypt.

In awarding certificates to the successful students at the Crystal Palace School of Engineering a few days ago, Mr. Anthony G. Lyster, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, appealed to young engineers to remember that their duties were not limited to professional work. Among their other duties was that of the defence of their country. Speaking on the prospects of the young engineer at the moment, Mr. Lyster suggested that no doubt each student had come into contact with persons who insisted that the profession was overstocked. Such statements must not be allowed to dishearten them. Civilisation was spreading through the world, and although there might be an increasing difficulty in getting suitable work in this country, Egypt, India and other Dominions beyond the Seas offered vast fields for enterprise.

A Novel Aero Craft.

The Egyptian Gazette refers to a novel craft that has recently appeared on the Nile. It is air propelled and is described as "a large punt-like boat, drawing very little water, and propelled by two 9-feet blades standing in the air like small masts at each end of the boat. These propellers are worked by separate benzine engines, the attachment of one being by a steel cog chain and of the other by a leather band. This latter is being experimented with in the hope of lessening the terrific noise which at present accompanies the working of the propellers. The boat is capable of attaining great speed, and the absence of anything necessitating depth of water makes it specially suitable for navigation of the river at low Nile." The *Gazette* understands that the boat is the property of a wealthy resident of Giza, who has great ambitions for the future development of air-propelled craft.

Flying Machines in War.

Owing to the sensational rumours concerning the employment of airships and aeroplanes in war, people are wont to exaggerate their powers as aggressive weapons. With regard to aeroplanes, the results of bomb-dropping competitions, and the experience of Italian aviators in Tripoli and of Greeks in the Dardanelles, have been so uncertain and inconclusive that little real knowledge has been gained on the subject. It is asserted by experts that an explosive dropped from a height of sixteen hundred feet has attained a velocity on reaching the earth of over three hundred feet per second, so that much of its explosive force is unavoidably lost, and if the charge is very great the bomb is resolved into a number of ineffective atoms. Shrapnel with a time-fuse is also useless at present. It is, therefore, believed that explosives aimed during the day time at living objects will not do much harm, and any fears on this score are groundless. With regard to the dropping of explosives on inanimate objects, the outlook is somewhat different, for it is maintained that in this case, to be effective, at least 150 to 200 pounds of explosive matter should be the minimum weight of each projectile, and for this purpose aeroplanes are useless. An airship is the only aerial vessel capable of effective use for the dropping of explosives, since it can keep an exact course and can remain stationary over a definite point. But there is a most effective weapon for the use of aviators in aerial combat—an automatic rifle or machine gun which can be used from the ground or from an airship or aeroplane, and the existence of such a weapon does not encourage the use of airships. The real value of flying machines in war remains to be proved, for up to now they have been practically an unknown quantity.

A New Type of Crude-Oil Engine.

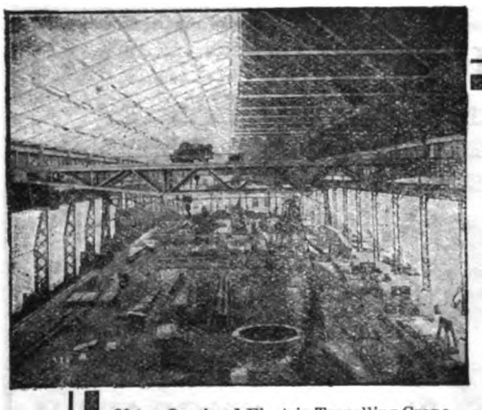
At the recent Royal Agricultural Society's Show, a crude-oil engine by Messrs. Fielding and Platt, Limited, of the Atlas Works, Gloucester, roused considerable attention. It was a four-stroke-cycle engine of 45 b.h.p., on the semi-Diesel principle, running at a speed of 240 revolutions per minute, with a cylinder 12½ ins. in diameter, and a stroke of 22 ins. The fly-wheel was 7 ft. 4½ ins. in diameter, with a face 15 ins. broad. A characteristic feature of this engine is that the cylinder is supported throughout its length by the frame, there being no overhang. The combustion chamber carrying the valves is a casting with an independent water-jacket, so that no water-joint is necessary between it and the cylinder casting, and hence there is no danger of leakage taking place. This facilitates the control of the temperature of the two parts, and the engine will run "dead light." The joint between the cylinder and combustion chamber is effectively protected. Covering is effected by varying the fuel supply, maintaining an explosion for each cycle. The oil injection pump always has the same stroke, but the supply is regulated by means of an auxiliary valve, or by-pass, controlled by a lever and cam, which in turn are operated by the governor. This auxiliary relief-valve is opened early or late in the stroke of the pump, according to the requirements of the moment. The fuel is injected 5 per cent. of the stroke from the back dead centre. The fuel is injected through by a simple 1-16 in. hole fitted with a none return valve. The engine will use any grade of oil up to 0.95 specific gravity, and consumptions as low as 0.45 lb. per brake-horse power hour have been recorded with it. The cylinder and piston are lubricated by a positive pressure adjustable lubricating pump driven off the cam-shaft.

Suction Gas from Wood Refuse.

The cost of fuel has often barred the adoption of mechanical powers for the development of many promising industries and agricultural pursuits in the Near East. Coal, except in districts near seaports, is obtained at a price considerably higher than in England; oil in some districts is cheap, but in others is dear, owing to import duties, and gas can only be obtained in large towns where it is used for lighting. In recent years, however, the introduction of suction gas plants has offered such great advantages that their use is constantly increasing, and many factories in towns, pumping and irrigation plants and a variety of local Oriental industries are now met in all directions using such plants for motive power. But, again, some difficulty is experienced in their use when anthracite, or other fuel which is needed, has to be imported. A suction gas plant, therefore, which could work with fuel produced and obtained on the spot appeals to every enterprising individual in those regions; and the new patent "wood refuse" suction gas producer of Messrs. Ruston Proctor and Co., of Lincoln, is a plant which will undoubtedly be found most suitable and economical in all districts throughout the Near East.

The Wood Refuse Plant.

It is a suction gas producer which can work continuously upon wood refuse, such as chips, wood blocks, shavings, sawdust, etc., from sawmills, bark, olive refuse from oilmills, cocoanut husks and shells, rice husks, cotton pods, and many other waste materials. It can also, if desired, consume anthracite, lignite, brown coal, coke, peat, etc. Indeed, the apparatus seems to possess very remarkable digestive powers, whilst its motive force is extraordinarily economical. The plant is of simple construction. It comprises a generator and a dust collector, a tar extractor, and a sawdust scrubber. Special cleaning rods are provided to enable the pipes to be cleaned while the plant is working, without interfering with the flow of gas to the engine, continuity of working being thus satisfactorily obtained. The fuel is fed through the top cover, direct into the fuel container, without the use of a second valve or slide, which is dispensed with in order to give more latitude in the shape and size of the wood blocks or other fuel. Previous to arriving at the combustion zone, the fuel passes down through a distilling chamber, where it comes under the influence of the high temperature of the surrounding gas, which the volatile portion helps to enrich. The fuel is practically changed into charcoal



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A MOTOR LAUNCH IN EGYPT.

Action in High Court.

In the King's Bench Division of the High Court, London, on Saturday, Mr. Justice Bailhache delivered judgment in an action raised by Mr. Arthur George Mitton Dickson, Sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, residing at Alexandria, against Messrs. John Birch and Co., Limited, merchants and engineers, 2, London Wall Buildings, London, for damages for breach of contract, or alternatively for breach of duty in connection with the sale of a motor launch. Hearing of the case extended over four days.

The circumstances of the action, as related by Mr. A. Adair Roche, K.C., counsel for the plaintiff, were as follows:—About the middle of 1912 Mr. Dickson, while on a visit to this country, placed with defendants a contract for the supply of a motor launch for cruising in the neighbourhood of Alexandria and along the north coast of Egypt. The conditions he stipulated were that the vessel should be seaworthy, suitable for navigation on rough and choppy seas; that the compartment set apart for the passengers should be well ventilated, so that their comfort should not be interfered with by smells or vapours arising from the engine-room; that the engines should be specially strong, and of such a character as to be adaptable for the use of petrol or paraffin; and that the launch should be of "the best Thames workmanship and finish." The launch was delivered at Alexandria in May of last year, the price paid by plaintiff for it and certain "extras" being about £750. After repeated trial trips and examination by experts on the spot, the vessel was found not to come up to the standard of requirements stipulated for. Instead of being capable of a speed of ten knots per hour, its utmost capacity was found to be only eight. In consequence of its defects, plaintiff returned the launch to London. The action was alternative in its terms, concluding for damages against defendants as vendors and also as agents in that they were negligent of their duty and did not take adequate care to see that the commission placed with them was efficiently fulfilled.

Mr. Arthur G. M. Dickson, the plaintiff, in the course of his evidence, explained that his reason for placing the contract with defendants was that he had been abroad ever since he left Oxford, and was therefore out of touch with expert advice. He therefore felt it essential in his own interests to have what he described as a screen between himself and any boat and engine builder by whom the launch might be ultimately supplied.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gregory, K.C., for the defendants, Mr. Dickson admitted that he had suffered no pecuniary damage from the launch having a lesser speed than that guaranteed, but he contended that the deficiency had deprived him and his friends of considerable pleasure.

Mr. Justice Bailhache pointed out that if the vessel had not the speed agreed upon, Mr. Dickson had a perfect right to reject it.

Mr. James Smith, a launch expert from Alexandria, stated that the launch in its present condition was not worth more than £200.

The defence was that Messrs. Birch and Co. were merely acting as agents as between plaintiff and the Ailsa Craig Motor Co., the builders, that all the conditions mentioned in the contract had been complied with, and that deficiency in speed was due to faulty lubrication of the engines on the part of the plaintiff or those acting on his behalf.

Mr. Justice Bailhache, in the course of his judgment, reviewed all the points in the action. Mr. Dickson, he said, wanted a fast and stylish launch with which to cut a bit of a dash before his friends at Alexandria. He found that Messrs. Birch and Co. acted as principals and not as agents. He had come to the conclusion that in some respects the launch supplied was not in accordance with contract. He took it that the measure of damages was the difference between its value as and when delivered in Alexandria and its value as it would have been had it been delivered in accordance with contract. The lack of speed did not cause Mr. Dickson any pecuniary damage, but it did away with the pleasure which he anticipated he could afford his friends at Alexandria. In this respect the launch was worth materially less to him. For this he would make an allowance of £50. Then as to workmanship and finish. A witness sent by defendants to inspect the boat at Alexandria had described them as disgraceful. That was not a conclusive description, but rather a general expression of opinion, but it showed at least that in the opinion of Messrs. Birch and Co.'s representative the finish of the boat was not at all what it should have been. In respect to want of finish and inadequate ventilation, he would make an allowance of £50. For defects in connection with the engine, he would allow £75, making £175 in all, and for that amount he would give judgment with costs.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Woollen Blankets.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the supply of 6,800 woollen blankets required by the Prisons' Department. August 27. (L.)

Stoker Wagons.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, for the supply of twelve stoker wagons for handling coal. Aug. 15.

Extension of Water Supply.—Tenders are invited by the Local Mixed Commission of Zifta for the extension of its water supply system. Aug. 26.

Drinking Water Installation.—Tenders are invited by the Local Commission of Mattaria for the drinking water installation of Mattaria Menzala. Oct. 10.

The Committee of the British Red Crescent Society have granted £200 for the relief of the distress among the Moslems of Southern Albania.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Zionist Gazette reports that a Mr. A. Blum, who was formerly the owner of a factory for artificial teeth in America, has settled down in Palestine and is going to establish there a similar concern, where he trusts to be able to employ hundreds of Jewish workmen in this enterprise.

The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior announces that the Vacuum Oil Company was the successful tenderer for the supply of petroleum to the police. The adjudication was held on June 25, and the successful tenderers price was £E1,326,985 milliemes.

The Meteorological Office of the Sudan Government Survey Department reports that the rainfall for the Sudan for the month of June last was 10 per cent. above the average. This behoves well for this year's flood.

During June, 5,253 sheepskins and 884 hides were exported from Halfa Province, and 617 hides and 17,335 were exported from Red Sea Province.

The Board of Trade have received a telegram from Odessa, dated Monday, stating that in the Black Sea all lights have been extinguished.

A Berber Province report, dated June, states that the dom nut trade has slackened somewhat, 5,304 kantars having been weighed up to June 26.

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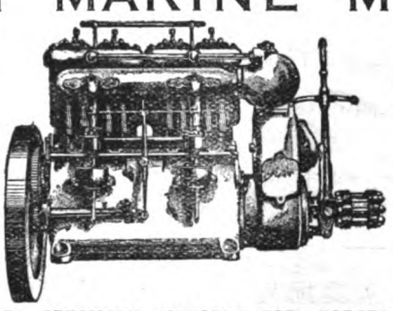
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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE SITUATION.

Sailings Suspended.

So many liners and freight steamers have been commandeered for the conveyance of troops and the munitions of war to the Continent that shipping to the East and all quarters of the world is in a state of stagnation. Enquiries also elicit the fact that the Admiralty has, for obvious reasons, imposed upon steamship companies the need for a measure of secrecy being observed as to future sailings.

At the offices of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son, Ltd., we were informed that they are not booking passengers for the Near East with the assurance that they can sail at any given date. A meeting of the managers of the great steamship companies was to be held on Thursday afternoon, to decide upon something like a uniform table of sailings. But even if such a table could be arranged, the sailings might be countermanded at any moment.

Mr. Taylor, chief of the Correspondence Department of the P. and O. Company, stated: "The only thing definite we can say at the moment is that we expect to dispatch the "Mooltana" for the East tomorrow (Friday) and by instructions of the Postmaster-General she will carry the Eastern mails. More than that we cannot say. We do not know and cannot say what our arrangements for next week will be."

A wire from our Liverpool correspondent states that all sailings to the Mediterranean from that port have been stopped.

Liverpool steamship companies will be amongst the principal sufferers by the outbreak of hostilities, as a large number of the lines have regular services to the ports of the nations which are now at war. Those lines having trading relations with Mediterranean ports are temporarily suspending their services awaiting the trend of events. It is felt that if Italy should retain her present attitude and remain neutral it will simplify matters, as the British and French Mediterranean fleets will be well able to protect shipping from any attacks by the Austrian Navy and any German warships that might be in these seas.

An official of one of the large Liverpool lines running to the Mediterranean told a representative of the *Journal of Commerce* that they had a steamer due to leave the Mersey at the end of the present week, but they would wait a few days before coming to any decision as to whether they would dispatch the steamer.

An official of another Liverpool line running to the Mediterranean also said his firm were awaiting developments. Their next steamer had been announced to sail from the Mersey on the 8th inst., but her departure had been postponed until they saw what was going to happen, and it would also affect future sailings. Shippers had to a certain extent suspended their shipments.

A gentleman connected with the passenger department of another of the Mediterranean lines from Liverpool informed a representative of *The Journal of Commerce* that some of their steamers were at present lying at Constantinople and Alexandria, where they would remain until events had developed, when they would order the steamers accordingly. For the present they had decided to suspend their sailings.

A Reuter's telegram states that the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus have been closed, but merchant vessels will be able to go through the straits with pilots.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Prince Line.

"Carib Prince."—At Syrian Coast July 25. "Creole Prince."—Left London for Alexandria July 29. "Egyptian Prince."—At Alexandria July 31. "Highland Prince."—At Alexandria July 31. "Kaffir Prince."—At Alexandria July 16. "Merchant Prince."—Left Manchester for Alexandria July 27. "Saxon Prince."—At Alexandria July 30. "Sailor Prince."—Tyne-Alexandria. Passed Dungeness July 29. "Trojan Prince."—Left Port Said for Constantinople July 29.

Moss Line.

"Busiris."—At Taganrog July 27. "Esneh."—Liverpool-Alexandria. At Gibraltar July 3. "Hathor."—Hull-Alexandria. Passed Gibraltar July 10. "Karnak."—At Manchester. "Kephren."—At Liverpool July 26. "Meroe."—Liverpool-Alexandria. At Malta July 28. "Moeris."—Constantinople - Liverpool. Left Malta July 30. "Sebek."—Left Alexandria for Toulon July 26. "Siptah."—At Liverpool.

Anchor Line.

"Calabria."—Left Leghorn for Naples August 2. "Castalia."—At Bombay July 26. "Circassia."—Bombay-Liverpool. Left Port Said July 27. "Elysia."—Birkenhead-Bombay. Left Suez July 30. "Italia."—At New York July 30. "Massilia."—At Birkenhead July 30. "Perugia."—New York-Naples. Left Gibraltar July 30. "Scindia."—Left Bombay for Liverpool July 26.

Ellerman Line.

"Andalusian."—Left Fiume for Smyrna July 29. "Assiout."—Left Smyrna for Dunkirk July 30. "Asturian."—Liverpool-Alexandria. Passed Lagos July 31. "Bavarian."—At Constantinople July 23. "Castilian."—Palermo-Lisbon. Passed Gibraltar July 30. "City of Khios."—Left Constantinople for Garston July 23. "Fabian."—Swansea-Mediterranean. At Naples July 31. "Flaminian."—Left Liverpool for Alexandria August 1. "Italian."—Alexandria-Liverpool. Passed Lagos July 31. "Malatian."—At Constantinople July 29. "Mardinian."—At Constantinople July 19. "Oporto."—At Bushire May 12.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

"Arabia."—London-Bombay. Passed Dover July 31. "Arcadia."—At Bombay June 27. "Caledonia."—At Bombay July 24. "India."—London-Bombay. Left Aden August 3. "Isis."—At Port Said July 8. "Karmala."—London-Calcutta. Passed Dover August 1. "Khiva."—London-Calcutta. At Colombo July 28. "Nore."—Calcutta-London. Left Port Said August 2. "Nyanza."—Calcutta-London. Left Southampton August 3. "Persia."—Bombay-London. Left Aden July 30. "Salsetti."—At Bombay July 20. "Sicilia."—Calcutta-London. Left Colombo August 1. "Simla."—London-Calcutta. Left Suez July 31.

B.I.S.N. Co.

"Chanda."—At Bombay July 23. "Chakrata."—London-Bombay. Left Suez July 24. "Culna."—Left Bombay for Antwerp July 23. "Malda."—Calcutta-London. Left Marseilles August 1. "Manora."—London-Calcutta. Left Aden July 28. "Mashobra."—London-Calcutta. At Marseilles August 1. Mongara."—London-Calcutta. Left Madras July 28. "Nevassa."—Calcutta-London. Left Port Said August 2. "Neuralia."—Madras-London. Left Colombo July 28. "Ormara."—London-Bombay. Passed Ushant August 2. "Tanda."—At Calcutta July 17. "Varela."—At Bombay July 5.

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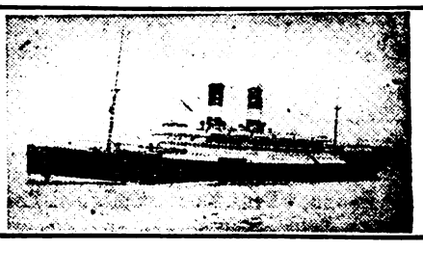

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The Position in the City.

Effects of the War.

As soon as it was known that Austria had refused to consider Servia's reply as satisfactory the Vienna Bourse was closed. This at once brought about a general closing of all the other Continental Bourses. The Paris Parquet alone kept open, but here the dealings were for cash and no time bargains were allowed. The London Stock Exchange remained open until Thursday night. It was closed on Friday, and may remain closed for an indefinite period. A certain number of unimportant failures occurred at the settlement. The decision of the Committee to close the House was arrived at because the arbitrage houses could get neither cash nor stock from the Continent, and threatened to hammer themselves on Friday morning unless the House was closed. The Committee did not apparently realise that they could easily have postponed settlement and prevented any more hammering. Dealers inside the House have for so many years been accustomed to make prices and abide by the price quoted that they hailed the closing with relief. Nevertheless it is certain that on Wednesday and Thursday no dealer would make prices or deal except for cash.

Closing of the Stock Exchange.

It is believed that the banks were glad to find the Stock Exchange closed as they feared a further depreciation in their securities. But neither the banks nor the Stock Exchange quite grasped the position. The public has been accustomed to look upon the bulk of its investments as equivalent to cash. But these investments can only be turned into cash through the medium of the Stock Exchange. That closed, the savings of the country were immobilised. Also, neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer nor the brokers and bankers seem to remember that large war loans will have to be made almost immediately, and that these loans can only be made through the machinery of the Stock Exchange. Therefore, the closing of the House was a tactical blunder. Wall Street was compelled in self-defence to close also. Therefore, to-day there is not a Stock Exchange in the world where business can be done, except the Paris Parquet. Here it is possible to deal for cash.

Some people opine that the extension of the Bank holiday, which meant that all banks were closed for five days, was a blunder. It was, at least, an unprecedented experience. Banks in Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburg, and Brussels have remained open and conducted their usual business. Why, then, should the London banks have closed? It is true that England is in a state of war, but her condition can hardly be compared with that of France or Belgium. The bankers' excuse for closing was the paucity of the gold supply, and the fact that no one would change a £5 Bank of England note. The Government have decided to issue 10s. and £1 notes, and they have also arranged that postal orders shall be legal tender. But they might just as well have suspended the Bank Act and taken the other measures on Friday last week, and thus have saved an enormous quantity of gold. They would, in addition, have relieved the anxieties of the trading community of Great Britain and done much to re-establish English credit.

Plenty of Money.

No one need be in the least uneasy in regard to finance. England has lent money to the whole world. Our colonies, most of the South American States, and the whole of North America will continue to remit the interest. We are not largely involved in loans to European States. Therefore, the present war will not greatly affect the payment of interest. The vast sum remitted each month for interest will more than pay for the food supplies. As long as we keep control of the sea we shall secure both our gold and our food. The politicians should have realised this. There was no reason for closing either the banks or the Stock Exchange and it will take some weeks to dispel the distrust caused by the ill-considered action.

Paper money is in use all over the world. The United States, which is certainly one of the richest countries, uses nothing else. In France, Germany, and Russia the note circulation amounts to about £526,000,000, of which France has £267,328,000, Germany £95,000,000, and Russia about £163,000,000. The note circulation in Great Britain is £55,000,000, but the bulk of this is undoubtedly held by the banks in notes of high value, and is therefore not available for ordinary purposes of commerce. The Government proposes to make the note issue redeemable in gold at the Bank of England. This seems a quite unnecessary and somewhat dangerous step to take. Suppose that an unreasoning panic occurs? The Bank would then be unable to pay out gold for notes, and further steps would have to be taken to protect our gold supplies. It is a pity to makes two bites at a cherry.

Action of Foreign Bankers.

There are serious rumours going round the City in regard to the action taken by the foreign banks in the late crisis. Many stockbrokers are in the habit of borrowing money from the foreign banks for the purpose of carrying over stocks at the settlement. On the day before the settlement these loans were arranged as usual. Nevertheless, the money was not forthcoming. This was a gross breach of faith, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that other bankers could be got to take up the position. In some cases the foreign banks had actually written to the brokers engaging to find the money, and only withdrew at the last quarter of an hour. The Stock Exchange is very sore, and now declares that this withdrawal was a prearranged plot done with the deliberate intention of producing a panic in the House. Such a statement is, of course, incapable of proof. But it is a fact that will not be forgotten for many years that the banks did write to the brokers promising the money, and that they did withhold this money at the last moment, knowing perfectly well that such action would ruin many firms.

It is also well known that at least one of the great German banks sent out a circular to its clients nearly three weeks ago urging them to sell every security they possessed. This bank, when it sent out the circular, must have had private information of the Austro-German coup and must have been informed that war was intended. This same bank shipped the whole of its securities, gold, cash and notes, to Germany at the beginning of the fateful week in which war broke out, but long before anyone except insiders knew that the position was critical. It will be many years before the German banks will dare to establish themselves in London again, for the City will never forget the trick that was played upon it.

It is expected that strong pressure will be brought to bear upon the London Stock Exchange, and that it will be re-opened, at any rate for cash dealing, very shortly. That means that Wall Street will follow suit, and these two exchanges should be able between them to do a large financial business and a quite reasonable trade in certain stocks and shares.

War undoubtedly destroys credit, but it does not destroy the capacity of a trader to make money. The United States will benefit largely by the war. South America will also supply foodstuffs at a great profit to itself, and the Italian manufactories will be kept busy with orders during the whole length of the war. Many of our own manufactories will be full of orders. Therefore, there is no reason for any unnecessary alarm. Business has received a severe shock, but it will soon settle down.

BULGARIAN WAR CREDIT.

Under date of July 31, Reuter's Sofia correspondent states :—The Government has proposed in the Sobranje a Bill to open a credit of £6,000,000 for war material, to be spread over four financial years. As the Sobranje will shortly suspend its sittings, the Premier asked that the Bill, which had already been prepared for some time, should be passed with all speed. In view of the favourable attitude of the Opposition, it is expected that the Bill will be passed unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES.

F. W. Cuming and Co., Ltd.

A company with the above title was registered on July 30, with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares, for the purpose of acquiring and taking over any business of insurance agents and brokers now carried on in Egypt, the Sudan and the Levant, or elsewhere. The registered offices of the company are at 7, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway.

According to a report received by the *Zionist Gazette* from Jaffa, the receipts of the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway for 1913 amounted to Frs. 13,000,000. The company distributed on original shares (nominal value Frs. 500), Frs. 4.0625 per share, and on bonds (nominal value Frs. 500), Frs. 33.9584. The company is believed to have a large reserve fund, but the amount is not mentioned in the report.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

A meeting of the holders of the First Debenture Stock of the above company, secured by a trust deed dated May 25, 1909, and made between the above company of the one part, and the Duke of Sutherland, K.G., and the Right Hon. the Earl of Lichfield of the other part, was called for Wednesday, 5th inst., for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, passing the following resolution:—"That this meeting of the holders of First Debenture Stock of Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, secured by a trust deed dated May 25, 1909, and made between the company of the one part, and the Duke of Sutherland, K.G., and the Right Hon. the Earl of Lichfield of the other part, hereby approves the appointment of the Right Hon. Sir Francis J. S. Hopwood, G.C.M.G., of 13, Hornton Street, Kensington, London, W., as one of the trustees of the said trust deed in the place of the Duke of Sutherland (now deceased)."

The Earl of Lichfield presided. Mr. F. C. Strick proposed the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. G. W. Kelbe, and carried unanimously.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

CREDIT FONCIER EGYPTIEN.—Ten numbers are announced of 3 per cent. bonds of the 1886 issue, of the 1903 issue, and of the 1911 issue, drawn for repayment on August 1.

OTTOMAN THREE AND A-HALF PER CENT. LOAN, 1884.—The numbers are announced of 579 bonds which have been drawn for repayment at par on October 15.

BAGHDAD TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING SYNDICATE, LTD.—Satisfaction has been made to the extent of £8,400 (being amount issued), on May 7, of trust deed dated April 2, 1914, securing £15,800. (The charge has now been cancelled.)

TRAMWAYS D'ALEXANDRIE.—Receipts during the period from October 1, 1913, to June 30, 1914, amounted to Frs. 1,801,920, as compared with Frs. 1,733,142 in 1912-13, an increase of Frs. 68,778. During the same period the receipts of the Ramleh system amounted to Frs. 1,424,789, an increase of Frs. 46,640 over those for the corresponding period of 1912-13.

CIE DES EAUX DE SCUTARI ET KADIKEUI, CONSTANTINOPLE.—A dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per share has been declared for 1913.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.—Production of crude oil for the week ended July 25 was 380 tons.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—The receipts for the week ending July 29 amounted to £605, this being a decrease of £62, as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. The total from the commencement of the year is £31,059, a decrease of £1,550.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTURERS.

The following is the report of the directors of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers, Ltd., submitted to the sixth ordinary general meeting held at Smyrna on July 11 :—In conformity with No. 60 of your articles of association, we have invited you to attend this general meeting in order to put before you the results of the year's trading to December 31, 1913, and to submit the accounts for your approval. As you know, gentlemen, a very severe crisis has prevailed during the past year affecting industry and commerce the whole world over. Your company was bound to be affected to a certain extent by a period of depression in business consequent on the late wars, the results of which made themselves acutely felt not only in the Balkan States but also in Central Europe. The volume of our sales in Europe was naturally reduced; fortunately, however, this reduction was amply compensated by an increased sale of our goods in America, and by the importance which our manufacture in Persia has already attained. This clearly shows the advantages of a policy of expansion, and the benefits which your company derives in possessing manufacturing centres not only in Turkey but also in Persia and India, and selling branches in almost every part of the world. As regards the goods produced by your manufacturing districts in Asia Minor, we have obtained as a result of our efforts in the past a very high standard in quality and style. We are now devoting special efforts to our manufacture in Persia; we are quite satisfied with the results so far obtained, results which have exceeded our best expectations. It must be remembered, however, that owing to the extended area and the vast importance of the carpet industry in Persia, several years must elapse before our manufacture can attain the high standard of excellency obtained in Asia Minor and thus secure for your company that supremacy which it holds unchallenged in this country. On the other hand, even as things are at present, we have already reached a yearly turnover in Persian carpets of about £600,000 on a total output of £1,800,000; the business done by us therefore represents approximately a third of the total production of Persia. This result, although satisfactory as a start, is open to considerable increase in proportion to the development of our manufacture in that country. We are all the more keen on this development as Persia offers great possibilities. We sent one of your directors to Persia last year on an extended visit which lasted several months, in order to apply our own methods and system of manufacture, and it is our intention to continue this policy of sending yearly one of your directors thoroughly conversant with the business for the inspection of all looms and for the improvement of our manufacture.

The Company and the Government.

Now, gentlemen, it has been insinuated that we are meeting with difficulties in obtaining an increase of weavers in this country, and that your company is not enjoying the sympathy and support of the Ottoman Government. These rumours are absolutely devoid of truth, and in order that you should be perfectly clear on this point, we wish to assert that weavers have never been so plentiful and that we are and always have been on excellent terms with our local authorities. We even take pride in saying that the latter have on all occasions extended to us their fullest and immediate support, and ever afforded to us all the protection necessary for the development of our industry. We may mention here that we have on several occasions been requested by friends of our company to officially contradict these malicious rumours as well as the alleged discord amongst our directors. We have always replied in such cases that it is not in the province of directors' duties, nor compatible with the dignity of the board, to give official denials every time an outsider, whether from personal interest or other motives, causes rumours of this nature to be spread about. But as this report is for the edification of our shareholders, we can declare without reserve that no disagreement has ever occurred amongst the members of your board. Further, all decisions have so far been taken with the unanimous consent and approval of your directors, the majority of whom, as a matter of fact, have large sums of money invested in your concern, and are in consequence more interested than other people in its success. Finally, the results obtained during the past year, notwithstanding the severe crisis, afford the best assurance as to the future of your company.

Company's Investments.

You will remark in our balance-sheet that the figures in connection with our holdings in other companies have attained £831,917 17s. 3d. We should like to repeat here that these investments, which have again increased this year by reason of the purchase of the shares of the Ottoman Cloth Company, Ltd., consist of shares in subsidiary companies established in different parts of Europe and America, and which are exclusively owned and controlled by your company. For your guidance, we should also point out that these shares have yielded approximately £80,000 during the past year, which represents a capital return of nearly 9 per cent. on the investment. We trust we may not be mistaken in assuring you that this return is likely to be increased in the future. In conclusion we would mention that though it is not possible to foresee how long the present crisis will continue, and the effect which same may have on future business, nevertheless we have every reason to be satisfied with the results obtained during the first four months which compare favourably with the results obtained over the same period of last year.

Profit and Loss Account and Division of Profit.

In conformity with the resolution taken at our last general meeting, we secured the services of Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountants, to assist your auditors. These gentlemen examined your accounts and balance-sheet, and the following are the results after final audit :—Your profit and loss account, after deduction of all charges attained, after including the sum of £8,392 11s. 11d. carried forward from last year, the total sum of £236,698 19s. 6d., against £212,720 1s. 11d. for the year 1912—*i.e.*, an increase of £23,978 17s. 7d. In this connection we desire to state that the above amount represents the net trading profit of your business, and is quite independent of the premium realised on the 12,000 shares which had remained in reserve and which were sold at the beginning of last year. This premium has, as a matter of fact, been applied exclusively towards various depreciations and reserves, with reference to the balance-sheet will make clear to you. We would have proposed, gentlemen, to pay a dividend equal to that of last year, that is to say 25frs. per share, were it not that your board has deemed it prudent, under the present critical circumstances, to strengthen your financial resources by reducing the dividend and carrying forward a considerable sum which always remains the property of the shareholders. With this object in view we recommend that the dividend be reduced to 20frs. and that your profits be dealt with in the following manner :—Net profits for the year 1913, including the balance carried forward from last year, £236,698 19s. 6d.; 6 per cent. statutory interest on 200,000 shares £60,000, board of directors, 5 per cent on £100,000, £5,000, to the shareholders, balance to make up 16 per cent., £100,000—£165,000; leaving a balance of £71,698 19s. 6d., of which we propose that you reserve for depreciations £20,000, and to carry forward the balance of £51,698 19s. 6d. Your total dividend for the past year will, therefore, be 16s., or 20frs. per share. An interim dividend of 12.50frs. having been paid in January, you still have to receive 7.50frs. If you adopt our proposed distribution, the balance of your dividend will be paid against Coupon No. 10 at the rate of 6s., or 7.50frs., or 33 gold piastres, on and after July 20 at the following places :—Smyrna, at the head office of the company and at the offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank; Constantinople, at the Wiener Bank-Verein; Paris, at the Société Générale, 54, Rue de Provence, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30, Rue Taitbout. As already mentioned, the delay and difficulty of communicating with our distant agencies, notably those in Persia, cause much unavoidable loss of time (and this has been more pronounced this year) in the receipt of the necessary documents for the drawing up of the balance-sheet. Hence we have been obliged to postpone the general meeting to July 11 and the payment of the dividend to the 20th of the same month. We, however, fully realise the inconvenience of this delay, and are considering the means of overcoming same in the future. We are making certain modifications in connection with the accounts of our more distant agencies, and we are confident that we shall be able, next year, to convene the general meeting and pay the dividend at an earlier date. The financial crisis recently experienced, fostered by a continued state of war and political unrest in the Near East, has emphasised the importance of stringent financial supervision in a company so extended as yours. With this consideration before us we have decided in future to only pay the 6 per cent. statutory dividend on January 1 as is customary with other companies that are in the habit of paying an interim dividend. In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding on this point, we would like to add that this conservative measure will not influence the total dividend (of which it is absolutely independent) and should not consequently in any way suggest the idea that the balance of the dividend may not be superior to the interim dividend.

Nomination of Directors and Auditors.

In accordance with your articles of association your directors, Messrs. James Baker, John Arachtingi, Charles B. Fritz, Arthur E. La Fontaine, Eugène Lautier, and M. N. Pappadopoulo, retire by rotation, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr. Isidor Gunst, whose state of health precludes him from taking an active part in the business of your company, tendered his resignation at the end of last year, so that the number of your directors is now temporarily reduced to seventeen. In July, 1913, we regretfully had to accept the resignation of Mr. R. Mattheysz, which was sent in for reasons of health. The vacancy was at once filled by Mr. George Baker, who was appointed by Messrs. G. P. and J. Baker, Ltd., in virtue of their original holding of the F shares and the privileges attached thereto as per No. 92 of your articles of association. The retiring auditors, Messrs. John Boscovich and R. E. Turrell, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were put to the meeting and passed unanimously :—

That the report of the directors as well as the accounts for the year 1913, and the distribution of profits be approved of, and that a dividend of 16 per cent. be declared. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. having been distributed on January 1, 1914, that the balance of 6 per cent. be paid on and after July 20 on presentation of Coupon No. 10.

That the retiring directors, Messrs. James Baker, John Arachtingi, C. B. Fritz, A. E. La Fontaine, Eugène Lautier, and M. N. Pappadopoulo be re-elected.

That Messrs. John Boscovich, ex-manager of the Bank of Athens, and Reg. E. Turrell, sub-manager of the Bank of Salonika, be re-elected as auditors for 1914, at a remuneration of 1,000frs. a year each. Also that Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountants, be elected as joint auditors and that their remuneration be fixed at £200 per annum.

That the purchase of the ordinary and founders' shares of the Ottoman Cloth Co., Ltd., be approved and ratified, as shown by the documents read at the meeting and by the explanations given on that subject.

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M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CARTALI, } Directors.

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VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.
LORD HILLINGDON.
HON. HERBERT A. LAWRENCE.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, BART.

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Messrs. CHARLES DE CERJAT.
LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
GEORGES HEINE.
HENRY.
LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
ALBERT MIRABAUD
RAOUL MALLET.
PYRAME NAVILLE.
LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

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Adrianople
Cavalla
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Janina
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Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
Xanthie

ASIA.

Adalia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Aziz)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

SYRIA.

Aleppo
Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah
Zahlé

EGYPT.

Alexandria
Beni Mazar
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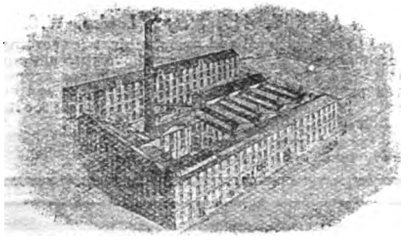
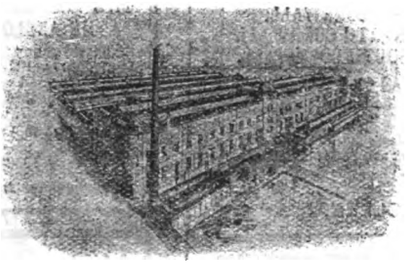
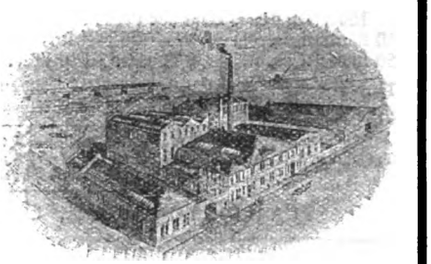

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 171.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The declaration of war against Austria-Hungary by Great Britain is the logical consequence of the previous declarations of war which have emanated from Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg. It could with propriety have taken place some days ago, and, indeed, it is more than likely that the solidarity of the Triple Entente would have received this additional confirmation last week had not the presence of German warships in the Mediterranean made it desirable to deal with the maritime forces of the Teutonic Alliance piecemeal. Austria-Hungary must now unaided bear the brunt of a naval war against the united Anglo-French Fleets in those waters. It is little more than half a century since the Imperial meeting at Villafranca terminated the last war between France and Austria. With the Austrian branch of the House of Hapsburg and its successors of the House of Lorraine this kingdom has never before been at war.

The publication of the White Paper containing the diplomatic correspondence which preceded the outbreak of war has done much to confirm the impression, prevalent for some time past, that some sort of arrangement existed between Austria-Hungary and the Porte for joint action in certain eventualities. The objective was —or possibly is—Salonika. In view, however, of the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian operations against Servia, it is to be hoped that the Porte will not endeavour to carry out single-handed a policy which was to have subordinated Ottoman interests to the ambitions of the Teutonic Alliance. The very fact that the only representatives of the armed might of that Alliance which have presented themselves to Turkish observation have been hunted fugitives in itself must tend to check any bellicose enthusiasm on the part of those in authority in Constantinople who would otherwise have embraced this opportunity for attempting to recover their lost provinces.

The acquisition of two German warships by the Porte places at least one formidable weapon at the disposal of the Ottoman Navy. The "Goeben" herself, although listed as a battle-cruiser, possesses the proportions and fighting value, in competent hands, of a Dreadnought. The purchase is considered by some international jurists to be invalid, inasmuch as a belligerent, according to the practice of British Prize Courts, cannot sell a warship to a neutral during a war, even though the attempted sale take place in a neutral port and after the dismantling of the vessel. This is a point for subsequent settlement. For the moment we may take it that the "Goeben" and her consort are now disqualified from further participation in the present war. There are those, however, who are inclined to anticipate yet another complication which will once more place this great ship in the fighting-line, and indeed the very possession of such a ship is in itself a temptation to the Committee in Constantinople to use it to further their ambitions. From the point of view of our enemies the transaction is highly profitable, as they have apparently realised a property which the fortune of war had already placed in jeopardy, and to which, in international law, their title was conditional.

The satisfaction to which the acquisition of the "Osman I." and the "Reshadieh" by the British Admiralty gave rise in Athens will probably be somewhat dashed by the appearance of the "Goeben" on the Ottoman Navy List. The balance of naval power in the Ægean now tends to incline against the Greeks. The "Averoff" is now—unfortunately for the prospects of peace in the Near East—no longer the dominant factor in Helleno-Turkish relations. No one who realizes the strength of the attachment to the tradition of Salonika among certain members of the Committee on the one hand and of the feelings of innumerable Turks on the subject of the Islands on the other can fail to recognize that the arrival of the "Goeben" is a very grave complication of the vexed Ægean Question. The situation is indeed serious, if not quite serious enough to justify the rumours that are afloat at the time of writing. Perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the situation is that Mr. Venizelos is making most strenuous efforts to reconstitute the Balkan Alliance, and that the leaders of the other political parties in Greece are apparently ready to co-operate with him in the crisis. Thus, even if Turkey should be ill-advised enough to risk all at the present time—a folly of which we still hope she will prove incapable—her weight in the scale on one side will in all probability be at least balanced by that of her neighbours on the other.

At the moment of writing only one more Balkan State, Montenegro, has joined in the European conflict. But, according to *The Times*, Roumania, like the Porte, has ordered a mobilization, while the Bulgarian Government has found itself compelled to ask for special credits to be applied to the defence of the country, and it is to be hoped that the apparent intention of the Cabinet of Sofia to resist Ottoman aggression, even though aimed at Greece and only requiring right of way across Bulgarian Thrace, may give pause to those members of the Committee in Constantinople who seek to redress the balance of Fate by plunging once more into war now that there is no Europe left to interfere.

The action of the Servian Government in embarking on a war with Germany was rendered necessary as a precautionary measure. The Servians had reason to

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believe that Baron von Griesinger, the German Minister, and Major Brousart von Schellendorf, the Military Attaché, were not entirely disinterested spectators of their movements, and considered it wiser to forego the pleasure of their company. Similar action inspired by similar motives has also been taken in Montenegro, and the German Minister has now left the Court of Podgoritza. It is doubtful whether German and Serb troops will ever have occasion to cross bayonets, but doubtless the Kaiser Wilhelm will draw comfort from the appearance of two more monarchs in arms against him, by quoting Macaulay in a Proclamation.

The military situation along the borders of the Serb States does not appear to have undergone any decisive development. As far as it is possible to discover, action is limited to frontier skirmishes, and no substantial movements of troops have as yet been made public. The Austrian bombardment of Belgrade is reported to be proceeding intermittently. If this be the case, it must be that the Austrians are inspired by the devil of destructiveness, for it can now hardly be imagined that they have any further intentions to begin a forward movement against Servia. The Montenegrins appear to have reached the sea at Budna and to have done much to render Cattaro an uneasy place of residence for Austrians from their positions on Lovtchen, against which the Austrian operations have so far failed of success.

The possession of Lovtchen, the mountain which dominates alike Cettinje and Cattaro, has become a bone of contention between the Hapsburg and the Petrovich monarchs. The Austrians desire it as being essential to the proper defence of Cattaro, and, naturally, the Montenegrins desire to keep what is their own. Nor is Italy disinterested, as, with Lovtchen in the hands of the Austrians, Cattaro becomes an almost impregnable naval station over against Italy. The bonds of the Triple Alliance have not yet been strong enough to drag the Roman Government into a war wholly distasteful to the Italian people, and such a blow to Italian *amour propre* as would be the Austrian acquisition of Lovtchen at the present moment might well react in such a way as to render even the maintenance of a benevolent neutrality impossible.

It is difficult to know nowadays what may be believed, and it is to be hoped that the statement to the effect that King Nicholas, after declaring war upon Austria-Hungary, at once proceeded to occupy Scutari is unfounded. We know that Scutari is not a Montenegrin town, and that its inhabitants have no wish to pass under the yoke of the mountain monarch. Europe is weary of the question of subject minorities. We fight to save small States from German aggression. France fights to free her kinsfolk from Prussian oppression, Russia has taken the field to liberate Slavs from Teutonic or Magyar tyranny, Servia is in arms to gain provinces from the Austrian dominion for the national monarchy. In circumstances such as these King Nicholas must not be permitted to enslave the Albanians of Scutari. Let him win back the cradle of his House in the Hertzegovina, let him take Cattaro, which his predecessor held for a few months with British aid a century ago. But let him retire from Scutari; a piratical raid into Albania on the part of King Nicholas will meet with no sympathy in this country. Such action is on a par with the German invasion of Luxemburg, and even the sentimentalists who might be inclined to support Montenegro because she is a small country will remember the grim record of her troops when last they were in Albania.

In the present circumstances when Western Europe is fighting, if not for its actual existence, at least for the maintenance of Belgium and the international obligations which were supposed to protect her, it appears to be a foregone conclusion that Albania will suffer. Already proposals are being discussed whereby that unhappy country is to be parcelled out as "compensation" among its neighbours. We still maintain that the doctrine of the Balkans for the Balkan people should be upheld. The argument that as Albania was accorded independence by Europe solely on account of Austro-Hungarian insistence she must now be torn to pieces by those at war with her chief protector is of no weight. The facts remain that the Albanians have been given their independence in the name of Europe, and that they have no wish to be enslaved by neighbours of alien race and creed. It may appear foolish to some of our readers that we should at such a moment endeavour to inculcate respect for international agreements where Albania is concerned. We must, however, insist that if Great Britain has drawn the sword to prevent a co-guarantor from violating further the international agreements which protected small States in the north-west of Europe, she is equally bound to see that similar agreements be respected even in the Balkans. The violation of international morality by the German Emperor does not entitle other potentates to pursue a similar course.

The announcement that Egypt is in a state of war and has been placed under the protection of Great Britain can only be interpreted as meaning that the allegiance of the Khedive to the Sultan is now officially recognized as being of minor importance to his relations towards Great Britain. Egypt was not in a state of war while her nominal suzerain was engaged in hostilities from 1911 to 1913, but the case is different when the sovereign of the Army of Occupation draws the sword against the Teutonic emperors. We do not wish to tilt at any tradition so long as it is merely harmless and picturesque—such as that which constitutes Abbas Hilmi an Ottoman pasha and the hereditary "viceroy" in the name of the Ottoman Padishah—but we consider that the time has now come to put an end to the régime of the Capitulations in Egypt which so very gravely hamper the exercise of the Khedive's sovereignty.

The notification to Egyptian officials recently published in *The Times*, desiring them to proceed to Egypt at the earliest opportunity, was so worded as to excite comment. In times of emergency such as those in which we now live it is naturally essential that administrators should be at their posts, whether those posts be on the shores of the Mediterranean or at home, as it is obvious that men in responsible positions cannot expect to enjoy holidays when their own country is at war. The restriction against taking their wives is at once wise in view of the extreme pressure upon transport facilities to the Near East from this country, and reasonable in that there is no necessity to expose European ladies to the heat and discomfort of an Egyptian August. We cannot see that there is any ground for alarmists to read more into the somewhat brusquely worded summons in question than is required by the obvious facts of the case.

We have on several occasions found it necessary to reprobate various Balkan peoples for the atrocities perpetrated by them upon enemy populations or subject minorities, and at the time we attributed their detestable actions to a lack of civilization, and the deteriorating influence upon their national character of their comparatively recent subjection to the Turks. Now, unhappily, it is our duty to record the horrible deeds of the officials of Governments which a month ago figured as pillars of civilization and enlightenment, Great Powers which considered themselves, and were commonly allowed to be, immeasurably superior to their adversaries or clients in the Balkans. The unbridled truculence of the Germans, their shooting of unarmed and untried travellers in Baden, and their savage enforcement of the most cruel interpretation of the Laws of War in Belgium find a fitting echo in the inhuman executions in Prague and elsewhere in the Dual Monarchy which have now been recorded. No excuses, such as can be advanced on behalf of the peoples of the Balkans, can be found for these Great Powers. It appears in the one case that a Liberal civilization has deliberately subjected itself to a brutalizing militarism. In the other case fear has bred cruelty, and a desperate faction endeavours to prop its tottering power with ever-increasing oppression and blind terrorism.

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EASTWARD BOUND.

EXPERIENCES OF MOBILIZATION.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

P. and O. s.s. "Moldavia,"
off Gibraltar, August 5.

I left London on Saturday morning. It had been an anxious night, and no one connected with a newspaper at least had closed an eye. Rain threatened, but the stations were thronged with the usual Bank Holiday, paper-bagged crowd. I said to my taxi-driver that things looked bad. "Yes," he replied, "I hope it will hold up over the week-end." This morning we were informed that war had broken out between England and Germany, and would we please be sparing of the provisions. One cannot help wondering what English people think of it now. "Der Tag" has come, and everybody in this boat at least is anxiously awaiting news at Gibraltar.

The contrast between my taxi-driver and the Frenchman when I arrived in Paris was very marked. The order for the mobilization of the "Armée de terre et de mer" had been issued at five o'clock on Saturday afternoon. I reached the Gare du Nord two hours later, and began to realize dimly what the mobilization of a great nation meant. I do not suppose anyone will see the like of it again. The porters had left in a body. Frantic passengers were running about with trolleys trying to discover their baggage among the mountains of trunks. Half a dozen expresses were standing in the station, for the most part not yet unloaded, and there seemed very little prospect of ever getting your luggage. One would not have thought that just now was the precise time to choose to travel, but there were many people who were bound on their annual holiday. I noticed in particular a clergyman who would as soon have thought of abandoning his yearly climbing trip in Switzerland as of voting Liberal, and an American with a pretty wife who, armed with many shrimping nets of various shapes and sizes, was bound for some Normandy *plage*.

Outside the station confusion became worse confounded. There were a few taxis and fiacres, but not nearly enough to go round. People fought and struggled for seats, and the drivers, cynically determined that war should be profitable to at least one class of persons, charged a louis for a three-franc journey. When I returned later in the evening to the Gare du Nord the station had been closed. Hundreds of men, women, and children stood or sat about disconsolate. The approaches were littered with bundles and luggage of every description. Crowds of reservists were already arriving and endeavouring to force their way through an exceedingly narrow *grille*. There were the same scenes at the Gare de Lyon. Impossible to enter unless you were a soldier, and although the words "Officier Anglais" proved an "open sesame," you had to do everything yourself, and I for one am rapidly becoming expert at moving large masses of bags and suit cases piled on unwieldy French trucks.

And there was a deadly earnestness about these Frenchmen. A few irresponsibles careered about the streets of Paris chanting the "Marseillaise." Camelots rushed along the boulevards shouting the latest edition; the streets seemed alive with taxis driven at even greater pace than is the reckless wont of the Paris driver. Otherwise things were curiously quiet. Groups of men discussed the situation with serious faces. They fully realized the enormous responsibility which France was taking, but there was no other course, and this is the moment, "la revanche," which France has been waiting for for years. The one question on everybody's lips seemed to be, "Will England march?"

Plight of British Officers.

All the way down to Marseilles it was the same thing. Only as one got further south the enthusiasm seemed to increase. The 500 miles or so of railway was patrolled and guarded throughout, and at every 200 metres stood a sentinel in dirty white jumper, who was forced to listen good-naturedly to the witticisms of his friends on board the train. We left Paris about midday, and our progress was very slow. I had the good fortune to meet a number of British officers who were returning to Malta. Many had been recalled from leave in a hurry; some had only been in England a few days. No one had been warned what he might expect with a nation in arms. Some had endeavoured to get through Italy and been turned back. Two had been present at the first acts of war early on Saturday morning just north of the Swiss frontier. They had been turned out of their train by a German guard; the line had been torn up; and they had been forced to wander ten miles before finding shelter and regaining the railway. One officer is still limping from the effects of standing for sixteen hours in the crowded train.

Fortunately, before starting our party raided the buffet, which had been closed "faute de garçons." A metre or two of bread, some ham, and many bottles tided us over the worst period, but even so we were a sorry spectacle when we did ultimately arrive at Marseilles on Monday afternoon, twenty-five hours after leaving Paris. Very few of us have any baggage. That seems irrevocably lost. But everybody has been enormously impressed with the spirit in which France is mobilizing, and is inclined to wonder in a mild way how the War Office really did expect so many officers of the Malta garrison to return to their posts, and whether anybody in England has the faintest knowledge of the utter dislocation of everything caused by a general mobilization.

La Levee en Masse

There is no doubt about the popularity of the war in France. No one seems to have hesitated. There are thousands of acres of corn still uncut, but the country has answered as a man to the call to arms. Troop train after troop train passed us on our slow way south. They were decorated with box, spruce, and laurel, and everyone cheered everybody else. At Avignon, where an army corps is concentrating, I particularly noticed the smart way in which a whole regiment—the 56th—detrained, formed fours, and had marched away in less than ten minutes from the moment of arrival. A gallant old captain, wearing the picturesque uniform of the Chasseurs, and painfully new boots with enormous mountain nails, told me that everyone in the mountains of Savoy was coming in. There were only men over fifty, women and children left. He himself had begun his service in 1884. As the 56th came into Avignon he stood up and made them a stirring speech.

At Marseilles things were a little quieter—the same enthusiasm, the same subordination of everything else to things military. But there was at least one remarkable thing — an Italian proclamation, apparently more or less official. It set forth that Italy had not forgotten Magenta and Solferino, and that she wished France luck in her struggle against Germany. Further, 2,000 Italians resident in Marseilles offered to serve under the French flag.

England at War.

Had it not been for the courtesy of Captain Gordon of the P. and O. liner "Moldavia"—the "Carthage" of the Transatlantique Line, on which we had counted to take us to Malta, had naturally been mobilized—we might all still be marooned at Marseilles. Fortunately, Captain Gordon was induced to ship us all—there are close on eighty now—to Gibraltar, where we hope to catch the intermediate P. and O., and so to Malta. By the time this reaches England we should just about be reaching that unlovely spot.

It is hard to realize that we are at war; that British ships will again be sailing the seas with decks cleared for action. Two French Dreadnoughts have just passed us going south-east, otherwise, save for a native craft or two, we have seen but few vessels, and anything of any size has glumly refused to disclose her nationality.

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GREEK TOPICS.

BY "LASCARIS."

German Excavations.

For some time the German archæological school at Athens has been carrying on excavations at the Ceramic cemetery. These excavations, which have brought to light many fine works of art, have also revealed the real position of the cemetery at Athens. At a depth of about four metres the excavators discovered the double road leading to the Dipylon, which was the most important entrance to Athens, and led straight on from the Dipylon to the Academy of Athens. The whole of this road was embellished by the monuments of the most distinguished men of Greece from the time of Cimon. An immense funereal monument has been discovered eight metres below the ground. The statues that decorated it lie beside it, mostly broken. A huge dog also lies there. Everything is in marble and beautifully worked. They belong to the fourth century B.C. The archæological school of Athens is still carrying on excavations in this spot, which has excited great interest of late.

City Improvements.

It has been decided to appoint a special committee to consider plans of the City of Athens, and to draw up rules as to buildings, roads, etc., as well as for the extension of the city. This is by no means an uncalled-for work, for the original plan of the city was made in the year 1831, just after Greece had been freed from the Turkish yoke, and when it was like a Turkish town, with narrow streets, and guiltless of pavements. Since then the main streets, such as Hermes Street, have been enlarged two and even three times, causing great inconvenience to the owners of shops. It is thought that the city will not be extended beyond its present bounds. Athens is not densely populated like Paris or many German towns, but it would certainly be improved in every way if a few parks, or, at any rate, large squares were sprinkled over it. During the hot summer days Athenians appreciate a quiet, green spot like Kolonaki or the Zappeion. The much-talked-of plan for bringing water into Athens seems on the point of being accomplished. If a little water can be spared for fountains in these gardens or squares, Athens will become an ideal capital in summer as well as winter.

The Refugees.

Concerts, bazaars, and entertainments of all kinds are still being organised almost daily in Athens for the benefit of the numerous refugees who have flocked into the capital of late.

Owing, no doubt, to this influx of refugees, Athenian landlords have raised their already preposterous rents by 30 per cent. There have been, in consequence, several indignation meetings, and the comic papers represent the future inhabitants of Athens taking to tents. Meanwhile it is pleasant to record that the wealthy owner of several spacious houses has placed them at the disposal of the refugees free of rent.

The Queen Mother's Activities.

The Queen Mother, Olga, is President of the Mount Parnese Consumption Hospital. Only twenty years ago there was not a single hospital in Greece for the treatment of consumption. The poor afflicted with this disease were sent to an underground ward, where they were attended to by an old couple, since no one in tolerable health would venture near them. During the Græco-Turkish war of 1897 the widow of Mr. Schliemann had occasion to visit this dreadful spot, and she was so much impressed by the state of neglect in which those poor patients were left that she determined to erect a hospital for the treatment of consumption. This she did at the foot of Mount Hymettus. The building now erected under the auspices of Queen Olga will be rather a sanatorium after the style of those in Switzerland. It will have one great advantage over them, however, for the sun in Greece lasts many more hours per day than in Switzerland, and it is considered a great help in the cure of consumption.

The Queen Mother also intends starting a school near her summer residence at Tatoi for training girls in dairy and other agricultural work. These girls will, it is hoped, render valuable assistance to the country, for agriculture is now engrossing much attention in Greece. Not very long ago those who possessed lands were in the habit of selling or letting them to pay for having their sons sent to study medicine or law. The few that cultivated their land were considered eccentric, and generally made a mess of it. Of late years, however, Ministers like Mr. Theotokis have had their sons trained as agriculturists, and do not appear to regret it.

GREECE AND THE WAR.

ATHENS, August 13.

The *Embros* expresses surprise that the present war did not break out sooner than it did. The paper adds:—"The courage of the Belgians, the decision of the Swiss, the eagerness of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the other nations who are ready to march with the French, give some indication of the grandeur of the aim in view, which is, however, not one of revenge or for the restitution of Alsace and Lorraine, which really belong to France, but is a fight for the liberty of peoples, the resurrection of the right of nations and the freedom of Europe from despotism."—Reuter.

THE SERVIAN SOLDIER.

A favourable estimate of the fighting value of the Servian Army is given in a pamphlet issued by the General Staff of the British Army and compiled from reports supplied by British and other officers who were present during the various operations of the recent Balkan war. The raw material of the Servian infantry is said to be excellent; the men are strong, healthy peasants, inured to hardship and fatigue. Though the majority are illiterate they are quite intelligent. They possess a form of courage which may be brutal, but is certainly suited to the circumstances of a Balkan campaign, based as it is on the most callous indifference to bloodshed and death, combined with natural ferocity. These men, if left to themselves (as they frequently were), preferred a short, sharp bayonet fight to the slower, if less costly, process of taking up fire positions. In an action to the west of Monastir proof of this thirst for cold steel was revealed after the attack. Two lines of Turkish soldiers were found on the ground, every one of whom had been killed by a bayonet thrust. That was a night attack against half-starved and ill-led Turks, but there were cases in which the same tactics were successfully used against the brave and stubborn Bulgarians. Many other instances of bayonet fighting (the pamphlet continues) might be quoted, all of which go to prove that the Servian infantry is possessed of great dash, and that the men have still a large element of the savage in their characters, which makes them prefer cold steel to more distant fighting, where they cannot see the result of their efforts. At the same time, the individual training of the men is by no means neglected. The principles of tactics are explained to them, and initiative is encouraged. The Servian infantry persistently used the entrenching tool when attacking, and used it with much skill.

Mr. Oliver Bainbridge is making arrangements to deliver a series of illustrated lectures in London and other important cities in England on "Bulgaria and the Tsar Ferdinand," which should prove of unusual interest, as Mr. Bainbridge is not only an eloquent and witty speaker, but is also trustworthy in his statements. The Right Hon. Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Chancellor of Oxford University, in writing to Mr. Bainbridge, says: "I thank you for your address on India with its manly and outspoken corrective of so many calumnies and fictions, and I shall look forward greatly to the appearance of your book." *The Daily Chronicle* says:—"Mr. Bainbridge lectures before educational institutions and learned societies, and has always made a point of getting his information first-hand from Ministers, Secretaries of State, mayors, and other qualified persons." Mr. Bainbridge enjoys the personal acquaintance of the Tsar and the Tsaritsa of Bulgaria.

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P.C.B.

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TABRIZ CITY COUNCIL.

TABRIZ, June 30.

When Shuja-ed-Dowleh entered Tabriz there were here three institutions symbolical of the Constitution—the Anjuman, the Adlié, and the Baladié. After his entry many of their members (each institution had twelve members) who were foolish enough not to hide or run away were caught and sent to the gallows. The few members who neither hid themselves nor lost their heads, but are as free now as ever, are those who had two faces —one looking forward, the other looking backwards! These are of the type of men who will say one thing and do another thing; who preach one way and act in the opposite way. They are of the class of men who lie awake all night thinking how to act so that they may be looked up to by the public as most righteous and saintly, and at the same time endeavour to invent new means to cheat and fool people; how best to take advantage of their name, influence, wealth, inclinations, and good-will.

These men, while acting the part of staunch Constitutionalists as members of these institutions, were at the same time secretly working for the best interests of Shuja-ed-Dowleh. In other words, they were acting as *traitors* towards the Tabriz people, who had trusted their best interests to their care, and were acting as *spies* for Shuja-ed-Dowleh. They were sending daily reports to him as to what was spoken in the Aujuman, the Adlié, or the Baladié, and by whom, and what was going on in the city itself in the bazaars, in police and gendarmerie headquarters, and in the palace of the Governor-General.

Shuja-ed-Dowleh was in Vosbinj, besieging Tabriz, and he was making his plans according to these reports of his agents. In his letter addressed to the Russian Consul-General,* Shuja-ed-Dowleh says:—"For over five years the commerce in Azerbaijan was asleep; roads were blocked . . . and the people were in want of one night's bread." His Excellency neglects to add that it was he himself who had closed the roads to Tabriz; himself who was the cause and the instrument in bringing about the murder of 20,000 people; himself who caused the commerce to stop; himself who, closing the roads, had cut off the people's bread supply! His Excellency neglects to say who looted and levelled to the ground the houses of some of the leaders of the Moslem religion, and who appropriated their furniture and costly rugs. Instead of blaming the "insurgents" and atheists, it would be well if Shuja-ed-Dowleh looked into his mirror, where he would see who was the cause and instrument of all, or nearly all, that he mentions in his famous official letter, and for which he lays the blame at the door of real Persian Constitutionalists and the Babis, or Bahais, whose belief differs from his own.

The day after Shuja-ed-Dowleh made his triumphal entry into Tabriz he ordered the buildings of the Anjuman, the Adlié, and the Baladié to be destroyed, literally razed to the ground, by the ditch-diggers; the costly half-Persian and half-European furniture was looted; the large and antique rugs were appropriated, and—most of the members were hanged!

Now, these buildings were *not* owned by the three institutions referred to. They were the property of private individuals, and it is a positive fact that some of the owners of these buildings were not "mashrootajis" at all. The buildings were simply rented, like any other house; but they were doomed to go, because as long as they stood untouched they would have served to remind the people of the past, of the Constitution.

Shuja-ed-Dowleh had twice been ordered, both by the Regent and by the Home Minister, to hold elections, and twice had he neglected to obey their orders or pay the slightest attention to them. But when ordered by the Russian Consul-General "to take the necessary steps and hold elections," he had "no way of escape but to surrender!" And a new Baladié, or city council, has been formed in Tabriz—but not by election. The members, twelve in number, have been appointed. Eight of them are Moslems, chosen by Shuja-ed-Dowleh, and the remaining four are Armenians, Russian subjects, appointed by Consul-General Orloff. Two of the latter are lawyers, and will act as Jurist-Councillors.

The appointment of these Armenians is fortunate for Tabriz citizens. For Persians themselves are corrupt and too lazy to work, as was plainly proved during the short life of the Constitution. The members of the Mejliss proved incapable and useless, spending more time in quarrelling among themselves than in work; and the provincial Anjumans were worse than useless, passing their time in executive work and doing their best to fill their private purses.

The Anjuman, for example, would order that the butchers should not kill diseased animals nor sell old meat. The next day the butchers would call a meeting, subscribe some 2,000 to 4,000 tomans, and distribute that sum to two or three leading members of the Anjuman, and from that day on the order would become a dead letter. This is why the appointment of four Armenians in the new Baladié is wise and fortunate.

A notice, signed by Nasr-es-Saltana, President of the Baladié, informed the citizens that the reasons for reopening the Baladié are that it may watch over "the reforms of the city (paving, widening, and lighting—instituted by the Russian Consul), cleanliness of the streets and of foodstuffs, the regulation of prices, and especially to see to the cleanliness of *hamams* (bath-rooms), barbers' shops, restaurants, butchers' shops, and the supply of water.

The Baladié also exercises control over the indirect taxes (on opium, alcohol, and slaughter-houses). Ten shahis are charged for each full-sized bottle (20 ounces) of alcohol, and one kran for each sheep or goat killed. Difficulties now arose between the new Baladié and Mr. Molitor, the Belgian finance manager. For hitherto the Finance Department had had control over the duties of indirect taxes, but the new Baladié (which is synonymous with Shuja-ed-Dowleh) advertised that the Baladié would sell by auction to the highest bidder the annual income of the indirect taxes. Mr. Molitor replied that he had no knowledge of Nasr-es-Saltana, and that, by the order of the Teheran Government, he should stop the salaries of all those who are the members of this "appointed" Baladié!

So the saloons and slaughter-houses were being visited both by the officers of the Baladié and by those of the Belgians, each claiming the right of control over them; the mutton was being stamped both by the stamp of the Belgians and by the stamp of Baladié, and each party demanded one kran for each animal killed from the butchers. As a result of this there was a "strike" of one day by the butchers, who killed no animals, and the city of Tabriz had to get along without flesh food on that occasion.

The strike of the crafty butchers settled the question—and settled it in real Persian style! The officers of the Finance Department were beaten off by order of Shuja-ed-Dowleh; their uniforms and badges were torn from them, and they were told not to dare to be seen again around the saloons and slaughter-houses! They have not been! And now the Baladié rejoices over its triumph over the *frangi*.

MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

* See THE NEAR EAST, August 7, page 481.

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ROUMANIA AND THE WAR.

ALLIANCE OR ENTENTE?

With the exception of the actual belligerents, no country can be watching the march of events with greater anxiety than Roumania. In broad principle her policy has been enunciated; it is, with the help of Greece, to maintain peace in the Balkans. Servia's quarrel is with Austria-Hungary. She has been joined now by Montenegro, and the two sister States will have their work cut out for them on the north and west. It is to their interest that they should be free from all fear of aggression on Servia's eastern frontier. To this end they have to rely upon the understanding with Roumania and Greece that the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest are to be respected, and that any attempt on the part of Bulgaria to reverse the verdict of that agreement will be discouraged and, if necessary, prevented by armed intervention. With Roumania, Greece, and Servia ready to uphold the Treaty of Bucharest, there would be little encouragement for Bulgaria and Turkey to attempt to alter the map of the Balkan Peninsula to their joint advantage. But Servia has her hands full on the west, and to the Chauvinists of the Committee of Union and Progress there may seem to be a sufficiently sporting chance in favour of Turkey and Bulgaria in trying conclusions with Roumania and Greece alone. If they should arrive at such a resolve it will not have been without the stimulus of interested advice from other quarters. Germany has shown her belief in gambling with heavy stakes, and she is not likely to have any scruples in plunging as many countries as possible into the present war. Promises, we may be sure, will come thick and fast at such a time, and they may sound far more alluring to Turkish ears than they did to the ears of the British Foreign Office. Justification for this surmise is to be found in the adventures of the German cruisers, the "Goeben" and "Breslau." These ships have taken refuge in the Dardanelles with a view to being sold to the Turkish Government. Their period of usefulness as units of the German Navy was virtually over. They had to leave Turkish waters within twenty-four hours and once more run the gauntlet of British cruisers, or they had to allow themselves to be dismantled and to remain interned until the end of the war. Germany appears to have hit upon another solution of the problem by selling the ships to Turkey, or, more correctly speaking, by making the Porte a present of them for the time being, inasmuch as there can be no transfer of the funds necessary to complete the transaction. According to international law, such a sale is invalid. This difficulty will not trouble Germany, but it ought to cause Turkey to pause. The German bribe is calculated to prove a severe test to Ottoman statesmanship. Great Britain, through no fault of her own, has been compelled to take over the two men-of-war building in this country for Turkey. The loss of these ships leaves the naval superiority in the Ægean Sea in Greek hands, and the Porte must naturally be tempted to restore the balance by means of Germany's tempting offer. If it does so, Germany can hardly fail to have imposed conditions, present or future, and those conditions will not make for the continued tranquillity of the Balkans. On the other hand, if Turkey sincerely desires peace, she has the certain knowledge that it will not be broken by Greece during the European War without aggression on Turkey's part, while at the conclusion of the war she stands to receive full compensation for the ships taken by Great Britain, and will probably be able to replace them without undue delay.

The danger lies in the fact that the German bribe comes at a time when it will reinforce the activities of the Committee's hotheads. By making war at this juncture Turkey would be once more staking its existence, and this time for the sake of two men-of-war, with or without a liberal allowance of German promises. The Ottoman Army, if it hoped to derive any advantage from hostilities, would not be on the defensive, but, presupposing an agreement between Turkey and Bulgaria regarding their common frontier, would have to invade Roumanian and Greek territory. By embracing the German cause or acting on Germany's behests the Porte would range itself against Germany's present enemies, who, when their major preoccupations were over, would be left to deal with the Ottoman Empire as they may think fit. Nothing short of the madness which seems to have developed in Central Europe with such disastrous possibilities could drive Turkey along this path of self-destruction. One may be doing the Porte an injustice by suspecting it of contemplating war; but the fact remains that it has seen fit to order a mobilization, and is doing a questionable act in taking over the German cruisers. It protests that its intentions are pacific, but in all the circumstances it is impossible not to regard the mobilization as a deliberate playing with fire. Little difficulty would have been experienced in obtaining the goodwill of the Powers of the Triple Entente, and with them of Roumania and Greece, towards Turkey's obviously right course, a declaration of neutrality. The Roumanian and Greek Governments had, indeed, already set the example, and if Germany and Austria-Hungary demurred to such action on Turkey's part, the natural inference to be drawn was that they were thinking of their own interests and not Turkey's.

The Porte has done its best to increase the anxiety in Roumania, and the Bucharest Government has been obliged to order a partial mobilization. Bulgaria has also mobilized, but is still credited with a resolve to maintain neutrality. Greece is not likely to leave her northern friend in the lurch, and the possibility of the chance collision that may precipitate war, even in the absence of deliberate intent, is spread over a wide area. It is to be hoped that special precautions will be taken to avoid the possibility of "frontier incidents" along the Dobruja boundary. The desire on Roumania's part for the maintenance of peace in the Balkans is as sincere as it is natural. Both politically and economically her chief concern must be to experience a long period of internal and external quiet in order to develop the resources at her command, the exploitation of which is only just now being begun on a scale commensurate with the country's position. At this precise season Roumania looks to the free export of her harvest, which, with the products of her oilfields, constitutes the main source of her wealth. She can wish neither to have the movement of her products in her own country dislocated by a state of war nor their transport over the seas hindered. In regard to the war between the Great Powers her political interests coincide with her economic interests. Recent events in the Balkans have led to a *rapprochement* between Roumania and Russia, while the country has voluntarily emancipated itself from the false position of a mere appendage to the Triple Alliance. While dynastic considerations may make it difficult for the Roumanian Government to adopt an attitude actively hostile to Germany, the fact that there is no love lost between it and Austria-Hungary, and that it is at the expense of the Dual Monarchy that the Roumanians look to realise their national aspirations, must cause the country at heart to side with the Triple Entente. Economically Roumania is almost entirely dependent on the States now ranged against German and Austro-Hungarian aggression. Half of the cereals exported find their way to Antwerp. In 1911 the value of Roumania's export trade was 691,720,000 frs.; of this amount 213,468,000 frs., or nearly 31 per cent., represented transactions with Belgium, while Holland came second on the list with a value of 76,907,000 frs. The value of the exports to the countries opposed to Germany was four times as great as that of the goods sent to Germany and Austria-Hungary. There remains the question of the control of the sea in the event of a protracted war. Without in any way anticipating events in the North Sea, it has to be recognised that the interests of Great Britain, France, and Belgium will prompt them to do everything in their power to offer safe convoy and a profitable market to the cereals and oil that form Roumania's staple wealth. Roumania, no less than the Powers of the Triple Entente, wishes to see free access, through the Bosporus and Dardanelles, accorded to the merchant vessels engaged in her export trade. If any act of Turkey's should threaten that shipping the

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four Powers may feel it necessary to deal promptly with the situation thus created.

In the interests of Turkey we may hope that there will be no need for such action. Good relations have been established between Bucharest and Constantinople, and it should be easy to institute a friendly "conversation" for the advantage of both States. In the meantime Roumania may not feel called upon to take sides in the war between the Great Powers, but she will be playing her rôle in showing her determination to champion the cause of peace in the Balkans. If the time comes for altering the map of Europe in the interests of the permanent peace of the Continent, the part played by Roumania will be laid to her credit. The aspirations of her people are known, but it is too early to tell whether or in what way their realization will be granted or accelerated.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

One lives—if not amid alarums and excursions—at least amid rumours. These are frequently ferocious. An unkempt gentleman assured me a few days ago that all the Germans were killed, and earnestly desired to sell me a copy of a yesterday's evening paper at double its normal price. Another man gravely asserted that the "Goeben" had been sunk. The suggestion was welcome—so bloodthirsty have we become—but its verisimilitude was somewhat impaired by the added detail that the feat had been achieved by one of his Majesty's ships known to be on the North American station.

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I was told the other day of an incident which shows the admirable spirit in which the people of this country received the news of the Declaration of War. A friend of my informant had just taken a shooting for the Twelfth. The day after the announcement of war he received a letter from the man who had let him the shooting, to the effect that he would no doubt not be sorry to be freed from his bargain now, and that in the circumstances he was quite welcome to "cry off."

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Not very long ago a correspondent in Turkey asked me how I thought the Territorials would take to real soldiering. I can answer his question now quite positively. They are taking to it like the proverbial duck takes to water, and their cheerfulness under all circumstances is good to see. Which reminds me of a retort made by a member of the force to a member of the public who thought to be witty. The Terrier was one of a number who were leading a string of horses off to some depot. The animals were of the heavy type, evidently for draught purposes, and while most of them were certainly good-looking, one of them, though serviceable, no doubt, was very far from noble in appearance. Nor did its disposition appear to be either active or amiable. One member of a little crowd who had gathered at a street corner to see the procession pass said to the man who led this ignoble steed: "Hullo, Charley! going to turn *'im* into a charger?" And without a second's hesitation the answer came back: "No. *He's* going down to Horsham to give the German prisoners the food they are accustomed to at home."

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The way in which mails are arriving—or not arriving—is a mystery to me, and to a good many other people besides. I am not complaining about it, of course. I mention the subject only because it seems to be of interest owing to the curiosities of delivery. I have, for instance, heard of single letters coming through from Egypt and Greece with an apparent delay of only two or three days, and of batches of newspapers getting through from the former country by a post which seemed to have brought no letters at all. And I understand that outgoing mails are even more freakish. Our own G.P.O. has been covering itself with glory, compared with the Continental offices. But even so, sea carriage cannot be as punctual as land carriage, and delays must be numerous and lengthy for some time to come I suppose. We must all "grin and bear it." And our friends abroad must "take the will for the deed" in regard to correspondence.

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A correspondent, writing on August 5, who had reached Gibraltar on the way home by sea, gives a passing glimpse of the harbour there in a letter hastily written to catch the mail. I quote part of the despatch:—"We are held up here, as German vessels are reported to be beyond. The harbour is full of vessels, also held up. No one is allowed on shore. Some German cargo ships and one German East Africa liner were run in early this morning by our war vessels. Two or three small Spanish cruisers are visible. I have just heard we have ten minutes to post in."

I like the announcement made by Reuter's Special Correspondent in St. Petersburg, that Brother Anthony Bulatovitch, a former officer in the Russian Guards, and more recently head of the Mount Athos Monastery, has applied for a commission, while at the same time retaining his monkhood." It will be remembered that Brother Anthony, who was hailed by many of his compatriots as "the mad Hussar," was founder of the heresy of the Name of God which had to be suppressed by Russian soldiers with fixed bayonets. No one need be surprised at the good father's action as, during the Russo-Japanese War quite a large number of monastic reservists were recalled to the Army—and went.

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But what on earth does Reuter's correspondent mean when he says: "According to ancient custom, he would head the troops in a uniform covered with a cowl, *and would challenge his opponent to single combat*"? (Italics mine.) The "uniform covered with a cowl" is a delightfully picturesque touch; so is the "single combat" proposition. But I am afraid that if M. Bulatovitch should indulge in any such chivalrous ceremony as that he would merely become food for German powder. Just at present the Germans do not seem to be in a chivalrous mood.

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I have just read in a Sudan paper of the death at Tewfikia of a Corporal R. Fraser, R.E., who had been employed under the Posts and Telegraphs Department. He had come in to Tewfikia from Awoi for medical advice, which he seems to have needed very badly, for he had been the only Englishman at Awoi, where he had been working for six weeks, and he had been suffering from malarial fever and dysentery. When I add that he was a general favourite amongst his fellow-employees and non-commissioned officers of the Egyptian Army, and that he had been in the Sudan four years, I have told you all I have learnt from the Khartoum journal. The story is very simple, and with so many stirring events to read about just now my readers may find it "flat." But it seems to me to be worth telling because Corporal Fraser, R.E., is typical of a good many of our fellow-countrymen who keep our flag flying in odd corners of the globe. We only hear of them now and then, by pure chance; for they have a positive horror of "the limelight." But the Empire that has such citizens is *not* decadent.

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A Greek correspondent informs me that in Greece a new law laying down regulations concerning school doctors is about to come into operation. In most respects the new arrangements seem to me to be admirable. The doctor, for instance, will, at the beginning of each scholastic year, give his opinion as to the number of hours during which the pupils are to be kept at lessons. If this means that he will examine the children and see that they are not overworked, it is excellent; for I understand that the tendency in Greek schools is to press the poor little scholars far too hard. Then, too, besides seeing that the pupils are properly vaccinated and attending to their gymnastic instruction, the doctor will "select the print of the books to be used at school" and see that the forms used for the pupils of different sizes are of the right height. These last-mentioned measures are, of course, to protect the youngsters' sight; and for the reason already given they are to be commended; though, to be sure, one would have thought that some central body might have "selected the print of the books" and fixed the height of form to be used by the pupils of varying heights. But when I am told that the doctor is also to "inspect the site" on which any school is to be erected, it seems to me that the new law goes a little too far! Surely such work lies in the province of the architect; and even if we admit that the architect is fallible and given to theorising, does not the same remark apply to the doctor with at least equal force—especially in regard to such questions as site?

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Some little time ago, it will be remembered, our Bucharest correspondent referred to the iniquitous traffic in children that was carried on in Roumania by certain bands of Tziganes, who stole the little ones, maimed them, and then either used them themselves or sold them to other scoundrels for the purpose of exciting the compassion of and extracting money from the charitable. A correspondent has sent me some particulars of further operations of this kind on the part of the Tziganes, which he thinks might interest my readers. I am sincerely obliged to him, but I really must refrain from publishing any details of the particular case to which he draws my attention. It is one that should be sifted thoroughly, but I gather that the Roumanian police are showing commendable activity in the matter, and that the Bucharest Press is doing its best to keep public indignation up to the mark. Certainly no punishment could be too severe for the fiends who, having first broken a child's body, next proceeded to deform both its mind and spirit, which is what actually occurred in the case in question.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE LIFE OF THE NEAR EAST.*

We know of no writer of fiction who can equal Mr. Pickthall in conveying the atmosphere of the Near East to his reader. His "Saïd the Fisherman" would be hard, indeed, to beat as far as the native portion of the book is concerned, and though Saïd loses our sympathy when he comes to England, that is his fault rather than Mr. Pickthall's. In "The Valley of the Kings" we are all the time in Palestine or Syria, and though there are European characters in the book the author handles them so cleverly—he associates himself so closely with the native view, that is to say—that we are never conscious of any jar such as we receive at the end of "Saïd."

The story is simple enough, though with regard to the "Valley" which gives the book its name it is quite possible that a number of readers will be somewhat surprised. It is in the delineation of Oriental character that the interest of the book lies, and in this respect it will certainly make a very strong appeal to all those who care for the Near East. The dreamy, really lovable Iskender, the unheroic hero; his shrewish mother, fawning on the "Mission Ladies" to their faces and exercising her by no means poor powers of abuse upon them as soon as their backs are turned; the superstitious uncle, Abdullah, converted by a "miracle" into a prig, and afterwards relapsing into a sot; Mitri, the Orthodox priest; Daud and Selim, sons of the hotel proprietor, proud and fanatical, but as ready as Iskender's mother to fawn on a European; the crowd of rascally dragomans—all these are life-like portraits, and some of us will no doubt think we must have met the originals of one or more of them.

Mr. Pickthall does not moralize. He tells his story—tells it ruthlessly, it seems, at times. And the result is that we find our sympathies captured for the "natives" in spite of all their shortcomings. Iskender may be a hopeless kind of liar, but that is because he *cannot* see the truth; and when the tragedy comes we are sorry for him—far more sorry than we are for his "Emir," although the latter be English. The whole thing is inevitable, in fact; but it is made so as much by the "Emir's" carelessness as by Iskender's exercise of his imaginative faculties. The finale, however, is quite true to life, and, though it leaves us rather sorry for Iskender, we are not half as sorry for him as for the de-Orientalized Asad, who fulfils his ambition by becoming an "English clergyman" and marrying an English wife!

"The Valley of the Kings" is a leaf taken right from the book of Life as lived on the edge of the Orient, where Moslem ways are striving so hard to make their mark in the East. Messrs. Dent deserve the thanks of those who are interested in that part of the world for including it in their attractive Wayfarer's Library.

"Bonaparte et l'Egypte," by I. D'Ivray, is an historical work of great interest to students of the origins of modern Egypt. It is published by Lemerre at 3 frs. 50 cms. The writer, who has lived a long time in Cairo, was able to gather together a good deal of traditional material supplied to him by direct descendants of men who were connected with Napoleon's Egyptian campaign. A good account is given of the work of Napoleon in Egypt, and the curious side of the French occupation of Egypt—the part played by women and the adoption of the Mohammedan religion by General Menon—is also fully dealt with.

* "The Valley o' the Kings." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (The Wayfarer's Library. Dent. 1s.)

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MAILS FOR THE NEAR EAST.

The latest information regarding the mails obtained from the Chief of the Foreign Department of the General Post Office yesterday morning is that they are entirely disorganised by the war—"completely mixed up" was the expression used. One symptom of the war has been the abandonment of the Universal Postal Union, which was to have met at Madrid next month. Indian mail delivery in London, including, of course, that from Egypt and the Near East, has been dislocated. At the moment of writing a mail from India had arrived, but whether it contained bags from Egypt could not be definitely stated. It was due to arrive on August 9. Mails due from the Continent, described as "various," and due in London on July 29 and onwards, had not yet been heard of.

"We are giving no information whatever as regards the routes for India and the East," a King William Street official informed our representative yesterday, "but you may state that they will all be by sea. We are sending a mail to-night with postings up till midnight; and with a supplementary mail up to six o'clock to-morrow night by the P. and O. 'Nankin' for Egypt, India, and the Straits Settlements. The mail for Australia, which will, of course, take bags for Egypt, is being sent by the P. and O 'Beltana,' posting up to six o'clock to-night (Thursday). As regards next week's mails, no definite information can be given."

We are also informed that, in addition to these, mails will be despatched to-night (Friday) to Cyprus, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Beyrout via Plymouth. Inward mails due next week are believed to be on their way through the Mediterranean, but future prospects are less hopeful since last Saturday's boat is reported not to have left Bombay.

Telegraphic communication has been greatly dislocated. Telegrams for India, Straits Settlements, etc., can only be accepted via the Eastern Telegraph Company, and can only be accepted at sender's risk as to delay. There is also serious delay in the transmission of telegrams to Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Turkey, and the Balkans. In each instance telegrams can only be accepted at sender's risk.

DECLARATIONS OF WAR.

It is difficult to know exactly when a state of war began to exist between the various belligerent States, but as nearly as possible the dates on which war was declared, or notice was given that a state of war was considered to exist, are as follows:—

Austria-Hungary declared war on Servia.....	July 28.
Germany declared war on Russia	August 1.
Germany declared war on Belgium	August 4.
Germany declared war on France	August 4.
Great Britain declared war on Germany	August 4.
Austria declared war on Russia	August 6.
Montenegro declared war on Austria-Hungary ..	August 7.
France declared war on Austria-Hungary	August 10.
Great Britain declared war on Austria-Hungary	August 12.
Montenegro declared war on Germany.....	August 13.

THE EVE OF RAMADAN IN KHARTOUM.

The Khartoum correspondent of *The Egyptian Gazette* gives an interesting account of the celebrations in Khartoum on the eve of Ramadan. He says:—The eve of Ramadan was ushered in with intense enthusiasm by the native element here. A procession composed of a company of Egyptian Infantry with band and pipers, headed by police mounted on camels and horses, and followed by a great number of sheikhs and notables carrying gaudy banners and leading a huge crowd of din-producing adherents, paraded the city for a couple of hours. An attempt to organise a kind of trades-exhibition was made and numbers of carts with artisans at work accompanied the procession. Intermingled with the official parade were scores of syces mounted on their masters' horses, donkeys, or bicycles; veiled ladies, some in carriages, and others on carts or riding donkeys; and all the tag rag and bobtail that Khartoum boasts. . . . The whole effect was grotesque in the extreme and proved immensely amusing for the few European onlookers. The one touch of dignity and orderliness in the procession was given by the two stern-visaged British policemen who were riding at the extreme end of it—held responsible, I presume, by our happy-go-lucky authorities that no really untoward incident occurred.

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Obtainable from all leading Grocers and Druggists in Egypt and the Levant.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

L'EMPEREUR D'ALLEMAGNE ET APRES.

Monsieur le Redacteur de THE NEAR EAST.

Monsieur,—Permettez-moi d'expliquer en quelques mots à nos amis d'Orient les causes de la lutte gigantesque qui se poursuit en Europe à l'heure qu'il est, et comment nous envisageons l'avenir.

La situation se resume en peu de mots, soit : "l'Empereur d'Allemagne lutte contre le monde entier, et le monde entier est contre lui." Un homme dans cette position ne saurait être que ou insensé ou fort detestable. C'est donc dire qu'il est de toute façon en fausse position.

Or voici comment les choses se sont passées jusqu'à présent. Des vilains Serbes ayant assassiné l'héritier présomptif de l'Empereur d'Autriche, ainsi que sa femme, l'Autriche outragée demande à la Serbie la punition des coupables en lui imposant certaines mesures de procédure. Celle-ci s'incline à la demande de l'Autriche et sur douze paragraphes de la sommation elle en accepte dix, sans discussion, et demande arbitration sur les deux restants. Celà aurait dû suffir à l'Autriche, mais elle n'a pas été satisfaite, et 48 heures après, elle attaque la Serbie. La Serbie, pays slave et orthodoxe, en appelle à la Russie. La Russie prie l'Autriche de pauser dans ses mesures de vengeance et demande à la France et à l'Angleterre ses amis d'employer leurs bons offices auprès de l'Autriche à cet effet. Sir Ed. Grey remue ciel et terre pour calmer l'Autriche, et prie l'ambassadeur d'Allemagne de l'aider. Celui-ci demande des instructions à Berlin, mais on lui dit de ne pas s'en méler. Alors l'Empereur de Russie s'adresse à l'Empereur d'Allemagne solicitant son concours, mais comme entre temps il avait jugé propre de procéder à un commencement de mobilisation pour montrer à l'Autriche qu'il ne pouvait pas être indifferent au sort de la Serbie, l'Empereur d'Allemagne fait le têtu, et lui repond en lui reprochant sa mobilisation et le sommant à la cesser immédiatement, avant de rien plus discuter avec l'Autriche. Une telle sommation à la Russie ne pouvait avoir d'autre réponse que ou le silence ou la rupture immédiate. La Russie prefère de garder la silence, alors l'ambassadeur d'Allemagne l'importune pour qu'elle réponde. Elle lui déclare alors qu'elle ne pouvait pas arrêter sa mobilisation. Sur ce, l'Empereur d'Allemagne lui déclare la guerre, car lui-même avait prévu la rupture et s'était préparé. Sir Ed. Grey renouvelle ses efforts avec le bon concours de la France, et même de l'Italie, en montrant à l'Empereur d'Allemagne les conséquences sérieuses de l'entrainement infaillible de la France et probablement de l'Angleterre. Rien n'a valu, car sa Majesté ne voulait pas croire que l'Angleterre refuserait de marchander avec lui pour sa neutralité. Alors il déclare la guerre à la France aussi.

Celà devenait déjà assez inquiétant, mais l'Angleterre reste spectatrice, n'ayant promis à la France que la protection de ses côtes du Nord, où elle rangea sa flotte, quand, tout à coup, elle entend que l'Allemagne a violé la neutralité de la Grand-Duché de Luxembourg et de la Belgique, neutralités garanties par elle ainsi que par l'Allemagne et la France. Cette violation avait pour but de venir attaquer la France du côté le moins fortifié. Sur ce l'Angleterre somme l'Allemagne de ce retirer du terrain defendu dans 12 heures. L'Allemagne ne repond pas et persevère dans sa marche sur Liège. L'Angleterre, se voyant attaquée dans les pays sous sa protection directe, n'avait pas d'autres moyens que de pourvoir à leur défence. Son ultimatum expirait le 4 ct. à minuit, le 5 matin elle était en état de guerre avec l'Allemagne, d'autant plus qu'elle commençait à mépriser la politique allemande qui avait même cherché à la corrompre.

L'Allemagne se bat donc actuellement avec l'Angleterre, la Belgique, la France et la Russie simultanément. L'Autriche se bat actuellement avec la Russie et la Serbie seulement, n'ayant pas encore attaqué ni la France ni l'Angleterre, qui n'ont aucun intérêt à l'attaquer. L'Italie reste neutre, quoique faisant partie de la Triple Alliance, qui cependant ne l'engage à sécourir ses associés qu'au cas où ils n'auraient pas provoqué la guerre.

Voilà l'histoire de cette guerre terrible qui ne finira que ou par l'annihilation du régime impérialiste en Allemagne, ou par la victoire des Allemands contre tous les Alliés, portant l'Empereur Guillaume au trône du monde entier !

J'ai dit plus haut que le monde entier était contre l'Empereur d'Allemagne. En effet, outre ses combatants ci-dessus enumérés, les Etats-Unis, l'Espagne, le Portugal, le Japon et la Chine le regardent de mauvais œil et quelques-uns même disent qu'il est fou.

L'Allemagne n'en périra pas pour celà quoi qu'il arrive, mais au contraire sa population si industrieuse et si capable, aussitôt delivrée de ce cauchemar prussien, se sentira des ailes pour aller jusqu'aux cieux !

Il est contre la nature des choses qu'une telle population soit à jamais armée jusqu'aux dents, et faisant le fanfaron à propos de botte à chaque instant pour plaire à un homme ambitieux jusqu'à la témérité. Elle s'épuise inutilement, et finit par être tout simplement ridicule.—Agréez, etc.,

Londres, le 10 août, 1914. ISKANDAR SEFI.

THE POSITION OF TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—To-night London is excited by the news that the Turkish Government has purchased from Germany the "Goeben" and "Breslau," which had sought shelter under her neutral flag in the Dardanelles. To-morrow morning, I have no doubt, every newspaper in London will criticise severely the action of the Turkish Government, and will warn us that it would not be safe for us to rely very strongly on Turkish neutrality. I submit that it would be wise to defer judgment until all the facts relating to this curious international deal are made public. The Turkish Government is in a difficult position. Germany, a Power with whom her relations for many years past have been of a most intimate nature, is now engaged in a life-and-death struggle with her enemies. Germany is naturally seeking aid in quarters where she knows she has friends. She is, in fact, scouring the earth for friends, and the few nations she is not seeking to terrorize she is strenuously endeavouring to bribe. Tremendous pressure is being put on Turkey to throw in her lot with the Austro-German alliance.

The Triple Entente, on the other hand, has no wish to attract Turkey to its side; if she remains neutral the requirements of the nations concerned will be fully satisfied. But necessity over-rules policy in time of war, and the compulsory purchase by the British Government of the two Turkish battleships building in England adds to the difficulties of the Turkish Government in their efforts to resist the pressure of the pro-German faction in Constantinople. The projected Turkish war against Greece was, we all thought, made impossible for years to come when our Government announced that it had exercised its right to purchase the Turkish battleships under construction in England, and the regular pro-German faction in Turkey must have gained many recruits in the last few weeks in consequence.

The purchase of the "Goeben" and "Breslau" helps the Turkish Government out of the most pressing of its present difficulties. The naval strength of Turkey is restored to the standard holding good a few weeks ago when she was expecting immediate delivery of her first "Dreadnought," the German sale having neutralised the British purchase.

The more sober element in Turkey is not anti-British, and the mass of the people do not desire war with this country, but the forcible annexation by Greece of all the islands commanding the Dardanelles is a matter upon which Turkish opinion cannot possibly be divided.

England can help Turkey in many ways at the present juncture. She is a Power with whom we are on friendly terms, and if we would retain her friendship we should at least try to understand her present difficulties.—Yours, etc.,

August 12, 1914. PRO-TURK.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Suez Canal.

August 6.

Sir C. Cory asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it was possible for the Government to arrange with the Suez Canal Company in Paris to delegate authority to the London office of the Suez Canal Company for the payment of Canal dues in London and telegraph instructions to Port Said to permit boats to pass through the Canal.

Mr. Acland: The hon. baronet was only able to give me notice of this question ten minutes ago, and I have not been able to obtain a full answer. I will go to the office and see how the matter stands. I know that it is in hand because information was given to us about it this morning.

Sir C. Cory: It is of great importance, because I understand that all steamers are hung up in the Canal.

Arming the Indian Marine.

August 10.

Colonel Yate raised the question of the Indian Marine, and asked whether orders had now been issued for the arming of the vessels of the Royal Indian Marine.

Mr. Charles Roberts (Under-Secretary for India): The Secretary of State is unable to make any statement on the subject.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The Speaker reported that the Royal assent had been given to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914.

The House subsequently adjourned until August 25.

THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY.

Urgent Appeal to Ottoman Subjects.

The Ottoman Consul-General in London, in his capacity as President of the London branch of the Ottoman Red Crescent Society of Constantinople, which is under the high patronage of his Majesty the Sultan, applies urgently to all Ottoman subjects in Great Britain and the British Empire to send at once their donations to this society, as it has been decided to place for hospital and relief work all the funds at the disposal of the noble British nation, whose Army and Navy are now at war.

It is the duty of all Ottomans to respond at once to this urgent call, as their nation received so much help from the British nation during the troubles of the Balkan, and particularly the Italian wars. An immediate response to the call is expected at the temporary offices (35, Mildmay-chambers, 69, Bishopsgate) of the London branch, which is under the Honorary Presidency of the Turkish Ambassador in London.

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THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Press and Public continue to face the situation in an admirable spirit of quiet determination and confidence—in which over-confidence has no part. There is plenty of enthusiasm, but it is of the quiet, undemonstrative kind, and it is manifesting itself principally in eminently practical ways. The men and women of the country—to say nothing of the ubiquitous Boy Scouts—are preparing themselves for whatever may come. Meanwhile they rejoice in the gallantry shown by their allies. We publish some extracts from typical articles.

Altkirch and Liege.

Writing on "The French and Belgian Situation," the Military Correspondent of *The Times* says (August 10):—

The attack of the French brigade upon Altkirch, and the hustling of the Germans out of Mulhouse, was most gallant, and was conducted with all the dash and impetuosity of the French Army in its best days. It is now patent to everybody that the French can engage equal numbers of Germans with success, and we congratulate our allies most cordially upon the result of their first encounter in their hitherto lost provinces.

The Morning Post (August 8), in a leading article, entitled "Looking Forward," says:—

The encounters as yet reported are but a prelude. The successful defence of Liège by the Belgian troops is a proof of the bravery and staunchness of England's old allies of Waterloo days. It is a good omen at the start for which men may be thankful. But its importance must not be exaggerated, nor too much credence given to the reports of German losses or to the belief that the German "plans" are upset. A good general discounts repulses of this kind, and is not dismayed by them. The report that the German commander asked for a truce is puzzling, for it is not usually the combatant who attempts to take a fortress by a *coup de main* who calls for a truce when he is repulsed. The great armies have not yet come into touch, and can hardly yet be ready for moving forward. Our countrymen must therefore be content to remain for some days longer in suspense, which they can best meet by exerting themselves each and all in preparation for what is to come.

In a leading article on "The Lessons of Liège," *The Times* (August 10) pays the following well-merited tribute to the Belgian troops:—

"Shield and friend" was the motto of the Flemish craftsmen in the great battle at Courtrai, in which they laid low the chivalry of France. "Shield and friend" after 600 years may well be the motto of their sons to-day. They are fighting in the same cause, and the friends in whom they have trusted for support are hurrying to their aid. They have made the task easier for us all. They have borne the first brunt of the German onset, and the success with which they have stemmed it cannot but quicken the confidence of their allies.

The Spirit of our People.

And immediately following comes an equally well-merited tribute to our own people:—

The sermons which were preached in all the chief churches and chapels of this country yesterday afford one proof of the spirit in which England enters into this war. It is a grave and firm spirit—the spirit of men and women who know that the struggle before them is formidable, but who undertake it in the reasoned and assured conviction that their quarrel is necessary and just.

They cherish no enmity against any single Power. They know that the German people do not govern themselves, and have but little responsibility for the acts of the German Government. They are as little moved to anger by the German insults of the last few days as they were by the flatteries which the authors of these insults lavished upon them, until the German Government discovered that England would keep her word to Belgium and would not be bribed into deserting France. They do not lose their tempers, and they wonder at the lack of dignity and self-respect which has led to such shameful exhibitions of pettiness and of brutality elsewhere. They have a perfectly definite object before their minds, and they will keep it before their minds till the war is done.

The Policy of Blood and Iron.

The publication last week of the "Correspondence Respecting the European Crisis" (Cd. 7467) must have served to convince the most ardent friends and well-wishers of Germany that the responsibility for the present war cannot be attributed to Great Britain. In an article on the subject *The Spectator* (August 8) remarks:—

We go into this war with an absolutely clear conscience. The "War Lord" decreed war for Europe, and it is as necessary for the honesty, cleanness, and quiet of Europe that he should be stopped and rendered harmless as it was necessary for Great Britain to save Europe from Napoleon. No fair-minded person who reads the Blue-Book will be able to doubt for a moment where the guilt lies. The policy of Germany has been throughout the traditional policy of "blood and iron," the policy of diplomatic disingenuousness that formerly victimised the Danes, the Austrians, and the French. Friends of Germany in this country who have been accustomed to allow German diplomatic language its full literal value will see now that there has been no change whatever in German methods. The method of Bismarck still goes on—except that an extraordinary clumsiness of which he would have been quite incapable has been introduced. When the German Emperor says that he has worked for peace we can only turn with a bitter smile to the accusing facts. He sent personal messages to the Tsar, doing lip-service to peace. But unfortunately, he knew and approved of the Austrian ultimatum to Servia before it was sent, and when Servia, acting on the advice of Russia, had almost abjectly given way on nearly every point he still did not relent from his policy. He went on to speak with a capacity for self-deception which was unrivalled—it was either that or intentional duplicity—of Russia threatening Germany! Before that, when Sir Edward Grey had begged the Powers to send representatives to arrange peace, all accepted the invitation except Germany. Yet the Emperor up to the moment when the greatest war of history began was speaking of his love of peace. We may now measure exactly the guiltiness of such diplomacy.

The same note is struck in the leading article in *The Morning Post* already referred to:—

The Emperor called out his army in as great a hurry as the Austrians had got up their attack on Servia. Days later, with deep reluctance, days after Germany had begun the mobilisation which her statesmen and generals had always said meant war, the French Government ordered mobilisation. The British Government waited still longer. Yet the Emperor has the effrontery to say to his people: "In the midst of perfect peace the enemy surprises us."

There is no word in the proclamation as to the cause for which Germany is fighting. The only motive alleged is "latent hostility on the East and on the West and beyond the sea." In other words, Germany has gone to war for the same reason which induced the Prussian lieutenant to strike the Alsatian with his sabre, because she was afraid she might some day be attacked. The Emperor issues this statement long after the question who was the aggressor has been answered before the world by Italy's proclamation of neutrality.

It would be easy to add to these two statements of the case against the Kaiser. But it is surely unnecessary.

"K. of K." at the War Office.

The nation is undoubtedly delighted by the appointment of Lord Kitchener as Secretary of State for War. Here and there criticisms may be heard, but they come from quarters that make it safe to ignore them. The following—the opening and concluding—passages from an article in *The Saturday Review* put the case very clearly:—

Lord Kitchener's appointment as Secretary of State for War secures, what is not always secured under our system of government, the presence of the right man in the right place. . . . In appointing Lord Kitchener to the War Office the Cabinet has again proved that it can rise to a great occasion. His presence there will give the nation a feeling of confidence which it could not have had under Mr. Asquith—whose great ability in other spheres could not obscure the fact that he is a novice at War Office administration—or under Colonel Seely; and confidence that is not misplaced is an asset of value at the beginning of a long fight.

The few and barely audible criticisms of Lord Kitchener's appointment may be dismissed. Those who have not yet grasped the meaning of war complain that constitutional custom has been violated by the presence of a soldier in a Cabinet of civilians. They forget that the Duke of Wellington was once Prime Minister. They suggest that Lord Kitchener will not be responsible to Parliament. They forget that he is a member of the House of Lords. They protest that in some strange way the Constitution will be damaged by his appointment. They forget that if the War Office were not competently run we might soon not have a Constitution at all. The answer to these people is that he is the best man for the work, and that in Kitchener, French, and Jellicoe the nation has men it can trust.

The Dominion's Support.

The Times (August 11) voices the general sentiment of gratitude with which the generous support of the Dominions has been received by the Motherland as follows:—

Nothing has cheered Britons more than to know that in this unprecedented crisis we have the whole of the Dominions with us. The magnificent gift of Canada, recorded yesterday, is the most practical possible form of help. Canada is sending as a free offering a million bags of flour of 98lb. each, which represents 2lb. of flour for every man, woman, and child in the United Kingdom. The generosity of our kinsmen across the Atlantic has made an impression which will never be forgotten. When we add to it the fact that our Toronto Correspondent says that the Canadian Expeditionary Force of 20,000 men could easily be doubled or trebled, we begin to realize how great is the debt we shall owe to Canada, and understand, as we never did before, the depth and the intensity of Canadian loyalty.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Servia and Austria-Hungary.

The Independent (New York), of August 3, has an interesting note on the enmity of Servia and Austria-Hungary. We quote below:—

Imagine a country about the size of Maryland, but with twice the population though without Maryland's mineral and maritime wealth; a mountainous country, four-fifths of it uncultivated, much of it oak forest. It is a decapitated country; the upper classes killed off, driven away or proselytised during the Ottoman occupation, no princes of either the monarchical or mercantile kind, few capitalists or great landowners such as dominate neighbouring Roumania. It is a land of peasant proprietors; "A Poor Man's Paradise," the scribbling tourist is fond of calling it, although it is doubtful whether the poor man enjoys living in such a country as much as he does where there is more money going, even though he does not have so much of it as some others. The people are Slavic by race, Asiatic in culture, four-fifths of the adults illiterate, Greek Orthodox by religion, frugal, hard-working, independent, democratic and patriotic.

Given such a people in such a country, what are they to do for a living? Obviously not much except to grow grain and meat for export. Hogs can find their food in most of the oak woods and be fattened on the corn of the fields, but where can they be sold? Not to the southward, for the Mohammedans of Macedonia and the Jews of Salonika do not eat pork. But to the north just across the Danube is a big, rich country inhabited mostly by Catholics, who have no aversion to swine-flesh except on one day of the week. Austria-Hungary is then the natural market for Servian products, and here they mostly go. But whenever Austria wants to annoy Servia or to please Hungary all she has to do is to raise the tariff rates on trans-Danubian produce or prohibit the importation of Servian pigs or poultry by quarantine rules on the ground of some supposititious disease. By the practice of such tactics, called by the German writers *Schwein-politik*, Austria has reduced Servia to a condition of economic dependence from which Servia is striving to free herself by securing an outlet to the sea and so to the wide world market. But so far Austria has checkmated this endeavour. Last year, at the sacrifice of some 70,000 men, Servia cleared the way to the Adriatic, but now finds herself shut out from the sea by the interposition of the Albanian principality manufactured for the purpose.

Carnegie Commission's Report.

Under the heading, "The Balkan Wars," a note is published in *The Manchester Courier* (August 11) commenting on the Carnegie Report. We quote below:—

At present the world is unlikely to pay much attention to the Report of the International Commission appointed to inquire into the causes and conduct of the Balkan Wars, which is just published. But the work is well worth study when the world can find time to undertake its reading. . . . It investigates with remarkable clearness and thoroughness the causes that led to the Balkan outbreaks, and the nature of the warfare waged therein. Most instructive chapters are contained in those parts of the book which deal with the subject of the campaigns from the point of view of international law. War provides the great instruction book in this hazy science. And the most salient feature of the matter is the complete contempt to which the actual time for the testing of its principles reduces this highly interesting branch of academic inquiry. As soon as a war closes the savants set to work to elucidate and define the new principles which it has brought into being and developed in connection with international law. But when the next crisis arrives practice proceeds invariably to make short work of the latest principles laid down for its guidance.

Impression of Greece.

In his weekly "Literary Letter" C. K. S., of *The Sphere*, in the issue of August 8, gives some impressions of a brief visit to Greece. He writes:—

A week in Athens is all too short a period in which to see its many attractions. A friend had recommended me to the Hotel Continental, although there are two larger hotels in Athens, but I was glad that he had done so, for from my bedroom windows I had separate views—from one of the Acropolis, with the Parthenon standing out gloriously to the setting sun, and from the other of the Hill of Lykabettos. . . . One correspondent asks me what impression this visit to Greece made upon me so far as things modern are concerned. The answer is easy. I was greatly impressed with the extraordinary faculty of adaptation shown by the modern Greek. The occupier of a country which has in it many signs of barrenness, of a lack of material resources, his faculty for making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, is extraordinary. I was also immensely impressed by the patriotism of the Greek—his passionate love of country. During the recent war thousands of Greeks threw up their livelihood in various parts of the world, and particularly in the United States, and returned to be enrolled among the soldiers of their country. That is why at every turn in Athens wherever you meet a soldier you almost inevitably find that he speaks some kind of English.

The Servian Warriors.

Mr. Philip Gibbs contributes to *The Graphic* (August 8) an article, entitled "What I Saw of the Servians," giving a lively description of the scenes he witnessed in Servia on the outbreak of war between the Balkan Allies and Turkey. Describing the arrival in Belgrade of reservists from the country, he writes:—

They were mounted peasants from the hill-country, and looked as though they had come riding out of the historic past of Europe, when Attila the Scourge came sweeping across the plains. They wore long black hair beneath sheepskin caps or broad felt hats tied beneath their chins, and short brown jackets with loose shirts tied about their waists with scarlet sashes. Their horses were lean and shaggy, with wooden saddles made of sticks roped together, and with enormous wooden stirrups and reins of coarse fibre. As they rode into Belgrade they stood up in their stirrups and gave forth ear-piercing yells. The unmounted peasants from Servian villages who had been brought up to join the last reserves were elderly men or very young boys, who slouched about in an aimless way, carrying bundles on their backs, before being drafted down to Nish. Their costumes were of startling variety and crude colours. Many of them wore sheepskin coats, with the shaggy wool inside, the skin decorated with garish embroideries or primitive paintings. Their baggy trousers were tucked into loose gaiters worked with red stitches, and their flat oval sandals were almost as large as tennis rackets. They were simple, smiling fellows—born fighting men, as their history shows, yet with all the poetry and piety of the peasant in the Near East, who is inspired to racial hatred by old ballads and folk-lore, and who goes to battle after confessing his sins, praying to his saints, and lighting a candle to bring him victory.

The women are as warlike as the men. The writer continues:—

Yet the Servian women have the fighting spirit, and they would tear to pieces any man who played the coward when his country was in peril. Some years ago they organised a "League of Death" to help in the defence of Servia against Austria when the inevitable war should take place. Society women and peasant women practised shooting and learned the elements of military drill. It will be interesting to know if these women are playing any part in the present war.

Turkish Telephones.

It will be remembered that, at the time of the opening of the Constantinople telephone service, our Constantinople Correspondent gave details of its working. In the July number of *St. Martin's-le-Grand* Miss Florence Hunter tells how she organised a telephone staff in an almost incredibly short time:—

Seven Mussulman girls are now operating, five of them being at Kadikeuy Exchange, which is in the residential neighbourhood of the better-class Turks, to the families of which these particular girls belong. They are, without exception, daughters of professional men or officers of high rank in the army. It is unnecessary for these particular girls to earn their own living, but they are pioneers of the Feminist movement, showing their less fortunate sisters what it is possible for the Turkish woman to do, and are upheld and aided in their efforts by Talaat and Djemal Beys and others equally prominent and powerful in the present Ministry. The girls do not wear the "tcharchaf" nor the veil at their work, but only the thinnest silk scarf to cover their hair, and even this is discarded at times when the workmen are not present. The remainder of the female staff is composed of Greeks, Armenians, Jewesses, Syrians, Italians, Bulgarians, one Russian, two Maltese, and others, but all are Ottoman subjects. My two Exchange managers are Jews, and the male clerks on the traffic staff are Armenians, so that the staff is typical of the city, and truly as cosmopolitan as the subscribers. So far, the verbal and written "service" complaints have not numbered 1 per 1,000 per week; possibly too happy a state of things to last, as the subscribers here acquire more than one "telephone habit." Each operator must speak correctly French and Turkish, and know the Greek numbers, but we are refusing the latter from subscribers as much as possible, and hope to cease it altogether, for, as the Greek subscribers were at first allowed this privilege, the Armenians were clamouring for Armenian, and, owing to the many languages spoken, it was impossible to pander to them all. Turkish was, therefore, chosen as the language of the country, and French for the many foreigners. Although some of our staff are wonderful linguists and can "get along" in anything up to nine languages, few can really speak more than two correctly.

Articles to Note.

"The Balkan Policy of the Habsburg Empire," by Theodor von Sosnosky, in *The Contemporary Review* (August).

"The Murder of the Archduke—The Cause and the Consequences," by J. Ellis Barker, in *The Fortnightly Review* (August).

"Some Persian Plays," by Evelyn Howell, I.C.S., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (August).

"The Murdered Archduke," by Edith Sellers, in *The Nineteenth Century* (August).

"The Sarejevo Tragedy," by Count Henry Lutzow, in *The National Review* (August).

"The Pirates of Algiers," by E. March Philips, in *The Edinburgh Review* (July).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Aug.	1914. Aug.		1332. Ramadan	5674 Ab
14	1	Friday	22	22
15	2	Saturday.....	23	23
16	3	Sunday	24	24
17	4	Monday	25	25
18	5	Tuesday	26	26
19	6	Wednesday	27	27
20	7	Thursday	28	28

To-day, 22 Ramadan, is the birthday of H.I.H. Ahmed Tewhid Effendi, nephew to the Heir Apparent of the Ottoman Throne and son of H.I.H. Seif-ed-Din Effendi.

To-day is the birthday of Grand Admiral H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia.

To-morrow, 23 Ramadan, is the birthday of H.I.H. Fatima Sultana, great niece to the Sultan and daughter of H.I.H. Ibrahim Tewfik Effendi.

Monday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduke Karl Franz Josef, the Heir Presumptive of the Dual Monarchy.

Monday, 25 Ramadan, is the birthday of T.I.H. Kadrie Sultana, sister to Fatima Sultana, and also of Saliha Sultana, daughter of H.I.H. Vahid-ed-Din Effendi and niece to the Sultan.

Tuesday is the birthday of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty the Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, King of Hungary.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Nicholas, second son of the Crown Prince of Roumania.

Tuesday is also the birthday of H.H. Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, elder brother of his Majesty the Tsar of the Bulgarians.

Thursday is the birthday of Prince Mohammed Ali, brother of H.H. the Khedive of Egypt.

Princess Arthur of Connaught gave birth to a son, at her residence in Mount Street, shortly before midnight on Sunday.

The King held a Council on Thursday last week at a quarter past one o'clock. Field-Marshal the Earl Kitchener of Khartoum was sworn in a member of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. At the Council his Majesty handed the Seals of Secretary of State for War to Lord Kitchener, who took the Oath of office and kissed hands upon his appointment. Lord Kitchener had an audience of his Majesty after the Council.

In place of a third private secretary, Lord Kitchener has appointed a personal military secretary in Lieutenant-Colonel O. A. G. Fitzgerald, of whose abilities the new War Secretary has had ample proof in recent years. Colonel Fitzgerald has lately been military attaché at Cairo, and he had formerly been associated with Lord Kitchener, either as aide-de-camp, or military secretary, or Staff officer, both in India, on his Lordship's mission to Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, and when he commanded the troops during the Coronation.

A *Daily Mail* telegram from Copenhagen reported that the ex-Shah of Persia, Mohammed Ali Mirza, and his family had arrived at Malmö (the Swedish port opposite Copenhagen), in a ferry boat from Tarsnitz, in Germany, together with 1,500 Russian fugitives. The ex-Shah is reported to have stated that he had fled in consequence of riots in Germany. He left on the same night for Russia.

Prince Haidar Fazel was prevented from accompanying Prince Aziz Hassan on the yacht "Kavalla," which left Egypt for Constantinople on July 29. Contrary to expectations Princess Neamet-Allah Hanem, sister of the Khedive and wife of Prince Kamal-ed-Din Pasha Hussein, could not embark for Constantinople on the Russian boat which conveyed the Khedivah, and the Princess left by the "Ismailia," of the Khedivial Mail Line on July 29.

T.R.H. the Crown Prince of Greece and Prince Christopher of Greece have left Claridge's for the Continent. Prince Cantacuzene has also left Claridge's for the Continent.

It is reported that H.R.H. Prince George of Servia, elder brother of the Crown Prince, was struck by a piece of shell and rendered unconscious while watching the Austrian bombardment of Belgrade.

Prince Antoine Bibescu, of the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in London from the Continent.

Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, who is in supreme command of the Home Fleets, with the acting rank of Admiral, was a Lieutenant of the "Agincourt" during the Egyptian War of 1882.

Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Charles Doveton Sturdee, K.C.B., C.V.O., C.M.G., who has been appointed Chief of the War Staff at the Admiralty, got his first opportunity of seeing active service when the "Hecla" assisted in the bombardment of Alexandria. As Lieutenant Sturdee, he took part in the subsequent land operations, and was rewarded with the Egyptian medal with Alexandria clasp and the Khedive's bronze star.

Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Burney, who commands the Second and Third Fleets, with his flag in the "Lord Nelson," was, it will be recalled, the British representative off the Montenegrin coast last year and the temporary Governor of Skutari after the blockade by the International Squadron under his command. For this he received the K.C.M.G. He served during the Egyptian War of 1882, and in the Sudan in 1884.

Vice-Admiral Sir Lewis Bayley, who commands the First Battle Squadron with his flag in the "Marlborough," served during the Egyptian War of 1882.

Vice-Admiral E. E. Bradford, commanding the Third Battle Squadron, with his flag in the "King Edward VII.," was a Lieutenant of the "Achilles" during the Egyptian War of 1882.

Vice-Admiral Sir Douglas Gamble, commanding the Fourth Battle Squadron, with his flag in the "Dreadnought," became Naval Adviser to the Ottoman Government in 1909.

Rear-Admiral Sir David Beatty, commanding the First Battle Cruiser Squadron, with his flag in the "Lion," served with the Nile gunboat flotilla during the Sudan campaign, when his distinguished services brought him the D.S.O. and promotion with only six years' seniority.

Rear-Admiral C. E. Madden, who has been appointed Chief of Staff to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, served in the Egyptian War of 1882.

Mr. Ronald Graham, Adviser at the Ministry of the Interior, has left for Egypt.

Bishop Blyth has reached Gibraltar on the Union-Castle liner "Llandovery Castle," which has been held up there.

Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo Police, was expected to arrive in Cairo on Saturday last from Europe, via Port Said.

The Hon. Mrs. Julian Byng, whose husband commands the British troops in Egypt, has offered to the Tendring Hundred her fine house, Thorpe Hall, at Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, for use as a Red Cross hospital. The offer has been provisionally accepted. The house will hold about thirty patients.

General Villaret and the other members of the French Military Division in Greece have left the Piræus for France. The Prime Minister, Mr. Venizelos, went on board the vessel to bid farewell to General Villaret, and expressed the hope that the French Military Mission would soon return to resume its work of reorganisation in Greece.

General Sir Bindon Blood, G.C.B., who has been appointed a Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers, saw service in Egypt in 1882, including the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He was mentioned in despatches, and, in addition to the medals, received the brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel.

The marriage was celebrated on August 8, at St. Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, S.W., between Mr. Hermann Nathaniel Bowden Smith, of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, and Miss Daisy Beatrice Porter,

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daughter of the late Mr. G. E. Porter, I.C.S. Miss Turner was the only bridesmaid, and Mr. Humphrey Bowman, Director of the Egyptian Educational Mission, was best man. Canon Bartlett, cousin of the bridegroom, officiated.

A Rome telegram dated the 12th inst. reports the arrival there of Sir Louis Mallet, H.M. Ambassador in Constantinople, on his way to Turkey.

The Hon. Mrs. Harold Nicolson gave birth to a son last week at Knole, the residence of her parents, Lord and Lady Sackville. Mr. Harold Nicolson, who is the son of Sir Arthur Nicolson, Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and was previously an attaché at the British Embassy in Constantinople, is at present working in the Foreign Office.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the Servian Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with a party of surgeons, nurses, and dressers, left Charing Cross on Wednesday afternoon for Nish.

Mr. Rowland Snelling, editor of *The Egyptian Gazette*, has arrived in London from Alexandria. Chevalier Aquilina has also arrived in London from Alexandria.

Major H. C. B. Hopkinson Pasha, Commandant of the Alexandria City Police, left Alexandria on July 30 by the Austrian s.s. "Cleopatra" for Europe.

Capt. R. E. Russell, Assistant Director of Intelligence, Sudan Government, has left England on his return to Khartoum.

Mr. A. D. Alban, British Consul, left Cairo on July 29 for Port Said en route to England.

It was announced in the *London Gazette* of the 4th inst. that H.M. the King has given orders for the appointment of Lieutenant William Lloyd Jones, Middlesex Regiment, as a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, in recognition of his services whilst in command of a party of twenty-five rank and file of the 3rd Battalion King's African Rifles, on the occasion of a reconnaissance on September 3, 1913, on the east shore of Lake Rudolph, East Africa Protectorate.

Colonel the Hon. W. Lambton, C.M.G., M.V.O., D.S.O., who is to be General Staff Officer 1st Grade, 3rd Division, Bulford, served in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and was present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the medal with two clasps.

Lieutenant-General H. Kent, Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment, who was eighty-nine on August 3, served as Captain in the Crimea, being present at the affair at McKenzie's Farm, the battles of Alma and Inkerman, and the siege of Sebastapol.

The Paris correspondent of *The Times* under date August 11 gives an account from the *Matin* of an episode which occurred near Nancy, two days after the outbreak of war. A French detachment came into contact with German troops supported by artillery. The Germans retired, leaving behind them a young officer badly wounded by a bullet in the abdomen. The French soldiers picked him up and did what they could for him, but he died in a few minutes. His last words were, "Thank you, gentlemen, I have done my duty. I have served my country, as you are serving yours." This young officer was Lieutenant Baron von Marschall, son of the late Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, who was the German Ambassador at Constantinople and for a few months German Ambassador in London. His pistol and helmet have been brought to Paris.

Mr. J. A. Leach, of the Sudan Civil Service, acted as best man at the wedding on the 10th inst. of Mr. Arthur Gordon Leach, Indian Civil Service, to Miss Margaret Woods, daughter of Mr. V. S. Woods, of Maryfield, Retford. The ceremony took place at St. Andrew's Church, Chelsea.

It was reported yesterday morning that Sir Walter Gilbey had recovered consciousness and taken nourishment. His condition is more hopeful.

The death in London is announced of Mr. Robert Francis Harper, Ph.D., Professor of Assyriology at Chicago. Professor Harper was born at Ohio in 1864, and graduated at Chicago in 1883. He was instructor at Yale University from 1886 to 1892, when he was appointed Professor of Assyriology at Chicago. He was made director of the American School of Archæology at Jerusalem in 1906. The great work of his life was the publication of the texts of the Assyrian letters and reports of the reigns of Sargon, Sennacherib, Esarhaddon, and Ashurbanipal, preserved in the British Museum.

Among the passengers who left London last Friday by the P. and O. steamer "Mooltan," for Port Said, were Colonel Bernard Pasha, D.S.O., Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government; Mr. Callender, of the Egyptian State Railways; Lieut. Drury, R.N., Sudan Ports and Lights Administration; Major J. S. Liddell, R.E.; Major Sir George Macaulay, General Manager, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. J. P. McGillivray, Mr. G. L. Roussin, Dr. A. M. Ruffer, Major Stack, Mr. Ronald Storrs, Captain Symes, Captain Townsend, Colonel H. P. Uniacke, etc. A large number of passengers engaged passages at the last moment, including many Egyptian Civil Service officials, who left hurriedly in response to the official notification in *The Times*.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has been pleased to approve of Mr. L. Enyalis as Consul of Greece at Larnaca.

In view of the announcement that a state of war has been proclaimed in Egypt and that the protection of the country has been entrusted to Great Britain, it is to be inferred that General the Hon. Julian Byng, C.B., G.O.C. of the British force in Egypt, is virtually at the head of affairs in the country during Lord Kitchener's absence.

Lieutenant E. H. Davidson, Gordon Highlanders, has been appointed adjutant of the Camel Corps School at Cairo, in succession to Captain G. J. Brownlow, Rifle Brigade.

General Radko Dimitrieff, the Bulgarian Minister in St. Petersburg, has resigned his post and accepted a commission in the Russian Army, in which he has served on previous occasions.

Mr. G. D. Hornblower, Chief Inspector, Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, will fulfil the duties of Abdallah Pasha Sfer, Assistant Director of Public Security, who is at present on leave, until the return of Mr. Monteith Smith.

El Bimbashi W. Middleton, Camel Corps, has been appointed Staff Officer, Khartoum district.

El Bimbashi T. B. Vandeleur, Equatorial Battalion, has been transferred to the Camel Corps.

On the occasion of the retirement of H.E. El Lewa E. B. Wilkinson Pasha, from service in the Sudan, the Sirdar has issued the following farewell order:—

The Sirdar desires to express his appreciation of the excellent services rendered by El Lewa Wilkinson Pasha during the sixteen years he has served in the Army of his Highness the Khedive, during which period he has held the following important appointments with marked ability and success:—Officer Commanding, Camel Corps; Governor, Kassala Province; Director of Agriculture and Forests. On behalf of all ranks the Sirdar desires to wish him every success in his future career.

The following British officers have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and posted as follows:—Captain Guy Thwaites, Army Service Corps, to the Department of Supplies; Captain David H. Thorburn, the Cameronians, to the 3rd Battalion; Captain Thomas R. Colville, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, to the 14th Sudanese; Captain Herbert F. C. Hobbs, West Yorkshire Regiment, to the 9th Sudanese; and Lieutenant Walter L. Clinton, the King's Royal Rifle Corps, to the 11th Sudanese.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

WILLIAMSON.—On August 12, at Glenthorne, South Godstone, the wife of G. W. Williamson, Judge, Sudan Courts of Justice—a daughter.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1914.

THE MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION.

The tangled skein of conflicting interests in the Mediterranean has been partially cut through by the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Austria-Hungary. We know where we stand so far as the Austrian fleet is concerned. But there are other factors in the situation which are at present uncertain, yet by their future action they are capable of profoundly modifying the situation of the Western Allies in the Mediterranean. At the moment of writing it is believed that the Austrian fleet is at the head of the Adriatic, consequently it should be possible for the united strength of Great Britain and France to restrain it from becoming a menace to the transit trade further south, and for the time being the centre of interest may be permitted to shift from Pola or Trieste to other places. It is always easier to deal with a declared foe than to provide against this or that problematical contingency. The transfer of the "Goeben" and her consort from a belligerent to a neutral Power in time of war may afford ground for diplomatic protest in Constantinople, but the important fact remains that if a formidable engine of war has for the moment passed out of the line of battle arrayed against us it has been placed at the disposal of the Porte, and we must confess that those who control the policy of Stamboul have of late failed to impress the West with any sense of the reality of their protestations of pacific intentions. The ambitions and regrets of one section and another of the Committee can readily be appreciated, and among many will even secure a measure of sympathy, but we can only regard it as unfortunate that the means of gratifying those ambitions and avenging those regrets should come to hand at a moment when Europe no longer exists to exercise collective restraint upon the policy of Constantinople. It must be remembered, however, that as the European powder magazine has now exploded the action of the Foreign Office need no longer be modified and restrained almost to the point of inefficacy for fear of consequences upon the diplomatic equilibrium. We have returned with remarkable rapidity to primitive conceptions of diplomacy—we have ourselves declared war twice within ten days—and more meaning can now be introduced into a Note than was possible a month ago.

While the question of the Ægean thus becomes more uneasy, and imperatively demands great tact and firmness on the part of Great Britain to prevent it from becoming dangerous, the question of the Adriatic has been brought appreciably nearer to a solution. The Italian ship of State, however, still hangs in the wind. We are assured that unless some act of folly on the part of the Western Allies should affront Italian *amour propre* the Roman legions and squadrons will not be drawn up in battle array against us. It is, indeed, asserted that, in the present circumstances, any attempt on the part of Signor Salandra's Cabinet to embark upon war as a member of the Triple Alliance would have the most disastrous internal consequences, and that the existence of the dynasty itself might be imperilled. On the other hand, popular enthusiasm could readily be kindled for another war against Austria, even if it be not already aflame. It must be remembered, moreover, that the tradition of its history impels the House of Savoy towards action against the House of Hapsburg. The records of the past tell how Italy has been torn "leaf by leaf" by the Alpine dynasty from its secular Austrian antagonists. Much of this was accomplished before the spirit of Italian nationalism had grown to that vigorous strength which overturned the Temporal Power of the Pope and displaced alien dynasties in its enthusiasm for Italian unity. That national spirit now identifies itself with the historical traditions of its ruling House. The paper bonds of the Triple Alliance may for the moment keep the King of Italy in an unnatural amity with the Court of Austria, but the Italian public thinks of the Trentino and Trieste, and all the heritage of St. Mark which was once Italian and is now "under the heel of the foreigner." Moreover, in these days, when military memories and militarist ambitions exercise so great an influence on the course of history, it is interesting to remember that the Italian Army has the disasters of Custozza to reverse, and the Navy has the defeat of Lissa to avenge. In these circumstances it is hardly surprising to learn that the Consulta is believed to have decided to make the fate of Lovtchen Mountain above Cattaro a test question, and to be inclined to regard its permanent occupation by Austria as an adequate *casus belli*.

Apart from these two questions of the Ægean and the Adriatic we may, thanks to the activities of the Allied Fleets, regard the commercial situation in the Mediterranean as being on the high road to becoming normal. The interruption of communications and the delay of mails will shortly be a thing of the past, and the steps which are being taken to increase the numbers of the Army of Occupation make it obvious to all the world that Great Britain is not only determined but is also in a position to defend Egypt and the Suez Canal against any hostile aggression. That being the case, those of us who are not in the fighting line may very well prepare to "carry on." We live by trade, and if our naval strength be such that it can guarantee the safety of the high seas and the route to India we must take every advantage of the fact and redouble and redouble again our commercial activities in order to enable the national purse to stand the drain of war. We must take this opportunity to recover old markets and open new ones during the enforced mercantile incapacity of our great rivals in the commerce of the Near East and beyond. It is for our merchants to see to it that the volume of British shipping under the Red Ensign passing through the Suez Canal suffers no diminution, but rather increases mightily, for the war-year of 1914.

THE NEAR EAST.

THE NEAR EAST is on sale at all Bookstalls and Newsagents in the United Kingdom. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining the paper, readers will oblige by notifying the Manager. Abroad THE NEAR EAST may be obtained in:

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CONSTANTINOPLE. Economic Co-operative Society, Pera; Benjamin Rawe, British Oriental Bazaar; D. Marianopoulo, 280, Grande Rue de Pera; and The Nautical Bazaar, Galata.

SMYRNA. Dem. Tzannou, Petite Rue de Rose, and F. S. McVittie.

JERUSALEM. Palestine Educational Store, Jaffa Road.

CAIRO. Diemer and Company, Shepheard's Buildings; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; C.M.S. Bookstall, 15, Sharia Madabegh; and at Railway Bookstalls.

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Nacamulli and Company, 12, Rue Sesostris; Librairie Calebotta, Rue Cherif Pasha Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; The Eclectic Bookstall; F. Diemer, Cairo Station.

PORT SAID. Charles Evans, and on board vessels in the harbour.

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore, and Victoria Bookstall.

BEYROUT. Sarrafian Brothers.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha.

VIENNA. Goldschmiedt Brothers, Zeitungsbureau, Wollzeile, 11.

ATHENS. Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

SOFIA. Librairie de la Cour.

BUCHAREST. Socec and Company, Calea Victoria

BELGRADE. La Librairie Internationale, 16, Rue Prince Michel.

NEW YORK. The International Bibliopole, 118, East 28th Street.

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THE CHARM OF PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

In The Near East for May 16, 1913, there was a review of the book, "The Land that is Desolate," by Sir F. Treves. To those—and they are many—who resented the title of this book it was a curious coincidence that in close proximity on the same page occurred the words, writ large, "A Misleading Title." For those, indeed, whose acquaintance with Palestine runs into more months, if not years, than the distinguished author spent days in the land, the title is an absurd misnomer, and one which the reviewers of this ably written but depressing book have done but little to rectify. But when the circumstances under which Sir Frederick Treves toured Palestine are taken into consideration the pessimism pervading his book is not surprising. If a tourist selects January—the coldest and wettest month—for a visit to the Holy Land, and happens to strike the coldest and wettest January for many seasons for a short, hurried, and very superficial visit to a few spots in the land; if he has the misfortune consequently to arrive when no spring verdure has yet risen from the water-logged earth; if even in the semi-tropical climate of Jericho he shivers with cold, and, when he would go from Damascus to Beyrout, he is unable to pursue that picturesque route because the railway is blocked with snow, then he may, indeed, form the private opinion that the land is dismal and wet and cold and unproductive. But such a visit does not authorise him to write on the normal conditions of Palestine.

If there is one outstanding feature of at any rate the mountain regions of Palestine it is its glorious climate, its long succession of days of clear air, fresh, invigorating breezes, and wonderful sunshine and skies. Miles of country through which the author passed sadly viewing the dank, sodden fields and dripping, leafless trees were a few weeks later, when the miracle of spring had transformed them, vast stretches of green corn, while each path was edged with flowers of every hue. Moreover, Sir F. Treves saw only a small portion of the country. He traversed the two railway lines; but the route of the one lies chiefly along the bottom of a long, winding mountain gorge; while the author's acquaintance of the other was mainly restricted to a dismal journey shut in a luggage van with a dying engine-driver.

Here and there through this book the drip of rain and cold winds are felt, and the present writer, who anticipated that probably these experiences would find themselves enshrined in a book, foresaw that the dismalness of it all would colour the whole outlook. Can anyone honestly call this land "desolate" who has, let us say, traversed in April mile after mile of rustling cornfields in Samaria or Esdraelon, or has ridden hour after hour through the great granary of the Hauran, where the cornfields reach the horizon on every side? In other parts of the land it is possible to pass village after village nestling amid orchards of olives, pomegranates, quince, and figs, and the vineyards cover vast stretches of the surrounding hillsides. The land may be "desolated," perhaps, by its rulers, but under any civilised government it might "blossom as the rose," and only a jaundiced eye could fail to observe its evident possibilities. But even to-day Palestine, viewed under any but the depressing conditions encountered by Sir Frederick Treves, possesses for the majority of cultured people a unique attraction.

In what does the charm of Palestine consist? Why is it so great in the eyes of some writers that the descriptions savour of exaggeration to the sober-minded, while to others—to quote, for example, two distinguished writers, Sir Frederick Treves and Mark Twain—the charm seems scarcely to exist? Surely it depends very much on the spirit in which the visit is made and on the point of view of the visitor. That there must be true beauty inherent in the scenery of Palestine is surely proved by the never-ending succession of those who visit the land to paint and sketch. Sir F. Treves, in some exceptional gleam of sunshine, speaks rapturously of the Dead Sea and the mountains of Moab; but during eight or more months annually he might see atmospheric and colour effects in mountain, lake, or sky as beautiful as this in very many other districts. Palestine, though so small, contains a variety and richness of scenery quite out of proportion to its size. This, however, is not the first claim that Palestine has to interest. It is necessary to be well versed in history to appreciate the land thoroughly. Only a mind stored with the facts of history, sacred and profane, supported by an imagination capable of conjuring up its past glories can find true enjoyment in the land. That Sir F. Treves has this capacity, and might under happier conditions have written a very different book, is evident from his remarks about Jericho. But Jericho is but one site among a thousand, all full of historical associations.

Naturally it is to the student of the Bible that Palestine will have the greatest appeal, and here the points of interest are so many and so various—the scenes of countless incidents, the daily enaction of customs familiar through the Bible from childhood's years, the whole daily life, and the main features of scenery, climate, and meteorology so teeming with suggestion—that one would have thought that to anyone familiar with the Bible as literature—quite apart from any religious convictions—the land must necessarily have a fascination.

For those to whom the events of the Gospels are of primary importance in Life and Thought, how much more real this is! So much remains unaltered outwardly in the daily life that it requires but little imagination to recreate scenes in a setting far nearer the actual than any picture can suggest. More recently archæology, by revealing evidences of the life and culture of the earliest times, some 4,000 or 5,000 years ago, has added a new fascination to the land. Some will see in recent excavations only the unearthing of featureless heaps of stones and broken pots, but to those with even a slight interest in archæology it is possible in imagination to stand on the mighty ramparts of a Gezer, or a Megiddo, or a Jericho of long ago, and to see the long succession of armies—Canaanite, Egyptian, Hebrew, Greek, and Roman—sweep by, to see the evidences of the dim beginnings of culture and belief, and to picture the daily round of life in ages long anterior to written contemporary record. Every student knows how much this has contributed to the intellectual appreciation of the Old Testament. But these are things not for the globe-trotter, but for those who will spend at least some months in the land.

Some come to the country almost entirely ignorant of Bible history, while even more tourists know nothing of its secular history. To those who know practically nothing of the Maccabees, of the greatness of provincial Rome in the second and third centuries, of the rise of Mohammedanism, and of the romance of the Crusades, at least half that Palestine would illustrate is entirely lost. What is more romantic than those great cities of the Decapolis, such as Amman, Jerash, Beisan, and Umm Keis, of which the ruined theatres, columnated streets, triumphant arches, and countless tombs still exist to-day after fifteen centuries amid tangled weed and rushing water? Where are ruins more appealing in their utter desertion—left stranded by the change of commercial routes—than the vast remains of Palmyra, the many-coloured rocks of Petra, the weird basaltic ruins of the Leja, or the giant walls and columns of Baalbek? Can any European, claiming descent in some degree, perhaps, from the Crusaders, view unmoved the still extensive remains of the five great castles that guarded Northern Palestine, or stand, perchance, at Athlit while the sea washes restlessly over the floor of the great banquet house where the sorrowing members of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem gathered for one last feast before their final departure?

So much has been said of historic interests that it is only possible to touch on the modern features of Palestine. Sir F. Treves has passed through the land, but has failed to appreciate the modern romance of Zionism. Is it not a romance that thousands of men and women from Russia, Roumania, and other overcrowded Jewish centres, owing to the desire to found again a national centre in the land of their fathers, have, for the last twenty or thirty years, been struggling amid much

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discouragement, disease, and even disaster? They, at least, with their enthusiasm and idealism, backed up by modern agricultural methods and hard manual labour, show that they do not admit that this, their land, is "desolate."

A sympathetic attitude towards all forms of beliefs is essential. To some Protestants—and it would seem that Sir F. Treves is among them—a vast amount of the religious life of Jerusalem and other centres is a closed book. One whose only contact with the Eastern Churches is a superficial view of certain services at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the witness, perchance, of a gorgeous procession of bishops, is in no position to write about them. A sympathy with varied forms of seeking God, a certain historic feeling towards the great branches of the Catholic Church, an appreciation of all the heroism and devotion which has kept the individuals faithful to their beliefs amidst worldly temptations, bitter persecutions, and not infrequently bloody massacres, are necessary in one's attitude towards the great Eastern Churches in Moslem lands, whether Greek, Armenian, or Syrian. The Western mind is on these questions so far removed from the Oriental that only years of residence can make the average Englishman recognise the gold amid the dross, and wish rather to see the former purified than to see all swept away, to be replaced by something alien to the people. How many, for example, can see nothing at the centre of Christendom but what they consider "idolatry," or at best formalism, forgetting altogether the religious devotion, the tears and blood of the long centuries of Christendom, and ignoring what such a spot as the traditional site of Christ's empty sepulchre means to literally millions of Christians to-day.

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES.

The organising of the Red Cross activities—hospital accommodation, care of sick and wounded, provision of clothing, and the like—is proceeding with energy. Offers of hospital accommodation and other assistance continue to be made to the authorities, both by individuals and by the committees of existing hospitals in different parts of the country. Movements are on foot for organising several base and field hospitals, and it is satisfactory to learn from *The Times* that these projects have called forth generous subscriptions. The British Red Cross Society announces that the offers of hospital accommodation from private sources are already vastly in excess of any probable needs, and that those who are anxious to assist the sick and wounded can best do so by giving money, which should be sent to the Secretary, British Red Cross Society, Devonshire House, Piccadilly.

The Queen has become President of a Committee of Ladies of Justice, Ladies of Grace, and Honorary Associates of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England to provide hospital, medical, and other comforts for the sick and wounded. Full particulars can be obtained from St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.

The Queen has appointed Adeline Duchess of Bedford to be chairman of the Ladies' Committee of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth has given £10,000 to Lady Dudley towards forming the fund for the Australian voluntary hospital for war service, organised by her and accepted by the War Office. Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth has also promised to act as chairman of the committee. Australians who are interested in this patriotic undertaking should forward their donations to Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth, care of the Bank of New South Wales, 29, Threadneedle Street, E.C., and the envelopes should be marked "Australian Voluntary Hospital Fund."

A Base Hospital at Seat of War.

The Duchess of Westminster is arranging and organising a base hospital to go to the seat of war with all possible speed. She has obtained the consent of the British Red Cross Society and the approval of the Director-General of the Army Medical Service, also the generous services of Mr. Gordon Watson, other medical men, and trained nurses. She is giving £1,000 and guaranteeing £400 a month so long as the hospital is required, and she now appeals for further aid. All offerings of money and help should be sent to the secretary, the Duchess of Westminster's War Hospital Fund, Drummond's Bank, Charing Cross.

Lady Sarah Wilson has issued an appeal for funds to organise and equip a base hospital for English, French, and Belgian soldiers, to be established at a convenient spot on the Continent, the locality of which would be determined by the progress of hostilities.

Lady Sarah Wilson writes:—"We know full well that the Government arrangements for the sick and wounded will be in every way as efficient as the Expeditionary Force itself; but in a struggle of this kind, when all available hospital space will be taxed to its utmost limits, it would be an inestimable boon to the Army Base Hospitals to have some cases—perhaps the most severe ones—taken off their hands. During the Boer War over 20,000 patients were treated in a supplementary hospital. I propose to form a small committee and to run the hospital under the auspices of the Red Cross Society. I further hope to engage the best available surgeons and nurses. If the public will entrust me with their money I will guarantee that—as far as energy and hard work will go—the soldiers will get full benefit for every penny subscribed."

Subscriptions and any gifts in kind should be sent to Lady Sarah Wilson, 16, Grosvenor Street, W., which the Hon. Mrs. George Keppel has offered as an office for the proposed fund.

Lord Harrington has offered through Lady Perks to place Harrington House, Kensington Palace Gardens, W., at the disposal of the Committee of the City of London branch of the British Red Cross Society; and Mrs. Benyon, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, is forming a central depôt for the county at the Town Hall, Reading. The depôt is under the management of Mr. W. C. Blandy, 1, Friar Street, Reading. Sir Robert and Lady Harvey, of Langley Park, Slough, having offered their house to the St. John Ambulance as a hospital or convalescent home for officers, Lady Harvey will be grateful for any sort of contributions. Colonel Burn, M.P., Sir Francis Layland-Barrett, and Mrs. Dundee Hooper have offered their houses at Torquay.

The Committee of the Providence Free Hospital, St. Helens, Lancashire, have placed at the disposal of the authorities all their available accommodation for the treatment of sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, and Harestone Hall, Caterham, will be immediately offered for the purposes of a temporary hospital for officers. Twenty-five beds have been offered by the Committee of Management of the Italian Hospital, Queen Square, W.C.

British Red Cross Headquarters.

Queen Alexandra, who was accompanied by Queen Amelia of Portugal, on Monday paid a visit to Devonshire House, where the British Red Cross Society has its headquarters. Queen Amelia has offered her service in the nursing department.

The Empress Eugenie has sent £200 to the funds of the British Red Cross Society. The total amount of the special subscriptions received since Saturday exceeds £8,000.

The society has received an immense number of offers of assistance. There are upwards of 1,900 voluntary aid detachments, with a total personnel of some 60,000.

Many ladies have come forward anxious to serve as nurses, but, it is pointed out, only trained nurses can attend troops in the field. There is, however, much good work which can be done by women who have not these qualifications. Foremost is the provision of clothing, hospital requisites, medical comforts, and foods.

Provision of Clothing, etc.

The Queen has given a splendid lead in the work of co-operation with existing societies which understand the needs of the sick and wounded in the matter of clothing. A few days ago she sent a Lady-in-Waiting to the Polytechnic, Regent Street, where Mrs. James Cantlie (who founded the Women's Voluntary Aid Section of the British Red Cross Society during the Balkan War) is in charge, for a number of the approved patterns of the British Red Cross Society. Patterns of pyjamas, shirts, bed-jackets, and nightingales were immediately sent to Buckingham Palace.

Since then, at Devonshire House, complete sets of paper patterns, with directions, have been prepared, and can be had on application for 1s. 3d. Women who are forming sewing parties would be well advised to follow Queen Mary's example and apply to the Red Cross Society for their patterns.

Ladies who do not belong to any society are advised to find out what is being done in their district, and join or form a local class for sewing work at once. The Primrose League for the time being is non-political, and the local branches, who will provide themselves with a supply of Red Cross patterns, can be joined by any woman who is anxious to help. When a number of articles have been made, they should be carefully listed, the list should be attached firmly outside, with a duplicate placed inside, and the parcel sent to the Secretary, British Red Cross Society, Devonshire House. Pyjamas are most wanted, and next to them dressing-gowns.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The disappearance of the "Goeben" from the German Navy List, for the moment at any rate, removes a formidable disturber of traffic from the Levant, nor do I—in my robust faith in the British Navy—anticipate much trouble from the Austrians at sea. This seems to mean that what is left of Europe now has an opportunity for dividing up the carrying trade and the commerce of our enemies. If the Porte will kindly remain at peace we ought to see a most notable increase in British shipping and British imports in the Near East. "It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good," so let us try to benefit as far as possible from the enforced absence from the Levant of our chief competitors, who are engaged in trying to make good their "place in the sun," while we make their hay for our benefit.

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A correspondent invites me to call the attention of my readers to the splendid openings for British enterprise that are bound to occur in the near future owing to the elimination of German competition. My correspondent is afraid that our business men will be "*too* anxious to do what they can for the nation in other ways," so that they "may neglect opportunities and openings of the kind I refer to." There is—to the credit of our business men—some reason for the fear; but I fancy that as soon as we have got the war machine running as smoothly as such a machine can run, our business men will be ready enough to take advantage of any opening that may be made by force of circumstances. In point of fact, I have very good reason to believe that one or two of our biggest firms are already preparing to annex some of the fields in the Near East that have been exploited by the Teuton of late. In so doing the firms in question are not in any way "counting their chickens before they are hatched"; they are merely preparing to fill a void which would otherwise have to be filled by one of our foreign rivals.

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The Washington correspondent of *The Morning Post* says that the sympathies of the South are with England to-day, as the sympathies of England were with the South in 1861. As he further explains, a vital interest of the South is at stake; for the South depends for its prosperity on the cotton crop, and if it cannot be realised the people of the South will be "in almost as desperate a condition as they were during their own war half a century ago." If they are deprived of the English market many of them will be ruined, so the sooner the sea is cleared of German cruisers and it is safe to ship cotton to Europe the better, say they.

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Matchless Cigarettes.
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The question of the Haifa Vice-Consulate, upon which I touched briefly last week, is evidently of strong interest to a good many people. And the more I hear of it the more it seems to me that here is a very genuine case for inquiry, investigation, and — apparently — some radical change. Particulars of four or five specific cases of what I can only characterize as extraordinary dilatoriness on the part of our representative have been put before me, and I can testify that there certainly is a very strong feeling that things have been allowed to drift far too long. At the present time we must not—and, of course, we do not—expect the Foreign Office to take any action at all in the matter. But as soon as the war is over I hope something will be done. It is quite certain that Haifa is destined to become a highly important centre of trade, and it behoves us to be worthily represented there, even though at first the Consulate may not "pay" directly.

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The question put by Sir Clifford Cory in the House of Commons last week as to the Suez Canal Company delegating to its London office authority to receive payment of Canal dues seemed a very natural one, and the information published subsequently by the Canal Company's London representative to the effect that since 1884 it has been possible to pay transit dues through Messrs. Rothschild and Sons undoubtedly came as a big surprise to most people. For my part I am not in the least ashamed to admit that I had never heard anything of the arrangement, for I am informed that at a meeting held in the City last Friday of representatives of the principal French and British consigning firms not a single person knew anything of the existing facility, and none of the shipowners with whom I have talked on the subject was any better off.

***

The Egyptian Government accounts for the period April 1 to May 31, 1914, recently published in the *Journal Officiel*, are fairly satisfactory, showing an increase in revenue and a decrease in expenditure when compared with figures for the corresponding period of last year. The figures are as follows:—Revenue, £E2,560,420, against £E2,481,300 last year; expenditure, £E3,965,038, against £E4,005,196 last year. These two months are the slackest of the year financially, so that the position is as sound as can be expected. Whereas receipts under some heads have fallen off (e.g., the land, date, and urban taxes, in which the drop is marked, the figures being £E394,504 for the two months of this year, against £E525,688 for the corresponding period of last year), under others there has been a more than counterbalancing increase.

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In a letter received a few days ago an Athens correspondent informed me that the Greek Government had formally approved of the conditions of tendering for the work of supplying Athens and the Piræus with water, and that the publication of invitations to tender might be expected in a very short time. The letter was undated, but I gather from internal evidence that it was written about July 28-31. The outbreak of war will, of course, almost inevitably upset these arrangements, or at least lead to a postponement of the date for delivering tenders—which, my correspondent informed me, was fixed for March 30 next. At the same time, I hope that British firms will not forget that the work must and will be undertaken in the near future. The scheme, I understand, is to bring water from Lake Stymphalia or the River Melas, and the contract will include the provision and laying of a complete system of supply pipes.

***

I notice that the feasibility of introducing sericulture on a large commercial scale into Egypt is being discussed in the Egyptian Press. There seems to be no doubt that the climatic and other conditions are favourable. Mr. W. H. Cadman has undertaken experiments during several years past to discover which species are most adaptable to the climate, food supply, etc., of the country. These experiments prove, I understand, that there is no fundamental obstacle to establishing the industry. Its prospects of eventual success, however, depend on the adoption of well-considered measures to establish it on a sound basis. There is first the problem of food supply. Mulberry trees are plentiful in Egypt, but for the purposes of silk farms it is necessary to have plantations of small shrub-like trees carefully pruned so as to produce the highest average of leaves which can be picked in the shortest time and with the least labour. Such plantations would, it is stated, have to be cultivated for three years before they would produce a suitable crop. Secondly, there is the problem of preventing disease and the introduction of unsuitable or unhealthy species. It would be advisable that strict regulations, along with penalties for infringement, should be instituted, otherwise a policy of *laissez faire* would involve needless initial difficulties, and probably injure the infant industry so gravely as to discourage those who had entered upon it from persevering in their enterprise.

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I learn from *The Queensland Agricultural Journal* that the Government of the Australian State is setting apart certain areas in the central and southern districts for the experimental growing of Egyptian cotton. This is said to be the outcome of a visit paid by a Mr. E. E. Wood, a planter from the Southern States of America, who, having seen Queensland, described it as "the finest cotton growing country on God's earth." Of course, this is but an American "boost"—a kind of recognition of colonial hospitality—but it is known that for months past the Agricultural Department of Queensland have been negotiating for the purchase of the best specimens of Egyptian cotton seed for trials in their experimental stations. In this they are receiving the help and advice of the English Cotton Growers' Association. Special attention has been devoted to specimens of an extraordinarily fine Egyptian cotton produced, after many years' experimenting, on the estate of Mr. Pangalo, at Mit Ghamr, in the Dakahlia Province. This is said to be brownish in tint and very silky in texture. Its staple is said to be the strongest of all varieties of Egyptian growth, and the return from the plant is claimed to be the highest. Mr. Pangalo is naturally anxious to retain control over the cultivation of his new plant and to prevent the seed getting into the hands of outsiders without certain stipulations, but specimens are now being grown at the experimental stations of the Queensland Agricultural Department with results that have yet to be known.

COMMENTATOR.

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Near East Markets.

TURKISH TRADE AND THE WAR.

(From a Syrian Correspondent in London.)

The Turkish Government has taken the precautionary measure of prohibiting the export of cereals from the Empire, but I understand that dates may be exported. Otherwise the crops of the country are plentiful, except on the borders of Egypt, where they are deficient.

Malting Barley.

On account of this prohibition we shall be deprived of the useful Smyrna and Hama qualities of malting barley for the time being. Fortunately, the malting season has not begun yet, and by September the prohibition may be rescinded.

Exchange in Turkey.

For the present, there are no transactions, as all exports and imports are suspended with Europe, and the Government has declared a general moratorium in the country. Consequently, there can be no demand or sale for bills on Europe. Locally, however, the value of the pound sterling must have gone up considerably.

German Banks in Turkey.

As here, the German banks in Turkey have closed their doors, being unable, in consequence of the war, to get any money from Germany or elsewhere to carry on their usual business. I understand, however, that by concerted action with their European branches in foreign countries they collected all the gold they could get, and shipped it to Berlin, leaving their trustful clients abroad with unpaid cheques and bills to a considerable amount. I cannot hold out much hope for their creditors.

German Ships.

Some German ships are reported to be detained in German ports, with cargo on board paid for in Germany for account of Ottoman subjects. I would advise any whose property is thus held up to send at once particulars of such goods to the German Ambassador in Constantinople, and hold his Government responsible for their safe delivery within a reasonable time, or, in default, invoice them back to him, with interest added until payment, on notarial paper.

Baghdad Railway.

The Baghdad Railway concession must now be considered lost to Germany, and must revert to the Ottoman Government. Germany will probably not have the means or credit to carry it through.

Probable Duration of the War.

If Germany sues for peace it may end within a short period, as not one of the Allies desires to prolong the shedding of blood or the punishment of innocent German "gobes-mouche" for the folly of their leaders. Should, on the other hand, a temporary success harden the hearts of the German war party, the hammering will have to continue until the war spirit oozes out on the anvil, and the world is rid of this remnant of barbarism in Europe.

EFFECTS OF THE BALKAN WARS.

H.B.M. Consul-General at Budapest, Mr. W. G. Max Müller, in his report for 1913 on the trade and commerce of Hungary, states:—

The year 1913 was, from the economic point of view, one of the worst which Hungary has experienced for the past thirty years. Everything suffered from the Balkan wars—finance, commerce, and industry. The steady rise in the rate of interest charged by the banks, the consequent diminution of confidence in business circles, and the cessation of the supply of money from abroad came near to causing a disastrous financial crisis.

Austria-Hungary was obliged by the events in the Balkans to resort to measures of defence which countries farther removed from the scene of the conflagration were able to dispense with. The mobilisation entailed not only an expenditure of many millions, but also the withdrawal from productive work of many thousands of able-bodied men. The closest commercial connection usually exists between Hungary and the Balkan States, and the war naturally had a very adverse effect on trade in this direction.

PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, August 13.

Sugar.

The market is quiet, with not much doing. Closing prices for Foreign cubes on the spot are 35s. to 36s. per cwt.; granulated, 30s. to 31s.; crushed and chips, 32s. English: Tate's No. 2 cubes sold at 35s., and crushed at 32s.

Coffee.

There is no alteration to report, and there is still no reason to expect any serious effect in this market.

Currants.

The market is easier, Pyrgos being offered at 26s.; Zante, 28s. to 29s.; Gulf and Panarity, 23s. to 31s.; Vostizza, 32s. to 34s., and smalls, 28s. to 32s.

Sultanas.

There is no demand. Common to fine fruit is offered from 29s. to 52s.

Seeds.

Oilseeds remain nominal; linseed, London-Calcutta, spot, quoted 52s. Mustard seed is well held, but the demand is not active. Haricot beans have been in request at enhanced value, in view of probable scarcity. In canary seed there is not much actual business passing, but with restricted supplies and uncertainty as to shipments, all descriptions are dearer.

Oils.

The market is generally quiet, with little business passing. Linseed oil: Spot pipes, landed, sold 26s., and barrels ditto 26s. 6d.

Oilcakes, etc.

Owing to present state of affairs prices have advanced, but not to any appreciable extent; at the same time, quotations are irregular, and more or less nominal. Linseed cakes, best London made, have been sold at varying prices from £9 5s. to £9 15s. East India seed pures do not offer at the moment. Russians are in small supply, and are quoted at about £9 per ton. Cotton cakes: Egyptians, in store, meet a steady sale, and present value is £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d., while for early shipment £5 10s. ex ship has been accepted, with English makes offering at £5 12s. 6d. to £5 15s., and Bombay at £5. Decorticated cotton cake is sparingly offered at about £8 10s. per ton ex quay. Locust beans are advanced, and there are sellers of ready parcels of whole at £6 15s. and kibbled at £7 5s.

Corn.

Wheat: The market generally is quieter, and operators are gradually settling down to a trading level. Sellers, however, offer very sparingly. Choice white Kurrachee, on passage, is quoted 45s. Parcels are quiet and against sellers. Maize is firm, but little offering; 30s. to 31s. 3d. required for La Plata afloat, and 28s. Sept.-Oct. Barley not offered. Oats are neglected.

SITUATION IN SALONIKA.

Die Nachrichten für Handel, of Berlin, has published a German Consular report stating that the tension in Macedonia and Asia Minor between Greece and Turkey has rendered the situation in Salonika more acute, resulting in an almost complete stagnation of trade. The report adds that several firms have wound up their affairs, as they were unable to continue business and feared they would be declared bankrupt as soon as judicial bankruptcy proceedings were allowed.

According to *The Board of Trade Journal*, the Acting British Consul-General at Odessa (Mr. J. Lowdon), in his forthcoming report on the trade of that district in 1913, states that the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company has put the six large passenger steamers, which were built abroad, on the Odessa-Alexandria service. Next autumn four more vessels will be ready for the Odessa-Caucasus service. The company intends ordering new steamers to replace those on the Odessa-Caucasus line.

SUDAN PRODUCTS.

For some time past the analytical experts at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, have been devoting special attention to products from the Sudan with results which when they obtain the publicity they merit are certain to lead to remakable developments of the resources of that country and remunerative investment by British capitalists. Samples of every conceivable marketable commodity have been sent to the Institute experts, and their merits and commercial value have been compared with similar products from all parts of the world. Where scientific investigation warrants, the producers are receiving all encouragement and advice from the Institute. To mention only one article for which there is at present an increasing demand, and for the cultivation of which the Sudan is specially suitable, we find that the analytical and commercial advisers at the Institute report most favourably upon samples of linseed which have been submitted to them. These, they report, are of such exceptional quality as will command a very good price in the open market. The commercial experts, whose opinion, of course, must be regarded as unbiassed in so far as they are partial to the products of no particular country, say that the Sudan linseed would be worth 47s. 6d. per quarter in small quantities, and would sell freely at 44s. per quarter if marketed in large consignments. It will be well if those whose commercial interests are closely allied with the prosperity of the Sudan keep closely in touch with the scientific experts at the Institute, and avail themselves of their services in the analysis of products for which an outlet is sought in this and other countries.

PALESTINE ORANGES AND CROPS.

The following report has been received from Jaffa by the *Zionist Gazette*:—

This year's exportation of oranges is finished, and we think it interesting to give below a detailed statement about the exportation of oranges from this port:—

Exportation of Oranges from Jaffa, 1913-14.

Destination.	Nos. of cases.
Liverpool	587,481
Manchester	400
London	4,626
Other parts of England	3,361
Marseilles	3,412
Hamburg	9,487
Trieste	58,492
Odessa	148,409
Egypt and Red Sea	149,846
Turkey	268,942
Roumania, Bulgaria, etc.	19,405
Total	1,553,861

The prospects for the next season are quite promising, indeed, as the flowering season took its normal course. The grain-crop is now at its height, and generally speaking the results can be looked upon as favourable, particularly in the wheat-harvest.

From Gaza a good or average-crop was expected, but the harvest is far below expectations. The same has been reported from the German Colony "Wilhelma," near Jaffa, where the field-mice do considerable harm.

The prospects for the summer-seeding are said to be favourable; only the water-melons, a remarkable exportation article, suffered seriously from heavy rainfalls in the month of April.

SODA PRODUCTS IN TURKEY.

Of late there has been a steady increase in the manufacture of soda products in the Ottoman Empire, with the result that home chemical manufacturers have instructed their agents to concentrate greater attention on the needs of that developing industry. The imports of caustic soda of 70° to 72° and of carbonate of soda at Aleppo amount annually to 2,500 to 4,000 barrels of 100 kilogs of the former and 1,500 sacks of 100 kilogs of the latter. These products are used in the Turkish soap factories, of which there is an increasing number, and in conjunction with similar products of local manufacture. The consumption of bicarbonate of soda amounts to about 200 sacks a year.

It is reported that there is a ready sale for naphthaline at Varna (Bulgaria), where the trade of furriery is fairly developed. The sale price of naphthaline is about 26.50 frs. per 100 kilog. c.i.f. Varna with 2 per cent. discount for payment in cash.

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MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, August 12.

The market has been open during the past week, but, so far as fresh business is concerned, practically nothing has been done. Trade is thoroughly disorganised as a result of the European war, and in numerous directions production of yarn and cloth is being more and more curtailed. The Liverpool Futures market has been closed, but business on the spot has been partially resumed. The outlook at the moment is gloomy, and until arrangements can be made for the resumption of the shipments of cloth there is little hope of relief. We hear that endeavours are being made to make up a cargo for a boat to Egypt during the next day or two, but certain houses have been informed by their representatives on the other side that they fear they will not be able to send remittances for some little time. With regard to India, shipments are suspended, but hopes are expressed of some boats going through during the next week or two. In the meantime manufacturers do not know which way to turn; they can neither sell nor deliver, and undoubtedly the trade has never passed through such a crisis as is now going on. Financial matters are attracting considerable attention, and there is a fear of difficulties sooner or later. In the meantime, all traders are determined to make the best of the situation, and there is much forbearance with each other. Practically no business has been done in yarn, and quotations in both American and Egyptian qualities are quite nominal. By the end of this week a great number of mills will be entirely closed.

SPINNERS OF EGYPTIAN COTTON.

At a meeting last Friday of members of the General Committee of the Employers' Federation, who are representative of the Egyptian section of the spinning trade, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That all spinners of Egyptian cotton are recommended to run short time during the present crisis, and the appeal made by the Emergency Committee that in doing so all that is possible should be done to alleviate the hardships of the operatives is endorsed."

This notice has been sent out to the members.

RAW SILK PRODUCTION.

According to "provisional" statistics of the production of raw silk throughout the world, issued by the Union of Raw Silk Merchants of Lyons, the total production of the Near East in 1913 was under that of the previous year. The following figures give the production in lbs., the figures in parentheses being the "provisional" production (in lbs.) for 1912:—

Syria and Cyprus, 1,080,000 (881,849); Anatolia, 904,000 (936,965); other Turkish provinces in Asia, 287,000 (264,555); Adrianople, 187,000 (for European Turkey, 573,202); Bulgaria, Servia, and Roumania, 276,000 (319,670); Greece, Salonika, and Crete, 463,000 (110,231, excluding Salonika); Caucasus, 849,000 (870,826); Turkestan and Central Asia (exports), 496,000 (617,294); Persia (exports), 463,000 (496,040). The total for 1913 is thus 5,005,000 lbs., as compared with 5,070,632 lbs. in 1912. The grand total is estimated at 59,636,000 lbs., as against 56,951,600 lbs. "provisionally" estimated last year. The corrected grand total for last year is given as 59,448,000 lbs., the greatest ever recorded.

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WOOLLEN CLOTHS IN TURKEY.

The Chamber of Commerce Journal translates from the report of the Belgian Consul-General at Smyrna some interesting remarks regarding the trade in woollen cloths in Asiatic Turkey.

The report states that the imports of cloth into Smyrna tend to increase, and average in value £200,000 to £240,000 a year. The imports in 1912 were 589,778 kilos. Cloths of ordinary quality, including woollen and cotton mixtures, are mostly imported to Smyrna. England formerly had the first place, but now follows Austria; she sends ordinary beaver cloths, stuffs for great-coats and cloths for outfitters. These articles cost from 1s. to 5s. a yard. The fine qualities for tailors are supplied from Scotland at prices from 7s. to 10s. a yard. France sends fine tissues, figured, fancy and plain, pure wool cheviots and wool and cotton mixtures, costing from 2s. 9d. to 8s. a metre. Austria and Germany have considerably developed their trade in cloths in recent years at the expense of England, France and Belgium; their success is due to their imitation of the cloths of the last-named countries, to the regular visits of travellers, and to the facilities for payment which are accorded to customers; these countries supply a large quantity of fancy cloths of all kinds. Austria also supplies plain-coloured cloths, called "levantines" or "Orient," the demand for which is considerable in the interior. Germany's speciality is very cheap articles from 2s. to 4s. 9d., and Austria sells cloths at medium prices from 3s. 2d. to 6s. 4d. Belgium sends fine fancy cloths which have a good reputation for durability. Military cloths come chiefly from England and Austria and are sold at 1s. to 3s. a yard. A company recently formed produces cloths of ordinary quality destined for the Ottoman army.

At Aleppo, the report states, Oriental cloths, plain or coloured, with stiff dressing, come from Austria and Germany to the value of about £28,000 a year. There is an increasing trade in new cloths, the value of which is £18,000 a year, the imports being from Belgium, France, Austria and Germany. England sends Union cloths, castor and melton; Belgium supplies merinos and cashmeres, dyed black and dark blue, in widths of 100 to 105 cm., used for making clothes for Mussulman women, to the value of £1,600 a year. Woollen flannels come principally from France, Germany, Austria and Belgium to the value of £2,400. Square shawls of German origin are imported to the value of £4,000. The shawls are of wool or cotton, in sizes from 80 by 80 to 170 by 190 cm. Prices, 1s. to 6s. 4d. each.

Blankets to the value of about £630 a year are imported into Tripoli from France, Austria and Germany. The ordinary article destined for emigrants is required in sizes 185/135 by 170/120 cm., at prices from 10d. to 1s. 1½d. Cloths to the value of £7,200, mainly from England, Belgium, Austria and France, are imported. Fancy descriptions are required in small pieces of 2 m. 75. Half pieces and whole pieces are only required in the plain goods.

In Trebizond the imports of drapery and novelties amount in value to £9,200, mainly from Belgium, but also through agents at Constantinople, who send their representatives periodically to this place. England, Austria and Germany also participate in the trade. In plain articles, pure wool black cheviots of every-day quality are used. Roubaix firms supply an article which is well appreciated. The attention of manufacturers is drawn to the need for a fine appearance in the cloth, the price of which should not exceed that of competing goods. The tissue should also be well milled. The imports into Samsoun amount to 141,000 kilos., value £33,600, from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, and a small quantity from Belgium. The articles imported are chiefly chayaks or Bulgarian cheviots.

The imports of caustic soda of 70 to 72 degs. and of carbonate of soda at Aleppo, Turkey-in-Asia, amount annually to 2,500 to 4,000 barrels of 100 kilos. of caustic soda, and 1,500 sacks of 100 kilos. of carbonate of soda. These goods are used in the local soap factories in conjunction with similar products of local manufacture. The consumption of bicarbonate of soda amounts to about 200 sacks a year.

CRETAN TRADE.

The Board of Trade Journal publishes some interesting extracts from a forthcoming British Consular report on the trade of Crete for 1912 and 1913. It is suggested that the observance of the following points is likely to have a beneficial effect on British trade with that island—(1) The appointment of good local agents, who should be well provided with the necessary samples to show to their clients. (2) Cretan merchants prefer quotations c.i.f. Cretan ports to quotations f.o.b. British ports. (3) The metric system is the best understood in Crete. Tons and cwts. are generally understood, but metric system quotations are infinitely more satisfactory. It is also easier to calculate in francs and centimes than in £ s. d. (4) Shipments should be "via Piræus." Other routes are longer and more costly, besides being unsatisfactory owing to the necessity for two or more trans-shipments. (5) It is well-nigh impossible to expect to do business on a cash basis in the Levant. The usual terms are from three to six months, or cash against documents at a bank in Crete with 5 to 6 per cent. discount. (6) United Kingdom merchants would do well to understand that the appointment of agents and the sending of samples is not sufficient for the purpose of developing their trade. They, therefore, might do well to imitate their foreign rivals by letting their travellers include, at least, a flying visit to Crete in their yearly itineraries to the Near East. The local agent often needs stimulating, if good use is to be made of him, and the traveller could see to this. The latter could also study local requirements on the spot and take home the necessary notes, besides getting a first-hand knowledge of the commercial standing of his customers. (7) The language of the country is modern Greek, but French and Italian are in use for foreign business correspondence. It is very rare to find any English understood. (8) United Kingdom firms should take more notice of the Government and municipal contracts. Many Government and municipal contracts have been put up lately in Canea and Candia, such as construction and equipment of ports, tramways, electric lighting installations, waterworks, cold storage depot, and the supply of road rollers, motor watercarts, motor stone breakers, etc. It is difficult to suppose that United Kingdom manufacturers are unwilling to look at these contracts, while Continental firms are only too happy to tender.

The view is expressed that it seems as if Crete is at last entering on a period of tranquillity, and tranquillity means prosperity, which in turn means economic development. If this is so, then the day is not far off when ports, roads, railways, tramways, and all the other necessities of economic expansion will be set on foot, and in all this the United Kingdom is surely well able to take her part.

TRADING IN EGYPT.

In his report on the trade and commerce of Alexandria for the year 1913, the British Vice-Consul (Mr. Arthur B. Geary) states:—"A correspondent with a long experience of business in this country maintains that the United Kingdom would considerably increase the volume of trade between the two countries if the home manufacturer were more accommodating among other things in the matter of credit. The methods of our German, Austro-Hungarian, and Italian rivals might be studied with advantage, and in many cases initiated. Manufacturers in those countries are willing to accept bills payable at four, six, or eight months from date of delivery when once they are satisfied as to the standing of the purchaser.

"As to representatives in Egypt, the Consul writes, there seems to be a growing tendency to appoint salaried representatives of British firms in Egypt, as soon as the growth of business renders this advisable, instead of relying entirely on local agents. There can be little doubt that an employee, whose career is bound up with the success of his firm, while his profits in most cases increase automatically with the increase of business that passes through his hands, is more likely to advance the interests of his firm than an agent who has many irons in the fire. Where the business does not justify the appointment of a salaried representative it might be possible for more than one non-competitive firm to appoint a joint representative."

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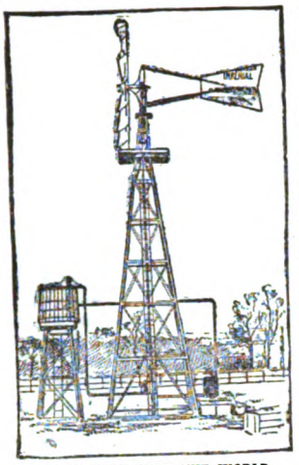

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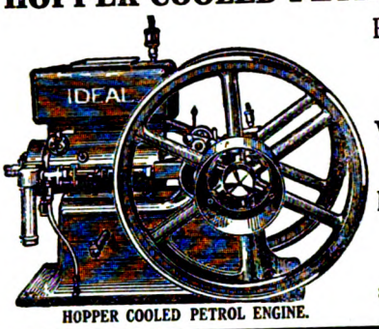

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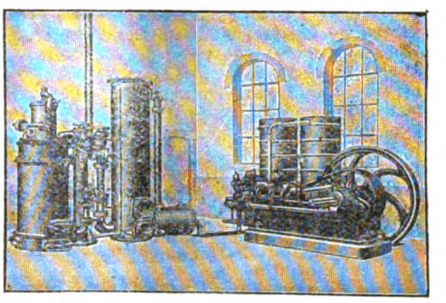

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Engineering Notes.

War in the Air.

There are people who live in constant dread of a sudden apparition of a procession of Zeppelins and attendant aircraft. We had an instance of this a few days ago, when a foreign prisoner barricaded himself in his cell to escape the German bombs. Fortunately for the security of the realm the vast majority of British people are too eminently practical and logical to pay more than passing attention to this prominent arm of the German War Lord. And there is no reason why they should do otherwise; for, as we pointed out in these notes last week, aircraft manœuvres have hitherto given very inconclusive results. And we must remember that both airships and aeroplanes will be compelled when taking the offensive to remain at a very high altitude for fear of being disabled by hostile gun fire. One of the most satisfactory weapons for use against aircraft is an automatic machine gun weighing twenty-five pounds, which requires no special mounting. There is no recoil, and it can be fired at a rate of from 350 to 750 shots per minute. The calibre is .30, and the cartridges are provided from a drum-shaped magazine capable of containing fifty shots, which can be emptied in four seconds, and refilled in half that time. The barrel is surrounded by a cylindrical aluminium jacket with some twenty grooves, which is enclosed in a light steel tube 3¾ inches in diameter, a portion of the tube projecting beyond the muzzle at a reduced diameter of 2⅞ inches. The enclosed grooves, forming continuous air-ducts, have free communication with the air, and each time a shot is fired a draught of cool air is sucked in through these ducts. The cooling process is thus automatic, and the use of water or any other liquid is obviated.

In connection with this subject it is interesting to note the opinion of a German with regard to the potentialities and limitations of the Zeppelins. Mr. Charles Schaeffer, lately auditor for the Zeppelin Airship Company, Baden-Baden, according to a telegram from New York, said to a London newspaper representative there that Germany largely depends upon her fifteen Zeppelin dirigibles for success in the battle against France and Russia, but he believes that their usefulness will be destroyed by what he calls "fanatical" French aviators who will risk their lives to disable them. "They are an excited, warm-blooded class," Mr. Schaeffer added, "and the sacrifice of human life in the air would be nothing if it resulted in the destruction of one of Germany's great air cruisers. The body of the ship is composed of eighteen ballonets. Eight of them can be pierced by shells and the craft will remain afloat. Aeroplanes, of course, can ram them, and cause a collapse of the steel and aluminium framework." To what extent flying machines can be used in war we shall soon see; at present they seem to be useful only for strategical reconnaissance.

A Fire-fighting Machine.

A fire-fighting machine of an entirely new type that has recently been put into the service of the London Fire Brigade, will interest many municipal authorities in the Near East who are anxious to introduce modern methods and modern equipments in their brigades. The machine is a handsome motor van, fitted with an engine of the War Office subsidy type, and a gear-box giving four speeds and reverse. It is designed to attain a maximum speed on the level of twenty-five miles per hour. The principal use of this emergency tender is to assist in fire fighting in enclosed spaces, as, for example, in basements and cellars, and also to provide greater safety for firemen when they work in a vitiated atmosphere. It is equipped with powerful searchlights and cluster lamps to illuminate the scene of a fire at night. The power for these lamps is obtained from a dynamo driven by the car engine, and giving a current of 100 ampères at 100 volts. Two searchlights are carried, each being of 3,000 candle-power. An electrically operated fan, capable of pumping 400 cubic feet of air per minute, is direct coupled to a motor. The object of this fan is to pump clear air into smoky basements, sewers, etc., with a view to enabling the firemen to see what they are doing. On each side of the van are compartments containing two sets (four in all) of self-contained breathing apparatus of the Proto type. These enable four of the crew of the vehicle to live in an atmosphere of poisonous gases for one hour. The Proto equipment includes a leather helmet, goggles, and a breathing apparatus providing a supply of oxygen and caustic soda to absorb the carbonic acid which results from respiration. There are many other equipments of the vehicle too numerous to be described here. The machine is, in fact, completely equipped with the most modern devices to render it entirely efficient for the work for which it is destined.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

New Harbour in Palestine.

The Jewish colony, Chederah, between Jaffa and Haifa, will before long have their own harbour, which will greatly further the trade of the district, says the *Zionist Gazette*. Baron Edmund Rothschild, of Paris, is having this entire installation made at his expense, and will attend the celebration of the laying of the foundation-stone.

Large Pumps for Egypt.

Particulars have reached us of the pumps now being supplied for the irrigation works in the Behera district, which indicate that the plant to be installed is of the most modern type, showing a great improvement on older designs. The pumps are of the Humphrey pattern, similar to those in use at the Metropolitan Water Board's reservoir at Chingford, but with some novel improvements. The valves are of a special design, enabling them to shut fairly close, even when obstruction fouls the seating. The pumps are eight in number, with a total capacity of 792,000,000 gallons per twenty-four hours at a lift of 19 ft. to 20 ft. The maximum internal diameter of the combustion chamber is 8 ft. 8 ins., and its height about 14 ft. The water valve-box—7 ft. in height—has a diameter of 8 ft. 8 ins. The gas-producing Mond plant, consisting of nine producers, working on anthracite, one of which is a spare, will gasify 44 tons per day, and it is supplied under a guaranteed consumption of 1.15 lbs. of coal per water horse-power.

Electrical Goods in Turkey.

A correspondent writes:—"With the markets of the world closed to Germany, other countries must, of necessity, have recourse to Great Britain for manufactures hitherto supplied by that country. Official reports indicate that the Mediterranean is now clear of German ravagers of commerce, and that trade with the Near East will speedily be open to this and friendly countries. It only remains for British manufacturers and producers to act on the advice given by Mr. Bonar Law in the House of Commons, and make a bold bid for commercial fields vacated by the Germans. They can secure those fields and retain them for years to come. Turkey has for long been a large purchaser of German wares, particularly those required for illuminating purposes. Included among them are all varieties of electric lamps and fittings, gas apparatus, and incandescent mantles of all descriptions, for which there has been an increasing demand in the Ottoman Empire for ten or more years. A report recently issued by the French Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople points out that, with the exception of the competition of France, Germany has enjoyed practically a monopoly in the supply of electric and gas requisites for lighting purposes. Indent agents in Turkey and the Near East are cosmopolitan in their business ideas and business methods. They are just as anxious to fill orders for British as for German manufacturers if terms are anything like equal. We have authority for stating that some of our home manufacturers at least are reversing this, and that within three months Turkish buyers particularly will have price lists and catalogues printed—in their own language—which will convince them that England is still the workshop of the world, with resources even superior to those of the country with which she is now at war.

Mining in Greece.

The mining industry of Greece, says a consular report, is considerable. Lead is the principal product, but in this report a full account is given of the iron industry, which is a comparatively new discovery. Large deposits of iron ore occur in the neighbourhoods of Thebes, Locris, Karditza, and other places in Bœotia, and the shipments in 1912 amounted to some two million tons. The marble industry is less important than was formerly the case. It may be that Bœotia will one day be the richest part of Greece, for the draining of Lake Copais has added to it a large tract of very fertile territory, and if the iron mines continue productive, the district will be extremely flourishing.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Grey Cloth.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of grey cloth for overcoats. August 26.

Paving Stones and Bondstones.—Tenders are invited by the Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of 6,500 square metres of paving stones and 350 square metres of bondstones. September 1.

Office Supplies.—Tenders are invited by the Railways and Telegraphs Administration, Cairo, for the supply of office supplies. October 1 (L).

Span Bridges.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply, transport, and erection of three swing span bridges and four lift span bridges. Tenders to be sent to Director-General, Central Gharbia Drainage Projects, 3, Soliman Pasha Street, Cairo. September 30.

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

Shipping and Tonnage Returns, 1911-1913.

A White Paper was issued last Friday giving the returns of navigation through the Suez Canal for 1913, as compared with those of 1911 and 1912. The returns are given in eleven tables, and the following are extracts from the summary of the contents of these tables as given in the despatch of the British directors of the Canal to Sir Edward Grey:—

The net tonnage for the past year shows a decrease of 241,236 tons as compared with that of 1912, and an increase of 1,709,090 tons as compared with that of 1911. The reduction of the transit dues to 6.25 frs. per ton from January 1, 1913, together with the slight reduction of tonnage, had the effect of reducing the gross receipts, which amounted in 1913 to 126,650,934 frs., as compared with 136,423,831 frs. in 1912, and 134,762,199 frs. in 1911.

The number of vessels which passed through the Canal was 4,969 in 1911, 5,373 in 1912, and 5,085 in 1913, of which 3,089 in 1911, 3,335 in 1912, and 2,951 in 1913 carried the British flag. There has been a decrease of 795,137 tons last year as compared with 1912 in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 11,715,947 tons in 1911, 12,847,621 tons in 1912, and 12,052,484 tons in 1913. During the same period, the tonnage of German vessels has increased from 2,790,963 tons in 1911 to 3,025,415 tons in 1912, and 3,352,287 tons in 1913.

The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage in 1913 was 58 and 60.2 respectively, as compared with 62.1 and 63.4 in 1912, and 62.2 and 64 in 1911. The percentage of German vessels and their net tonnage was 15.3 and 16.7 respectively, as compared with 13 and 14.9 in 1912, and 13.4 ad 15.2 in 1911, while the percentage of net tonnage of the other maritime nations using the Canal in 1913 remained practically stationary as compared with the preceding year.

Of 3,867 merchant vessels and vessels in ballast of a net tonnage of 14,847,861 tons passing through the Canal, 2,709 ships of a net tonnage of 10,733,372 tons were British, being 70 per cent. of the number and 72.2 per cent. of the tonnage; 478, or 12.3 per cent., were German vessels, whose tonnage was 13.7 per cent. of the whole; Holland, France, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Italy combined furnishing a total of 17.7 per cent. of the vessels and 15.5 per cent. of the tonnage of the carrying trade to the East through the Suez Canal.

In the ten years 1891-1900, the annual net tonnage ranged from 8,698,777 tons to 9,738,152 tons, and the transit receipts from 83,422,101 frs. to 90,623,608 frs. The mean net tonnage per vessel, which in 1881 was only 1,517 tons, rose from 2,067 tons in 1891 to 2,926 tons in 1901, and to 3,940 tons in 1913.

Forty steamers, exceeding 492 ft. in length or more than 59 ft. in breadth, with a draught of over 26 ft. 3 ins., passed through the Canal in 1913. The percentage of vessels drawing less than 26 ft. 3 ins. was 91 in 1913, as compared with 93 in 1912 and 1911 respectively, whilst that of vessels drawing more than 26 ft. 3 ins. was 9 in 1913, as compared with 7 in 1912 and 1911.

During 1913 316 vessels passed through the Canal for the first time, 18 of which were warships and 99 belonging to shipping companies whose vessels regularly use the Canal, and who furnished over 90,000 net tons to the traffic of the Canal..

The mean duration of passage for all vessels navigating the Canal was 16 hrs. 19 mins. in 1913, while the percentage of vessels navigating by night as well as by day amounted to 96.9 per cent. in 1913, as compared with 96.3 per cent. in 1912.

The number of troops carried through the Canal during last year amounted to 88,748, as against 73,248 in 1912. There was an increase of 18,330 Turkish, 951 French, 560 Japanese, 513 Dutch. 243 German, and 19 Spanish, against a decrease of 4,917 British, 131 Portuguese, and 56 Italian troops as compared with 1913.

The number of civilian passengers amounted to 169,641 in 1913, as against 164,333 in the preceding year, being an increase of 5,308; while the number of pilgrims, emigrants, and convicts was 23,846 in 1913, as compared with 28,822 in 1912, or a decrease of 4,976. In the year 1870, 26,758 civil and military passengers were carried through the Canal; in 1880 the number rose to 98,900, in 1890 to 161,352, in 1900 to 282,203, and in 1913 to 282,235, as against 266,406 in 1912.

During last year the tonnage from north to south was increased in each of the chief classes of merchandise, namely, coal, petroleum, railway material, and salt, by 225,094, 45,020, 89,956, and 17,705 tons respectively, as compared with the preceding year.

In the traffic from south to north there were increases in:—Rice (358,986 tons), manganese (245,848 tons), cotton (106,070 tons), oil seeds (100,781 tons), various minerals, and grounds nuts; while the chief decreases in the tonnage of this traffic were barley (501,543 tons), wheat (435,032 tons), sugar (347,313 tons), gram (175,558 tons), and soya beans (97,924 tons).

The traffic with the Indian peninsula has decreased, comparatively with 1912, by 589,000 tons, while there are increases of 130,000 tons with China, Japan, and Vladivostock, and of 65,000 tons with Australasia. Traffic with Siam has doubled during the past year, and there is an increase of 50 per cent. in the traffic with Indo-China. The traffic with the American coast of the Pacific has increased from 174,000 tons in 1912 to 272,000 tons last year. This is attributed to the anxiety of creating traffic in this region in anticipation of the opening of the Panama Canal.

While considerable attention has been paid of late to the relative advantages of the Suez Canal and Cape routes to and from Australia, it may be pointed out that the number of vessels sailing from Europe to Australia via the Suez Canal during 1913 represents only 30 per cent. of the total sailings, the route via the Cape being much more frequented. This preference for the Cape route is explained by the development of British exports to Australia, which are favoured by the Australian preferential tariff and cheap freights, and for which a long sea journey is not detrimental. The Cape route is also cheaper in the case of the emigrant traffic. The route from Australia to Europe via the Suez Canal is, on the contrary, more frequented than the Cape route, 303 vessels out of a total of 508 having preferred this route during 1913, and this is explained by the desire to save time and to arrive in Europe at fixed dates.

Seven-eighths of wools exported from Australia are imported into Europe via Suez, the buyers insisting on this route in order to obtain fixed dates of arrival in Europe for the periodical sales in London. Fifty per cent. of Australian frozen meat also is imported by the Suez Canal, owing to the rapidity of the journey as compared with the Cape route. The owners of certain tramp steamers also prefer the Canal route in order to avoid the winds and contrary currents of the Cape route at certain seasons when the engines of their vessels are not sufficiently powerful.

We reproduce below the Table showing the shipping and tonnage that passed through the Canal during the year 1913, arranged under their respective flags and categories:—

Flag.	Merchant Vessels.		Mail Steamers.		Warships and Transports.		Government-chartered Vessels.		Vessels in Ballast.		Totals.	
	No.	Net Tonnage.	No.	Net Tonnage.	No.	Net Tonnage.	No.	Net Tonnage.	No.	Net Tonnage.	No.	Net Tonnage.
		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.
United Kingdom	2,503	10,080,774	189	1,132,988	25	50,338	28	135,786	206	652,598	2,951	12,052,484
Germany	471	1,934,495	296	1,376,386	—	—	4	31,768	7	9,638	778	3,352,287
Holland	218	845,530	105	410,297	5	10,757	—	—	14	20,770	342	1,287,354
France	94	343,436	155	567,925	1	2,932	—	—	6	13,444	256	927,787
Austria-Hungary	88	262,335	128	492,092	2	2,744	—	—	28	88,659	246	845,830
Japan	12	46,195	53	286,180	—	—	—	—	3	11,357	68	343,732
Russia	60	159,410	47	171,333	1	3,251	—	—	2	6,601	110	340,595
Italy	10	22,822	74	226,215	9	5,177	12	28,977	5	7,385	110	290,576
Denmark	31	84,933	25	86,915	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	171,848
Sweden	19	66,577	14	56,380	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	122,957
Norway	33	76,446	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	16,867	44	93,313
Spain	—	—	26	75,643	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	75 643
Greece	7	18,482	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	36,078	17	54,560
Turkey	10	17,272	—	—	9	18,159	3	3,594	1	2,623	23	41,648
Siam	6	15,153	1	2,524	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	17,677
United States of America	4	2,881	—	—	1	3,320	—	—	3	1,275	8	7,476
Persia	4	3,158	—	—	—	—	2	1,334	1	667	7	5,159
China	—	—	—	—	2	2,087	—	—	—	—	2	2,087
Portugal	—	—	—	—	1	871	—	—	—	—	1	871
Totals	3,570	13,979,899	1,113	4,884,878	56	99,686	49	201,459	297	867,962	5,085	20,033,884

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Council of Ministers has decreed Egypt to be in a state of war.

A general commercial moratorium has been decreed in Egypt until September 15. Rents and salaries are exempted from its operation. The banks are authorised to pay only 5 per cent. on deposits up to a maximum of £3,000, therefore the Deutsche Orient Bank has been re-opened. The Bank rate has been reduced from 10 per cent. to 7 per cent.

Steamers arriving at Malta report that Constantinople is on the verge of riots owing to the scarcity of food. Fancy prices are being paid for flour.

The export of grain from Turkey is prohibited.

A moratorium, to last until September 13, has been declared in Cyprus.

It is announced that the exportation of grain and cattle from Cyprus is prohibited.

The Constantinople *Gazette* publishes an Iradé according the Minister of War a supplementary credit of £T3,000,000.

The Constantinople Correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs, under date August 9:—According to the *Tanin*, the Minister of Finance has issued a statement to the Agence Ottomane to the effect that the Imperial Government, in order to relieve the financial situation, has authorized the Imperial Ottoman Bank to issue bank-notes for £T1 and for 50 piastres. The Bank will withdraw notes of the denomination of £T100 and £T50 to the face value of the new issue.

In a message dated August 6, Reuter's Constantinople correspondent reports:—"Owing to delay in the arrival of specie, the Government has enacted a provisional law that the banknotes of the Imperial Ottoman Bank must be accepted on the same terms as specie in all parts of the Ottoman Empire for all transactions, public or private.

"While the law remains in force the Ottoman Bank is not obliged to pay in specie the value of the banknotes."

H.M. Embassy at Constantinople has forwarded a copy (in French) of the revised Turkish pilgrim regulations for the year 1914-15, which may be seen by firms in the United Kingdom at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

A Reuter's message from Sofia, dated August 8, says:—"The Sobranje has voted a three months' moratorium. Parliament has also passed a resolution suspending the proceedings for high treason against the Stambulovist Ministers."

1,316 sheep, 205 cattle, 8 goats, and 2 camels were exported from Haifa Province in June. According to a Berber Province report, there was a big seasonal drop in the sales of livestock in El Damer during June, sheep totalling 1,242 only and cattle 118.

The Board of Trade desire to call attention to the fact that by an Order in Council, dated July 16 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1914—No. 1,095), certain denominations of "B. G." (Birmingham Gauge) gauges for iron and steel sheets and hoops were authorised for use in trade on and after November 1 next.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of the translation of a Greek Royal Decree, dated June 27-July 10, 1914, which provides that, from September 1-14, 1914, the importation into Greece of sugar packed in any manner will be permitted, the existing regulations being abolished from that date.

Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, Director of the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, wishes it to be known that the statement that he is Secretary to the British Section of the International Petroleum Commission at Bucharest is incorrect.

We understand that the first directors of the newly registered company, F. W. Cuming and Co., Ltd., are Mr. F. W. Cuming and Mr. E. Mille, both of 23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

At Mersina, in Asiatic Turkey, the following goods are imported each year:—About 400 bales, of 60 kilos. each, of sole leather, 500 dozen glacé kid skins, and 200 dozen patent calf skins.

Owing to the disruption of communications with Sweden and other countries, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in London announce the suspension of the publication of the monthly journal of the Chamber.

The importation of coal into Egypt during the period January 1 to July 30, amounted to 895,135 tons, against 829,506 during the corresponding period of last year.

The directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have intimated to members of their office staff who have been called out for duty with the Territorial Army that their salaries will be paid in full during their absence and their posts kept open.

The R.M.S.P. Co. announce that in order to meet the pressure from Americans wishing to return to the United States, they have decided, subject to sufficient inducement, to despatch their steamer "Arcadian" from Liverpool on Monday next, the 17th inst., to New York direct. The fares to New York will be from 500 dollars upwards.

Married men, and those having dependents, serving in the Territorials or reserve forces of army and navy, in the employment of Mackie and Co., Distillers, Limited, White Horse Bonded Stores, Argyllshire, Glasgow, Liverpool, and London, will, till further notice, receive full pay, which will be given to their dependents. Their berths will be kept open for them on their return, and in future a preference in employment will be given by the firm to men who are serving or have served in the defensive forces of the country.

The North British and Mercantile Insurance Company have granted leave of absence with full salary to all members of the Territorial force on their staff.

No regulations exist in Morocco in regard to commercial travellers, and no restrictions are imposed on them. Commercial travellers' samples are admitted free of duty provided they are re-exported within six months.

According to the weekly circular issued by Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., of Alexandria, 3,617,366 ardebs of cotton seed were exported from Egypt between September 1, 1913, and July 23 of this year.

At the request of the Bulgarian Government, the Porte has authorised the running of a bi-weekly train service between Sofia and Dedeagatch.—Reuter.

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The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

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CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

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The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

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ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

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Reserve - - - - - 600,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

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(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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The Sudan as a Field for Investment.

In an article contributed to the *Financial Review of Reviews* on "The Finances of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan," Mr. Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S., who only recently returned from an extended visit to the country, deals with the question of the openings for investment of capital in the Sudan. He says:—In considering the Sudan as a field for investment, it must be remembered that it is more suitable for exploitation than for settlement; it is not a "white man's country" in the accepted sense of the word, and even the Egyptians do not thrive there as they thrive in their own land.

No doubt, as the expansion of the country comes about through official efforts, there will be openings for private undertakings which offer reasonable opportunities of realizing sound profit. It is unfortunately true that the greater amount of British capital which has found its way into the Sudan hitherto has proved unprofitable. As already indicated, a considerable part of the invested capital was put into the country before it was ready to receive and profit by it, and without any sufficient inquiry having been made into existing conditions and future prospects. That this money should have been partially or entirely lost should occasion but little surprise.

Of the surviving industries—such as the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., formed in 1904, the Sudan Goldfields Company, Limited, formed in 1908, the Sudd Fuel (Suddite), Limited, formed in 1911, good account has been rendered, while even better results in the near future may be anticipated. Less fortunate proved the Sudan Mines, Limited, formed in 1903, which seemed to have carried on more business in Cornwall and Norway than in Central Africa; or the Sudan Development and Exploration Company, Limited, formed in 1905, which, having attempted to run a flotilla of steamers on the White and Blue Niles, finally offered to sell the fleet to the Government, who purchased it upon very favourable terms.

Latter day mining enterprise has proved, perhaps, less encouraging than any other kind of industrial undertaking in the Sudan; and yet there are not wanting those who affirm that the great prosperity of the country may yet prove to be in its undiscovered mineral wealth. Not one tithe of the vast area of the Sudan—extending to 5,624,000 square kilometres—has been prospected, and no one really knows what hidden natural treasure it may contain.

What we do know is that gold, silver, and other precious metals were worked in ancient Egypt some thousands of years ago; Diodorus, the Roman historian—who, however, never visited Africa during his thirty years of travel and research—declares that a record in the tomb of Osymandyas at Thebes (supposed time XIX. dynasty) gives the total produce of gold and silver mines at "32,000,000 of minae," which would be equal to about £133,000,000 sterling. Diodorus does not give these figures upon his own authority, however, but upon that of Hecatæus, who died about 476 B.C., and certainly did travel in both Egypt and Libya. No reliance can, however, be placed upon the estimates of this early Greek writer, for even his own countryman, Herodotus, throws doubts upon some of his statements.

Prospecting has been undertaken almost from the time that the Sudan was reoccupied, but up till now nothing sensational has occurred to reward the enterprise of the pioneers. In 1903 Messrs. Lake and Currie sent out a representative, Mr. G. R. Casey, to prospect a concession in Dongola covering 28,000 square miles; during the three years that the concession endured nothing but some old gold diggings, together with some lignite, salt, and iron deposits of no commercial value were discovered. The following year, 1904, a well-known mining engineer, Mr. Arthur Llewellyn, a member of the firm of John Taylor and Sons, Limited, went out to the Sudan and spent several months prospecting for the Egyptian and Sudan Mining Syndicate, Limited. The licences upon the concessions, however, were allowed to expire in September, 1907.

Another unfortunate concession was that held by the Egyptian Sudan Exploration Company, which was abandoned in August, 1903, after Professor Link, M. Pearless, and Mr. G. A. Wright had all spent several months in investigating an alleged mineral bearing area in Kordofan lying between latitudes 10° 30′ N. Nevertheless, it was of Kordofan that the extremely optimistic Russeggar had written—"the bed of every stream exhibits a gold-bearing alluvium."

At about similar dates—*i.e.*, between 1900 and 1904—other companies or syndicates were formed in England to take up Sudan gold mining concessions. These included the Gabait Mining Syndicate, an affiliated concern to the Sudan Mines, Limited, which engaged the services of Mr. Noel Griffiths and Mr. W. H. Snell; the Egyptian and Sudan Minerals, Limited, which employed Captain McCormick and Messrs. Joseph Badge, H. Lancaster Hobbs, and G. Graves Gifford—all of whom are or were excellent men, and well-known in their profession; the London and Sudan Development Syndicate, which was prospected by several equally capable mining engineers—Messrs. C. K. Digby-Jones, Seal, Greaves and Ackerman—for Messrs. Bewick and Moreing—and J. H. Mears; the Nubia (Sudan) Development Company, which was served by Messrs. Peregrine, Wilson, and A. Mackinnon; the Suakin Mining Syndicate represented by Messrs. A. P. Griffiths and Joseph Slick; the Sudan Gold Fields, Limited, whose prospecting work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Arthur Llewellyn; the Sudan Exploration Company, also under the control of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, who employed Mr. Arthur Thomas to prospect the company's concession; the Tokar Prospecting Syndicate, Limited, whose concession area was examined by Messrs. W. H. Stockley and J. F. Morris; and finally the Victoria Investment Corporation whose area was prospected by Mr. Stanley C. Dunn, an exceptionally competent young mining engineer who holds a responsible position under the Sudan Government as geologist.

Of the above twelve mining enterprises only one—the Sudan Gold Fields, Limited—has retained its original concession, and this concern confines its work at present entirely to the extraction of gold from the Um Nabardi Mine ore, and the development of that mine underground. All the other eleven enterprises have either surrendered their concessions or have allowed them to expire by effluxion of time.

Disappointing as the results must have proved hitherto, both to the entrepreneurs and to shareholders who helped to find the capital to enable them to make their investigations, it must be borne in mind that nothing like a sufficiently comprehensive or careful examination has yet been made of the Sudan as a geological field which would enable a definite judgment to be passed upon its future mineral prospects. The greater portion of the country still remains to be prospected, and within the next few years the extended observations of Government officials and travellers should—as Mr. Stanley C. Dunn points out—greatly increase our knowledge in this respect.

That further British capital will nevertheless find its way into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in the very near future cannot be doubted, since it is the avowed policy of the Government to encourage and support private enterprise of a legitimate nature. To succeed in attracting not alone foreign capital, but capitalists who would by their co-operation in the development of the Sudan lend distinction to this country, the Government will be called upon not alone to offer inviting terms, but to safeguard investors against any kind of injurious or unfair competition or hurtful taxation. As the adminstered portions of the country expand and the population increases in material welfare, there will be many opportunities for the co-operation of private enterprise, such as additional transportation in the form of tramways and light railways, electric lighting and power, financial trusts, insurance, irrigation canals and waterworks, shipping and land investment.

THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

When Will the Stock Exchange Re-open?

The action of the Government in backing up the Bank of England will do much to relieve the tension. The complete stoppage of the bill-broking business rendered a continuance of foreign trade impossible. We are now told that not only are most of the trade routes open but that the Bank of England will discount bills. Business in produce and manufactured goods may, therefore, resume its normal course.

But the Stock Exchange remains closed. To be quite frank, the majority of the members do not wish it to re-open. They are afraid of being hammered. But as the Committee has absolute power, this fear seems fantastic. Hundreds of limited companies have lent their cash balances to the Stock Exchange, and they cannot carry on their businesses or pay dividends until the House re-opens and that money is released. The most important firms in the Stock Exchange are involved, and these it is who are urging the Committee to continue to keep out of business.

The provincial Exchanges would gladly re-open, but they dare not move without London. Wall Street must remain closed till London gives the signal. Thus no business is possible in the hundreds of millions of securities which represent the capital of the civilized world. The Stock Exchange is a private body and is not under the control of the Government. Its action is unpatriotic and will have far-reaching results.

The Egyptian Banks.

With war going on all over Europe, with the Balkan States either at war or preparing for war, no one was surprised to hear that Egypt had declared a moratorium. The decision was inevitable. The Deutsche Orient Bank closed its doors. This was expected. The position had long been very weak, and from the day that Austria sent the ultimatum to Servia a steady withdrawal of deposits set in.

The Bank came to Egypt late. It had to face severe competition, and it was well known in banking circles that in order to build up a connection it took on a great deal of extremely doubtful business. It did a great deal of speculative trade that none of the other banks would touch, and at the first rumour of war the depositors began to withdraw their credit balances. We understand that, a moratorium being in force, the Bank has resumed business in a tentative manner. But its days are numbered, and it need no longer be regarded as a banking power in the Near East.

The greatest possible credit is due to the National Bank. Not only has it refused to avail itself of the moratorium, but it has done everything possible to help traders and customers over a difficult crisis. It showed the greatest foresight in providing itself with an ample supply of gold. It is well known that it secured about one million in gold coin the week before the trouble began. That cash is now safe in the vaults in Cairo, and will be used as security for the note issue.

Financing the Next Cotton Crop.

Egypt will be placed upon a paper currency, and in that way will be able to finance the moving of the cotton crop without calling upon London for any gold. This usually takes six to eight millions each autumn. This year she will be unable to withdraw any gold at all, and the foresight and energy displayed by the National Bank have saved the fellaheen from a disaster.

Now that good trade bills secured upon merchandise can be dealt with at the Bank of England, Egyptian commerce should be able to carry on. There will be many difficulties, for France is *hors de combat* in a financial sense, but with the National Bank and the Anglo-Egyptian doing business in an almost normal manner traders in cotton and food produce will get along all right. There may be a drop in the price of cotton, there may be a falling away in the demand. But this will be more than counterbalanced by the high price of all foodstuffs, especially beans and onions. Therefore we think that, as far as Egypt is concerned, the outlook is distinctly good.

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SUEZ CANAL DUES.

On Thursday of last week in the House of Commons Sir Clifford Cory asked a question as to the possibility of paying Suez Canal dues in London. We are informed that the following letter has been received at the Foreign Office from the Suez Canal Company's office in London :—

"Sir,—With reference to the statement which was made in the House of Commons yesterday, I beg to hand you herewith a circular issued by the Suez Canal Company, according to which payments on account of transit dues can be made at Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons in London.

"This arrangement has been working since 1884, and Messrs. Rothschild have been receiving regularly since, and are receiving now, payments for account of the company.—Yours faithfully, L. F. Ozanne."

Enclosure.

"Paris, August 29, 1884.

"Shipowners will please take note that Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London, E.C., are authorised to receive payments on account of transit dues, under reserve of final settlement at Port Said or Suez. Against such payments Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons will deliver receipts stating the amount in francs, at the exchange of the day. These receipts must be given up by the captains or consignees when the ships are about to pass through the Canal. Payments will be received by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons every week-day, from 11 to 3, Saturdays and holidays excepted, and must be in cash, bankers' sight drafts, or approved cheques.

"If payment not made in time for Messrs. Rothschild writing out to advise Port Said office, they will advise by wire at owner's cost."

ROUMANIAN TREASURY.

The financial and economic well-being of Roumania is well illustrated by the publication of the Treasury returns for the month of June last, which we take from *L'Indépendance Roumaine*, of Bucharest. The June receipts amounted to 47,835,000 frs., which shows an increase of 13,403,000 frs. upon June, 1913, and the total receipts for the first three months of the current financial year 1914-15, which commenced on April 1 last, show an increase of 24,500,000 frs. over the corresponding period of 1913-14. A portion of the 6,826,000 frs., was on account of the year 1913-14, which we imagine should now be pretty well closed. At any rate, the revenue collected by the Treasury up to June 30 last on account of 1913-14 amounts to 567,160,000 frs., and, as the revenue estimated for in the Budget only amounted to 536,307,000 frs. (£21,452,080), there is a surplus now booked of 30,500,000 frs. Payments actually booked by the Treasury on account of 1913-14 up to June 30 last amounted to 456,880,000 frs. (£18,275,200), so that the year 1913-14, so far as now ascertained, seems to close with a realised surplus of £3,176,880.

ROUMANIAN OIL PRODUCTION.

According to a report issued by the German Consulate in Bucharest, the total production of crude oil in Roumania during the period May 15 to June 15 was 146,938 tons, as against 161,240 tons in the corresponding period of 1913. The various districts contributed as follows:—Prahova, 125,580 tons; Dambocitza, 2,887 tons; Buzou, 14,243 tons; Bacau, 4,228 tons. The outputs of the three largest companies were:—Astra Romana, 44,576 tons; Romana-Americana, 33,085 tons; Steaua Romana, 30,714 tons. The exports totalled 93,938 tons (as compared with 111,647 tons in the corresponding period), including 13,696 tons to Italy, 13,601 to France, 12,168 to Germany, 11,447 to Egypt, 8,848 to England, 8,340 to Austria-Hungary, 8,164 to Algiers, 7,264 to Turkey, 7,229 to Belgium, 1,037 to Bulgaria, 908 to Holland, 616 to Greece, 449 to Servia, 125 to Switzerland, 31 to Russia, 15 to Denmark. There was a downward movement in the prices for crude oil towards the end of the month; the price for Bushtenari crude fell from Lei7.60 to 7.50, for Tzintea from Lei6.50 to 6.30, for Moreni from Lei7.25 to 7, for Bordeni from Lei9.25 to 8.50.

NEW COMPANY.

B. Muratti (Foreign) Tobacco Trading Co., Ltd.

A "private" company with the above title has been registered with a capital of £25,000, in £4 shares, to carry on the business of leaf tobacco merchants, tobacco planters, importers and exporters, owners of sailing vessels, ships, barges, wharves and piers, etc., in England, Greece, Turkey, or elsewhere. The subscribers are:—Demosthenes B. Muratti, 69, Palatine Road, Manchester; Sophocles B. Muratti, 94, Kurfurstendamm, Berlin; Lewis F. Mizzi, 40, Rue de Brouse-Pera, Constantinople; Hedwig L. Mizzi, 40, Rue de Brouse-Pera, Constantinople; Constantine Marramatti, 23-5, St. Pierre Han (Galata). The number of directors is not to be less than four nor more than six; the first are Demosthenes B. Muratti, Sophocles B. Muratti, Lewis F. Mizzi, and Constantine Marramatti (each of whom may retain office for four years).

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Fields.—Gemsah production for week ended 9th inst., 1,195 tons (last week, 1,834 tons), of which Hurgada, seventy-five tons (last week, eighty-two tons).

British Tobacco of Turkey.—An extraordinary general meeting will be held at No. 319, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on August 19th for confirmation of a resolution that the company be wound up voluntarily.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for ten days ended July 20 amounted to £E5,950, an increase of £E94 over the corresponding period of last year.

Egyptian Markets.—Receipts for the week ended August 6 amounted to £611, an increase of £36 over the corresponding period of last year. The aggregate receipts amounted to £31,670, a decrease of £1,514.

Ottoman Gas.—The directors of the Ottoman Gas Company, Limited, recommend a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares for the half-year, carrying £8,647 forward.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—The receipts for the week ended August 8 amounted to £8,545, against £9,460 during the corresponding period of last year. The half-yearly ordinary general meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, on September 29.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

Copies were issued on July 30 of the Bill introduced by the Government "to provide money for the purpose of the acquisition of share or loan capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited." For convenience of reference we give below the text of the Bill :—

Clause 1.—(1) The Treasury shall, as and when they think fit, issue out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof such sums, not exceeding in the whole the sum of £2,200,000, as may be required for the purpose of acquiring share or loan capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited.

(2) The balance of the money required for the purposes of this Act, after applying to those purposes the sum of £1,545,186 7s. 5d., being that part of the old sinking fund for the year ended March 31, 1912, which, in pursuance of Section 12 of the Finance Act, 1912, has not been issued to the National Debt Commissioners, shall be provided by the application to those purposes of the old sinking fund for the financial year ended March 31, 1914, to the extent of £654,813 12s. 7d., and to that extent the obligation to issue the old sinking fund to the National Debt Commissioners under Section 5 of the Sinking Fund Act, 1875, shall not apply.

Clause 2. This Act may be cited as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914.

COMPANY MEETING.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of this company, held yesterday, said the question which would have been uppermost in their minds had the meeting been held a few weeks earlier would have been the labour situation at Baku and its influence upon the dividend policy of the company. But in these few weeks events had arisen beneath which the question of strikes and dividends sank into oblivion. Although the gross production of oil for the year fell off by 526,000 poods, partly owing to the strike in September last, the quantity available for sale, owing to savings effected in the oil used for fuel, was down only 166,000 poods, whilst the sum realised was £174,574, against £169,170, an increase of £5,104, which was due to the better average price obtained. The oil fuel consumed on the company's properties had fallen during the last three years from 1,054,013 poods to 336,987 poods, and when their plans in this connection were completed the consumption would probably not exceed 200,000 poods per annum. The balance-sheet showed the company to be in a comfortable financial position with cash liabilities of less than £50,000 and liquid assets of nearly £70,000 apart from oil and other stocks. The profit and loss account showed an income from all sources of £69,410, of which general charges absorbed £4,696, leaving a gross profit of £64,714. After providing £12,382 for the debenture service, there remained a net profit of £52,331, of which £35,000 had been added to reserve, bringing the total up to £85,000. This left £17,331 for disposal, of which £13,865 was carried forward to the credit of the shareholders, making a total to their credit of £27,988, or nearly 9 per cent. on the issued share capital. The remaining £3,466 would be applied to the redemption of profit-sharing notes. In view of the international situation and of the possible requirements of their Baku office, the Board did not feel justified in recommending the payment of a dividend. As to the immediate labour situation there was reason to suppose that the strike in the Balakhany district, where this company's properties were situated, terminated about the end of July; at all events, they had received a cable giving the production for the week ending August 9, which was quite up to the normal average. There was no definite news yet with regard to the strike situation at Bibi Eibat, where the other English companies operated. As to the future, the British Vice Consul at Baku, in his recently issued report to the Foreign Office, mentioned a greatly increasing demand for oil fuel, which present sources are unable to meet, the inability of coal to compete with oil unless new sources of supply came into being, and the improbability of competition from imported oil. The company had just concluded a very favourable contract for the sale of its entire production for two years from November next at ¼ kopeck per pood above the official average Bourse price, with a minimum of 35 kopecks per pood. Had this contract been in force for the past year the Company would have received 42¼ kopecks per pood instead of 36 kopecks, and their profit would have been nearly £95,000 instead of £69,000. One probable effect of the war would be to paralyse the coal industry in Russia, and it was not unreasonable to suppose that oil would benefit in consequence. The majority of the workmen employed on the Baku oilfields were of nationalities not liable to military service, so there might be no great shortage of labour. The great highway of the Baku oil industry was the Caspian Sea, and nothing but nature could close the Caspian. Their greatest trouble might be in obtaining iron casing and other material for boring wells. On the whole, it seemed as though they might look for high prices, and with anything like a normal output the current year would be a prosperous one for Baku. But in times like the present they must make a liberal allowance for contingencies.

Mr. Richard Barnett seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

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Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
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Adana
Afiom-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
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Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Aziz)
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Ouchak
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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

During the past week there has been no fresh declaration of war, and it is apparent that a number of Cabinets are in doubt as to their future policy. A severe defeat of the Allies in Belgium will probably be interpreted by these observers as being far more important than will actually be the case. The victories of Pyrrhus led to his ultimate defeat. The Germans may advance for a week or so to come, but inevitably they will have to return to defend their own soil, and the effects of their victory, should they gain one, will have largely evaporated even before its details can be known in the countries of the Near East. A German victory in Belgium can at best only prolong the war; its effect upon the outcome of the war will be negligible. A defeat of the Germans, on the other hand, is likely to increase the numbers of those in arms against Teutonic aggression. Popular opinion in at least two countries would welcome war with Austria, although in both cases the Governments are bound in a contrary sense by diplomatic instruments. Democracies are, however, apt to be impatient with Treaties if their terms run counter to the ambitions of the moment, and we anticipate but little hesitation on the part of Rome and Bucharest should opportunity offer and occasion arise.

The position in the Balkans up to a few days ago was a curious equilibrium of suspicion and mistrust. Rumours had been rife that the Teutonic Powers had endeavoured to weld Bulgaria into a link between them and Turkey, and many diplomatists professed to believe in the existence of an agreement between the Porte and Sofia based upon an understanding with the Dual Alliance. This agreement was supposed to be hostile to the Triple Entente, and both Greece and Roumania felt themselves menaced by the possibility of such a combination. So much was this the case that the Government of King Carol saw fit to reiterate its intention to maintain the Treaty of Bucharest, and is believed to have detailed 400,000 men to act as an Army of Observation against Bulgaria, whilst Greece took every precaution for the protection of her north-eastern provinces.

The pre-occupation of Roumania on the Danube entirely prevented her from taking that offensive into Transylvania which is dictated by her national aspirations, and for the time hopes of future aggrandizement had to be sacrificed to the necessity of upholding the tottering fabric of the sordid Treaty signed in her capital but twelve months before. The situation was further complicated by the uncertainty of the Porte as to the possible attitude of Bulgaria, with whom the Ottoman statesmen knew full well that they had no secret agreement. In view of this general uneasiness every declaration of neutrality on the part of Mr. Radoslavoff, and every precaution taken for the defence of Bulgarian territory, was interpreted as a Machiavellian move of the most menacing import. The beneficiaries of the Treaties of Bucharest and Constantinople so fully realized how slender were their claims upon the forbearance of Bulgaria that the waiting policy of King Ferdinand's Government effectively paralyzed their movements until the Powers of the Triple Entente had intimated their intention ultimately to revise the Treaty of Bucharest at the time of the general European settlement.

Bulgaria, in declining to trust to the voice of Austria, who lured her on to her ruin in 1913, and in following the dictates of her national conscience, which revolts at the idea of a war against Russia, however ready she may be to embark upon an anti-Russian policy in time of peace, appears to have improved her prospects very considerably. Her action has also materially simplified the difficulties of the Ægean question. Now that the Porte realizes that it can rely neither upon the support nor the complaisance of Sofia in a military move against Greece, it is possible that those in power in Stamboul may realize that it is a far cry to Salonika, and that it is very unwise to embark upon a reckless adventure for reconquest in a damaged "Goeben"—even though it be renamed "Sultan Yawuz Selim." On the other hand, the fact that Bulgaria has allowed it to be known that her protestations of neutrality are really genuine, and that nothing will induce her to attack the Tsar or his friends, will enable Roumania to turn her attention to Transylvania, and if necessary join her forces to those of the Triple Entente without having to guard her Dobruja frontier. The self-imposed duty of standing sentry over the Treaty of Bucharest has now become a sinecure because the fate of that document now no longer depends upon the sword of King Carol. Thus there is ground to hope that the studied inaction of Bulgaria will now permit Roumania to aspire to a legitimate expansion in one direction, while the Porte may be persuaded to further its own best interests by maintaining the peace in another.

Meanwhile, Talaat Bey and the President of the Ottoman Chamber, Halil Bey, have left Constantinople in order to confer with Mr. Zaimis, a former High

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Commissioner of Crete and Prime Minister of Hellas. It is to be hoped that on this neutral ground they may agree to settle the difficulties which at present so widely separate their respective countries. The inquiries made by Greece as to the intentions of the Porte were courteously though firmly phrased, and were justified by the reports that Ottoman troops had actually moved into Bulgarian territory in the direction of the Greek frontier. This, occurring at the moment when unexpected reinforcements had reached the Sultan's navy, gave rise to very natural uneasiness in Athens, where for some days past the situation has been regarded with grave misgiving. So serious, indeed, has been the outlook that Mr. Venizelos called a number of former Prime Ministers to assist the King with their united counsels.

The episode of the "Goeben" is apparently at an end. We are told that Turkey has at last succeeded in placing her own crews upon her latest purchases, and has converted formidable and ill-behaved guests into units of her navy. For a few days, it is true, the Germans behaved with a total disregard for Turkish neutrality, and preyed upon enemy ships as though they had been upon the high seas and not in the territorial waters to which they owed their own safety. They committed acts unpardonable in a refugee, and did their best to implicate the Porte by their behaviour. We do not yet know that the crews of the two warships have been expelled from Turkey, and the whole affair has been unsatisfactory. In fairness to the Turks, however, it should be remembered that the Cabinet was divided on the question whether the Germans were to be treated as allies or as alien refugees, and that at times it may be difficult to treat a truculent and well-armed fugitive exactly as the obligations of neutrality require. In any case it is to be hoped that we have seen the last of the "Goeben" and her consort either as units or as allies of the German navy, the reputation of which this remarkable episode has so deeply stained.

As far as is at present known the only naval fighting in Near Eastern waters has occurred off the Dalmatian coast. The Montenegrin artillery fire from Mount Lovtchen has rendered Cattaro useless as a naval station, and the Austrian fleet has withdrawn its southern units further up the Adriatic. The retreat appears to have been delayed too long, as Admiral Boué de Lapeyrère, in command of the Allied Fleet, was able to sink the "Zenta," a small cruiser of a somewhat antiquated type. The correspondent of *The Times* in Constantinople states that the "Goeben" and the "Breslau" bore traces of having been in action, but for the moment the locality of the engagement is unknown. Suffice it that for the present the hostile flags have been swept from the greater part of the Mediterranean, which, with the exception of the Adriatic, is now clear for commerce.

Within the next few days it is highly probable that the Army of Occupation in Egypt will be considerably reinforced by troops from overseas. If our enemies are now unable to land an expedition at the mouth of the Nile, as did Napoleon, we must still be fully ware of insidious attempts on their part to raise up trouble from within. German agents are known to be numerous, and until recently were well supplied with money, which is far more efficacious for the fostering of discontent among certain classes than the most cherished grievance. The Administration is fully prepared to cope with any of the results which may arise from this malicious sowing of tares, and appears to have armed itself with an admirable weapon in the "State of War." For the sake of Egypt we trust that its provisions are far-reaching, and that while it is in force the Capitulations, which so grievously retard the development of the country, will remain suspended.

The fortune of war on the Austro-Servian frontier is somewhat hard to follow. Both sides claim substantial victories, yet neither army seems to make any noticeable progress. The Austrians appear definitely to have entered Servia at Shabatz and Lozhnitza, and it is asserted that they have been subsequently repulsed. The troops of the two Serb kingdoms have effected a junction and invaded Herzegovina, and the troops of King Nicholas claim to be in the vicinity of Ragusa, where once for many years the Serbs maintained a republican independence long after the collapse of their national monarchy. As far as can be gathered—from sources hostile to the Hapsburgs—the Austrians are taking drastic measures to repress the Slav races of the Dual Monarchy, and a number of incidents are recorded which tend to show that the methods of 1914 in Dalmatia are strangely like those of 1849 in Lombardy and Hungary. Neither of the Teutonic Empires at present has a "good Press," and in fairness to our enemies we must discount a certain percentage of the statements of foreign Press bureaux, which are, as a rule, far less scrupulous than our own.

Albania still exists, and according to the rare telegrams which emanate from what was once the diplomatic storm centre of Europe, the insurgents are still in rebellion against the Mpret. That unhappy Prince has seen the Austrian and Roumanian Volunteers who had come to his assistance withdrawn for the service of their own Sovereigns, and now it is stated that the French force at Skutari has marched up into Montenegro in order to fight the Kaiserlichs on the Bosnian border. The Government of Podgoritza denies that Montenegrin troops have occupied Skutari, or that it has any intention of invading Albania, and we trust that this be true. In any case we must reiterate our belief in the necessity for maintaining the independence of Albania when the time comes for the general European settlement, and in the meantime we sincerely hope that the little State will be left in peace by its neighbours. It is quite possible that the Shkipetars may "find themselves" amid the obscurity and diplomatic neglect which will be their lot during the present strife in Europe. In any case, while such vast interests are at stake elsewhere, no European statesmen will trouble his head about the partition or mutilation of Albania—consequently the *status quo* will only be disturbed from within, nor is it likely that the disturbances will last very long if the external influence which fomented them be removed.

Since the outbreak of the war we have consistently urged the necessity of drawing all possible benefit from the temporary incapacity of our chief commercial rivals in the Near East. Our Navy has deprived them of access to valuable markets, and it is for our merchants to supplant them so thoroughly throughout the Levant and beyond as to uproot all traces of their commercial influence in those areas. We are delighted to see that a determined and organized effort is being made to give effect to this policy, not the least significant move of which is the offer to restore to Turkey all those concessions wrung from her by the Germans in the days of their political arrogance and commercial aggression. The Treasury of the Porte can very well be spared the expense of paying for schemes of German aggrandisement, and trade will flow more freely if Berlin be compelled to abandon the practice of treating the finances and the fortunes of Turkey as mere pawns in the great game of diplomacy.

In these days news from Persia is somewhat scanty, as those whose business it is to send information are fully aware that there is but small demand in Great Britain at present for records of events so far away from the main centres of interest. Still, we must remember that our old friends still exist, even if they be in the cold shades of popular neglect. The Shah has begun to taste the sweets of constitutionalism, and has had to face and surmount the first Cabinet crisis of his maturity. The political truce which was arranged for the Coronation came to an end, and the resumption of the old state of things has led to a reconstruction of the Cabinet. The new Grand Vizier is the Mustaufi-el-Mamalek, while the Ala-es-Sultaneh is responsible for Foreign Affairs.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 31.

Turkey, Islam and Great Britain.

The shadow of the Austro-Servian conflict and of a probable European war hangs over the Turkish Empire. It is said in some quarters that a number of prominent members of an Islamic association recently met here to discuss the results for Turkey and the world of Islam of a general European war. A few orators urged that Turkey, relying on the support of the Moslems of Egypt, India, and North Africa, should take the side of the Triple Alliance. A Young Turk speaker is said to have replied: "The mass of the Indian Moslems are loyal to Great Britain. Those who are not would look very foolish after a fortnight's insurrection in which the Hindu fighting elements, Sikhs, Gurkhas, and the like, would be hurled upon them. In Egypt we stand to gain nothing at present. North Africa has never been capable of united action against anybody. Islam has all to fear and nothing to gain from a European war—and least of all from Turkey's participation in such a conflict." The meeting is said to have adopted a resolution in the sense of the speaker's declarations.

However this may be—and it is impossible to verify the report given as to this meeting—the fact remains that the Turkish Government seems for the present inclined to remain neutral. Its action will depend on that of various Balkan Powers, and especially of Greece and Bulgaria. Both these States have declared their neutrality. Albania does not count at present, and Roumania cannot come into direct conflict with the Turk. Till now, therefore, the War Minister has confined himself to ordering the railway companies to be ready for all emergencies, and to the despatch of some infantry battalions and a few batteries from the Asiatic to the European side of the Sea of Marmora. These measures cannot be described as in any way uncalled for, given the general situation.

Meanwhile, the outbreak of war has caused a general rise of prices throughout the Constantinople district. The price of bread, soap, petroleum, and sugar has risen, in the latter case by 100 per cent. The Ministry of Finance is naturally perturbed by the general financial situation. Thus far less than half of the first instalment of the French loan has actually been received, and it is generally believed that Djavid Bey will have to leave almost directly for Paris to arrange matters with the French Government and French finance. Failing this, officials are likely to have to go on half-pay again, owing to the lack of ready money.

Greco-Turkish Relations.

Greco-Turkish relations are happily none the worse. Some believe that they have improved. The Grand Vizier's meeting with Mr. Venizelos has been postponed owing to the situation in the Near East; but the Greek Minister here, Mr. Panas, is in good spirits, and on the whole optimistic. In some quarters it is thought that Greece and Turkey may "contract out" of any general war for the present. The former Power is very short of money, and must watch her new frontiers with the utmost wariness. Turkey is unlikely to obtain her Dreadnoughts for months to come—for it is inconceivable that the British Admiralty will permit any foreign warships now being constructed in England to leave the country—while her financial situation is little better than that of the Hellenes. Without Dreadnoughts she cannot come into contact with the Greek army, which is less likely than ever to be used in Anatolia at this juncture. Nor is Bulgaria at present likely to take the risk of serious complications, which might prove fatal to her existence, by permitting Turks or Greeks to pass through Western Thrace.

The Turkish Press is, naturally enough, decidedly pro-Austrian. This does not, however, mean that there is any violently anti-Servian enthusiasm. When one's unpopular neighbour's house is on fire satisfaction is inevitably tinctured with nervousness.

The Attempt on the Khedive.

On Saturday Constantinople was alarmed by rumours that the Khedive had been assassinated. These were soon denied, and his Highness, though he received a painful wound in the face and two bullets in the arm, is little the worse for his injuries. His would-be murderer—who was expeditiously shot, sabred, and generally "desthroyed" by the troopers of the escort, all members of the Imperial Guard squadron, and by the gendarmes who rushed from the Porte—was an Egyptian "student," Mahmud Mazhar by name, a crack-brained youth, who had shown strong suicidal tendencies, was in the habit of writing impassioned love letters in his own blood to Moslem and Israelite ladies who would have none of him, and was generally one of those hysterical creatures, found in all countries, on whom political propaganda has the effect of a torch applied to a powder-barrel. His speedy elimination has made it impossible to say whether he was or was not the tool of the extremist Egyptian nationalists, or whether there was any sort of conspiracy against the Khedive. The Turkish police think there was not. In any case, it is extremely unlikely that any such conspiracy will be discovered. H.H. Abbas Hilmi showed great calm and presence of mind. By throwing his arm across his face he probably saved his life; for the criminal used a pocket Browning with, apparently, old cartridges, which gave little penetrating power to the bullets he fired. The theory that the cartridges were old and probably spoiled is confirmed by the fact that the bullet which struck the Khedive in the face and pierced his cheek did not pass through the other cheek, but was spat out, with a dislodged tooth, by his Highness, whose only comment was, "I think some of my teeth are lost." The Khedive's son-in-law, Jelall-ed-Din, was hit in the feet and legs, but his injuries were not at all serious. It is to be hoped that the Porte will in future take more thorough steps to watch Egyptian and other agitators and fanatics, who have too often been harboured here in the past, and if the attempt on the Khedive has this result, then all may be said to have ended well.

The Hintchakists.

The police have raided the Hintchakist Club, and made about thirty arrests of prominent members of this party. Their reasons for so doing are not known. A quantity of papers have been seized. The Hintchakists are an extreme Socialist party, which has in the past been identified with "physical force" methods, but has kept very quiet of late years.

The Inspectors-General have not yet left for Armenia, certain divergences of opinion having arisen between them and the Porte as to the composition of their staffs.

NEW PERSIAN CABINET.

Under Tuesday's date the Teheran correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* reports:—The Cabinet has been reconstructed under Mustanfi-el-Mamalek as Grand Vizier and Minister of the Interior and the Ala-es-Sultaneh as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 3.

On the Eve of the War.

As is naturally to be expected, the situation in Europe is the one absorbing topic in all circles in this country, the cosmopolitan population and the peculiar international position of which combine to lend the question a special and personal interest. The foreign residents of the belligerent Powers—and in some cases of the neutral Powers also—have all been either recalled to the colours or warned that their services will be required. Austria was, of course, the first in the field, and most of her nationals have left by the Austrian-Lloyd steamers, the sailing of which for ordinary and mail purposes is now uncertain. The latest to be called up are the Swiss and the Germans, the latter of whom are leaving by the N.D.L. s.s. "Derfflinger," which was stopped for the purpose on her way westward through Port Said and emptied of her passengers, and which is to be escorted to Trieste by the German cruiser "Goeben." The safe arrival of either vessel at its destination is somewhat doubtful. Since Italy has declared her neutrality, and the Mediterranean is held by the British and French Fleets, communication between Egypt and Europe will henceforward, it is to be presumed, be kept up by British steamers and those belonging to neutral States, such as Holland and Japan; the mail service will, however, be highly irregular, and very possibly may have to be a long sea one, since the Italian and French overland routes traverse what may at any moment become a war area.

It is interesting to note that native opinion generally is exceedingly hostile to the Triple Alliance. For once in a way the people seem to realize on which side their bread is buttered, and in words—and it is to be hoped in thoughts—are decidedly friendly to England, in whose attitude towards the war they affect to see repose the future of Egypt. If England maintains her neutrality, then, according to them, they have nothing to fear. But if she has to take her share in the hostilities after all, then they firmly believe that Egypt's status at the end of the war will be changed. Their idea is that a victory for the Triple Alliance, resulting from a British naval defeat, would mean the evacuation of Egypt by England, whose place would be taken by Germany, while with the Triple Entente victorious, England would definitely annex the country—and be it marked as a tribute to British rule, they devoutly hope that the *Dreibund* will be vanquished. Whether the same Anglophile spirit would prevail in the event of a Turkish demonstration of force on the eastern frontier is, of course, another question, but it is worthy of note that the Egyptians as a nation show a decided preference for the *status quo* in so far as the nationality of the occupying Power is concerned.

Italy's declaration of neutrality is welcomed, as, in the event of Great Britain being drawn into the fray, it removes the much-talked-of menace on the western frontier. But even if that declaration has, owing to subsequent events, to be cancelled, it is admitted that the oft-expressed threat of the Triple Alliance to invade the country in order to stop England's food supply will be impossible of realization, for the simple reason that, apart from the fact that the sea route for the transport of troops is barred by the French and British warships, the predominant members of the *Dreibund* have their hands more than full near at home, and their junior partner could not afford to detach an invading force from her army in Cyrenaica, for any diminution in the strength of her troops stationed there would certainly be followed by a determined forward movement on the part of the Arabs, and the lines of communication of the invading force would at once be cut. In other words, the Egyptians firmly believe that their country will only be affected by the war if Great Britain suffers a naval defeat and loses command of the sea, but they appear to have implicit confidence in the result of the conflict in so far as Great Britain is concerned. Great satisfaction is expressed at the news that Lord Kitchener and Sir Reginald Wingate will be back at the end of the week. Meanwhile precautionary measures have been taken, and a company of redcoats has been sent to Suez. It is rumoured that Disraeli's innovation is to be adopted once more, and that one or two native regiments will be brought from India, but no confirmation is available.

The European developments caused a slight panic at the outset, but confidence has set in again. To prevent a crisis the Stock Exchanges in Cairo and Alexandria have been shut; the Cotton Bourse will, however, remain open as long as those of New York and Liverpool do so. Prices are beginning to rise fast; flour and coal have started the ball, and no credit is now allowed anywhere. Irresponsible people have talked of famine, but that is out of the question. Egypt's geographical position *vis-à-vis* the seat of war precludes that. She has abundant supplies for several weeks, and meanwhile can replenish her stocks from India, Australia, and the Sudan without difficulty. But that will not prevent the unscrupulous speculator and trader from playing on the credulous fears of the ordinary inhabitants and running up the prices without reason. Indeed, it is said that one man in Alexandria made a substantial profit on flour on the day after war was declared.

The Attempt on the Khedive.

The war has somewhat put into the shade the attempt on the life of the Khedive and the inquiry which has been carried on. The latest official bulletins state that the wounds are practically healed, that the bandages have been removed, and that his Highness has been able to walk about and receive visitors. In view of the European crisis, it is understood that his Highness intends returning to Egypt as soon as possible. The inquiry in Egypt has thrown no further light on the matter; several suspicious houses have been raided, and some students have been subjected to an interrogation, but it appears more than certain now that for any elucidation we must rely on the Turkish inquiry, about which nothing further has been heard.

In commenting on the attempt the local Press has almost unanimously drawn attention to the fact that whilst every effort has been made to control the private and other Egyptian students studying at Geneva, Paris, and London, absolutely nothing has been done at Constantinople, whither no small number go every year in order to complete their studies at the local colleges and academies. It is pointed out, and with justice, that in the Turkish capital young Egyptians are subject to even more pernicious influences than in the above-mentioned European cities, and that, whatever difficulties may in the past have lain in the way of obtaining some control over them, the same cannot hold good to-day, when proof has been forthcoming of the dangers of the liberty of action accorded these young Egyptians. Indeed, whilst the Egyptian Government now has a very strong case, the Turkish authorities owe it to the honoured guest who has been so maltreated within their gates to introduce of their own initiative some effective control over the Egyptian students, and to stop the Egyptian Nationalists who have sought sanctuary in Constantinople from continuing their nefarious campaign. Of course, now that Europe is at war little can be done in this direction, and we shall have to await the cessation of hostilities. Meanwhile, it is up to the parents whose sons are at present at, or are about to go to, Stamboul, and to whom it is to be hoped the gravity of the situation has been brought home, to exercise their authority over their offspring.

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EGYPT AND THE WAR.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 10.

The sudden change which the European situation has undergone during the past week has not been without its effect on Egypt. On the very day on which England sent her ultimatum to Germany the Egyptian Government declared its neutrality, and issued—as in the case of the Tripoli and Balkan Wars—explicit instructions as to the manner in which shipping in the ports and the Suez Canal was to be treated. The outbreak of war between England and Germany has, however, owing to the British occupation of Egypt, materially altered the latter's attitude. The matter was brought to a head by an inquiry on the subject addressed by the German Agent to the Regent, and, as the latter explained to a meeting of newspaper editors which he summoned on Thursday, there was only one reply to make, viz., that Egypt considered herself to be in a state of war. After all, this is but the logical sequence of the occupation of Egypt by British troops, the presence of which could quite possibly lay the country open to an attack by the enemies of the British Empire, whose object would be to deprive it of the important and strategic position which the Occupation confers on it.

Accordingly, on Thursday evening a Khedivial Decree was promulgated declaring Egypt to be in a state of war with Germany, forbidding anyone resident in Egypt to enter into contracts of any nature, directly or indirectly, with the German Government or its agents, or with anyone resident in Germany; laying down certain articles as contraband of war and forbidding their export; giving to the British naval and military forces the power to exercise all the rights of war on Egyptian territory and in Egyptian waters (as interpreted by the Suez Canal Convention of 1888), and making all captures made on Egyptian territory and in Egyptian waters subject to the British prize courts, calling upon all concerned to render all assistance required to the British naval forces, and laying down the neutrality of the Suez Canal.

It has all along been patent to everyone that Egypt's anomalous political position could not permit her to remain neutral in the event of Great Britain being involved in war, and this decision, which formally places Egypt under the protection of Great Britain, has been well received. To those who object that this declaration is not legal, as the consent of the Suzerain, Turkey, has not been obtained, and the latter has declared its neutrality, it may be answered that the principle that Egypt must follow its *de facto* and not its *de jure* master was already admitted three years ago, when she declared her neutrality notwithstanding the fact that her Suzerain was at war, and that, without Turkey making any protest, she maintained that attitude throughout the Balkan Wars.

The internal situation is, comparatively speaking, satisfactory. Politically, everything is quite quiet, and there is little fear of any trouble; for the military and Government authorities have made their arrangements in a manner that reflects the greatest credit on them. Financially and economically matters are not so good, though during the past few days a decided improvement has set in. On Monday last, in view of the panic-stricken manner in which depositors were withdrawing their deposits, and of the impossibility of their obtaining sufficient gold, the Government issued a decree making bank notes legal tender. At the same time the exportation of foodstuffs was forbidden, and the issue of foreign money orders by the Post Office was stopped. The rush on the banks was aggravated by the closing of the doors of the D.O.B. and the Banco di Roma; an alleviation was given by the decreeing by the Government that the four days from August 5 to 8 should be considered as Bank Holidays. The action of the National, Ottoman, Anglo-Egyptian, and the French banks in continuing, notwithstanding that no obligation lay on them, to pay depositors, has had a most beneficial effect on the state of the public mind, which was increased by the arrival of £500,000 on board the P. and O. "Persian." The rush has almost entirely stopped, and the assistance of the police to regulate the crowds has been dispensed with. In addition, a moratorium to November 1 has been declared, and the National Bank has been authorised to increase its note issue. Prices still continue to rise, and since this is quite uncalled for in view of the existing stock and the accessibility of further supplies, the Government, which has already issued a proclamation that there is no need for alarm, is about to promulgate a decree giving the price of foodstuffs and other necessaries.

As an instance of how merchants are taking advantage of the terrorised state of mind of the people, I must cite a soda-water manufacturer who has raised his prices 25 per cent., although his goods are made locally, so that no shortage in supplies can be feared.

An exceedingly close censorship is being exercised over outgoing and incoming telegrams. The authorities have learnt a lesson from the Boer War and the Japanese War, and are determined to allow no detail of their plans for the defence of Egypt to leak out, nor any unreliable or exciting news to come in. Their decision is a most laudable one, and no one ought to complain, even though it means that news from the seat of war is scanty and what does come in is delayed. The greatest interest is taken in the slightest news that comes to hand, even by the native, and the vernacular Press, whose newsboys make the air hideous far into the night with their cries of special editions, and are doing a roaring trade.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE KHEDIVE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 30.

The news that the Khedive's life had been attempted at Constantinople came as a great shock and surprise to all out here, especially as it had just been preceded by tidings of the warm welcome accorded to his Highness on his arrival in the Turkish capital. The versions that have reached here thence differ somewhat from those telegraphed from London. It appears that as the Khedive was driving away from the Sublime Porte the assailant fired a shot, which went wide. Immediately his carriage stopped, and the would-be assassin having approached, his Highness seized him by the arm in order to deter him from shooting further. He, however, contrived to fire four more shots, all of which took effect, one in the Khedive's cheek, knocking out some teeth, and three in his left fore-arm. Frequent bulletins have been issued to the local Press insisting on the mildness of the wounds and the rapidity of the Khedive's recovery, but persistent rumours have been prevalent since Tuesday that his Highness's condition is by no means so satisfactory as the authorities try to make out, and the source of these rumours and divers incidents tend to confirm their accuracy. It is to be noted that H.H. the Khedivah, accompanied by her two sons, Princes Abdul Moneim and Abdul Kader, has left for Constantinople, whither deputations from the Khedivial Family, the Legislative Assembly, and other public bodies have proceeded, or are about to proceed, in order to convey their congratulations to his Highness on the fortunate failure of the attempt made upon his life.

The Assailant's Record.

The would-be assassin, Mahmud Mazhar, comes of a well-known Egyptian family. His father was for many years president of the Beni-Suef Native Court, but after his death, some four years ago, his widow left Chebin-el-Kom, where the family resided, for Constantinople, whence she returned about three weeks ago. Mahmud Mazhar has a brother who is a moawen at Chebin-el-Kom and another who is employed as accountant by the

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liquidators of the Bank of Egypt, Limited. Both are eminently respectable men. As for the assassin, he studied at the Mesai Mashkura School, which is well-known for the reactionary tendencies of its graduates, and afterwards proceeded to Constantinople. As far as is known here, he never displayed a revolutionary temperament, although many stories, which are impossible of verification, are now being told to prove his bad character as a boy. Whatever tendencies he evinced when in Egypt, the fact remains that at Constantinople he showed a predilection for the society of the Nationalists resident there. It is a positive fact that he was an intimate acquaintance and associate of Sheikh Abdel Aziz Shawish and of Dr. Ahmed Fuad Effendi, a man who had in Egypt a most unsavoury reputation as a reactionary and a plotter, and who in Constantinople acted as go between between Sheikh Shawish and the Egyptian Nationalists. As an instance of Dr. Fuad's friendship with Mahmud Mazhar and of the latter's devotion to the cause, it is only necessary to mention that when, two years ago, the Turkish police, at the request of the Egyptian authorities, arrested prominent Nationalists and searched their houses, Mazhar gave Dr. Fuad sanctuary in his own house. It is, moreover, alleged that he was such a keen adherent that he possessed many tokens testifying to the regard which the party leaders had for him.

As soon as the news of the attempt reached here an inquiry was opened. The houses of the Mazhar family at Chebin-el-Kom were searched, but without result. The residence of the father of Dr. Ahmed Fuad was also visited, and there several letters from him were found, one containing allusions to a great stroke which was contemplated, and before the execution of which he declined to return to Egypt. Further inquiries are still being made here, as it appears that Mazhar was in Cairo last summer, and information as to his movements may be instructive.

However, the most important inquiry is the one being conducted at Constantinople, and Blattner Bey, who brought Sheikh Shawish over to Egypt two years ago, and Badr-ed-Din Bey, Inspector in the Ministry of the Interior, have proceeded thither in order to assist the authorities. Little success is, however, expected to result from this inquiry. It is considered as highly regrettable that Mazhar should have been killed, for with him disappeared the main means of ascertaining what lay at the back of his attempt; and, in addition, it is conceded that the Turkish authorities are scarcely likely to work whole-heartedly in the matter, since any successful result to the inquiry would very probably cast reflections on their efficiency and watchfulness.

Efforts are being made to show that the attempt was the isolated act of an irresponsible individual, and that it was not the outcome of a plot. General opinion out here inclines—for reasons whereon there is no need to dwell—towards the theory of a plot, wherein it is alleged the Nationalist agitators domiciled in Constantinople were not the sole participants. Whether any proofs supporting this theory will be forthcoming is doubtful in the extreme, for reasons already touched upon. The fact, however, that Mazhar was a neurasthenic, a drug-taker, and a young man afflicted with homicidal mania does not set a limit to the responsibility for his act. No one expected to learn that the Khedive's assailant was a person in full possession of his senses, and the details given of his temperament add force to the conviction that lies uppermost in the minds of all those who have any intimate knowledge of the history of Egyptian Nationalism of the past five years.

On the very showing of those who seek to assign to him alone the responsibility for his crime, Mahmoud Mazhar possessed a mental and physical disposition similar to that of Ibrahim El Wardani, of Mahmoud Taher El Arabi, and of the many others whose exploits have brought discredit on the Nationalist cause, and must have made the great Mustapha Pasha Kamel turn in his grave with disgust at the misconception of his ideals that these exploits displayed. Just as these unfortunate men by their very temperament fell an easy prey to, and were spurred on to acts of violence by, the incitative and insinuating talk and writings of such arch plotters as Sheikh Shawish and his clique, so there is little doubt that, albeit quite possibly there existed no actual plot in the sense that Mazhar was a participant therein, he was the unconscious instrument of those who calculated to bring him by suggestions cunningly conveyed to act as he did. In other words, it is regarded as indisputable that whereas those who from various parts of Europe have scattered broadcast inflammatory Nationalist literature have borne a contributory part in this attempt on the Khedive's life, the main responsibility rests, in the light of antecedent history and Mazhar's associations whilst in Constantinople, upon Sheikh Shawish and his avid assistants, who for the past three years have carried on within the very domain of the Suzerain a violent revolutionary propaganda directed against all those set in authority over the vassal State.

A HARBOUR OF REFUGE.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Gibraltar, August 9.

I do not remember ever seeing a more beautiful sight than Gibraltar as we steamed slowly in on Wednesday morning. It was just beginning to grow light. Far away over the Sierra Nevada the sky was turning to copper. A searchlight picked us out, quavered a minute, and then settled down to glare at us steadily. A few minutes afterwards the port authorities were alongside. "Take down your wireless, captain, and disconnect your receiver," shouted the officer in charge, "and haul down all your flags except your ensign." And that was our first taste of Gibraltar under war conditions.

At first when we came in we all rushed to the bulwarks at the sight of an incoming vessel. Was it a British man-of-war? Had she got a German cruiser in tow—the spoils of a cruiser action off Las Palmas—or was it only another vessel seeking sanctuary? It is curious how soon we have all lapsed into a state almost bordering on coma. That nerves are still on the stretch, however, was clear the other night. A covey of inoffensive casks bobbed by a neighbouring ship. Germans, thought the officer of the watch, either with their clothes in a bundle on their heads trying to swim ashore, or pushing mines in front of them to sink our ship. A volley of revolver shots rang out, and the casks unscathed bobbed on their inoffensive way.

Occasionally a distant shot booms from the Rock, a warning to a merchantman to heave to. Sometimes a host of hurried shots ring out together, something supposed to be lurking in the shadow. Otherwise throughout the night no sound save for the ships' bells all around and perhaps the pant of a launch. The great searchlighths on the Rock sweep the horizon incessantly, crossing and recrossing. The glare is so brilliant that if you gaze steadily into it something seems to detach itself from your eye or from the light and float away like a dark rag.

Underneath Europa Point lie anchored five German merchantmen, seized two hours after war had broken out. Two of these vessels at least—the one trading with the Dutch East Indies and the other belonging to the Hansa line—are very valuable. Here in the twentieth century, on the threshold of the celebration of the Centenary of Peace, it seems barbaric to be talking of prize money, and yet I understand that these merchantment are worth close on £250,000, which will be duly distributed among the naval forces at this base on the close of hostilities. Two nights ago a German merchantman tried to run the gauntlet. A blank shot produced no effect, three live shots across her bows were unheeded, and then a minute torpedo boat shot out to bring her in. It is the picture of "Dignity and Impudence" over again to see one of these spider craft shepherding into port one of these steamers. Based on Gibraltar are a variety of naval craft, and to them the patrolling of the Straits is entrusted. Each craft has its regular beat on the eight or nine mile stretch of sea across to the African coast; and woe betide any hostile vessel which, having dared to run the gauntlet of the guns on the Rock, tries to break through the thin grey line of sentinels.

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BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 30.

The Servian Conflict.

The Prime Minister has informed the representatives of the Great Powers that Bulgaria is firmly resolved to maintain strict neutrality in the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Servia. After the official notification of the war by the Austro-Hungarian and Servian Ministers here the leader of the Democratic party, Mr. Malinoff, called on Dr. Radoslavoff and asked for information as to Bulgaria's position and the Government's views upon the fateful events that seem likely to develop in the Balkans. He was particularly anxious to know what are the relations of Bulgaria with Roumania and Greece. Dr. Radoslavoff declared that Bulgaria's relations with her neighbours, Roumania and Greece, are correct, and repeated that for the present the Government would avoid any action and maintain strict neutrality. If the situation became further complicated the Government intended to consult the Opposition leaders and invite their co-operation in settling any questions that might arise in the Balkans.

Mr. Malinoff communicated the Premier's declarations to the other leaders of the Opposition, who declared their readiness to lend their strong support to the Government in its present foreign policy.

Yesterday the archives of the Russian Legation at Belgrade arrived here from Nish, whither they had previously been transferred for safety. They are at present stored in the Russian Legation here.

Owing to the interruption of the Servian communications through Turnu-Severin, the Servian Government is now transmitting its cypher telegrams through this country, with the Government's consent, of course.

On the Frontiers.

According to information from Varna, a concentration of Roumanian troops in the Dobruja towards our frontiers is going forward steadily. The forces are gathering at Silistria. Apart from this the frontier is now quite calm, and the Bulgarian and Roumanian officers are making their tours of inspection together. There are, however, persistent rumours that Roumania is secretly mobilizing in agreement with Russia.

The frontier towards Turkey is quite calm, and no movements of any kind are reported. The Greek frontier also is quiet. But on the Servian frontier there is considerable excitement amongst the population, and the frontier is officially closed.

Servian Deserters.

Since Servia started to mobilize a stream of deserters has been trickling across the border. Up to yesterday, it is reported, 200 had crossed the frontier at Kustendil and surrendered their arms to the Bulgarian authorities. They are mostly Bulgarians from Macedonia, who have made their escape by night. Yesterday it was officially announced from Koula that 160 Servian deserters had surrendered their arms to the Bulgarian frontier authorities. In connection with these desertions, the Servian Minister here yesterday requested the Bulgarian Government to instruct the frontier authorities to refuse to admit the deserters.

The Roumano-Bulgarian Frontier Commission.

The mixed Roumano-Bulgarian Frontier Commission completed its task after three days' prolonged sittings. Its findings are that the Bulgarian blockhouse has been greatly damaged by the Roumanian bullets, and that the Roumanians fired at a distance of only three or four yards. The guiltiness of Roumania is acknowledged, and the latter offers to pay a money indemnity to the families of the soldiers who were killed.

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 1.

[*The first portion of our Correspondent's letter appears to have been suppressed by a censor—of what nationality we have no indication.*]

. . . This is, however, the opinion of a decided minority, sympathy with Servia and dislike (not to use a stronger word) of Hungary being shown by the great mass of the people. Indeed, a meeting to demonstrate sympathy towards Servia was held in Bucharest a few days ago; but the attempt to demonstrate before the Servian Legation was prevented by the police, who feared that it might be followed by another—of a different character—at the expense of Austria-Hungary.

A particularly hearty reception was accorded to Prince Peter of Montenegro, and also to a large party of Servian officers on their passage through this country.

All the Roumanian families who were visiting the various Hungarian summer and health resorts were hurried home a few days ago by the Hungarian authorities, as communication by rail with this country was likely to be cut off. Indeed, the frontier is now only open at Predeal. To the East it has been closed at all points since yesterday, but this is probably only a temporary measure whilst mobilisation is in progress.

Bucharest, August 2.

Since yesterday various rumours of mobilisation have been in circulation, and even the most serious papers report that in face of the very serious international situation and the mobilisation of nearly all the armies of Europe the adoption of military measures by Roumania is imminent. All hangs upon the Crown Council which is to take place to-morrow in the afternoon, at which the chiefs of parties will also be present, besides the members of the Cabinet, who will meet together either earlier in the day or else to-day. Rumour has it that the real question under discussion is whether Roumania will throw in her lot with Russia or with Austria-Hungary. A tale (I give it for what it is worth) is going round that at a recent meeting of the King and a part of the Cabinet under M. Bratiano, his Majesty practically refused to go against Germany (which means Austria-Hungary), that the discussion became quite heated, and that it only ended when the King declared that he would abdicate rather than throw over his old friends to the West. It is interesting reading as a sample of what Roumanian gossip can do, if nothing else.

That the situation in this quarter is extremely grave is shown by the fact that M. Derussi, the Roumanian Minister at Sofia, who had come to fill a post at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has been hurriedly sent back to his post, and that yesterday M. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister, went from Sinaia to Ploesti, where he occupied the telegraph and telephone office with a secretary from 3 p.m. till 6.30, being in continual communication with Sofia.

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BALKAN INTERESTS AND THE WAR.

CONDITIONS ELOQUENT FOR PEACE.

Whatever may be the result of the present Armageddon, it will have driven home to all nations with telling force the wisdom of not embarking upon war without reckoning very carefully beforehand the cost. From Serajevo to Kiaochau is a long cry, and it may be doubted whether, even if her preliminary optimism remains unimpaired, Germany at this moment sees how victories in Europe are to win back for her in the Far East the position which she built up at the expense of much toil and treasure. Counting the cost in Germany's case entailed the consideration of such widely divergent matters as the possible resistance of Belgium, the attitude of Great Britain, the neutrality of Italy, the fate of seaborne commerce, and the action of Japan. With what degree of statesmanship these questions were considered in Berlin history will show; but while the fortunes of war have not yet been revealed the list is sufficiently formidable to suggest extreme caution to any Power tempted to embark upon hostilities either now or hereafter.

No State in the south-east of Europe has the world-wide commitments which Germany had. Their interests, however, are no less vital to themselves, and are equally important whether centred a few hundred miles from the capital town or on the other side of the earth. There is good reason, therefore, why the various Governments of the Near East should make the situation in Europe and their own position the subject of very earnest deliberation, and the news that representatives of Turkey and Greece are to meet in Bucharest for friendly discussion of the points at issue between the two countries is to be welcomed. In the meantime it is to be hoped that the statesmen of Constantinople, whether in the Cabinet or only members of the Committee of Union and Progress, will debate the question of Turkey's interests from a wider point of view than the prestige of their party or their personal predilections. Even the questions at issue with Greece do not constitute the sum total of Ottoman interests; but in the face of unthinking Chauvinism and racial hatred there is always a danger that these questions may exercise upon Turkish policy the same obsession as France has exercised upon German minds.

The outstanding feature in the situation as far as the Balkans are concerned is that, except for the Servian and Montenegrin quarrel with Austria-Hungary, a state of peace obtains. Before this peace is broken the questions to be decided are whether it is in the real interests of any single State to break it, and whether the present moment is opportune for taking such action. The latter question is, perhaps, the easier to decide. Any act of war must, either immediately or very soon, range the belligerent on the side of one or other of the hostile camps in Europe. No Government in the Near East will have been left in ignorance of the fact that the Powers of the Triple Entente wish and expect it to maintain peace. Hostilities on its part, therefore, will be undertaken in opposition to this desire, and will almost certainly cause the country to be ranged on the side of the enemies of the Triple Entente. In these circumstances can any Government in the Near East feel so confident of the issue of the tremendous struggle now pending in Central Europe that it could lightly throw down the gauntlet to the Powers who control the Mediterranean and the Black Sea? Even if that Government has convinced itself that the Powers of the Triple Entente will ultimately be beaten, is it likely to lose much by staying its hand for the present? The answer to that question turns on the nature of Germany's representations to it and the measure of credence which they command. If any Near Eastern Government is uneasy on this subject it may derive some comfort from Italy's attitude. Any justification which Italy has found for remaining neutral exists a hundredfold for every Balkan State, and the fear of subsequent reprisals will be dissipated when it is realized that in this matter Italy and all the Balkans, including Roumania, will be in the same boat. It will be time enough in its own interests for a Balkan State to take sides in the war when German and Austrian armies have entered Paris and have driven back the Russians beyond the Volga.

The question whether it is in the real interests of any single State in the Near East to break the present peace has already been answered in the negative by three countries. In Roumania and Greece conditions are eloquent for the maintenance of the *status quo*, and the two Governments have agreed to support one another to attain this end. Bulgaria also, although she can never be content with things as they were left by the Treaty of Bucharest, is pledged to peace, having probably satisfied herself that she has more to gain by masterly diplomacy than by any rash policy of adventure at the bidding of a few headstrong members of the Committee of Union and Progress. There remains Turkey. It is in keeping with Ottoman diplomacy that the Porte's intentions should be obscured for as long a time as possible, and that feelings of anxiety among its neighbours should be zealously fostered. But often, even when the official intentions were originally good, a false step has been taken, and Turkey has suffered materially or in prestige. In the present instance, it is to be hoped, wise counsels will prevail. The Porte should have little difficulty in narrowing down the scope of its deliberations. Its immediate ambitious seem to be restricted to the acquisition of some or all of the Ægean Islands and the recovery of Salonika with the northern littoral of the Ægean Sea. Let us suppose that Germany has promised these things to Turkey with the same good faith with which she encouraged Belgium to violate her neutrality against France and Great Britain, what power has she to grant them? None, so long as the war lasts; for she and Austria-Hungary are powerless in the Mediterranean. And after the war Turkey's ambitions can only be realized at the expense of Greece, whose cause in this matter will be that of the other Balkan States, of the Powers of the Triple Entente, and of every country in the world that will be inclined to object to the principle that for the future the independence of each nation is to depend on German sufferance. While, therefore, Turkey stands but a poor chance of attaining her desires if Germany and Austria-Hungary are victorious, what is the risk she runs in the event of her champions being defeated? Here let it be stated that the dangers which Great Britain, France, and Russia are facing together are too grave to allow any misunderstanding if the spoils of victory have to be shared. The British and Russian Governments may have different views regarding the ultimate reversion of Constantinople in the event of the Turks quitting European territory; but a solution of that problem is not far to seek. If Turkey were to enter the arena at this stage on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary there would be little need for either the naval or the land forces of the Triple Entente to move against her. The Balkan States with Roumania could be relied upon to look after their own interests, and the fiat would go forth that the Ottoman power for interference in European affairs must be removed for ever.

In the light of the risks attending an appeal to war at this time, it is almost impossible to believe that the level-headed and moderate men who constitute at least a substantial minority in the council chamber of the Committee of Union and Progress will allow themselves to be overborne by the extremists. Great Britain has no wish to see Ottoman power curtailed, but she has drawn the sword against the most formidable opponent the world contains in defence of treaties and for justice among the nations, and she is not likely, when sheathing it, to countenance aggression in humbler quarters.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Naval people must have remarkable memories, or else they must correct their "World's Fighting Ships" very often. Only a fortnight or so past we had to disremember a whole tribe of warship names, South American, North American, and Ottoman, and learn new English and Greek appellations. Now we must discard some German titles and adopt the new ones prescribed by the Turkish Bahrieh. We are told that the ex-Goeben is to be the "Sultan Yawuz Selim," and the former "Breslau" the "Medellu" in future. This is all very well, but the man in the street begins to wonder a bit whether after all the German crews of these great ships may not themselves clap on fezzes and figure in the Ottoman navy list as a formidable array of Pashas, Beys and Effendis.

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Sultan Yawuz Selim, the conqueror of Syria, who overthrew the Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt, did much to impress his fellow Moslems with his pre-eminent military fitness to be Commander of the Faithful, although in establishing that sacred office in his own person and family he violated the tradition of nearly nine centuries, which had always demanded a Kaliph of Arab blood and Arab speech. It is unfair to confuse Yawuz with his namesake, Selim the Sot, who also was a conqueror—not so much for the glory of seizing the sovereignty of Cyprus as for the forbidden delight of owning its vineyards. As for the "Medellu"—it is a name to keep a recent memory green—and territorial memories, as a rule, are vigorous enough without visible reminders, whether they be the wreaths on the statue of Strasbourg or the name of a battleship. By the way, I cannot help thinking that it was a trifle tactless to name a British ship the "Agincourt" at a moment when our troops are actually marching across that battlefield as allies of our ancient foe. I suggest that "Navarino" would have recalled the only occasion in history which has seen the flags of the Triple Entente flying together on a line of battle in action against a common enemy.

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I notice that a report of the arrival of the "Goeben" and the "Breslau" in the Dardanelles, sent by Reuter, says that Turkish officers visited the two warships and that the correspondent saw them fraternising with the Germans. This seems to me to be another proof of the kindly disposition of the Turk, of his claim to be one of Nature's true gentlemen. He knew that the two warships had not cut a very glorious figure, and he knew, doubtless, that their officers must be feeling particularly unhappy about it. So off he (as represented at the Dardanelles) went to cheer his visitors up. And I can just imagine him saying to them, as he exchanged salutes: "Bismillah. Congratulations on your—ah—record trip. Wallahi, gentlemen, but you have shown those English drolls how to run!" And never a word about the disappointed heirs who were named in those famous wills. No wonder that the gallant "Goeben" and the breathless "Breslau" quickly cheered up sufficiently to bully unprotected French and British vessels in Turkish waters.

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Hitherto Mr. Redford has been our only representative of the genus Censor, and people in this country have been rather inclined to scoff at the activities of his *confrères* abroad. Now, however, all Europe seems to have been eaten up by hungry hordes of censors who batten on news which is not good for editors or readers of the Press. These people are almost omnivorous and ubiquitous—and some of them seem to be over-cautious. For example, one young enthusiast used his censorial powers to prevent the King's Message to the Fleet from being telegraphed to Australia, on the ground that the mention of the word "Fleet" might indicate to the Germans that there was a British Navy, and enable them to deduce that as the King had to *send* a message to it obviously the Fleet was not, at the moment, stationed in the pond in St. James's Park, and therefore might be elsewhere. It is alleged, however, that he was prepared to pass for transmission the following cryptic formula: "His —— the —— has been graciously pleased to —— a message to the ——."

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I have always wondered why the cat was sacred in Egypt—of course there is an excellent and authoritative mythological reason, but there must have been something behind it all, just to start the mythology going. Now, however, there appears to be an explanation. The Egyptians must have venerated not just a common cat, but that vastly important animal of the "Great Jumping" variety. At the present moment numerous sovereigns, prime ministers, and general staff officers are straining their eyes and ears from Eastern and Southern Europe towards the thick of the fighting in Belgium. The Great Jumping Cat is in the act of springing. The very moment that there is any certainty as to the direction in which the influential beast has leapt there will be a helter-skelter tumbling off the political fence which is now so uncomfortably crowded by anxious politicians. Then, of course, there will be a race to the telegraph office to dispatch telegrams—carefully ante-dated—to assure the victors of the undeviating support of the senders. A learned scholar tells me that the proper word for this is aelurolatry, but that is not easy to pronounce, and the man in the street has a shorter—if less polite—word to describe it.

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During the Balkan wars we often heard of veritable veterans fighting for their country, but the Balkans do not enjoy a monopoly of this fighting spirit. Many men far over the regulation age have been anxious to enlist in our own Army since the war broke out. To my own knowledge, a retired colonel who passed the "three-score years and ten" of the Psalmist two years ago offered his services to the Government on the very day that war was declared—and was accepted as an interpreter.

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And the same desire to serve the country is being shown in hundreds of ways by men and women alike. I heard the other day of a married couple with a young family, living in one of our seaports, upon whom several officers were billeted. During the embarkation of troops that was going on at the time the host and hostess referred to changed their guests frequently, and, as the housewife said, she not only did not know all their names, but could hardly recognise their faces, so frequently did they come and go. Apparently the authorities responsible for the billeting arrangements thought that they had perhaps been overdoing things in this particular case, for an officer actually called to offer a kind of apology. But he was cut short at once. "We are only sorry we can't do more, please don't say another word," he was told. And since then the lady of the house has actually been cooking extra food for any stray soldier she can catch—no difficult task, my informant adds—because she thinks "the poor dears really don't get enough to eat." Of course, that idea is sheer nonsense. But the mothering instinct will out, and if in this instance it gives some of our Tommies an extra "bit of grub" it does no harm at least.

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It is reported that Essad Pasha Toptan has informed an Italian newspaper-man that he intends to raise a body of Albanian volunteers and raid—or invade, I am not sure which!—Austria. On what grounds? As the friend of Italy? Hardly, for Italy is not (at the moment of writing) at war with Austria. As a good Albanian? Surely not; for it will hardly be denied that Austria, whatever her motives, was one of the most active Powers in bringing about the recognition of Albana as an autonomous State. As an ally of Servia? Or Montenegro? I hardly think so; though, to be sure, Montenegro has, after all, announced that she has no intention of endeavouring to capture Scodra just at present, and Servia has not been invading Albanian territory of late. So I conclude that Essad must wish to show his good will to the Triple Entente. But I am left wondering *how* he will carry out his invasion of Austrian territory. By sea?

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The Greek proprietor of a rather well-known hotel in Cairo has this week had an experience which has caused no little amusement to his friends, though he himself has found it hard to see its funny side. Being in London on a visit, he took the opportunity to buy a very fine pair of prismatic field-glasses, and on his return to his hotel, in the Strand, being naturally anxious to test their powers, he went up on the roof for that purpose. Unfortunately for him, his concentrated study of the chimneys of London aroused the suspicions of the lift boy who had taken him up to his observatory. This youth promptly set the rumour rolling that there was a "German spy" at work, and the natural result followed. The police were telephoned for, and in a very few minutes a couple of plain clothes officers arrived in a taxi, and almost before he knew what had happened the luckless Greek *lokandajii* found himself endeavouring to establish his identity and bona-fides. Happily he was able to do so very quickly, and he declares that the police officers treated him with the greatest courtesy and consideration. But his travelling companions, who are not inclined to let him forget the incident in a hurry, are telling the tale—with sundry additions that do credit to their powers of invention. I fear the *hôtelier* feels distinctly sore against the lift boy who was the cause of his trouble.

CORSAIR.

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ADRIATIC RIVALRIES.

The Albanian question has naturally slipped into the background, being overshadowed by the Titanic struggle in Western and Central Europe, but it should not be entirely overlooked even now, in view of its bearing on the policies of two members of the Triple Alliance. A very interesting article contributed by Sig. G. A. di Cesarò to *La Vita Italiana all' Estero* for July 25, deals with the rivalry of Austria-Hungary and Italy in the Adriatic and Albania from the Italian point of view. We give below a *résumé* of the article, the title of which is "Greece and Austria versus Italy in the Albanian Question":—

The news from Albania grows worse every day. The position of the Prince of Wied becomes more and more critical. Sooner or later he may be obliged to leave the country, and the question of finding another solution will confront the Powers. This will be a light matter for the other Governments, but not so for Italy, for whom the situation will be gravely compromised.

Italy and Austria had long been bound by agreements not to seek territories in this region, but the matter did not seem urgent until the recent Balkan wars. Then the two countries decided to take joint action.

It was here, however, that Italy made a serious mistake. In her anxiety to act in concert with Austria she lost sight of the divergence of interests between herself and that Power; and the result of the joint action was that the aims of Austria were upheld, and those of Italy sacrificed.

Austrian interests lay in saving the North of Albania with its Catholic population from Slav influence, and in keeping the growing power and commerce of Servia from the sea.

Italy, on the other hand, had no quarrel with the national aspirations of Servia. Servia on the Adriatic would not be a rival of Italy, but a natural ally. The views of Italy refer rather to the southern portion of Albania. From the military point of view the Bay of Valona sheltered by the island of Sasseno opposite to her unprotected Adriatic coast would be a very serious peril if in the hands of any other Power. Similarly, the Channel of Corfu might become a naval base most dangerous to Italy if, in addition to the island, the other side of the strait also were to pass into the control of the Greeks.

Far from its being an Italian interest to oppose the natural tendency of the Serbs towards the Adriatic, it is of the greatest importance to her that the commerce of the Balkan Peninsula should flow East and West in order to feed Italian industries and Italian transport by supplying Italian products.

That Austrian action is opposed to the aspirations of the Serbs is evident from the strained state of Austro-Servian relations, while the coldness of the feeling between Italy and Greece makes it equally clear that Italian action is directed against the ambition of the Government of Athens.

The outcome of the alliance with Austria has been that the Italians by defending Austrian interests have lost the sympathy of the Serbs, whereas the Austrians and the Germans, who stand in the background, have drawn closer the bonds of friendship which unite them to Greece. That this friendship is sincere is testified by the fact that although Italy has upheld the claims of Austria against Servia, Austria has not supported the claim of Italy against Greece.

This is perfectly clear from the course of events. The expulsion of the Serbs from Durazzo and of the Montenegrins from Scutari, the delimitation of the northern frontier of Albania—in a word, all the demands of Austria were loyally backed by Italy even before the Conference of Ambassadors in London. On the other hand, the demarcation of the southern frontier, a question of vital interest to Italy, was left entirely to the Conference, of which the members were allowed to give their own decision, and were not called on to ratify a prearranged agreement. The Italian point of view found no supporters. Austria having obtained her own ends was now interested in thwarting the aims of Italy; Germany was bound to uphold Austria; the Powers of the Triple Entente were delighted to see the internal dissensions among the members of the Triple Alliance. The hopes of Italy were thus frustrated at the Conference. What course will she now take?

Greece is at present in a very enviable situation, protected by France, courted by the Triple Entente, and at the same time caressed by Germany and Austria, who are anxious to draw this rising young Power within the orbit of the Triple Alliance. She finds protectors and supporters on every side, whereas Italy is driven into complete isolation and can look for help neither to friendly Powers nor to her allies.

The Triple Alliance in truth hides within its bosom the eternal rivalry between Austria and Italy, and Germany, in the nature of things, leans, and must lean, to the side of Austria. This rivalry has for its present theatre the Adriatic and the Balkan coasts, and Italy will be able to hold her position in the Alliance with some show of dignity only so long as she maintains her naval superiority over Austria. Greece, as the force of logic shows and the course of events confirms, has interests not diverse from those of Austria, but in Albania and on the sea she is both politically and economically the rival of Italy. Were she to enter the Triple Alliance she would increase the Austro-German preponderance over the Italian minority; her naval forces united to those of Austria would destroy the slight superiority at present enjoyed by Italy; her action in the south of Albania, in concert with that of Austria in the north, would preclude Italy from all hope of influence beyond the Adriatic.

When one considers all this, and when one notes the successive moves of Austria to shake the position of Italy in Albania, there arises a very grave suspicion indeed—the suspicion whether there are not, behind the scenes, other forces than the mere territorial aspirations of Athens, which push Greece along the path of armed intervention to uphold her claims in Epirus and Southern Albania.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turkey and the German Warships.

The reported transfer of the "Goeben" and "Breslau" to the Turkish flag and the dubious attitude of the Turkish Government naturally evoked indignant protests. We quote below some Press opinions:—

The only point with which the public need seriously concern themselves in regard to the "Goeben" and "Breslau" is that their German crews should be taken out. What happens to them after that is of very little consequence, and it would be foolish to make it a subject of international controversy at this moment. If the German crews are taken out, all idea of their being used by the Turks in an attack upon Greece may be dismissed. If the German crews are left in, we have no security that those ships may not reappear as belligerents in either the Black Sea or the Mediterranean. The willingness of the Turks to conform in this matter to the rule of international law which would be binding on all other neutrals is, therefore, a point of high importance to Great Britain, France, and Russia; and we do not doubt that this will be recognised at Constantinople.—*The Westminster Gazette* (August 14).

Through all the recent caprices of her destiny the Ottoman Empire has had no more honest friend than Great Britain; and so long as she repays sincerity with sincerity our friendship for her is assured. Nor need she look far to-day to discover that the hand of Britain is a pretty strong one in war as in peace. But if she has allowed herself to be browbeaten or cajoled into accommodating our enemy, and the enemy of nearly all Europe, then we tell her plainly that our good will is at an end—and she has only to remember the names of our allies in this war to realise what the withdrawal of that good will must mean. German diplomacy in its desperation is intriguing in every neutral Chancellerie to drag States into the war which the Potsdam party has let loose upon the world. There are signs that Germany has failed in every one of these endeavours; and the explanation of that failure is too obvious to need stating. While, therefore, the opportunity still remains, we would counsel Turkey, in her own interests, to recollect the fallacies of German counsels in the first Balkan War, and to resist a more ruinous temptation now. It is the one plain way open to her. Without the support of a preponderating sea-power in the Mediterranean the existence of the Ottoman Empire is impossible.—*The Pall Mall Gazette* (August 13).

The Paris correspondent of *The Morning Post*, under date of August 13, refers to the "great indignation here over the alleged sale of the 'Goeben' and 'Breslau,'" and gives a brief summary of an article in *The Echo de Paris* by M. Herbette, as follows:—

In *The Echo de Paris* M. Herbette recalls the attitude of England to Russia in the Russo-Japanese war with reference to the Russian auxiliary cruisers. On that occasion England insisted that as the warships had entered the Bosphorus as merchant vessels they must remain merchant vessels on leaving the Dardanelles. Similarly to-day England, France, and Russia could not allow these two vessels to enter the straits as German ships and leave them as Turkish ships. M. Herbette ends his article by saying: "As long as there are Frenchmen worthy of the name in the Mediterranean the place of these ships is at the bottom of the sea. If the Turks return to their senses they will accept the inevitable. A little more imprudence and they will attract a storm such as they have never experienced, a storm which would effect the miracle of bringing Bulgaria back to the Slav fold and King Ferdinand to Adrianople."

The Interests of Turkey.

The tendencies of Turkish policy are being watched with anxiety by all true friends of Turkey. We quote below two comments:—

The whole of this situation is at the moment confused and dangerous, but Turkey will, we hope, count the inevitable consequences before she plunges in. . . . The Turkish Government is at the moment in the hands of adventurous people, who naturally desire to profit by the occasion to retrieve their recent losses. But . . . we hope Turkey will take time to survey this situation and decide to act prudently; but the course of events needs careful watching on our part, for, if she decides

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to come in, it will be probably part of her scheme to stir up trouble for us in Egypt.—*The Westminster Gazette* (August 18).

The recommendations which we and our Allies may make to the Balkan States, other than Servia, must chiefly depend on the action of Turkey. We shall exhort them to keep the peace so long as Turkey keeps it. But should Turkey fling prudence to the winds and hazard the vital interests of her empire in Asia as well as in Europe, on the chance of reconquering Salonika, and of being allowed to keep it when the European war is done, England, France, and Russia will undoubtedly counsel them to revive the Balkan Alliance, and will give it, at the least, their moral and diplomatic support.—*The Times* (August 19).

The Near East and the War.

An article in *The Globe* (August 14), under the title of "The Diplomatic Balance," gives a lucid summary of the motives and interests which would probably govern the policies of the Balkan States and Turkey in relation to the War. We quote below:—

German influence is powerful at the Porte, and the chance of retrieving the disasters of the Balkan war may be tempting. An alliance with Bulgaria for an attack on Servia and Greece is, at least, the subject of anxious consideration at the present moment; and a decisive victory won by Germany would probably precipitate that movement. The most serious restraint upon it is the attitude of Roumania, who has much to lose and nothing to gain by a disturbance of the settlement arrived at under the Treaty of Bucharest—a treaty of which the terms were almost dictated by Roumania herself. Roumania, moreover, cannot afford to incur the hostility of Russia, and she knows that the victory of Austria means death to her hopes of bringing under the Roumanian Crown the millions of the Roumanian race who inhabit Transylvania. Another fact that may now restrain Turkey from departing from neutrality is that her object of wresting Salonica and the Ægean Islands from Greece could so easily be frustrated. If Greece were to join the Triple Entente she would immediately be relieved from all fear of attack by sea, and the purchase of the German cruisers, if it be effected, would be rendered vain. Besides, Turkey must know that to range herself on the side of Germany and Austria is to run the risk of losing much that she at present holds, and to stand to gain very little even if Germany and Austria prevail. In the latter event it is not Turkey but Germany and Austria that will occupy Salonica and establish themselves in the Balkan Peninsula. As for Bulgaria, she would, in the most favourable case, become a vassal State of her all-powerful neighbour. Small nationalities of all others have no reason to wish for the victory of the gospel of Potsdam. They would exist, if at all, on sufferance, and their situation would be like that of the rabbit in the boa-constrictor's cage, waiting till the devourer was ready for his next meal.

The Coronation of the Shah.

We quote below from a note in *The Pioneer Mail* (July 24) which will appeal to all those who care for the future of the young Shah, and the ancient empire over which he reigns:—

The elevation of Sultan Ahmed Shah to the Takht-i-Taous (the peacock throne made for Fath Ali Shah when he married an Isfahani bride known as the Peacock Lady) was doubtless a splendid ceremony, but the element of pathos must everywhere have been apparent beneath the pomp. Hitherto, the life of this young boy of sixteen must have been dismal enough, for he was but eleven when his father was driven into exile and he was made nominal ruler of a "constitutional" Persia. Reports from Teheran told how he missed his parent and spent much time in tears. One wonders what the young Shah's feelings were when Mahomed Ali returned to Persia as an invader and was declared a rebel against his son. Even in the midst of the pomp of coronation it must have been galling for a Kajar Prince to take the oath before the Mejliss, that incompetent debating society which apes the ways of a Parliament. But gloomy as the past has been, and humiliating as the present is, fears for the future must have been uppermost in the minds of many who witnessed the ceremonial in Teheran. Will the boy end his life in peace or in exile or in blood? All the omens make the first of these lots seem the least likely. Yet if it should so happen that Ahmed Shah develops into a man of character his reign may be one of credit and glory. Above all things Persia needs a man, and if that man were found in the person of the Shah, the future of the unhappy country might once more brighten.

The cry for "a man," a deliverer, is as old as history, and it is still heard, and not only in Persia.

The Maltese and the War.

The Malta Daily Chronicle (August 6) contains an interesting account of the scenes in Malta on August 6, when the news was received that Great Britain had declared war on Germany. We quote below:—

The first intimation to be given to the public was the hoisting from our office balcony of the Union Jack and our own Maltese Flag, side by side on the same flag-staff. Simultaneously with this we posted on our notice board outside a poster printed in red and announcing in bold letters that England had declared war. The people on the Square and in Strada Teatro commenced to gather in front of our office and eagerly devoured the contents of the poster. A spontaneous scene of enthusiasm ensued. The crowd which by this time had greatly increased broke out in rapturous applause and gave loud and resonant cheers for the Union Jack, for our own Maltese Flag, and for the declaration. The cheers were renewed with the same vigour when the French and Russian flags were hoisted at each end of our balcony.

The demonstrators increased in numbers and enthusiasm towards evening when:—

At 6 o'clock the "King's Own" and "La Vallette" Civic Bands, preceded by the flags of the Triple Entente, and by our own National bi-colour, and followed by immense crowds, left their respective seats and proceeded to the Palace Square, to the strains of inspiriting music. On arrival on the Square, the bands, amid deafening cheers, played and the crowd sang "Rule Britannia," "God Save the King," the "Marseillaise," and the Russian National Anthem. Just then his Excellency the Governor was leaving the Palace Courtyard in his motor. The bands struck up the National Anthem, the crowds cheered, waved their hats and clapped their hands as the Governor motored along saluting his acknowledgments. Loud cheers for the Governor were raised, after which the demonstrators proceeded along Strada Reale, the bands again playing patriotic airs. A halt was made in front of the Union Club, where a similar demonstration took place amidst lusty cheers for the Army and Navy and the Triple Entente. Enthusiasm was at its highest. The whole of Strada Reale, from Porta Reale to the Palace Square, was thronged by a dense mass of humanity. Amidst frantic cheering, lustily joined in from every window and balcony, the demonstrators moved off from the Union Club to the strains of "Rule Britannia" and by way of Strada Mezzodi proceeded to Strada Genio, halting in front of the French Consulate. The appearance of the Consul, Chevalier Milon de Peillon, and his family at the balconies was the signal for an outburst of tremendous cheering, which was renewed as the bands struck up the stirring notes of the "Marseillaise," which the crowd lustily sung, particularly emphasising the "Marchons, battaillons." "God Save the King" was then played and sung amidst the wildest enthusiasm, the assembled crowd laying particular stress on the significant words of the Anthem "Send him victorious." A similar ovation followed the rendering of the Russian Anthem. For over a quarter of an hour the enthusiasm continued unabated. The air was rent by lusty cries of "Vive l'Entente!" etc., hats were waved, hands were clapped, whilst a considerable number of ladies, who had gained coigns of vantage, and others from roofs and balconies waved their dainty handkerchiefs.

The Warlike Servians.

In *The Daily Telegraph* (August 15) Mr. E. Ashmead Bartlett gives a description of the scenes which he witnessed while travelling through Austria-Hungary and Servia during the earliest stages of the war between the two countries. On the Servian side of the border, he writes:—

On my way up in the train I was much struck by the attitude of the Servian troops. They were clamouring to be led against the Austrians, and, although they were being mobilised for the third time in two years, there was no grumbling and no air of sadness at the hardness of their lot. The recruits and reservists turned up at the station, accompanied by their wives and families in the best of spirits. Each man had a bunch of flowers stuck in the muzzle of his rifle, and all were singing their national songs. As a matter of fact, these hardy, patriotic peasants have become so used to war that they now regard a call to arms in much the same spirit as the average man regards an invitation to a hunt. These men were leaving their homes and their ripening crops on which the Servian nation depends for its existence at the most critical period of the year, and yet they took the field without a murmur, rejoicing at again having to defend their homes against the invader and leaving their womenfolk to do the field work for the third time in three years. I was told that when war was first declared there was a good deal of depression and misgiving, but this quickly passed away, and all the old confidence returned. Nevertheless, when it became known that Germany had declared war, the enthusiasm of the army and the nation knew no limits. An enormous load of anxiety was at once lifted from their minds. No longer was it a question of defending their firesides against the invader, it now became a war of aggression and revenge. The scene in Nish on this eventful Sunday afternoon will not quickly be forgotten. The whole of the population of Nish and the emigrés from Belgrade and the innumerable soldiers and officers turned out and paraded the streets as if celebrating some great national fête. The River Save passes through the town, and there is a shady promenade along its banks. Here this mass of delighted Slavs concentrated in that same light-hearted atmosphere which one associates with Hampstead Heath on a Bank Holiday. On all sides one heard of the war of revenge and of the anticipated march into Bosnia and Herzegovina to reclaim these provinces for the Slav family.

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Applications for admission, particularly as Boarders, should be made early, as the number of places is strictly limited.

G. E. CHARTERS, B.A., London, *Directress.*

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Aug.	1914. Aug.		1332. Ramadan	5674 Ab
21	8	Friday	29	29
22	9	Saturday	30 Shawwal.	30 Ellul.
23	10	Sunday	1	1
24	11	Monday	2	2
25	12	Tuesday	3	3
26	13	Wednesday	4	4
27	14	Thursday	5	5

DEATH OF THE POPE.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to chronicle the almost sudden death of His Holiness Pope Pius X. To have sat in St. Peter's Throne during these past ten years must have been a grievous trial to so gentle a man, and the saintly Venetian's last words are reported to have been thanks to God that imminent death would spare him from witnessing any more of the present war. His late Holiness in St. Malachy's prophecy was referred to as Ignis Ardens, and indeed, at the moment of his death, the blazing fire of Teutonic aggression threatens to burn up the civilisation of a continent.

To-day is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduke Franz Salvator of Austria-Tuscany, son-in-law of the Emperor Franz Josef.

To-morrow is the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen of the Bulgarians.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.H. the Princess Xenia of Russia, whose mother is sister to the King of the Hellenes.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.S.H. the Prince of Schönburg, brother of H.H. the Mpreteresha of Albania.

Sunday is the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovitch of Russia, father-in-law to Princess Helena of Servia.

Monday is the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke George Michailovitch of Russia, brother-in-law to the King of the Hellenes.

Monday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Dowager Archduchess Karl Ludwig of Austria, step-mother of the lately-murdered Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia, brother to H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught.

Our latest information concerning the condition of the Khedive is to the effect that his Highness in making good progress on the way to recovery. His Highness has, we understand, not yet left Constantinople.

The Egyptian Mail reports that Rushdi Pasha, the Regent, has received the following telegram from Osman Pasha Mortada, Chief of the Khedivial Cabinet:—"The Khedive recommends to those of his subjects who were intending to go to Constantinople to visit him, not to do so under the present circumstances. At the same time he thanks them for their sentiments. His Highness has been informed of the prudent and economical measures taken by the Khedivial Government, and is entirely satisfied with them."

Lady Lowther, whose splendid work in Constantinople for sufferers by the late Balkan War will be remembered by our readers, is now acting as one of the joint honorary secretaries of the Committee of American ladies who are presenting this country with a fully equipped military hospital, which they will support till the war is over.

Sir Reginald Wingate, the Sirdar, arrived at Port Said on Thursday of last week. A Reuter's message from Cairo states that he arrived in that city on Tuesday.

Sir Paul Harvey has been appointed director of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, which is located at 49, Wellington Street, Strand.

Mme. Take Jonescu, whose husband has left England for Roumania, has been staying at Brighton, but is now in town again.

On July 21 Mr. Mirza Ali Akbar Khan, Consul for Persia in Bombay, held a reception and garden party at the bungalow of Mr. M. H. Pehdashti Walkespwar, in honour of the Shah's Coronation. Persian subjects and others attended. At the beginning of the proceedings the poet Mirza Khurram read a Kasideh (eulogy) in honour of the Shah. A telegram was received from the Private Secretary to Lord Willingdon, which stated: "Please convey to his Majesty the Shah on his Coronation their excellencies much regret inability to attend your garden party to-day." The assembly was addressed in Persian by the Persian Consul, who also proposed the toast of H.M. the King Emperor. The Hon. Mr. Justice Beaman proposed the toast of the Shah-in-Shah.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works in Egypt, is now in Scotland on leave.

Mme. Mishu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, accompanied by her daughters, returned to London last week.

Zewar Pasha, the Governor of Alexandria, who was to have gone on leave on August 1, postponed his departure at the last moment in compliance with a request from the Regent.

H.H. the Khedive has conferred the 3rd class of the Order of the Mejidieh upon El Kaimakam H. W. Channer Bey, Sudan Government, who is struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

On Saturday evening, July 22, H.E. the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and Mrs. Morgenthau, gave a fancy dress masked ball at the Embassy at Yeni-Keuy on the Bosphorus. Among the guests invited were H.H. the Grand Vizier, members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, and other officials and friends. Persian, Russian, Indian, Arab, and native costumes predominated, with the usual assemblage of Pierrot and Pierrette, cowboy, Gainsborough, Louis XIV., and pink coat creations. At midnight supper was served in the Embassy Gardens, which were illuminated for the occasion. A bugle call summoned the guests to a spirited cotillion, during which numerous beautiful favours were distributed amongst the dancers.

Mr. Nenadovitch, the newly appointed Servian Minister to Turkey, was received on July 27 by the Sultan, when his Excellency presented his suite to his Imperial Majesty.

We learn from *The Orient* that Professor Elizabeth Kendall, of Wellesley College, arrived in Constantinople on July 22, and left on July 28 by Messageries for Samsoun. After a trip to Sivas, she expects to go to Persia.

Mr. J. Carkeet James, engineer-in-charge of the Cairo drainage scheme, is leaving London on Friday on his return to Egypt.

Mr. Rizo-Rhangabé, the Secretary of the Hellenic Legation, whose health has given way under the stress of work, has received sick leave, and has temporarily been replaced by Mr. Delyannis.

On the 15th inst., at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, the Right Rev. the Bishop in Khartoum officiated at the marriage of Colonel C. S. O. Monck, Coldstream Guards, to Violet, widow of the late Henry Dawson-Greene.

We regret to announce the death by drowning of Mr. C. A. Ball, of the Sudan Civil Service, through the capsizing of a passenger steamer near Senar, on the Blue Nile. Mr. Ball was educated at Rugby and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he obtained a First Class in Modern History in 1905. A most promising career is thus terminated. Mr. Ball had taken a leading part in the Land Survey of the Sudan, and was a good Arabic scholar.

The *Cyprus Gazette* announces that Mr. W. A. Russell, King's Advocate, has been granted two months' extension of leave on half-pay from August 8, Mr. D. J. Jardine, Assistant Secretary, twenty-six days' extension of leave on half-pay from September 12.

Among the passengers who returned to Egypt by the P. and O. steamer "Nankin" last Friday were Mr. W. S. Blunt, Mr. A. R. Callender, Major Ellgood, Mr. Etherington-Smith, Mr. J. C. Radford, Mr. W. Swanson, etc.

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H.M. the King of Italy has conferred upon Adly Pasha Yeghen, Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Grand Cordon of St. Maurice and St. Lazare, in commemoration of the Duke of the Abruzzi's visit to Egypt and that of Prince Mohammed Ali to Italy.

Mr. E. Boutagy, formerly of the British Vice-Consulate at Haifa, has left that town for Marseilles as a Red Cross Volunteer.

Dr. Ehrenpreis, the former Grand Rabbi of Bulgaria, after paying a number of farewell visits and being received in audience by T.M. the King and Queen of the Bulgarians, has left Sofia for Stockholm.

H.I.M. the Sultan has conferred the decoration of the Imtiaz in gold on Damad Enver Pasha.

There will be a Memorial Service for Lieutenant-General Sir James Grierson in St. Columbia's (Church of Scotland), Pont Street, at two o'clock to-morrow.

H.H. the Agha Khan arrived at Cape Town on Monday from Mombasa, and will proceed to Europe on board the "Llanstephan Castle."

Alfred Silley Bey left London on Friday last on his return to Constantinople.

Miss Johnstone, head mistress of the elementary school for governesses at Boulac, is to be allowed an extension of five years beyond the sixty years' age limit so that she may be entrusted with the management of the normal elementary school for governesses at Alexandria.

A Reuter's message from St. Petersburg, under date of August 19, reports:—The General Staff announces that the Grand Duke Nicolas, commanding the Russian Army, has sent to the Crown Prince Alexander of Servia, through the Servian Minister in St. Petersburg, the following telegram:—"Having received the news regarding the brilliant victory of the valiant Servian Army, I send on my behalf and that of the entire Russian fraternal army cordial congratulations on the first victory which God has given it, and which is the beginning of a series of victories. In my person the Russian army shouts a vigorous 'Zivio' in honour of the victorious Serbs."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Captain C. de Bartholomé has been appointed to the battle-cruiser "Invincible," in succession to Captain Pelly, appointed Chief of Staff to Admiral Sir Henry Jackson.

The following appointments in the Egyptian Army are announced:—

Captain Alban J. Reynolds, 37th Lancers (Baluch. Horse), having reported his arrival in Egypt from India is taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army from July 1, with the rank of Bimbashi, vice El Bimbashi H. V. S. Charrington, struck off. This officer is posted to the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Lieutenant Richard B. L. Bazley-White, Royal West Kent Regiment, having reported his arrival in Egypt from India, is taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army from July 1, with the rank of Bimbashi, vice El Bimbashi G. A. O'Callaghan, struck off. This officer is posted to the 1st Battalion.

Lieutenant Pierce M. J. Brett, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, having reported his arrival in Egypt from India, is taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army from July 1, with the rank of Bimbashi, vice El Bimbashi R. J. C. Thompson, struck off. This officer is posted to the Medical Corps.

Lieutenant Basil H. H. Spence, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, having reported his arrival in Egypt from India, is taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army from June 30, with the rank of Bimbashi. This officer is posted to the Sudan Government.

According to the *Messager d'Athènes*, Mgr. Arsenios, formerly Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Strumitza, has been translated to the Hellenic see of Larissa and Platamona. Mgr. Athanasios, formerly Bishop of Myreon (Kavalla) has been translated to the see of Argolis, and Mgr. Ambrosios to that of Naupaktos-Eurytania from Christoupolis.

Mr. Hoff, Inspector-General for the Bitlis section of the Anatolian provinces, left for his post on July 24, going by Russian steamer to Trebizond.

An Imperial iradeh has been issued permitting Bekir Sami Bey, Vali of Beyrout, to wear the decoration of the Legion of Honour conferred on him by the French Government.

Houloussy Bey, Director-General of the Hejaz Railway, formerly Ottoman Minister of Public Works, has been appointed Vali of Syria.

Dr. Reshid Bey, Mutessarif of Karassi, has been appointed Secretary-General to Hoff Bey, Inspector-General of Reforms.

Hagop Boyadjian Effendi, formerly deputy for Rodosto, has been appointed Inspector-General of the three vilayets of Erzerum, Trebizonde and Siras.

The appointment is gazetted (June 15) of Mr. W. D. Woodside Matthews as H.M. Vice-Consul at Cavalla.

The following have obtained appointments in the Egyptian and Sudanese Civil Services:—Egyptian.—P. C. B. Blair, R. M. Gent, R. J. L. O'Donoghue. Sudanese.—E. R. Burgess, E. G. Coryton, J. G. Monteath, J. A. Reid, C. H. Thomson.

OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR J. GRIERSON.

Lieutenant-General Sir James Grierson, commander of the Second Corps of the Expeditionary Force, who died of heart failure on Monday morning whilst travelling by train, first saw active service in Egypt under General Wolseley, being appointed on the Staff as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General in the Intelligence Branch of the Indian Contingent. He was present at the action of Kassassin and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with clasp, the Khedive's bronze star, and the 5th class of the Order of the Mejidieh. When the Gladstone Government decided on the Suakin Expedition of 1885, Grierson was selected for special duty and appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General on the Headquarters Staff. The expedition accomplished little, but there was some desperate fighting on both sides at the battle of Hasheen, when the Sudanese charged our cavalry, "throwing themselves on the ground at the critical moment of the charge, and slashing with their swords at the horses legs." Graham went on to Tamai, but Osman Digna had retired to the waterless interior, and the advance was abortive. Grierson's services were recognised by mention in despatches, and a further clasp to the medal.

MAJOR A. HUGHES-ONSLOW.

Major A. Hughes-Onslow, late 10th Hussars, Reserve of Officers, who died on August 17 on active service with the Expeditionary Force, served with the Egyptian Expedition to the Sudan in 1884, and was present at the battles of Teb and Tamai, for which he received the medal with clasp and the bronze star. He also saw service in the South African War of 1899-1900. Major Hughes-Onslow was noted as a military steeplechase rider, and his successes in that field were remarkable.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BRETT.—On July 29, at Suez, Egypt, the wife of E. Bryan Brett—a son.

MARRIAGE.

WEDD—HEBDITCH.—On August 11, at the Parish Church, Stoke-sub-Hamden, by the Rev. G. G. Monck, M.A., vicar, Richard Wedd, of the Sudan Civil Service, to Lucy Marguerite, daughter of the late B. S. Hebditch, of Stoke-sub-Hamden, Somerset.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1914.

THE PORTE AND PEACE.

The advisers of the Ottoman Padishah are faced with what is perhaps the gravest responsibility in all Turkish history. It lies with them to decide upon the destiny of their country; for it is within their province to advise the Sultan as to peace or war. And upon this decision rests, we believe, the fate of Turkey. Let us review the facts which lead the impartial observer to arrive at this conclusion. For several years past the Germans have been assiduously pushing themselves forward throughout the length and breadth of the Ottoman dominions. Under the skilful direction of their capable Ambassador, the late Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, they made immense commercial and political progress throughout the Empire. The adroit combination of politics and finance, the magnificent advertisements which they provided for their national enterprises in the shape of imperial peregrinations, naval visits, pompous Consular establishments, and military missions greatly appealed to the Oriental imagination, and in the admiration won for the glitter and display of mailed fists and shining armour the beholder was apt to forget that the German national motto was and is *Deutschland über alles*. When it was realized that all this overwhelming display of imperial affection had to be paid for in kilometric guarantees, loans at usurious rates, grossly unfair armament contracts and harassing commercial concessions it was found that it was too late to draw back. The Imperial Eagle, like the vulture of Prometheus, was inexorably preying upon the living body of the Ottoman body politic. Yet Germany has the ambition to figure as the friend of the Porte, and urges upon the Sultan that his interests compel him to join the Teutonic Powers in their war of aggression.

To an unbiassed observer such advice can only appear as counsels of despair. Turkey is no longer geographically continuous with the territory of those who are so anxious to convert her into an ally. Her navy lacks experience, and it is idle to suppose that the successors even of Khair-ed-Din Barbarossa could hope to strive on equal terms with the men who have swept the Teutonic flags from the high seas. One can almost consider the action of Germany in attempting to enmesh Turkey in her desperate policy as being prompted by a desire to have something to fling to the wolves which are rapidly overtaking her sleigh. She may hope that the prospect of partitioning Turkish provinces may act as surely as a solvent of the integrity of the Triple Entente, as it did upon that of the Balkan Alliance. Whatever may be her proposals, it is at least certain that Germany is anxious for the Porte to plunge into war solely for her own benefit, and is not concerned in any way for the future welfare of the Sultan or his dominions. It is even said that Germany would be willing to sacrifice Turkey *in toto* if by so doing she could fend off from her own territory the consequences of her Prussian policy. And what is Turkey to gain by war? If she relies upon Bulgarian co-operation, either active or passive, in an adventure against Salonika, she will be as gravely disillusioned as was Germany in her calculations based on the imminence of civil war in Ulster. Can she hope to attack Egypt or recover the Islands without first securing the command of the sea? How can she hope to gain what the mighty fleet of Germany has as yet not dared to challenge? The days are past when Egypt could be had for the asking by any army of horsemen from the north-east. It is ridiculous to assume that the sentimental longing of a few Free-thinking and other non-Moslem fanatics for the city of Salonika or even the more comprehensible ambition on the part of many Turks to recover the Islands can plunge the Empire of the Ottomans into a more hopeless war than any in which it has yet engaged. Yet the ridiculous may come about. And what then? There can be but one answer. If the Porte be affected by the *furor Teutonicus* and allows its German-trained officers to drag it into war, then it will have definitely proved itself completely unfit to be entrusted with the sovereign power of deciding upon peace or war. Great Britain has the oversight of too many Moslems for it to be possible for an Ottoman Prince at war with her to retain the Khaliphate. In such circumstances the sword would once more have to settle the succession to the office of Commander of the Faithful as it has so often settled it before. Can the House of Osman afford to risk both its temporal dominions and its spiritual authority at the beck and call of a faithless Teuton who is bound neither by his spoken word nor his written bond? Is Sultan Mohammed Reshad Khan to imperil all that he has because the King of Prussia has made a mistake—that King of Prussia who has treated Turkey as his milch cow and battened upon her for years?

The policy of Great Britain has in the past been consistently friendly to Turkey. If we have been less flamboyant in our protestations of affection than our theatrical competitors, we have been more honest. Our Government has taken its friendship so seriously as to give at times unpalatable advice. This journal in particular has upon occasion sharply criticized official acts when calculated to damage the reputation or the prospects of Turkey. We have deplored the wholesale expulsions of Greeks on humanitarian and economic grounds, although we have appreciated the causes which led up to this drastic action. We sympathized with Turks in the hour of defeat, and recalled the days when our troops fought side by side against Muscovite aggression. We have never sought to bind the Porte with financial fetters for our own benefit, nor have we used our political influence to inflict economic hardship upon the Ottoman peoples, nor burthened the Turkish Treasury unfairly for the benefit of our own pockets. We came as merchants into Turkey, and as merchants have we remained. We have ever realized that honesty was the best policy, and have charged a fair price for reputable goods. We have built railways and other engineering works on commercial lines, and conducted them soberly on mercantile principles. Ours has not been a meteoric career of political advertisement and prestige hunting at the expense of a bewildered population. If we have anything of which to be ashamed in our treatment of Turkey in the past it is that there were times when we allowed her to be deceived by the specious policies of an astute rival, whose cunning prompted him to use the Porte as a stepping-stone towards his ambition of world-power.

So it comes to this. There are two paths before the Cabinet of Stamboul. The one, along which certain German-trained officers desire to press, leads to war. The other leads to peace. If Turkey moves along the path of war and partakes in an ultimate Teutonic victory, she will lose her independence as surely as will all the other small peoples whose existence does not fit in with the schemes of Teutonism. She will be administered by German officials, and from being an eagerly-courted ally in the hour of need the best she can possibly hope for is the soul-less existence of a German protected State with its territories closed to all commerce excepting that of the Fatherland. We have already pointed out that a Teutonic defeat means the extinction of Turkey and the loss of the Kaliphate to her ruling House. So much for the path of war. The Powers of the Triple Entente do not ask for the armed co-operation of the Porte; they are unwilling to expose the Sultan and his dominions to the expense and drain of a third war, but in the event of their own arms proving victorious they offer to restore to Turkey all those concessions which have been wrung from her by the Germans. The Triple Entente stands for the liberties of Europe and for the right of the small States to live. German aggression is to be stopped, and that which it has already seized is to be restored where possible to the former proprietors. Turkey will benefit from this redistribution of the spoiler's booty. It will be restored to her as being hers by right, not as a pay-

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ment either for armed assistance or as an inducement to remain neutral. The Oriental mind is fully capable of realizing the difference between the bribes of timorous weakness and the magnificent generosity of strength; it can also appreciate the abstract justice of such a restoration of goods. Moreover, the Moslem can realise that this is no question of a *jihad*. Mussulmans already fight on both sides in the present war; the integrity of Islam is not imperilled, neither the Holy Places nor the person of the Khaliph are endangered; there is no call to fight because certain Donmehs, Jews, and Freemasons desire to possess a city in Macedonia, or because a few officers trained in Germany sympathize with their former temporary comrades in arms.

WESTWARD BOUND.

(From a Correspondent.)

s.s. "Llandovery Castle,"

August 12, 1914.

When we went on board at Port Said on July 25 our thoughts were very far from war; rather, they were full of the hardship of having to embark at two o'clock in the morning. We felt extremely ill-used, having sat up all night, as the ship had been expected at 11 p.m. Cox's agent, cheerful despite his vigil, hurried us on board, and deposited our luggage in the cabins. "You count your luggage? It all right? Yes? Thank you very much! Hope to see you here again. Good-bye, lady!" We repaired, mournful still, to the cabin. "Better unpack to-night—it may be rough to-morrow." The result being that it was half-past four before we fell into our bunks, and the delicate rose of an Eastern dawn was flushing the sky.

The night before we got to Naples we heard that Austria and Servia were at war. To those of us who have interests and ties with Turkey in Asia the news brought grave misgivings, for who can say that a war with such big issues at stake as the Slav and German questions can be localised? It would seem that Austria prefers to fly at small game—distracted Turkey in 1908, and now Servia; it is wise, perhaps, to minimise the risks of war. The two days at Marseilles are packed with bigger interests. Everything is so uncertain; rumours of war flying around, soldiers everywhere, no one to unload our cargo. The banks are guarded by police, and crowds stand *en queue* from those unresponsive doors far into the next street. Later on, as we are being served in a shop, a man rushes in, flinging like a bomb the news, "General mobilisation!" The shop-women burst into tears. "Mon Dieu, mon Dieu! This touches us all!" "You, too, mesdames, for you are English—you go with us." A curious, spontaneous little tribute this to the Anglo-French friendship—"You, too, *for you are English*." The streets are bubbling over with excitement. True, we see women and girls tearful and distressed, but the men are wound up to the highest pitch of excitement. A stout man waves his stick over his head, shouting "Vive l'Armie!" and those around take up the cry in a frenzy of joy.

Our ship unloads all night, and gets away at 6 a.m.—just twelve hours after the time she was announced to sail.

Our fate overtook us at Gibraltar; we were not to sail without permission; also, our wireless installation was disconnected, by order; there must be no picking up of news. There could be no better place in which to be held up, on an English boat under the shadow of the Rock. Perhaps there is no other place which thrills you through and through with such a sense of England's greatness; echoes of that Titanic three years' struggle come down through the centuries to us still. "God of Battles, was ever a battle like this in the world before?" We were by no means alone in our inglorious safety; every hour ships came in, and anchored. The —— flew in early on ——, having been recalled when some 500 miles on her way home. We were all at pretty close quarters, but we were allowed no communication either with each other or with the shore. One night the ——, our nearest neighbour, flashed us news; another time, we watched the Japanese crew of a small boat pounding each other savagely; and twice, French passengers (turned back at Lyons, because the trains were all in use for military purposes) were taken off on steam launch or sailing boat, and whisked right across the Bay to Algeciras. These were our sole distractions—these, and the ever-changing beauty of our Harbour of Refuge. Not one of us can forget those days; and the scene by night was of magical beauty, hemmed in as we were by the starry lights of the Rock and the Bay, and comforted by the unsleeping searchlights from the shore. We felt so safe; but we felt so much shame, too, to be living the lazy, idle life of board-ship, while England was at war. It was not of our choosing, however.

The third officer, who was on the active list of the Navy, went off to active service; we cheered him as he left. Of course, we could not cheer when the perky little torpedoes hunted in German boats from time to time. To pass Gibraltar at any time always seems to annoy German ships and passengers (I wonder why?), so that to be prisoners in Gibraltar harbour must be quite acutely bitter for the poor things.

On the third day the captain went on shore, and returned with permission to sail. The sea was safe. British ships about. Most joyfully we started off, in our appointed order, which was third. But first we had one awful moment; we were stopped at the mouth of the harbour. It appeared that our freedom depended on the immediate production of a green ticket, which the captain wished to reserve against our arrival at Southampton. "Just as you please, of course," said the harbour master, very pleasant and polite; "but until I have that ticket I'm afraid you can't go!" Finally the green ticket was handed over, and we sped upon our way. A somewhat turbulent Bay of Biscay received us—rendered nicer by the frequent reception of news by wireless; and a pleasing touch of adventure was added by the lights in saloon and cabin being carefully shuttered every evening, so as to attract no undue attention. Off Ushant a French cruiser stopped us, and inquired our destination. "You can't go to Southampton," it said; "go to Plymouth." "But why?" was our natural query. "The reasons are private," was the reply. We, therefore, altered our course; but the night before we were to reach Plymouth (which we expected to do at 4 a.m.), a British cruiser forbade us to go there, and sent us on to London. All the night before we reached the docks we were under searchlights from ships and from the shore; and we were stopped three times. It was just a bit trying not to know where, or when, we should finally put in, but it gave one a splendid idea of England's vigilance and command of the seas. So we drew near to England, only five days late after all; but five full, exciting, restless days!

People are fond of saying, "How sad war is!" It is sad, because of the suffering it entails. But war has always been to England the call direct from God to lay by the pettiness of party strife, and the selfishness that a long peace must bring. Here and to-day she is grasping the sword that has been put into her hand, and in answer to the heaven-sent commission to defend the peace of Europe, the cry rings out through the length and breadth of the Empire,

"We come!"

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

H.M. KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE POSITION OF TURKEY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Like the correspondent whose letter you published last week under the above title, I am a pro-Turk, but I must admit that the "purchase" of the German warships has caused me a good deal of uneasiness. It seems to me to indicate that Turkey seeing the waters of Europe so troubled is at least thinking about fishing in them; and I fear that should she do so the result will be—to put it plainly—that there may in the future be no Turkey at all!

The pity of it is that if only they were left to their own devices just now the Turks would probably keep out of trouble. But, as your correspondent observes, "tremendous pressure is being put on Turkey to throw in her lot with the Austro-German Alliance." Will she be strong enough and wise enough to resist that pressure? My own impression is that if she listens to the voice of Talaat Bey, Djemal Pasha, and Halil Bey, the President of the Chamber, she will; but if Enver Pasha gets his way, I doubt it. And the thought that Enver is *not* a Turk at all, but an Albanian (as I believe, though I have overheard it argued that he is a Pole!) does not help one to face with any patience the possibility of his breaking-up the Ottoman Empire.

As to the possibility of doing *us* any very serious harm, I, for one, am not vastly disturbed on this head. For one thing I fail to see how the most rabid Turk could start a "jehad" against us for the benefit of Germany and Austria. At all events, Egypt and India would both see through *that* pretence; and I fancy that even the "youngest" of the Young Turks (not to say the most foolish) realizes that that cock will not fight.

But suppose, for the sake of argument, that Enver and his friends got the upper hand, and, egged on by their "disinterested" German "friends," thought to invade Egypt. Would they have any ghost of a chance of success? The Hejaz Railway only goes as far as Medina; it is a badly made, single line, not suited for carrying large supplies of men or war material with any rapidity; and between it and the Egyptian frontier there is a desert march that would take some negotiating. There are at present no important Turkish forces in Arabia that could be transferred northwards; for the Yemen garrison is at low ebb. And such as there are could only be moved by sea—which means, of course, that we could easily prevent their being moved at all.

A Turkish concentration towards the Egyptian frontier would be a very slow operation, especially in view of their powerlessness to use the sea. Meanwhile if they committed themselves, the Russian Army of the Caucasus would at once invade Armenia, almost without resistance, and the coasts of Asia Minor and Syria would be open to attack from the sea by the British and French squadrons—to which, in all probability, would be added the Greek. Smyrna and Beyrout would be occupied, and the Dardanelles would be threatened, if not forced, by the combined squadrons.

Add to all this that the Arab populations of Mesopotamia and Syria are not at all well affected towards the Young Turk Government, and would probably seize the opportunity to rise, and I think we have a combination of circumstances sufficient to give pause to the biggest fire-eater going.

Personally I should be glad to see Turkey building up a moderately strong navy. But I cannot pretend to be gladdened by the reports of the purchase of the "Goeben" and the "Breslau" at the present juncture, because it looks as if the Turk was merely being used as a catspaw by the Germans. And that in turn would mean that the hotheads, at a time of extraordinary danger (*to their own country*, not ours), had succeeded in getting control of affairs. For the sake of Turkey and the true Turks we can only hope that the more sober element in the country, which, as your correspondent truly says, "is not anti-British," will make its influence felt at this critical time.—Yours, etc.,

D. G.

Portsmouth, August 18, 1914.

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EGYPT AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—What will be the position of Egypt in the unfortunate event of Turkey being embroiled in the present war? It has been declared in the highest English Court that the Land of the Pharaohs is not merely no part of the British Empire but is still a constituent part of the Ottoman Empire. That doctrine was declared by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as recently as 1888, but much water has flown under Kasr-el-Nil Bridge since then. There have since been innumerable treaties entered into between this country and others to which Turkey has always been a party, but the principle laid down has remained unaltered. There was a time when the terms of treaties were honoured by all the nations which were signatories to them, but when a great Power which claims to be the most cultured of the world arrogates to itself the right to disregard its own solemn obligations when these obstruct the achievement of its objects, international law and all that it implies may be put into the melting-pot. The relations of Egypt with other countries must undergo a change. Forces are at work in regard to her economic and social life which must transform them.—Yours, etc.,

Ptolemy.

SERVIA AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Permit me to point out that the article on this subject quoted by you contains evidence that the writer was not fully informed as to the political relations between Austria and Hungary.

As an example, I refer to the statement "But whenever Austria wants to annoy Servia or to please Hungary all she has to do is to raise the tariff rates on trans-Danubian produce."

This implies the belief that Austria makes laws for Hungary, and shows ignorance of the fact that Austria and Hungary are distinct States; that each has its own Parliament and Government, and makes its own laws. It is true that by mutual agreement, foreign affairs are carried on in common, and that there is a common Customs' boundary; but before action relative to foreign States can be taken, it is necessary that Acts of corresponding character be passed by each Parliament.

This is very different from Austria legislating for Hungary.

The article also contains evidence that the writer believes that Austria and Hungary form one State and one country, apparently unaware that Austria and Hungary have never been federated, and do not form one common territory; and that there are neither "Austro-Hungarian" subjects nor "Austro-Hungarian" laws.

Our Government officials evidently know that "Austro-Hungarian" subjects do not exist, for the slips recently attached to the public notice to aliens state that the notice now refers to Austrian subjects and to Hungarian subjects.

Had the slip been addressed to "Austro-Hungarian" subjects, all Austrians and all Hungarians in this country could have reasonably pleaded that the notice was not addressed to them.

It may seem strange, but it is true that Austrians and Hungarians are foreigners to each other, and that in many matters in their respective countries they have to comply with the rules applicable to such persons.

I should like to avail myself of the opportunity of stating my confident belief, based on extensive knowledge of the Hungarian people, that they have entered on this war with great reluctance; that they only did so to avoid an open rupture with the Austrians; and that if they had foreseen the effect upon the relations between themselves and the British nation, they would not have given their consent, without which Austria could not have taken military action, except as a breach of the Compromise.—Yours very truly,

W. H. Shrubsole.

"Dalkeith," Chelsham Road, Croydon,
August 17, 1914.

"CAPTAINS—COURAGEOUS?"

It was the "Goeben" and her mate,
From shelter in Messina's bay,
Went nobly forth to meet their fate,
Gay-decked, as for a holiday.

Stout hearts, that never more shall see
The sun on German vineyards shine!
Their pennons streaming gallantly,
While bravely peals the "Wacht am Rhein."

Te morituri! Forth they go
To death, as to a banquet! Stand,
Irreverent world, and learn to know
What heroes guard our Fatherland!

The foe lies yonder—two to one,
At least—beyond th' horizon line;
Now gaze your last upon the sun,
Drink one last cup of good Rhine wine!

* * * * *

But lo! a wonder did befall,
Which proved the wise Teutonic head,
They never sold their lives at all,
—They sold their ships instead.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Last week I suggested that our business men could not do better than turn their attention to the openings for British enterprise abroad which would follow on the throttling of German overseas trade by Sea Power. I am glad that the Government is acting on the advice, and as a preliminary step is collecting and disseminating information. British manufacturers, I feel sure, will not hesitate to use the eyes and ears which are supplied by the agents of Government departments in our colonies and neutral countries, and will go ahead with confidence Not only will they be serving their own interests, but will also be performing a patriotic duty. Prevention is better than cure, and providing employment now is better than alleviating distress later. I have no doubt that British manufacturers can capture many of the markets hitherto exploited by the Teuton if they bestir themselves before it is too late. I have just read that urgent cable orders have been placed with the large Nottingham hosiery firm of Thomas Adams for nearly 2,000 dozens of hose to be promptly despatched owing to the inability of Teuton manufacturers to complete orders. Buyers in the Near East should note that British firms will gladly execute orders which otherwise would have gone either to Austria or Germany. But British firms must not stand and wait, for their rivals will be up and doing.

***

The fact, reported by the Constantinople correspondent of *The Times*, that after a week of waiting the firmans allowing British vessels to pass the Dardanelles and the Bosphorous had not (on the 13th inst.) been issued is not pleasant reading for one who is well disposed towards Turkey. It is made all the more unpleasant by the statement in the message that Enver Pasha had given written assurances on the subject to the British Chargé d'Affaires. *The Times* correspondent suggests that "If the Government persists in imposing such restrictions on foreign commerce, and continues to allow the military authorities to commandeer cargoes addressed to foreign consignees here without giving receipts for the same, trade with Constantinople is likely to be greatly diminished in the near future." I can only say that I am surprised by the moderation of the statement. I have heard it put very differently by more than one indignant member of the shipping world.

***

As far as this particular annoyance is concerned, it is satisfactory to learn, from later messages of *The Times* correspondent, that the grain ships have been allowed to pass the Dardanelles. This happy result has been brought about by Sir Louis Mallet, who arrived in Constantinople on Sunday evening, and lost no time in impressing on the Ottoman Government the folly of its conduct. I hope we shall hear of no more such incidents. But I cannot avoid thinking that someone ought to talk—kindly, but very, very firmly—to the military enthusiast who seems to be at the root of all the trouble. Otherwise I should not be at all surprised if that second loan with France never came off at all—which would be unpleasant for Turkey.

***

It is very satisfactory to learn that more than 75 per cent. of the large amount of specie which was sent overland to Constantinople from Paris before the War broke out has reached Constantinople. The news reached London last Friday that out of a total consignment of gold worth £180,000 despatched in two parts, a quantity valued at £140,000 had arrived at its destination. As the gold was sent across Austria to Constantza and thence by sea to Constantinople, there was some ground for apprehension, and it is not surprising that high re-insurance rates had been quoted. The news, as may well be believed, was received with great rejoicing when it was announced at Lloyd's.

***

The decision of the Egyptian Government to make the notes of the National Bank of Egypt legal tender may have consequences more far-reaching than anticipated. If they should prove thoroughly popular it would certainly be a convenience just now, as it would do away with the necessity of importing specie for the moving of the cotton crop. But I am inclined to doubt whether that necessity will disappear entirely just yet. The Fellah is a conservative soul; he likes to see, and feel, gold; and he is certain to try to get gold instead of notes, and to make a fuss if he doesn't just at first. If the authorities decide to humour his likes and dislikes, they will probably import sovereigns from India.

***

I mentioned last week that this country is taking a much smaller percentage of Egypt's export of cigarettes than it did twenty years ago. The actual figures for last year were, I find, £E59,160. It may be of interest to some of my readers to learn that the United States Consul at Alexandria reports that in 1912 cigarettes to the value of 27,758 dollars were exported from Cairo and Alexandria to America, and in 1913 the figures were 27,553 dollars. I do not know whether any considerable shipments of cigarettes to the States takes place from any other point in Egypt. But I am much surprised to find that the figures are so small for the two centres given; for the Americans are usually keen on a good thing, and surely the Egyptian cigarette is the very best thing of its kind.

***

In the same report from which I took the figures just quoted I gathered several other items that seem to be worth passing on. Thus in 1912, I note, antiquities valued at 4,974 dollars (say nearly £1,000) were shipped from Alexandria to the United States, while Cairo sent "antiquities and curios" valued at 22,805 dollars This is a considerable item, but the figures are not by any means as high as I should have expected to see them, having regard to the American traveller's passion for "old things" and "notions," and I am not surprised to find that in 1913 Cairo alone sent antiquities and curios valued at 65,068 dollars. The classification, by the way, is a little puzzling. Why "antiquities" at Alexandria, and "antiquities and curios" at Cairo? Again, why in the capital's list are not mummy cases included in the "antiquities" category? In 1913 they figure amongst the exports to the tune of £100.

***

It is with some surprise that I learn from a Consular report lately issued that the Russian Discount Bank closed its branch in Birjand when it was found to be working at a loss. It was expected that Russian trade would increase, especially in Kain, owing to the special facilities offered to Persian merchants by the bank, and it did import consignments of piece goods, glassware, and loaf sugar for certain Birjand traders. The goods, moreover, gave satisfaction. The reason why the bank closed in April last year was that the Birjandis would not accept certain conditions on which the directorate of the bank in St. Petersburg insisted, and consequently its business was unprofitable. This withdrawal seems to me to prove that the bank in Birjand was a purely financial or commercial venture, and did not cloak some deep-laid political scheme. And to this point I would call the attention of those good people who think that *all* Russian action in Persia is inspired by Government.

***

An enterprising and progressive man is the Mayor of Smyrna. I learn that he has returned home after doing a grand tour of various European cities with a scheme of reform which, if it is ever carried out, will completely westernise that famous town. He has planned many schemes for the embellishment and improvement of the town, among which may be mentioned the widening of the streets, the laying out of public parks, laying a new sewerage system, and generally revolutionising the four quarters of his municipal kingdom, the European quarter included. Where the necessary money to cover the cost of all this is to come from I have not yet ascertained, nor can I see how he will succeed in converting the Turkish Government and his own immediate colleagues to his views. Still, we are told by *The British Trade Journal*, he is "an enterprising man with European education." Inspired by all he saw that is best in European municipal government, he may succeed in the accomplishment of his plans. At least he merits encouragement for having so openly declared them.

***

I do not know whether the Cretans are big beer-drinkers, or, if so, whether they are admirers, and buyers, of British beer. If they are they will be sorry to find the price of their drink go up considerably. At least, that is what I gather is likely to happen; for one of our best-known firms of brewers is bewailing—and naturally so—the announcement that on what they paid a duty of only 2s. 3d. a short time ago they will, in all probability, in the near future, have to pay £2. This would certainly prove a severe handicap on the importation of British beer, and I am not surprised to learn that our Foreign Office has been asked to see if it can do anything in the matter. At the same time if Greece likes to clap on such a duty, for any reason whatever, I cannot see what we can hope to do about it.

COMMENTATOR.

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Constantinople Business Letter

(From Our Own Trade Correspondent.)

Constantinople, July 31.

The Commercial Situation.

Looking at the situation from a purely local point of view I am struck with the fact that the month of July seems to be an uncommonly unlucky one for this market. On July 20, 1912, a day after the appearance of Italian torpedo craft in the Dardanelles, I wrote, "It is not within my province to touch upon the political situation; but at the present time it so entirely overshadows and dominates the commercial situation that it is impossible to ignore it." On July 12, 1913, I wrote, "This is intended to be a commercial letter, not a political one, and yet commerce being for the moment relegated to a back seat, there is little, if anything, upon which to report." Reference is then made to the irregularity of the mails, to the war between the erstwhile Allies, and to the entry on the scene of Roumania, as being a new factor, only tending to add yet another element of uncertainty to the imbroglio.

Either of the two sentences quoted above might have been written to-day, the conditions are so similar, from a widely different cause. During the last week or two the market had shown a marked tendency to improve; with the outbreak of war between Austria and Servia, and the daily growing war clouds all around, the market is dead. Orders are not being accepted, and in some cases manufacturers have been advised to hold back shipments.

Run on a Bank.

For two days there has been a run on the local branches of the Wiener Bank Verein, and the amount paid across the counter is said to have exceeded the sum of £T250,000. Whether the Austrian Government has laid an embargo on the gold reserves of this bank is not known here; anyway there can be no question of the sound position of the bank, and it will be helped over any temporary local difficulties by other concerns. At the same time cheques on the Continent are not negotiable on this market.

Treasury Returns.

The Treasury receipts during the month of March (old style), 1914, as shown by the returns just published, amounted to £T2,026,600, and were actually £T1,255,400 less than during the corresponding month of the previous year. In last year's receipts for the month of March, however, there were certain extraordinary items, which do not appear in the present returns. Amongst these were such items as the Egyptian Tribute £T750,000, the Cyprus Tribute £T102,590, the interest on bonds deposited with the bank £T180,420, and certain receipts from railways, Tombac, etc., totalling £T1,199,680, reducing the actual decrease to £T55,720. If, for sake of careful comparison, deduction is also made of sundry other items appearing in last year's returns, but not yet reported in the present returns, this deficit becomes an apparent increase for the remaining revenues of the Empire of £T9,750.

Electric Enterprises.

The traffic receipts of the Constantinople Tramway Company for the month of June, 1914, amounted to £T21,182, as compared with £T20,587 during the month of May, and £T17,657 during April. On June 30 was registered at Brussels a company under the name of "Tramways et Electricité de Constantinople," with a capital of 18,000,000 francs, subscribed by Belgian, German, French, and Swiss banks. The object of the company is to take over the "Consortium" which has obtained options on the working of the Metropolitan Railway from Galata to Pera, the Constantinople Tramways, the Electricity Supply Company of Constantinople, and the concession for an underground railway from Stamboul to Galata-Pera. The realisation of this programme will necessitate the gradual issue of shares and debentures for a sum of about 90,000,000 francs.

Tobacco Regie Company.

The sales of the Tobacco Regie during the month of April, 1914, were £T217,834, as compared with £T190,740 during the same month in 1913; £T246,000 during the month of May, 1914, as compared with £T204,672 during the same month in 1913; and to £T251,000 during June, 1914, as compared with £T206,000 during the same month in 1913.

Shipping.

With the uncertainty of the situation Austrian tramp ships are not going into the Black Sea, and are being held in Constantinople pending instructions from their owners. One of these ships in ballast, the "Baltico," anchored off Haidar Pasha, was in collision with a Greek steamer, the "Cardomilla," coming loaded from the Black Sea. The damage was insignificant.

An Athens message, dated the 16th inst., stated:—"It is officially announced that Turkey is seizing the cargoes of all steamers, independent of nationality, and consequently several steamers which ought to have set out for Constantinople have put back. Greek steamers carefully avoid approaching Turkish ports."

BUCHANAN'S SCOTCH WHISKY

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FORESTS IN TURKEY.

The Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce reports that the Union Permanente des Délégués du Commerce Etranger has published a résumé of the latest Volume of Statistics for the year ended March 13, 1910, issued by the Ottoman Ministry of Agriculture, Mines and Forests. Since the date covered by these statistics the Empire has undergone some changes in its European provinces. Before these changes took place the superficial area of forest land administered by the State amounted to 8,900,489 hectares, or 8.83 per cent. of the total superficial area of the Empire. In the order of their importance the provinces richest in forests were Salonika with 1,146,170 hectares, Aidin with 929,208 hectares, Brusa with 907,362 hectares, Castamuni with 716,000 hectares, Bolu with 600,000 hectares, Trebizond with 496,000 hectares, Carassi with 495,000 hectares, Konia with 480,368 hectares, Adrianople with 426,878 hectares, Adana with 420,655 hectares, Cossova with 379,000 hectares, Monastir with 352,800 hectares, Ismidt with 334,800 hectares, Sivas with 302,075 hectares, and Angora with 215,625 hectares. In these figures are not included the areas of forests not State administered.

Value of Forests.

The value of the produce of the State forests is thus summarised:—

	£T
Timber for building purposes	749,281
Wood for fuel	500,936
Various products.....	77,253
Worked wood	31,982
	£T1,359,452

Of this total output £T1,035,533, or over 76 per cent. of the whole, was consumed in the country, and only about 24 per cent. was exported abroad. The greatest output was in the province of Castamuni, £T154,561, Konia following closely with £T152,754, then the subprovince of Ismidt with £T149,318, and that of Bolu with £T121,301, the next in importance being the province of Adrianople with £T110,071, and that of Adana with £T108,247, the Dardanelles comes next with £T84,864, Brusa with £T71,333, and Salonika with £T52,450.

The largest item of export was timber for building purposes and amounted to £T200,601, that for fuel to £T88,650. The principal countries to which exported were Egypt with £T193,684, France with £T37,408, Greece with £T23,219. The various timber exported was elm 64,546 cubic metres, fir 56,764 cubic metres, pine 189,800 cubic metres, beech 18,377 cubic metres, oak 28,617 cubic metres, and cedar 25,006 cubic metres.

Afforestation Recommended.

Turkey-in-Asia possesses a treasure in its forests. This treasure is at present unproductive. Sylviculture has hitherto been as in India till the days of Lord Dalhousie, an unknown science. It is only the engagement of foreign experts, by a systematised method of afforestation, and by severe repressive measures against the vandals who look upon a tree as nothing but handy fuel, that the deforestation by hewing and burning that has gone on for centuries can be arrested. Bulgaria has given a fine example of what can be done, and we hope that the new rulers of Turkey will profit thereby. Afforestation is a long and tedious business, and few men live long enough to see the fruit of their labours where the culture of trees is concerned, but no time can be lost if the woodlands of the country are to become the valuable asset they have proved to be elsewhere. In Japan, under the old régime, only fifty years ago, when a man cut down a tree he had to plant another. This example is worth imitating. Could the Turkish reformers not advocate and institute an Arboricultural Society? Public opinion in the question of forest conservancy wants instructing. Unless Turkey preserves its forests the consequences will be very serious.

Since the article was written, we learn that Mr. Hermann Weit, a functionary of the Austrian Department of Forests, has entered the Ottoman Service as Director-General of Forests. Four French specialists have also been engaged and are to be attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, Mines and Forests.

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GREECE AND THE WAR.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Athens, August 6.

Cost of Provisions.

The Greek Government has strictly prohibited the exportation of wheat, cattle, and gold; and as the wheat supply is estimated to suffice for three or four months—and there are hopes of further supplies from America—there has been, as yet, no rise in the price of bread. Sugar, however—of which the greater part was supplied by Austria—went up 50 per cent. in five days. The police have fixed the price of this commodity at 1.20 frs. per oque retail, and of bread at 55 centimes.

Coal.

The Government has commandeered all coal, allowing such to be supplied only to railway companies and to a limited number of steamers for the sake of keeping up postal communication. Many factories are falling back on the native lignite—of which there is an unlimited supply—as a makeshift.

Banks.

A Royal Decree has been promulgated authorising the banks to refund deposits or not at their discretion. The National Bank, Ionian Bank, and "Popular" Bank have not availed themselves of this authority; all other banks have. Cheques are no longer cashed at any bank, and, as a result, quite a number of people are rendered temporarily penniless.

A fact indicative of the scarcity of wheat in Austria is that various Trieste merchants have offered Piræus merchants to buy several cargoes, but their offers have been refused.

Newspapers are reducing their pages, as the supply of paper is daily diminishing.

EFFECTS OF THE LATE WARS.

In his report on the trade of the consular district of Patras for the year 1913 Mr. Consul F. B. Wood says the second Balkan war, which broke out last July, was fraught with more serious consequences for the portion of Greece comprised within this consular district than the war against Turkey. In the latter case all the principal crops had been collected and, to a considerable extent, exported under normal conditions, whereas the second outbreak occurred before most of the fruit and cereal crops had reached maturity, so that the harvests were carried out with some difficulty and greater expense than usual owing to the scarcity of labour and means for conveying the produce to shipping ports. In order to make up the wastage of the first war, the Government was compelled to call out all classes of reserves. This practically denuded the country of all men of the labouring, industrial, and commercial classes. Banks, commercial houses, factories, shops, and farms found themselves, just at the busiest season of the year, deprived of most of their clerks, workmen, and labourers, and had the greatest difficulty in replacing even a portion of the absentees by indifferent and unskilled workmen at increased wages. A fresh requisition of draught animals and conveyances of all kinds was also necessary, so that the cost of transport increased very considerably. Luckily the women of the labouring and peasant classes in the country are hardy, strong, and industrious, and will do man's work whenever necessary. In this instance they were greatly instrumental in getting in various crops, so that in this respect nothing was lost, and the export trade was carried on without many obstacles, but at increased charges.

Import business suffered comparatively to a greater extent, as orders which had been cancelled when the war against Turkey was declared were renewed at its termination, and goods which arrived before and during the second unexpected outbreak suffered owing to the great stagnation which prevailed in local trade up to the end of the past year. It is satisfactory to report that the import trade in this district is now established on a firm and sound financial basis, so that, notwithstanding the troubles of the last eighteen months and the moratorium which has existed since the outbreak of the war with Turkey, it has been able to tide over all temporary and partial cessation of business without difficulty, and with but very few exceptions has honourably carried out its obligations.

NEW GREEK MINIST

(From an Occasional Correspon.

Athens, August 1.

A Ministry of Ways and Communications has been created which will include the Postal and Telegraphic services. The first Minister, M. Diamantides, is a man of energy and progress, and has lost no time in effecting various improvements besides elaborating plans for future development. One of his first measures was to order motor-cars for the collection of letters from the letter-boxes; others were the addition of twenty new telephone lines between Athens and Piræus and the establishment of a branch post office on the Place de la Constitution, which is to be followed by the establishment of branches in all the suburbs and distant quarters. There is at present only a G.P.O., and anyone living in the suburbs has to tramp thirty or forty minutes' distance to send a parcel, telegram, or registered letter!

FRUIT-GROWING IN GREECE.

The United States Consul-General at Athens (Mr. W. Weddell), in an interesting report on the cultivation of semi-tropical fruits in Greece, remarks that the Greek Government has established eight agricultural experiment stations, which are under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture (Interior), near Athens, Patras, Missolonghi, Corfu, etc. In each of these practical instruction is given. At Halmyrios is an agricultural school directed by the Government, known as "Cassavetios"; here there are three professors and some thirty-five pupils. There are also two model farms, conducted by the Government, one at Astros and the other at Trichonis. Correspondence with any of these institutions may be initiated by addressing, in French, Monsieur le Directeur, etc.

The following figures of the number of certain fruit trees have been supplied through an unofficial source by a Government expert:—Lemon, 178,315; citron, 28,530; orange, 131,890; mandarin, 29,570; bitter orange, 18,369; pear, 223,460; apple, 181,282; peach, 90,058; cherry, 77,569; plum, 83,485; quince, 174,250; fig, 537,909; olive, 11,944,243; mulberry, 1,458,869; walnut, 141,804; almond, 61,769. From this list statistics are missing from the important districts of Achaia, Argolis, Corinth, Arcadia, Messinia, and Laconia. It is stated that an enumeration of the trees in these districts is now being made, but no figures are yet obtainable. Nor do the above figures include data from New Greece, acquired from Turkey as a result of the recent war.

Among the varieties of citrus fruits grown in Old Greece are the Cretan orange, which is thin skinned, oval, and with few seeds. The Poros, Kalamata, and Sparta oranges are not unlike the Cretan variety. Oranges from Epirus and Corfu, as well as from the Island of Scopelo, have thick skins, and are rather spongy in texture. The lemon grown in Greece is similar to the Sicilian variety.

In general the orchards contain only three to ten acres, and, as in Sicily, are usually found along the littoral. In spite of the climatic advantages and exceedingly favourable geographical position of Greece, fruit growing, except for currants and grapes, is still carried on along primitive lines. The commercial production of oranges, lemons, table grapes, peaches, apricots, etc., for export to the surrounding European markets is still in its infancy. However, the measures being employed for destruction of insect pests, dissemination of the agricultural knowledge by practical men who make periodical tours through the country, and the formation of farmers' associations are all contributing to stimulate agricultural progress.

Private irrigation plants are found rather generally throughout Greece; the methods in vogue, however, are of the simplest character, and date back many years. Although a few windmills are beginning to be seen in the neighbourhood of Athens, the most popular method of bringing the water to the distributing tank is by a chain to which are attached small buckets, the source of power being a horse or a donkey moving in a circle. In certain of the country districts the farmers are averse to innovations, and this is given as a reason why artificial fertilizers are not more extensively used.

FROM ALL SOURCES.

nessage from Sofia states that munications between that city ntinople were restored on the

According to official bulletins the yield of olives in Greece for 1913 was over 88,000,000 lbs.

The Orient states that one suspected case of cholera was recorded in Constantinople for the week ended July 25. The patient died.

The Daily Malta Chronicle just received contains a notification prohibiting the export of fuel and grain from Malta as from August 3 till further notice.

The July shipments of British beer to Egypt amounted to 2,222 barrels, as against 1,865 barrels for the same month in 1913.

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has telegraphed to the Foreign Office, under date of August 3, to the effect that the Wiener Bank Verein and the Russian Bank suspended cash payments on August 1, on account of the war, and that the Deutsche Bank did likewise on August 3. The Imperial Ottoman Bank was still making partial payments on August 3 up to a maximum of £200.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the exportation of all foodstuffs from Egypt is prohibited. Ships leaving the country may only take on board the stores necessary for the voyage, on application being made to the Customs.

A Consular report on the trade of Arabistan, Persia, states that in that region enamelled goods are steadily increasing in popular use. The trade, though small at present, is capable of expansion. It is entirely in the hands of foreigners, and would be worth the attention of British manufacturers of such articles.

The Greek journal, *Estia*, reports that the Opposition leaders, when they were received in audience by King Constantine, explained their views as to the situation and the attitude Greece should adopt in pursuance of her best interests. In the existing circumstances they were all prepared to support the policy of the Government.

Owing to a recent attack by Moorish robbers on Cape Spartel Signal Station, Tangier, and the possible danger at present to the life of English signalmen there, the committee of Lloyd's have decided to close the signal station temporarily.

The *Zionist Gazette* reports that two American Jews intend to found a large clothing factory "in American style" in Jerusalem.

The Rome correspondent of *The Daily Express* reports, under date of August 18:—Three Germans who were arrested in Rome on Monday, and were afterwards released, declared that they were peaceful tobacco merchants on their way to Syria. It is now stated that they are diplomatic agents going to Egypt in the interests of Germany.

Cattle disease has broken out in Aleppo. According to the *Jeune Turc*, Sadik Bey, veterinary inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, has been sent to the spot.

The Daily Malta Chronicle (August 5) states that civilians in considerable numbers are volunteeering for any service either in Malta or abroad.

The text of the law for the regulation of "the weighing of carobs at authorized shipping places and to provide for the improvement of such places," passed by the Cyprus Legislative Council, is issued as a supplement to the *Cyprus Gazette* of July 31.

The directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation guarantee payment of full salary for six months of all their employees on service, numbering 101, sixty-one being from head office and forty from country branches.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Bucharest. August 1.

In spite of the too plentiful rainfall in the months of May and June, the general agricultural state of the country is not a bad one. The harvest is not a special one, but it is satisfactory. The rain has, at the same time, cleared the wheat, barley, and oats of rust (mildew). The fine weather now experienced is allowing the harvest to go on most satisfactorily.

The political situation is, however, having its effect on the export market, especially as regards Germany. All German steamers presently in the Danube have received orders not to leave till further orders.

Sofia. July 31.

The river Maritza has overflowed all the sown areas in the district of Souflou. All the crops have perished.

In the Shoumla region also much damage has been caused by floods, and yesterday the Sobranje voted 150,000 frs. for the immediate repair of the damage. A sum of two million frs. will later be voted and granted as a loan to sufferers by the flood.

ROUMANIAN OIL NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 1.

I am assured in well-informed quarters that the "Steaua Romana" will pay a dividend of ten per cent. for the year 1913-14, as last year. The daily average production of this company's fields amounts to 1,000 tons of oil.

A new English company has been registered in England under the name of "The Tazlan Properties, Limited," with a capital of £5,000. In Brussels a company, with the designation of "Géonafte," has been formed to work a naphtha business in this country and others. The capital is 900,000 frs. The Roumanian manager is Mr. Marcovitch, and the headquarters of the company are at Campina.

The total production of petroleum in Roumania has been very large of late. This is due chiefly to the extraordinary output of the "Astra-Romana's" boring No. 42 in Bana-Morein, and of the Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., at Baioci. The daily production of the first is 125 trucks (1,250 tons), and of the second sixty to seventy trucks.

The Roumanian Railways have ordered 250,000 tons of residues from the local companies at 5.25 frs. per 100 kilos. The order has been distributed over the various companies interested.

TURKISH MOHAIR.

The 1913 clip of mohair in Turkey, though it exceeded the total of 1912, did not quite come up to the average output of some 60,000 bales. A fairly correct estimate of the 1913 yield would be about 56,500 bales. In point of quality the hair was well up to the average. America again operated to a considerable extent, but not as heavily as in the previous year, owing to the uncertainty experienced at the time with regard to the new Customs tariff, which was then being discussed. The United States purchases of fine hair amounted to some 4,000 to 5,000 bales, and a fair quantity of the Castambol clip was also bought up for that country. The duty on mohair has now been fixed at 15 per cent. ad valorem, and came into force on January 1, 1914.

ALBERT SINGER
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EXPORT OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.

London, August 20.

The market generally has been very quiet this week. Cane sugar was dull, with nothing at all doing. The decision of the Government is now expected with respect to the supply of West Indian sugar, which has just been gathered in. At present exportation of the crop is entirely prohibited from any of the islands until the Government decides as to the policy to be followed regarding the fixing of the price and the destination of the commodity. English refined sugar is quiet. Tate's No. 1 cubes are quoted at 33s. 6d.; crushed, 31s.; nibs, 32s.; Lyle's granulated, No. 1, 30s. 6d.; crystals, No. 3, 30s., and yellow crystals, 27s. 9d. Foreign refined is also quiet, with only small business passing. Castor sugar on the spot has been sold to-day at 29s., and Italian crystals at 26s.

Currants.

Only small business is passing, at steady prices. Great fears, however, are entertained in Greece that, owing to the war in the countries where the fruit is sold and consumed, a great fall in prices may be expected, and the Government is taking the necessary measures that the growers may be assisted in such a case by depositing part of their fruit in the privileged company's warehouses and receiving a proportional advance for their needs.

Sultanas.

Only small transactions have taken place during the week at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is very quiet, London-Calcutta spot being quoted 51s. 6d. and La Plata 47s. Rapeseed is firm, and the various grades of mustard are well held. Haricot beans are in short supplies, and held for high prices. Canary seed remains firm at the recent advance for Turkish.

Oils.

Linseed is quiet; spot pipes offered (landed), 26s. 3d., and barrels 26s. 9d.; August, 26s. 9d.

Oilcakes, etc.

There has been no fluctuation in the market this week. Linseed cake, best London made, meets with a steady consumptive demand at £9 5s. to £9 10s. East India seed pures are only nominally quoted at £9. Russian is offered at £8 17s. 6d. to £9 per ton. Cotton cake is not ample in store, but sufficient to supply needy requirements. Best brands of Egyptian offered at £5 15s. ex quay, while a steamer parcel afloat is quoted at £5 12s. 6d. ex ship, with English makes unchanged at £5 17s. 6d. to £6, and Bombay £5.

Decorticated cotton cakes are offered sparingly, and quotations are fully as dear at £8 10s. to £8 15s.

Locust Beans remain scarce on spot, and £6 15s. for whole and £7 5s. for kibbled are the latest quotations.

Corn.

Wheat.—A dull tone prevails in the cargo market, and values are more or less in buyers' favour. Choice white Kurrachee on passage is offered at 41s. Australian, afloat, 42s. 6d. to 43s. is required. Maize is quiet, and in little request, 28s. asked for Danubian-Galatz-Foxanian, arrived, and 26s. for La Plata. Barley is also quiet, 28s. 6d. is wanted for Taganroc, and 28s. for Novorossisk arrived. Oats are quiet, and unchanged.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending July 31:—Very little business has been done this week in opium; nevertheless, notwithstanding this fact and the want of ready money on the market brought about by the Austro-Servian conflict, prices for our various qualities are well maintained, and for the five cases of old and new goods which changed hands buyers had to pay full figures—viz., 16s. to 19s. per lb., as to quality. Should we add, however, the very heavy drop in the exchange which has taken place this week, the figures we quote should read fully 3d. per lb. higher. The arrivals are 923 cases, against 1,769 at same date last year.

WAR ON GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN TRADE.

It may be difficult at first, says *The Times*, to realise the fact—though fact it is—that, in spite of the country being at war with two Great Powers, British manufacturers and merchants may not only look with confidence for an early revival of the larger part of their overseas commerce, but may also confidently undertake the extension of their operations and the conquest, or re-conquest, of foreign and colonial markets lost to them in time of peace.

With reference to the vast world commerce which Germany and, to some extent, Austria have painfully and laboriously built up in recent years, it is pointed out that, with their industries stopped, their shipping held up, and their credit impaired, the enemy can by no conceivable means continue to hold any but an infinitesimal share of the export trade to foreign and colonial markets during the continuation of the war. How much they will be able to regain after war is over no one can predict. To capture as large a portion as possible of this world trade is the work of the immediate present. Other alert rivals are in the field, and in commerce, as in war, it is in the highest degree dangerous to adopt dilatory tactics. If British trade takes no prompt action it is certain that other countries will. The prize is too rich to be long left unappropriated.

Not many years ago at such a crisis British manufacturers would have found themselves without any guidance whatever. Just as the Boer War found us unprepared in the military sense, so, had the present trouble arisen then, we should have found ourselves unprepared with any definite plans or organisation in the commercial world. To-day we are infinitely better equipped. Although still in many ways less efficient than could be wished, the Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade is, to a much greater extent than the general public imagine, ready for the present crisis, and it has with commendable promptitude taken steps for placing British manufacturers and merchants in possession of the information that they urgently need if the present opportunity is to be seized.

For some years the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade has made a practice not only of publishing official commercial information in the *Board of Trade Journal* and elsewhere, but also of sending direct to interested British firms whose names were filed other information, the publication of which in papers where it was available to our foreign competitors was not desirable. The department is taking active measures to assist and guide British merchants and manufacturers in the trade campaign. Taking the principal articles of commerce in turn, it is issuing to manufacturers and merchants whose names are on their list particulars of conditions concerning them in markets now held by German and Austrian trade. The first of these documents, dealing with enamelled hollow-ware, etc., was issued on Monday of this week, and it is intended to issue, if possible, three similar pamphlets every day.

Our readers are well aware of the extent to which German and Austrian trade has been pushed in Near Eastern markets. With reference to the particular articles mentioned above, it appears that in Egypt enamelware is pressing out trade in earthenware owing to cost of transport and the liability of breakage. The rapidly growing trade is largely German and Austrian. Even in Syria the trade is reported as rapidly growing. French and Belgian makers here share with Germans and Austrians in supplying the market, the objection to the British goods being their heaviness and costliness. Further, in British India the opportunity to secure the trade of Austria and Germany in enamelled ironware seems particularly favourable. Use by the natives has recently shown a tendency to increase considerably.

ROUMANIAN BILLS.

No information has been received in England as to whether a moratorium has been proclaimed in Roumania. The Roumanian Minister in London is communicating with his Government to ascertain by what means bills due to Roumania or in England can be satisfactorily settled.

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MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, August 19.

Compared with a week ago things are no worse in the market, and here and there advices have been a little more encouraging. For all intents and purposes, however, fresh business continues quite at a standstill. The prospects are altogether too uncertain for transactions to be attempted. The Liverpool futures market continues closed; and so far as spot business is concerned prices are on a very artificial basis, and spinners are shy of operating with any freedom. Recent news relating to supplies in the raw material are favourable, and undoubtedly the American crop during the last few weeks has made good progress. Such matters, however, are completely overshadowed by the effects of the European war upon trade. Some attempts have been made to send out goods to the Near East and Egypt, but difficulty has been experienced in getting sufficient goods together to fill a boat. Manufacturers here seem to have done rather better as to the payment of accounts than expected. Some India shippers are now taking deliveries against old contracts on a freer scale, and a certain amount of relief is being met with. Exporters are hampered by the high cost of freight and insurance. No particular fresh news has come through from China. Some makers of fancies are delivering fair quantities. In all weaving districts short time is being worked on a considerable scale. It would not be far wrong to say that the production is being restricted to the extent of one-half. Certain sections in the home trade are busy on goods required for the war, but the crisis has had a very adverse effect upon matters generally in this section. Scarcely any inquiry has been met with in American and Egyptian yarns. Numerous mills are closed, and salesmen are not in a position to quote. It is hoped that something will be done to maintain our yarn trade with the eastern and far eastern outlets. So far as the Continental markets are concerned business is at a standstill.

EGYPTIAN COTTON AND THE WAR.

The Egyptian Gazette of the 6th inst. contains the following:—

"The Commission de la Bourse des Marchandises, at their meeting on Thursday morning last, decided that all contracts now open must be closed forthwith at the price of 15⅜ dollars per cantar for November contracts, 15 9-16 for January and 15 13-16 for March. That is to say, if a buyer has bought cotton at a certain price, for delivery in November, he will have to sell it out *now* at 15⅜; or, if a seller has sold at a certain price for the same delivery he must buy it in now at the above rate. In ordinary circumstances he would complete his operation in November, or sooner if he chose, but now he is compelled to close it at once and at the price fixed. There is considerable opposition to this measure, which was not carried unanimously, but by five votes to three.

"The Liverpool Cotton Association, it is understood, has sent a formal telegram of protest against this arbitrary method of dissolving the contracts of its members, and a protest has also been lodged with the Egyptian Government. Messrs. Pilavachi and Company, Limited, have also, we hear, protested by legal means both to the Commission and to the Government delegate, M. Michel Sinadino, for not vetoing the decision. M. P. Augustino, the head of the well-known firm of brokers, has retired from the Commission, of which he was a member, in consequence of this decision.

"Further developments may be expected shortly. The question seems to be one of vital importance, not only to private interests, but to the country in general, reflecting as it does on its credit and general business standing."

No fewer than 200 Egyptian officials and notables are stranded in Marseilles owing to the suspension of the steamship services to Egypt. The Messageries Maritimes Company are, however, now arranging for the dispatch of a vessel to Alexandria in a few days' time. Yehia Pasha Ibrahim sent a telegram bearing a number of signatures to the Regent last week asking for the dispatch of a neutral steamer to take the Egyptians home. Among the signatories was Brewster Bey, private secretary to the Khedive.

FOOD SUPPLY OF GERMANY.

The Balkan Trade Route.

In *The Daily Telegraph* of August 18, under the heading of "Food Supplies for Germany and Austria," it is pointed out that it is of vital importance to Germany to keep open the Balkan trade route in the event of sea and other land routes for her supply of food and raw materials being cut off. Especially interesting is an extract which is given from an article in the *Frankfürter Zeitung* of January 7 last, "obviously inspired, and showing clearly enough why the Teutonic Powers were paying so much attention to the Balkans." The extract is as follows:—"The countries comprising the Triple Alliance are changing daily from agricultural to industrial States, and they are more and more compelled to depend upon the uninterrupted importation of their raw materials. A war with England, France, and Russia at the same time appears, fortunately, to be ever more improbable; but the possibility of such a conflict cannot be excluded, and far-seeing statesmen must reckon with it. The Triple Alliance countries, which are compelled to have recourse to large armies, cannot hope to compete successfully with England and France on the high seas. In the event of a struggle, therefore, our oversea imports would, in a short time, be done away with, and our industries would languish for want of raw material. As things stand to-day, it is not merely the lack of wheat and meat that would drive the country to destruction. Coal and iron and heaven knows what else have also become essential to us. Where, then, shall the Triple Alliance countries look for their raw material if the sea routes are cut off? There is only one means of land communication, and it leads through Roumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey into Asia Minor. It follows that the Triple Alliance can never see this route barricaded by hostile States; the Triplice must keep this route open at all costs. The German military mission in Constantinople is not merely helping to reorganize the Turkish army out of pure joy; it must, at the same time, serve both Turkey and the German Empire."

WILTON CARPETS IN TURKEY.

Since Wilton carpets have been known at Broussa—some half a century ago—their vogue has not diminished in the least. Their use is now very extensive throughout this region, says the French Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople. This success proceeds from the ancient custom, established throughout all classes in the population, to provide themselves with carpets. The prices of these carpets are high, and they can only grace the residences of rich families—not numerous—who can afford this luxury. The remainder of the population has to content itself with "moquettes." The qualities equal, "moquette" carpets are sold more advantageously at Broussa than at Constantinople. This is the result of the brisk competition amongst the Broussa merchants. They are contented with a small profit, because, generally speaking, they receive these carpets direct from Europe, in transit viâ Constantinople, or by representatives established at the Turkish capital, or through the intermediary of their branches. Some of the principal merchants at Broussa are in direct touch with their correspondents in Europe—for the most part Ottoman-Armenian subjects.

GENOA AND THE BALKAN WAR.

There has been a very marked decline in British shipping at the port of Genoa within the last two years, says Mr. Kohan in his annual consular report. Although British vessels find, in the general carrying trade, a strong and growing competition with Italian, Greek, and Spanish ships, the special circumstances of the Balkan War contributed to a considerable extent to this diminution. Tramp steamers are for the greater part employed in the coal trade, and after discharging their cargoes at Genoa generally clear in ballast for the Black Sea. The scarcity of Black Sea freights, which resulted from the hostilities in the Balkans and the risks involved, deflected from Genoa a great portion of the traffic which would, in ordinary circumstances, have reached it.

ROUMANIAN OILFIELDS.

The position of Roumania in regard to her oilfields is as yet undefined. Roumania has carried out a mobilization which will have a considerable effect upon the production of the oilfields. At the time of the Balkan war, when the Roumanian army was partially mobilized, we had an experience of this. Until we know if and how far Roumania will take an active part in the present struggle it will be impossible to estimate the loss in production from this cause.

In regard to Galicia (North-Eastern Austria), it may be stated that the production of the first six months of this year was somewhat in excess of that for the like period in 1913. The current production of Galicia and the large stocks of crude oil have already been requisitioned by the Austrian Government. The production in these fields is bound to suffer by the mobilization; but, on the other hand, since the Austrian Government desires a continual supply of crude oil, the fields will not be unduly deprived of their staff, and in this way production for Government purposes may be kept up.

An important point about the Galician fields is that they lie within a comparatively short distance of the Russian frontier, but the country between the Carpathians and the Russian frontier in this district is particularly well fortified. It is, therefore, a matter for the military expert rather than for one experienced in the petroleum industry to say how far these fields are subject to the risk of Russian invasion.

COAL IN THE NEAR EAST.

When a country without mineral resources of its own increases its import of coal, you have there a fairly sure indication that its own particular industries have an improving tendency. Taking this as an index of Egypt's industrial prosperity, present prospects are very reassuring. Thus we find that her imports of black diamonds during the first half-year of this year totalled 921,343 tons, valued at £E1,072,877 as against 814,146 tons valued at £E960,434 for the corresponding six months of 1913. There has thus been an increase of quantity as well as of value. For the same period there has been an increase of her imports of coal destined for other countries. She had landed 935,398 tons of coal in transit for other countries, as against 907,468 tons in the first half-year of 1913.

In this connection it is not inopportune to refer briefly to Germany's export of coal, coke and briquettes to the Near East. The War, of course, has put a stop to this, but it is obvious from figures that hitherto the enemy has had no inconsiderable outlet in the Near East for these mineral products. The Westphalian Coal Syndicate was responsible for the highest percentage of these exports, and the following figures must therefore be taken as entirely relating to that gigantic concern. Among its best customers for the manufactured form of fuel known as briquettes was Italy, but large quantities have been forwarded to African ports in the Mediterranean. Taking coal, coke and briquettes together the Syndicate in 1913 exported to Greece, Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia and Turkey 314,837 tons as against 261,799 tons for the previous year, and to Asia Minor, Egypt, Algeria, Tunis, Morocco and Madeira 359,222 tons, compared with 324,431 tons in 1912. We have in England no such great mining octopus as the one that exists in Germany, but it is worthy of note that despite opposition from that quarter our exports to foreign countries increased from 44 million tons in 1900 to nearly 73½ million tons last year, or by about 68 per cent. With a close season for Germany, English mine owners have now a wide field almost exclusively their own. It is worthy of note that the prohibition of the Customs authorities now in force regarding the export of large coal abroad does not apply to Egypt.

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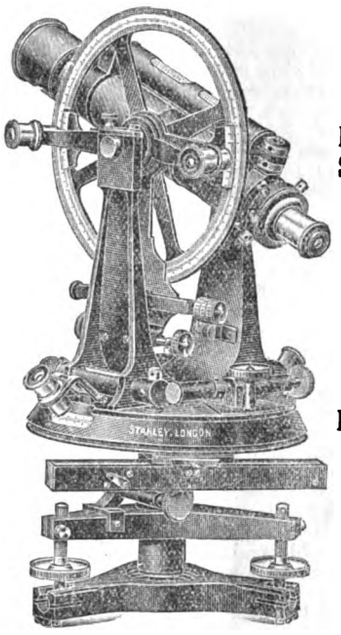

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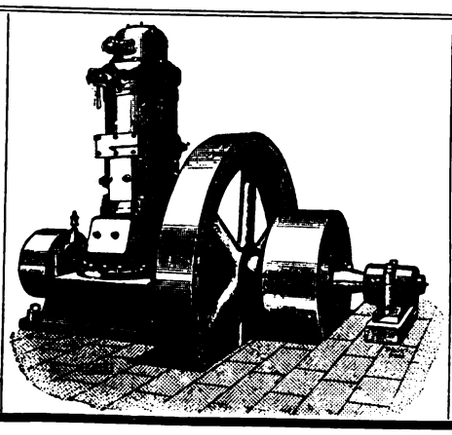

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Engineering Notes.

ENGINEERING TRADE AND THE WAR.

Opportunity for British Manufacturers.

The present war offers to British engineer-manufacturers unique opportunities for the recovery of lost trade in the Near East, where the systematic and concentrated efforts of German manufacturers, during the last two decades, had secured a position for German products in those markets, to the detriment of British trade. The effect was more noticeable in the engineering trade. The special facilities and cheap through rates on German and Austro-Hungarian railways for overland exports afforded further advantages to German manufacturers in competing with British engineering products, especially in Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria, and the north-western districts of Asia Minor. But now that the war has paralysed the engineering as well as other trades of Germany and Austria-Hungary, and all overland and oversea routes are entirely closed for them, a unique opportunity is afforded to British manufacturers to regain their former predominant position in the markets of those and other countries of the Near East. But they must act with energy, and quickly, for there are also other competitors in the field equally active and eager to avail themselves of this same opportunity—for example, the American engineer-manufacturer, whose products are well known in the Near East, and who will try to fill the gap before others appear. Now is the time that land-owners and agriculturists realize the value of their crops, and other autumn products, and decide upon the purchase of machinery and implements needed for this and following seasons. Indeed, autumn is the money-season, and the best time in the Near East for booking orders for machinery of all kinds.

Trade which May be Captured.

Of the trade in steam, oil and gas engines, the Germans had a very good share, likewise Austria-Hungary in ploughs, light agricultural machinery, and flour mills. Water wheels, turbines, pumping and irrigation machinery, oil-mill plant and olive oil presses, textile machinery, aerated water machinery and accessories, steam and oil tractors, electric motors, brick and tile machinery, and a great number of other machines for industrial, agricultural, or domestic use, are needed and purchased in almost every district in the Near East, and most of them have been supplied from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Other lines in which those two countries were doing excellent business were the supply of iron joists and girders, roller-shutters, iron (merchant) bars, angles, tees, hoop-iron, black and galvanized sheets, corrugated iron, zinc and tin plates, wires, cast-iron water pipes, electric and gas fittings, etc. But we reiterate, manufacturers of the above must act with energy—and at once.

The Best Method.

Since writing the above we have heard that the Board of Trade has issued a circular in which it is pointed out, to British manufacturers, that they have a great opportunity of recapturing the foreign and colonial markets of German bounty-fed firms; various schemes are suggested which are, undoubtedly, excellent, but with regard to the Near East far better results may be secured by advertising; and as for engineering products, the writer, having a long local experience of those markets, believes that Chamber of Commerce and Consular efforts have not the same influence in the Near East as elsewhere. An advertisement which enables the buyer to communicate directly with the maker of any machine or implement appeals to a would-be buyer in the Near East, inspires him with confidence, and is more effective than any persuasive chat of a local representative or agent. Better terms can also be arranged by a direct communication than through agents; and once terms have been arranged the agent or local bank should be entrusted with carrying them out.

Grain Elevators in the Balkans.

A report by the U.S. Minister in Bucharest, Mr. Charles J. Vopilka, recently published in the Washington *Daily Consular and Trade Reports*, states:—"A new grain elevator will shortly be opened for public use in Constanza, Roumania. This will make the third elevator in that port which will be operated and owned by the Government. The capacity of the Constanza elevators is 441,320 hectolitres (1,252,352 bushels) each, divided among 250 silos of different sizes. The other elevators in the country are in Braila and Galatz, the two Roumanian ports on the Danube. The elevator in Braila contains 334 silos, which have a capacity of 377,560 hectolitres (1,071,418 bushels). The elevator in Galatz contains 334 silos, which have a capacity of 346,080 hectolitres (982,086 bushels). There are no other elevators in Roumania owned by the Government nor by private parties, as the Government owns all harbour lands, and no individual or concern can build elevators on the Danube River or on the Black Sea without first obtaining concession from the Roumanian Government. In Bulgaria there is a great opportunity for American capital to be invested in grain elevators, which could be erected either on the Danube River or on the Black Sea at Varna or Bourgas, or on the Ægean Sea at Porto Lagos. Bulgaria would greatly benefit by the erection of such elevators, and the Government would grant concessions for that purpose. During my last visit in Sofia I spoke of this matter with Government officials and prominent citizens, and the general opinion was that such elevators would not only be good for the country, but for the grain trade in general."

Athens Water Supply.

Writing under date of August 1, an occasional correspondent in Athens informs us that "tenders for the construction of the aqueduct and other works in connection with the Athens water supply will be received up to March 30, 1915. A preliminary guarantee of 500,000 francs is required with each tender, and a further guarantee of 2,000,000 francs must be deposited on adjudication. The scheme, as already announced in THE NEAR EAST, is to bring water to Athens from Lake Stymphalia or the River Melas; and we understand that the contract will include the provision and laying of a complete system of supply pipes.

Piræus-Salonika Railway.

Considerable progress (writes a correspondent) has been effected in the construction of the Piræus-Salonika Railway, and the first rails will be laid before the end of this month.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

Drugs.—The Egyptian War Office, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of drugs and material required by the Medical Department, for the period of one year, beginning from April 1, 1915.—October 3.

Blankets.—Tenders are invited at the Prisons Department, Cairo, for the supply of 6,800 brown blankets.—August 27. (L.)

With reference to the above, it is notified that the period stipulated in the conditions of tender has been extended to three months in lieu of two months.

Locomotives.—*The Egyptian Gazette* states that the Egyptian State Railways will shortly be inviting tenders for fifteen main line locomotives.

Lubricating Oil.—The Egyptian Railway and Telegraphs Administration, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of either 1,410 metric tons or 2,956 metric tons of mineral lubricating oil, to be delivered in one or two years respectively at the option of the Administration.—October 15. (L.)

RECENT ADJUDICATIONS.

We notice the following names in the list of successful tenderers for the supply of various kinds of papers and envelopes required by the Egyptian State Departments for the years 1915, 1916 and 1917:—A. Beer, A. Cowan and Sons, J. Dickenson and Co., L. C. Harding, Lepard and Smiths, The Remington Typewriter Co., The Shannon, The Swallow Manufacturing Co.

Messrs. John M. Hamilton and Co., of Hull, England (agents: Messrs. Lambert and Ralli, Alexandria), are the successful tenderers for the supply of the increased quantity of yellow infrisible grease, 132 metric tons, required by the Egyptian State Railways for delivery over two years.

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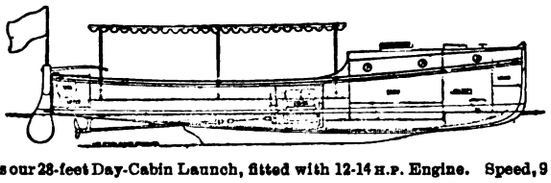

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THE FINANCIAL PANIC IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Run on the Banks.

A very interesting letter from Constantinople, dated August 3, by Mr. J. B. Brandreth, the special correspondent of *The Financial Times* in the Balkans, is published in the issue of that journal of August 19. A lively description is given of the scenes in Constantinople arising out of the financial panic produced by the rumours of war. The panic, Mr. Brandreth states, began by a heavy run on the Constantinople branch of the Wienerbankverein, which was ultimately obliged to suspend payment. When, on the night of August 2, the Turkish Government issued a proclamation declaring a moratorium of one month on all bills and debts falling due, and prohibiting the export of gold, the utmost consternation began to prevail, and the succession of pessimistic telegrams from Europe added to the universal anxiety. This condition of things reached a climax the next morning, when the banks were literally taken by storm. Angry and panic-stricken crowds of Turks, Levantines, and Europeans rushed the doors of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Deutsche Orientbank, the Crédit Lyonnais, the Bank of Salonika, the National Bank of Turkey, and other institutions as soon as they were opened. Police and gendarmes endeavoured to keep order. The Oriental Deutscherbank soon closed its doors and suspended payment owing to lack of gold to meet the rush. The Crédit Lyonnais, while refusing to pay letters of credit, to cash cheques or to exchange French or Turkish notes for gold, paid out its gold to its depositors. People pale with apprehension and excitement, the perspiration running down their faces, carried away bags of gold, easy victims for thieves had there been many about. Most of the other leading banks, both Turkish and foreign, quickly gave up the hopeless attempt to stem the current, and shielding themselves behind the moratorium, temporarily suspended payment and closed their doors.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank, the writer adds, was a noteworthy exception to the general rule. Despite the panic, and regardless of the moratorium, this institution, under the direction of its English management, threw open its doors and its counters as widely as possible, and having with the aid of the police methodically established a "queue," proceeded to pay all comers in gold. It cashed its own notes, which were presented in hundreds, paid out its deposits in gold, and, up to the limit of £100, cashed in gold travellers' letters of credit. There may have been other foreign banks which stood the brunt in the same way, but, if so, they did not come within the writer's knowledge. For two hours he watched the scene, and began to feel something of the indescribable emotions that filled everybody, including the bank officials. It was a scene to be remembered, this general rush on all the banks of a city of two million souls, and nowhere was the emotion so palpitating nor the strain so tremendous as at the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Mr. Brandreth speaks with praise of the way the staff handled the panic, and the comparative coolness with which the officials dealt with the terrific rush.

EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Results of a Run on the Banks.

The Cairo correspondent of the Central News wrote on the 10th inst.:—

The financial situation here is easing somewhat. Last Monday there was something of a panic, especially among the natives, who all rushed to their banks and demanded to withdraw their deposits. Gold consequently became scarce, and a Ministerial decree was passed making bank notes of the National Bank of Egypt legal tender. Even this was not understood by the natives, and several of them stood outside the doors of the banks offering £5 bank notes for £4 in gold.

The local branches of the Deutsche Orientbank and Banco di Roma have temporarily closed down. It was the former bank which shut its doors last Monday, and about which ugly rumours had been current for several days previously that in no small degree contributed to the panic. Nearly all the local religious institutions bank with the Banco di Roma, and when there were rumours of monetary scarcity they all withdrew their deposits. The Bank of Italy, however, has guaranteed all its deposits, so there is no cause for uneasiness.

Much apprehension is felt concerning the future of the cotton crop. It is feared that there may not be enough money to move it, while, if the war be not over by the time it is ready for transport—say, about November—it will be a serious problem how to get it to Europe. The Cotton Bourse at Alexandria has temporarily closed. Cotton (first pickings) is now being sold in the interior for 12 dols. (about £2 8s. a kantar), an exceedingly low price.

EGYPTIAN STATE ACCOUNTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 29.

The last number of the *Journal Officiel* contains details of the State Accounts for the first two months of the financial year, viz., up to the end of May. The revenue amounted to £E2,560,420, as against £E2,489,040 during the same period of 1913, that is to say, there is an increase of £E71,380. On the other hand the expenditure for the two months has decreased by £E40,158, from £E4,005,196 to £E3,965,038.

Under receipts, Land Tax fell off by £E91,759, Tribunal Receipts by £E14,903 (Mixed) and £E9,426 (Native), Rent of Government Land by £E16,275, and Divers Receipts by £E14,777, but satisfactory increases are noticed in Customs Dues (£E27,528), Tobacco Duties (£E47,417)—due to the raising of the tariff—Port Dues (£E7,068), Sale of Government Land (£E11,253)—which would account somewhat for the decrease noted in the receipts from the renting of Government land—and Extraordinary Receipts (£E94,128). Both of these latter items formerly went to Reserve, but under the new system they figure in the general Revenue Account.

On the expenditure side, there are increases in the Ministry of Finance Central Administration (£E93,187), Public Health (£E8,495), Mixed Courts (£E15,781), Public Works (£E58,033), Railways (£E151,278), and War Office (£E45,041), whilst Cairo Drainage, which formerly came from the special Credits, figures on the ordinary account for £E45,637. Slight decreases are noticeable in all the other items.

EGYPTIAN ECHOES OF THE WAR.

The state of war in Egypt with Germany, says Reuter, now applies also to Austria.

Two hundred Greeks volunteered at the British Consulate, Cairo, one day last week, to serve with the British Army. They were informed that much as the offer was appreciated there was for the time being no need for their services.

According to the *Egyptian Mail*, the German reservists of Cairo, who are now unable to proceed to their country, are reported to have placed their services at the disposal of the local military authorities for police work if necessary.

A large number of cigarette factories in Egypt, including the Laurens, Gianaclis, Dimitrino, Chelmis, and others, have either closed down altogether or dismissed a large part of their staffs as a result of the war.

Two German steamers belonging to the Deutsche-Levante Linie were captured by the British military authorities in Alexandria harbour on the 5th inst. Their cargoes consisted of a large consignment of cigarettes and some grain.

A detachment of Gordon Highlanders are now on guard at Port Said, where they are encamped near the Government Hospital.

The wireless apparatus of all German and Austrian boats in Port Said harbour was confiscated on the 5th inst. The confiscation was carried out by force, the police being accompanied on board by several armed Highlanders, whilst a detachment of Highlanders was drawn up on the quay in case of emergency. Part of the machinery of the German mail steamer "Derfflinger" was also removed, as this boat was considered as an auxiliary cruiser.

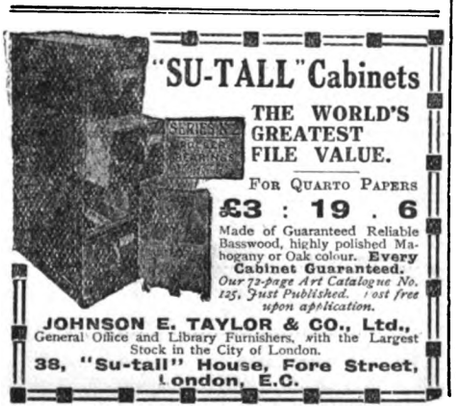
A military censorship has been established at the Eastern Telegraph Company's offices in Egypt.

According to an Alexandria paper, the Austrian Lloyd s.s. "Dalmatia," carrying a number of conscripts from Egypt, has been captured and taken to Malta.

EGYPT'S FOOD SUPPLY.

The Press Bureau in Cairo has issued the following notice:—

"There is no reason why people should dread the imaginary idea that Egypt will run short of foodstuffs in consequence of the outbreak of war in Europe. In spite of the fact that the Government has already given orders to prevent the exportation of food materials to foreign countries, the country is in a position to receive such stuffs from neutral kingdoms. Moreover, the quantity of alimentary imports is, as a matter of fact, so small that it can hardly suffice Egypt for one month. As regards the distress which it is feared may result from the insufficiency of cereals, this can only occur if the war should continue for at least one year, which is quite improbable. But even if it were to last so long, Egypt could safely import plenty of cereals from neutral countries."



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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

The extraordinary rush to sell bills to the Bank of England "without recourse" has been the event of the past week. At the moment of writing the figures have not been published. They will prove astounding, and would have been doubled or perhaps trebled had not the Bank staff proved physically incapable of handling the business. The City now sees that the step taken by the Government was ill advised. The bill market still remains moribund. The taxpayer will have to shoulder the burden of the loss the Bank may make, and the City has not benefited in any way.

A great many people are proposing that the Stock Exchange should be reopened upon some sort of vague Government guarantee. Here again the taxpayer would be called upon to pay up losses incurred by Anglo-German firms dealing with alien enemies. No more preposterous idea was ever submitted to serious business people. The plain truth is that about one-third of the largest firms in the House are hopelessly insolvent. Those who did business abroad cannot get their money. Those who have done business for Army or Navy clients cannot get paid, and many firms who trusted doubtful clients now find the moratorium flung in their faces when they ask for differences.

There is very little chance of the Stock Exchange reopening unless the Government realise the position. The banks, the brokers, the moneylenders cannot any longer finance dealings in stocks and shares. The whole stock of gold now in the country is needed for food and war supplies. If the Government would adopt the suggestion of *The New Witness* and issue a paper currency not convertible into gold, but secured upon Trustee stocks up to 50 per cent. of their value we should at once have enough legal tender to pay our way.

The notion is not sound finance. But anything is better than the complete paralysis of banking, money broking and share dealing, which now exists. After all, the Government has recognised the special gilt-edged value of Trustee stocks. Surely it might lend, say, 50 per cent. of their value and thus mobilise some of the wealth of Great Britain.

This scheme would assist the great insurance companies who will find the shoe pinch if any great rush for claims occurs through losses in war. These companies have two sources of income—one from premiums, the other from interest on loans and investments. Both will fall away whilst claims will certainly increase. They would be greatly helped if they could pay claims in paper obtained by pawning their Trustee stocks with the Government.

The small issue of Exchequer Bills made this week was a great success, for the average works out at £3 13s. 1d., as compared with £3 18s. 3d. in the Boer war. No one thinks that very much more will be lent at the low rate, but it was felt that for the honour of England her first borrowing should show the world that her credit was unimpaired.

The National Bank of Egypt will finance the cotton crop in paper. That is now definitely announced, and the fellaheen will soon become accustomed to the notes. It is a pity that they have not been earlier educated to the advantages of a paper currency.

Some important reports have been issued during the past week. The great Dublin brewers, Messrs. Guinness, show about £150,000 increase, but the board content themselves with the usual 14 per cent. dividend and refrain from paying a bonus. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds have not done quite as well as last year. The figures show a falling away of over £50,000, but the usual 15 per cent. is paid. The balance-sheet is the strongest in the industrial world. Hawthorn, Leslie, the big Tyneside engineering firm, have had a good year, but reduce the dividend. The Worthington Iron and Steel Co. have succeeded in holding up the profits to practically the same high level as last year, but here also the dividend is reduced.

Holders of Spies shares will hear with pleasure of the very big increase in the output. Last week's production has increased by almost 12,000 tons. The company announces that the Russian Government refuse to allow any export of oil. But as the internal demand is large this will not seriously hurt the Spies. The new wells in the South Baskakoff land are turning out splendidly. The water has been kept out, and at their present low prices the shares are worth buying.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.

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MAILS FOR THE NEAR EAST.

There is still a measure of uncertainty at the General Post Office in guaranteeing the regularity of future mails for the East, including countries on the sea route. "We can say nothing definite regarding the arrangements for next week, but those for this week-end are complete so far as we can make them," our representative was informed on calling at the Foreign Department in King William Street yesterday (Thursday) morning. "We are dispatching mails for India to-morrow (Friday) by the P. and O. 'Moldavia,' including those for Egypt, the Levant, Cyprus, and Beyrout. Mails for Constantinople, Salonika, and Smyrna we are sending by France according to the best opportunity afforded."

"As regards inward mails from Constantinople and countries round about no information can be given. They come in very irregularly. We had one in on the 18th—the only one we had for some time previous—but when to expect the next we cannot say." We are also informed that various mails from the Continent due on July 29 onward are still delayed.

As regards telegraphic communication, the notice given last week that telegrams for India, Straits Settlements, etc., can only be accepted viâ the Eastern Telegraph Company, and can only be accepted at sender's risk as to delay, is still operative. The normal route to Bulgaria, Roumania, and Montenegro is interrupted, and there is serious delay in transmission. Telegrams for Greece, Turkey, and the Balkans are only accepted at sender's risk.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Roumanian.—Telegram from Bucharest, dated August 15:—Production for weeks ended August 1 and 8, 407 and 376 tons respectively. On account of shortage of labour drilling work suspended.

Egyptian Markets.—Receipts for the week ended August 13 amounted to £583, this being a decrease of £18 as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The total from the beginning of the year is £32,253, a decrease of £1,496.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—The receipts for the week ended August 15 amounted to £7,609, compared with £8,496 in the corresponding week of last year—a decrease of £887. The aggregate receipts from July 1 amounted to £47,945, a decrease of £5,246.

Traian Roumanian. — Telegram from Bucharest, dated 15th inst.:Production for weeks ended August 1 and 8, 292 and 262 tons respectively. On account of shortage of labour we have had to suspend drilling work. Production reduced, as pipelines refused to accept oil for transport.

REOPENING OF MALTA BANKS.

A Malta telegram states that the banks there were reopened on Monday, and paid 10 per cent., the minimum limit being £2 on current 5 per cent. deposits, but the moratorium has been extended to the 31st inst.

COMPANY NOTES.

Egyptian Agricultural Company.

A meeting of the first debenture-holders of the Egyptian Agricultural Company, Limited, was held on Monday to consider a resolution to alter the trust deed in order to give the company power to issue prior lien bonds with interest at the rate of 7 per cent., instead of 5 per cent., as mentioned in the deed. Mr. H. J. Wenham, who presided, said the estates were progressing favourably, and should eventually become valuable and profitable. Time and money were the requisites to their successful development. Whether the present crisis might to any extent hinder or delay the carrying through of the arrangements made with the Mortgage Company of Egypt it was impossible to say, but he hoped it would not. The board thought it essential they should have the powers now asked for. What they had met for was to substitute in the trust deed 7 per cent. for 5 per cent., and to add authority to borrow on mortgage as well as on prior lien bonds. The London Trust Company, who were the trustees for the debenture-holders, had assented to the change. Shareholders might depend upon it that the greatest care would be taken in spending the funds that might be obtained in the most judicious way possible, and the company would have the benefit of the wide experience of the Mortgage Company in controlling and checking the expenditure. The resolution was carried.

Ottoman Gas.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ottoman Gas Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the office of the company, 59, Gracechurch Street, E.C., Colonel J. L. Daniell, chairman of the company, presiding. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, while they were meeting in very awkward and difficult circumstances, that did not apply to the actual position of the company. As a fact, their undertaking had never been in a sounder position. The accounts showed a reduction in the cost of coal of something like £2,000. There was an increase of £3,268 in depreciation and renewals, but they had had to do a great deal on capital account. Their gas rentals showed an increase of £4,245, and though by-products were down £2,500, everyone would realise the difficulties that had had to be faced in the market—to a certain extent they had shared therein. Shareholders might have noted the absence, at the end of the report, of any intimation as to when the dividend would be paid: they would be glad to learn that the board had arranged for its payment at the usual date—namely, that day week. If they were a day later that would be because matters were not quite prepared, but he did not think that would be the case. The report was adopted.

Cyprus Copper Development Syndicate, Limited.

A company with the above title was registered on August 1 by Milward, Jones, and Cameron, 6, Dawson Street, Dublin, with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to acquire from Jas. H. Polloch all his estate, interest, and goodwill in certain licences or permits; to prospect for minerals (including copper and iron) in the State lands of the Stavrovouna Forest, in the Island of Cyprus; and to buy, sell, and deal in minerals, plant, vehicles, machinery, timber, etc. The first directors (to number not less than two nor more than five) are S. Geoghegan, J. H. Polloch, R. H. Geoghegan, and S. Young. Qualification, 50 shares. Remuneration, as fixed by the company.

Dr. Watkins-Pitchford, Director of the new South African Institute for Medical Research, who is visiting Europe, will, before his return to Natal, inspect the leading laboratories in England and the United States, and will probably extend his tour to Algiers, Cairo, and Khartoum.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

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Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 600,000.

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E. W. H. BARRY.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
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	LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
	FELIX VERNES.

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Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adatia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

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Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah
Zahlé

EGYPT.
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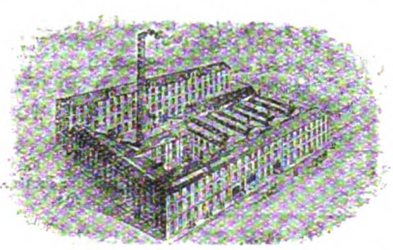
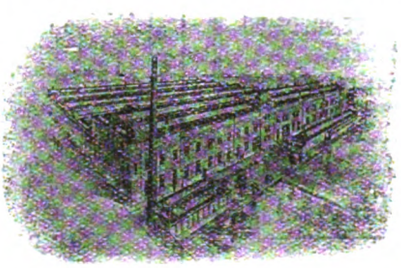
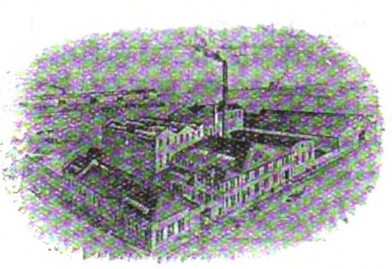

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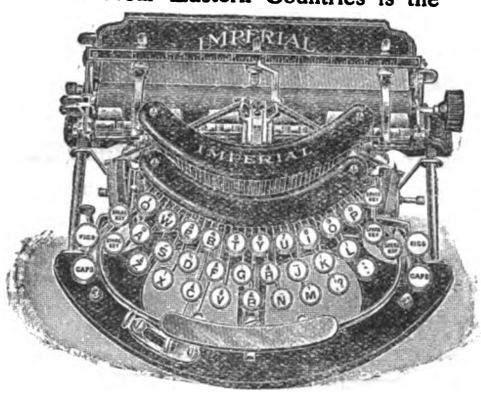

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 173.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The news from Servia during the past week has been more definite and more satisfactory than any we have received from that quarter since the outbreak of the war. Not only has the Austrian advance in force in the Shabatz-Loznitza area been checked, but the invaders have been severely defeated and driven back over the Drina. According to the latest reports Servian soil is now rid of the Kaiserlichs, and King Peter's forces are to be congratulated upon a highly creditable feat of arms. So successful has been the Servian defensive that the Government of Vienna has been obliged to issue a statement to the effect that the Servian campaign is no longer of any importance, and is to be regarded purely in the light of a "punitive expedition." The Viennese authorities, however, omit to state that the "punitive expedition" is likely, at no great distance of time, to be fully occupied in defending Bosnia against a determined Servian attack.

Our sources of information are at present inadequate or one-sided, but so far as can be gathered it appears that the Austrians have been putting Slav troops into the field against the Servians as well as soldiers drawn from the two dominant races in the Dual Monarchy, and that these Slavs were accorded the place of Uriah in the line of battle, and suffered accordingly. It is also stated that sternly repressive measures have been taken in those parts of the Dual Monarchy where the loyalty of individuals of populations is suspect to the authorities; and it must be remembered that the Austrian tradition in this respect is odiously brutal, and has at times been positively inhuman. We must, however, remember that a Press campaign is in some quarters accepted as a legitimate adjunct of warfare, and decline to accept stories of atrocities unsubstantiated by trustworthy witnesses at their full face value in any part of the area of hostilities. Episodes of this nature of undoubted authenticity are only too frequent as it is.

The progress of the war throughout the week has been rapid. The wave of Teutonic invasion has swept over the greater part of Belgium, and is now beating—fruitlessly, we are told—against the Allied lines in Northern France. To the timid the appearance of Uhlans upon the sands of Ostend or even on the beach at Boulogne may appear alarming. Save to the unfortunate inhabitants, whose lives and property are exposed to the ferocity of this fierce soldiery, the apparition of Uhlans is of no moment. They cannot cross the sea, they cannot harm the shipping. German armies may for a moment swarm even as far as Dieppe or Havre. They cannot stop Great Britain from sending men and money, ammunition and supplies through every French port on the Mediterranean or the Atlantic. The Teutonic hordes may stamp Belgium flat and devastate the French marches for a few days, but they cannot affect the command of the sea, and it is upon the command of the sea that victory in this war will turn.

The advance of the Germans has enabled them to issue innumerable bulletins of victory, but it has brought them no nearer to success. Their enormous losses of men will soon begin to tell upon them, and the mines which they have themselves sown so freely in the North Sea are frightening away the commerce from the Dutch ports upon which Germany must soon depend for food. Time is against the Teutons, and the battle din in Belgium will soon be unable to drown the devastating thunder from the east, where Russia has five-and-twenty army corps in line composed of men who are, as the recent fighting has shown, fully prepared to die themselves if in dying they can bear down one of the hated *Nemetski*. The immediate past has been lost to the Germans by reason of the unexpected and heroic Belgian resistance. The present is all too short for the execution of their schemes, and it is difficult to imagine a more ominous and gloomy future than that which advances upon Berlin. The disaster, starvation, and defeat which may be expected to assail the Prussian Monarchy and its subject States during the month of September will not be in any way mitigated by the memory of victories in August.

In the North Sea silence seems to connote safety, and with one exception there has barely been any mention of naval movements in those waters. In the Adriatic, on the other hand, the French Fleet under Admiral Boué de Lapeyrère, in which some British units are incorporated, may be expected shortly to engage the Austrians. It will naturally be of the highest importance to us and to our Allies to rid the Mediterranean entirely of all hostile flags. Meanwhile the Montenegrins have so battered Cattaro that that celebrated port is completely useless to the Austrians, and it may be that the Schwartzgelb has by now departed for good from the Bocche and Le Catene di Cattaro. The loss of so splendid a harbour must be a grievous blow for the Kaiserlichs, and goes far to explain the anxiety of Vienna to secure, first by diplomacy and then by arms, possession of Lovtchen Mountain, which dominates the situation.

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The Concert of Europe having dissolved itself in war, it is not surprising that the International Army of Occupation should have been withdrawn piecemeal from Scutari. The French have gone to help the Montenegrins, and Germans to aid the Austrians against their former comrades on the banks of the Boyana. The British have departed, and the Italians, unwilling to pose as "Europe," have retired oversea. The Russians had no contingent in Albania. Stories are current that the Mpret himself has abandoned Durazzo and that the insurgents have occupied Valona and hoisted the Turkish flag. Neither of these events, if true, would be surprising, but as yet they have not been confirmed. In any case the Mpret has sent his children away from his capital, which appears to be the only part of his nominal dominions to recognise his sway, for, as in the case of the Emperors of Constantinople and the Kings of Jerusalem in the past, his realm has been reduced to a single city.

Those who happened to be present in the camp of the Indian detachments in England when the news came of the sudden illness of King Edward and of the postponement of the Coronation which they had come to attend will remember the effect of that intelligence. Every native officer and trooper in the camp immediately prayed according to the fashion of his race and creed that his Padishah, the stricken Kaisar-i-Hind, might be spared for many years of rule. Now it appears that a similar spirit has taken possession of the King-Emperor's peoples in India itself. Not only are prayers addressed to Heaven for the victory of His Majesty's arms, but substantial offers of men, money and service have been made to the Crown. Consequently it is only our enemies who will be surprised to learn that the Moslems of India have formally expressed their hope that nothing will occur in Constantinople to make them choose between temporal allegiance to their Padishah and the spiritual respect due to their Kaliph. We never doubted the loyalty of the King-Emperor's Mussalman lieges; it is only the Germans who eagerly deceived themselves in this, as in so many other directions.

During the past week another combatant has entered the International lists. Just as Great Britain assumed her treaty obligations towards Belgium and stood by her spoken word to France, so has Japan taken up her duties as an ally of Great Britain. Once more the world hears the clash and rattle of the armour of Japan as a Mikado girds on his two swords for war. An ultimatum, carefully prepared upon an historical precedent, has opened the path for Tokyo to avenge the long-past humiliation at Port Arthur in Kiao-Chau. Germany is now to gather the fruits of her unconscionable aggression in Shantung, and there is hope that what she extorted from China by the menace of the mailed fist on its first appearance in modern diplomacy may be restored, even as it is suggested that the ruinous concessions wrung from Turkey are to be cancelled by the Allies, if victorious, in favour of the Porte. The appearance of the banner of the Rising Sun once more in line of battle introduces active warfare into a third continent and places a formidable fleet at the disposal of the forces of civilization for the policing of the seas. Kiao-Chau, or, rather, the fortress of Tsing-tau, is to be attacked by a joint Anglo-Japanese expedition, which will be resisted by the German garrison and China squadron, aided by an Austrian cruiser, for at the dictation of Berlin Vienna has declared war upon Japan.

As yet Italy has preserved the neutrality which is so grievous a disappointment to her nominal allies. She has, however, taken ample precautionary measures, and it is understood that these are of such a nature that when the moment for mobilization arrives it will be found that little or nothing remains to be done. That she should remain neutral throughout the war seems highly improbable. It might be to her immediate interest to do so, but her statesmen are not likely to forget that if she should continue to consult only her own immediate interests she must in the future inevitably suffer for so doing. Only those who have borne a part in the conflict can hope to have a voice in the settlement that will follow the conflict. And Italy will certainly desire to make her voice heard. Moreover, it is evident that her people, who have never been accused of being lacking in generous instincts, are chafing at her inaction already. They desire to see her taking her part without further delay. And as to which side they wish her to range herself on there can be no doubt at all.

Up to the time of writing there has been no movement in the Near East. The blandishments of Teutonic diplomacy and its lavish promises of future payment for present services have as yet produced no result. For the moment the memory of the arrival in the Dardanelles of German ships as refugees which had been hunted and hit, and had had to fly for their existence, is vivid, and the performance was but a poor advertisement of German naval might. The absence of the familiar Austrian-Lloyd steamers from the ports of the Levant also has a blighting effect upon the pro-German propaganda—for it is hard to persuade the Oriental that those who dare not sail upon the seas can possibly be masters of the world, and the Oriental has no particular desire to take up arms for absent friends—the more so when those friends were so self-seeking in their friendship. The Servian victory upon the Drina is far more impressive in the eyes of the Near East than any number of German successes in distant Belgium. Namur is but a name, and the Servian army is a reality. The warships of the Allies may be seen with the naked eye, those of the Germans have had to be sold in the second-hand bazaar. It becomes daily more and more apparent that the Teutonic Powers are no longer in a position to "invite the tribes down to the loot of Delhi," but rather are on the look-out for some one foolish enough to help them out of the hole into which they have fallen.

Affairs in Persia are not entirely satisfactory, but Sultan Ahmed Shah may be congratulated upon having definitely formed a new Cabinet. In addition to the Sadr Azam, Mustaufi Mamalik, whose acceptance of office we were able to announce last week, Ala-es-Sultaneh is now at the Foreign Office in Teheran, while Moleshan-es-Sultaneh is at the Treasury, and Mukbir-es-Sultaneh, who has been recalled for the purpose from Shiraz, is Minister of Justice. It is to be hoped that the new Cabinet will be able to devise some means for tiding the country over its present difficulties, as for the moment the two interested Powers are too busy elsewhere to be able to devote that attention to Persia which is necessary before the country can properly be rehabilitated.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, August 8.

Early Effects of the War.

When this letter will reach The Near East I know not! Our communications here are so delayed and interrupted that we might be living in a besieged city. Provisions are rising in price in a manner that bears out the parallel. Potatoes cost 40 per cent. more, Austrian beet sugar has risen by 200 per cent., and the price of bread and petroleum would have doubled had not the local authorities stepped in and by threats of pains and penalties prevented local merchants from making a profit at the expense of the consumer. The regulation of prices is a pre-economic measure it may be, but it has its uses in war time.

Meanwhile, the mobilization is in full swing, and it is an extensive mobilizaton, too. The total number of men called out must be enormous, the age-limit being forty-five, and few exemptions being permitted. How many army corps have been mobilized is not clear. There are rumours of concentrations on the Russian and Egyptian borders, but these must be taken with a grain or two of salt. The national distrust of Russia is still so great, despite the efforts of the Russian Embassy, that it would not surprise the writer very much if the Turks, after completing their mobilization, did throw in their lot with the Triple Alliance, or rather with the Central Powers. Moreover, the laying by the British Government of an embargo on the battleship "Sultan Osman" has caused very lively indignation here, especially among the members of the Ottoman Navy League. The facts that this vessel was paid for in part out of public subscriptions, that the Press and the Government had lost no chance of "booming" this important addition to the Turkish Navy, and that her non-arrival may have postponed the carrying out of certain schemes explain the natural annoyance of the Turks. As in past days the Ottoman Press threatens England with Moslem as well as with Turkish displeasure; though one may well doubt whether the loyal Moslem subjects of the King of England and Emperor of India would for a moment doubt England's right to take no risks of losing the chance of acquiring this proud ship at a most critical moment of the history of our Empire. Nor when the *Tasvir-i-Efkiar* heads an anti-English leader with "bin laanet"—*i.e.*, a thousand curses—are the Moslems of the Empire likely to be converted to a sudden espousal of Turkey's cause in this matter by such petulance.

Till three or four days ago the chances that Turkey would join the German and Austrian alliance seemed considerable. Since then the publication of the news that Italy would remain neutral and that England had declared war on the Germans has had a calming effect, while Djemal Pasha is believed to advocate armed support of the Triple Entente, and some say Djavid Bey does likewise. Enver is the champion of German interests, while Talaat Bey is all for complete neutrality. Much as we should like to see the Ottoman flag beside the standards of the Entente in the present campaign, it cannot be denied that, pending some decisive encounter, Turkey would do well to keep aloof from Armageddon.

Reservists Leave for Servia.

On August 5 and 6 over 2,000 French reservists left Constantinople for France. They were accompanied by several British volunteers and reservists, and had a magnificent send off. The crowd at the quays was to be numbered in thousands, and though much has been talked of the "sentimentality" of the Celtic and Latin races one saw no evidence worth mentioning of excessive emotion or of the braggart spirit that was so marked in 1870. There were no cries of "à Berlin!" Instead, when the "Saghalien" left one only heard "Vive la France! Vive la patrie!" and the stirring strains of the "Marseillaise," broken every now and again by shouts of "Vive la Russie!" "Vive la Belgique!" and still more often "Vive l'Angleterre!" while a French priest, returning to France to fight for the Republic which has annulled the laws against the congregations, played "God Save the King" upon a cornet. The demeanour of the reservists was delightful. There was none of that rigidity that has marked the departure of Austrian and German reservists and volunteers, of that somewhat theatrical enthusiasm which suggests the barrack square and finds vent in jerky movements and military attitudes. Everybody was enthusiastic, but natural; gay, despite the seriousness of the occasion; ready to fight, but in no wise inclined to despise the enemy. The usual playboys who pretended to fall head first from the rigging and performed gymnastic feats at the masthead were in great form, and kept the saddest smiling, and when Djemal Pasha, accompanied by Dr. Nazim, who had gone on board to say good-bye to some of his friends, left the ship amid loud and repeated shouts of "Vive la Turquie, Vive Djemal Pasha!" a wag shouted "Venez avec nous Pasha, si vous aimez les batailles il y en aura de trés chic chez nous!" Then the ship steamed out the tricolour floating amidships, the White Ensign on her foremast, and aft the Russian Saltire, while a great Belgian flag hung with flowers waved on her bows.

News"—Made in Germany.

The censorship is extremely strict. One is not allowed to telegraph anything that matters! No references may be made to the economic condition of the country, to the movements of foreign Consuls, Ambassadors, or merchantmen, to the Ottoman fleet and Army, or to fires, shipwrecks, or railway collisions. Consequently it is difficult for the foreign newspaper correspondent to give the outer world any speedy account of what is happening here. Telegrams from England and France take a couple of days to arrive here, and meanwhile the Agence Wolff and other German and Austrian agencies bombard us with accounts of German successes great and small, prophesy revolutions in Russia as *The Pesther Lloyd* prophesied a revotion in Paris after the murder of M. Jaurés, and do their best to support Baron Wangenheim's efforts to convince Turkey that Germany is the winning horse. If only we had a British telegraphic agency here!

Financial Measures.

Runs on the banks have been frequent, but so far most of them have "held up their end," especially the Imperial Ottoman Bank, though large cheques are not met in full—not nearly in full!—and cheques on London are not met at all. An issue of £T1 and £T1-2 banknotes will shortly be made, these notes taking the place of the £T50 and £T100 notes that have been called in.

The prelude to the present struggle is dealt with in a comprehensive study of the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 by Mr. W. H. Crawford Price, entitled "In the Cockpit of Nations: A Story of Macedonian Strife," which Mr. Werner Laurie has in preparation.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 11.

Greece and the War.

The effects of the financial panic caused by the outbreak of war were felt in Athens as they were throughout Europe. There was at once a run on the banks, great and small, and speculators lost not a moment in forcing up the price of provisions. The Government, however, took prompt action, and was able to avert economic disaster for the country. By Royal decree the banks were authorized to refuse the withdrawal of deposits, and the maximum prices that may be charged for foodstuffs has been fixed in similar fashion.

Greece has decided to maintain the strictest possible neutrality in regard to the fighting between the Great Powers, and to refrain from any action in the Balkans so long as her interests are not threatened. At the same time, she has pushed forward her military preparations so as to be ready for instant mobilization, if that should be necessary.

The German Overtures.

Count Quadt, the German Minister in Athens, had a long audience of the King as soon as he returned from leave of absence, and this fact naturally gave rise to various rumours. It is reported, even in diplomatic circles, that the Count was the bearer of secret proposals which were intended to win Greece over to the side of the two allied Empires. One journal, which has close relations with the Minister of Marine, is responsible for the statement that the German Minister, discouraged by the poor reception accorded to his overtures, finally limited his requests to asking for the assistance of the Greek mercantile marine in revictualling the German Army. But his representations were useless. Both the King and Mr. Venizelos replied that Greece could not abandon her attitude of neutrality unless events in the Balkans should appear to threaten the territorial dispositions of the Treaty of Bucharest.

Count Quadt asked impossibilities, and no other answer could have been given to him. Indeed, it shows but small respect for this people and their Government to ask them to forget all that Greece owes to France, Great Britain, and Russia, who have been her protectors ever since her liberation and the creation of the kingdom, and to whom she owes her territorial and economic development. The feeling of gratitude towards these Powers, especially France and England, is so deeply rooted in the hearts of the people that no government, even though it was presided over by a statesman of Mr. Venizelos' popularity and prestige, or even its present King, whom it almost idolizes, would be obeyed if it sought to take hostile action, either directly or indirectly, against its benefactors. Besides the question of sentiment, there are also vital material interests which impose reserve upon Greece. It is not forgotten that it has always been to France that Greece has gone for money, and that neither to Berlin nor to Vienna could she look for help in this direction. Thus neither the King nor Mr. Venizelos, however much they might personally wish to be agreeable to Germany, could do anything in that way without seriously compromising the interests of their country.

There is only one of Greece's statesmen who is in favour of Germany, and that is Mr. Theotokis, who, formerly a convinced supporter of the Triple Entente, during his last tenure of office veered round and became a supporter of the Triple Alliance, seeing, as he said quite openly, that he could obtain nothing for his country from the other group. Mr. Venizelos—who maintains his attitude of strict neutrality, though his sympathies are rather with the Triple Entente, as opposed to the (perfectly natural) tendencies of the King—proposed that His Majesty should consult the leaders of the other parties as to the policy Greece ought to follow, and especially recommended him to learn the views of Mr. Theotokis. This meant, of course, that Mr. Venizelos would be quite ready to give up office if the King should find himself of the same opinion as Mr. Theotokis. His Majesty having accepted this advice, all the former principal ministers will be invited to the Palace in turn to give their views on the situation.

Sympathy with France and Belgium.

Such, then, being the feeling in Greece, the Press, despite the reserve imposed upon it, finds it difficult to avoid making itself the vehicle of expression of the popular satisfaction at the first French successes, and the heroic resistance offered by the Belgians to the invasion of their country.

Turkish Mobilization.

In spite of the manifestations of friendly feeling for Greece on the part of Turkey, especially since the two Dreadnoughts under construction have been taken over by Great Britain, and in spite of the reiterated assurances of Ghalib Bey that the mobilization has no aggressive object, but is merely to ensure Turkey's neutrality, this measure is regarded with strong suspicion in Athens. The Government is watching every movement in Turkey with the greatest vigilance, and is waiting to see what developments will follow on this mobilization—which seems to have been imposed on Turkey by General Limann von Sanders. Whatever it may be, it is thought in Athens that Turkey would make a grave mistake if she failed to remain neutral; for should Great Britain and Russia declare war upon her the question of Asia Minor would at once be on the *tapis*, and would probably be solved at Turkey's expense by the division of her Asiatic territories amongst the Great Powers.

Bulgaria and Roumania.

Bulgaria, it is thought, is waiting in the hope that the course of the war may allow her to throw in her lot with the Austro-German alliance, but above all things she is interested in the attitude of Roumania, which is still ambiguous. In well-informed circles here it is considered very unlikely that Roumania will fall in with the suggestions of the Austro-German alliance, which seem to amount to the proposal of an entente with Bulgaria and Turkey and the promise (to Roumania) of Bessarabia. For even if the two Powers should be victorious, Roumania would have created a most dangerous enemy for herself in the future, in Russia; while, on the other hand, in the event of a defeat of the two Powers—which seems highly probable—and the partition of Austria, which in all likelihood would result therefrom, Roumania would be the only country that could put forward any good claim to Transylvania. On the other side, the aggrandizement of Bulgaria would not be without risk for Roumania. For all these reasons it is thought in Athens that if Roumania should abandon her neutrality she would join the Triple Entente, in spite of the personal disinclination of King Carol to put himself in opposition to his native country.

Austrian Minister Interviewed.

A telegram received here the day before yesterday from London stated that the Blue Book just published by the British Government contains a note from the British Embassy in Constantinople, which shows that Austria has not entirely abandoned her designs on Salonika. This revelation caused painful surprise here, and the semi-official Press, recalling the reiterated assurances of disinterestedness given by the Vienna Cabinet, taxed it with disloyalty. The Austro-Hungarian Minister in Athens, therefore, granted an interview to the *Hestia* for the purpose of denying that the Dual Monarchy had any designs upon Salonika, and of affirming that his instructions are to develop friendly relations with Greece. These declarations have not, however, been able to remove the impression created by Mr. Beaumont's note.

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ALBANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Durazzo, August 14.

The Vanished Gendarmerie.

Albania seems to have been entirely forgotten by the big world during the past two weeks. Since the outbreak of the general war no one has had time to give a thought to this country. Yet the situation is even more serious than before; insurrection is rampant throughout Central Albania; and it may be said that only two towns are left to the Government—Durazzo, the capital, and Valona, to the south.

Three weeks ago it was still hoped that a foreign nation would send troops to Albania for the purpose of introducing a little order while awaiting the organisation of the Gendarmerie. It is a fact that at the present time Albania has no armed force at all. It had, as your readers know, a small force of Gendarmerie, but this had to be employed against the Greeks in the South, and it has now become disorganised and reduced to nothing.

The journey of the Prime Minister, Turkhan Pasha, was undertaken solely with the view of enlisting the help of the Great Powers for this country. It was hoped that Roumania would receive the mandate of the six Great Powers and send a small contingent of troops here. The Albanian Government cited the case of Greece, pacified by 17,000 Bavarians of King Otho, and of Bulgaria, which was helped by the Russian army. But now that war has broken out there seems to be no hope at all.

Albania, therefore, finds herself compelled to rely upon her own resources. Here, at Durazzo, for instance, there are only 200 volunteers from Roumania, amongst whom, moreover, there are many members of the Albanian colonies at Bucharest and Constantza. The rest of the Albanian forces consist of irregulars, of men enrolled at hazard and without any military training. And the insurgents are at the door. Five hundred metres from Durazzo the Albanian trenches finish, and those of the enemy begin! Durazzo has been besieged for two months and a-half, and only on the sea front is there any way open. Every night there are small skirmishes, and explosions are to be heard throughout the day.

The Insurgent's Attitude.

All attempts to arrive at an understanding with the insurgents are unavailing for the immediate future. The insurgents are extraordinarily obstinate and infatuated, and it appears to be certain that Servian, Greek, and Young Turk agents are egging them on. There are only two courses open: to take the plunge and attacks the rebels, or to remain on the defensive and see what time will do. As for Durazzo, it has definitely decided to adopt the latter course, and rest strictly on the defensive; but Valona is animated by a different spirit.

It must be borne in mind that the people of South Albania are very faithful in their allegiance to the Mpret; and the districts now in the occupation of the insurgents only suffer that occupation of necessity, not from choice. Thus columns of irregulars have set out from Valona, and already Fier and a part of the plain of Muzeche have been cleared of the insurgents, and the town of Berat also has been retaken by the Government party, though stoutly defended by the insurgents. Should this enthusiasm not fade away, it may be hoped that peace and order may yet be established in Albania.

Italy's Attitude.

I have said that Albania seems to have been forgotten; she has also been abandoned. One of the Powers which appears to be most directly interested in Albania's existence, namely, Austria, is engaged in the great war. The only other Power is Italy, who, only a short time ago, seemed to harbour anything but sympathy towards Albania; at present her Press is circumspect, and frankly states that in Italian diplomatic circles greater sympathy is being felt for the Prince of Wied. Evidently the tension created as a result of Essad's exile is dying a natural death.

But what is Italy doing? She is taking advantage of the present situation to clamour for concessions, all of them burdensome to the country. They include fishery and forest rights, as well as the right to erect and exploit telegraph systems.

The Minister of Finance is in Rome, accompanied by the Italian Minister in Albania. The object is to raise the advance of one million francs promised to Albania by Italy and Austria. If they are not successful in their negotiations, this country will be in a sorry plight indeed, as it has absolutely no revenues whatsoever to fall back on.

The Refugees.

To the above evils must be added the refugees, at least 100,000 men, women and children, who escaped from the Greek atrocities at Kortcha, Tepelen, Permeti, and Kurveleshi, leaving their burning villages behind them. In view of the financial situation, and given the rebellion in Central Albania, the problem of these refugees becomes very serious, the more so considering that the Epirus question is a long way from being settled.

GERMANY AND TURKEY.

The Constantinople correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* writes in that paper:—Just before my departure from Constantinople on August 4 the Germans there spread all kinds of wild rumours which were given the imprint of their Embassy. Such, for example, that M. Poincaré had been assassinated, that civil war had broken out in France, that the Germans had entered Belgium triumphantly, and that their arrival in Paris was imminent. Moreover, the German and Austrian diplomatists told Turkey confidently that the German and Austrian armies would very soon be both in Paris and Warsaw. They held out to the Turks various alluring propositions, such as the suppression of the capitulations, the crushing of the Russian "Colossus," and so on, in order to induce the Turks not to proclaim their neutrality, but rather to adopt a hostile attitude towards Russia and consequently to the Triple Entente. . . . However, the Grand Vizier, Djavid Bey, Talaat Bey, and Djemal Pasha, but not Enver Pasha, struggled to secure in the Council of Ministers the triumph of the policy of strictest neutrality, persuaded that for Turkey it was preferable to maintain an attitude of prudent expectation and not to enter into any engagement. Experience has shown them that their Balkan enemies, for the moment divided amongst themselves, would probably end by reconstituting their alliance and falling on the Turks, and agreeing among themselves as to the partition of Turkey in Europe. These considerations prevailed, and the Ottoman Government proclaimed strict neutrality, while taking all military and naval precautions which events dictated. This was solemnly declared by Talaat Bey and Djavid Bey in Parliament on Sunday, August 2.

THE ROLE OF ITALY.

While we have no doubt as to the direction in which the true interests of Italy lie, it is evidently for Italy herself to decide upon her own course of action. The temper of the Italian people being what it is, she cannot, without the gravest risk of internal trouble, join her allies in their desperate policy. She, as a democratic State, cannot side with two anti-democratic Empires in waging war upon Republican France and Liberal England. She, whose national unity was achieved in the teeth of Austrian oppression, cannot intervene to crush the gallant stand of Servia and Montenegro against the present attempt to extend Austrian oppression to them also. Her Queen is a daughter of Montenegro. Italy, moreover, well knows that the success of Austrian arms would destroy, perhaps for ever, her hopes of maintaining the freedom of the Adriatic; and that neither Austria-Hungary nor Germany will ever forget or forgive her present neutrality. Neutrality may for the moment seem a right and sufficient policy; but the memories of the Congress of Berlin, from which Italy returned with "clean" but empty hands, while Austria-Hungary greatly extended her hold upon the Balkans, may well suggest to Italian statesmen the expediency of not standing aloof from the present struggle until too late.—*The Times.*

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THE PERSIAN CORONATION.

(From a Correspondent.)

Teheran, July 23.

Amid great rejoicing the Coronation of his Imperial Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah took place on Tuesday, July 21 (Shaban 27). For several days previously doubts had been freely expressed among the inhabitants of Teheran as to whether it would really come off, or be indefinitely postponed on account of the hard times through which the country is now passing. However, the people took heart on seeing the triumphal arches along the route of the procession rapidly take shape as imposing blocks of solid-looking masonry, and all Teheran brought out carpets to hang on the walls, from which were suspended countless chandeliers and lustres.

The ceremonial began on Monday morning, when the Shah drove down from his summer palace in the hills to the north of the city, accompanied by an escort of Persian Cossacks and gendarmes. On his arrival at the gate of the city he was welcomed by the Mayor of Teheran on behalf of the people, after which the procession re-formed, with the carriage of the Heir-Apparent, or Vali Ahd, following behind and Ministers of the Court riding in attendance on his Majesty, and passed through the streets to the private entrance of the palace, where the cortège was received by the Prime Minister, Ala es Sultaneh, and his colleagues in the Cabinet.

The deputies of the Mejliss and the religious notables were entertained to luncheon, and were afterwards received in audience by the Shah, and in the afternoon a garden party was given by the Minister of the Court to the Government officials, Princes, and notables who had been invited to the Coronation. Early next day the streets along the route of the procession were lined by the police and the gendarmerie from the Gateway of the Shems el Imareh to the Baharistan, where is the building of the Mejliss, in which were to assemble the deputies to witness the swearing of the Oath of the Constitution by the young Shah.

At the head of the procession came companies of the mounted police, the Bakhtiari Horse, and the gendarmerie. Immediately preceding the state coach rode a detachment of Cossacks, looking most striking in their briliant scarlet uniforms. The gorgeous state coach was drawn by eight greys, and the personal escort of his Majesty was formed by Major Klingberg, Swedish Chief Instructor to the Gendarmerie, and Colonel Vadbolski, of the Cossack Brigade, behind whom rode the Bakhtiari Chieftains, Sardar Zafar and Amir el Mufakham, with Sardar Kol and the Amir Topkhaneh on either side of the coach.

The second carriage was that of the Heir-Apparent, after whom came the Royal Princes and the Ministers of the Cabinet.

A salute fired at half-past nine o'clock in the morning announced the departure of the procession from the Palace, and on reaching the Gun Square (Maidan-Topkhaneh) a second salute of ten guns was given. A third salute of ten guns was fired on reaching the entrance to the grounds of the Mejliss. His Majesty was welcomed by the leaders of the National Assembly at the head of the staircase and conducted to his retiring room, where the Regent, Nasr-el-Mulk, was awaiting him.

In the meanwhile the deputies (of the Second National Assembly) had taken their places in the Chamber. The Chief Mullahs and Ulemas were grouped round the throne on the dais, whilst the Corps Diplomatique and Persian notables had boxes allotted to them in the centre at the back of the building. As the deputies returned at the recent elections had not yet reached the capital, the swearing of the Oath of the Constitution was witnessed by members of the old Parliament to the number of sixty-eight, seven more than was necessary to form a quorum.

The entrance of the President of the Assembly, Mutamin el Mulk, with the two Vice-Presidents, was followed quickly by the Ministers of the Cabinet, who grouped themselves at the foot of the throne, whilst the Royal Princes took up positions on the left of the throne on the dais. As the approach of his Majesty was announced the assembly rose in silence.

The Shah, in uniform, entered from behind the throne with the Regent and the Heir-Apparent. Amid profound silence his Majesty came down from the dais to the desk, whereon were placed the Koran and an illuminated manuscript from which the Oath was to be read. After several formal bows to the assembled company his Majesty took up the manuscript and, in a low and nervous voice, swore the Oath of the Constitution:—

> "I, Sultan Ahmed Shah, Emperor of Persia, swear on the Holy Word of God that unto my life's end I shall be true to the terms of the Constitution and the People, and shall maintain the independence of my country; and this I shall do with all my strength."

Closing the book, the Shah at once withdrew without further ceremony, to be followed by the Regent after he had bowed politely to the assembly. After a brief period of repose in the retiring room his Majesty, with the Regent, the Princes, and the Turkish Ambassador, proceeded through the garden of the Baharistan to the Sipahsalar Mosque, where brief prayers of thanksgiving were offered. From the door of the Mosque the procession once more formed up in the previous order, and returned to the palace by way of the streets of Shahabad and Ala ed Dowleh. The crowd in the Maidan-Topkhaneh was very great and largely composed of women, who, on the approach of the Royal coach, loyally cheered the young Shah, clapping their hands and "lulu-ing" (crying) in the manner peculiar to the women of the East.

The Coronation Ceremony.

Shortly before four o'clock the same afternoon the representatives from the provinces, the Corps Diplomatique, and other guests arrived at the Palace, and after waiting a little while in an ante-room went into the Great Hall or Museum Chamber, along the sides of which were lined many Persians and notables. Here they took up a position on the right-hand of the famous jewelled Peacock Throne. At a quarter to five o'clock the Master of the Ceremonies proclaimed the approach of the Emperor of the Persians. Following behind his Majesty came the Regent and the Royal Princes, who stood on either side of the throne, with the Regent, Nasr-el-Mulk, immediately on his Majesty's right hand.

Mounting the steps of the throne, the Shah took his seat very gravely, and removing the aigretted-plumed cap stooped down to receive from the hands of the Regent the high-domed Crown, blazing with pearls, diamonds and emeralds. Deeply stirred with emotion, he placed the crown with both hands on his head, whilst one of the Chief Ulemas chanted the opening Surah of the Koran.

Hardly had his Majesty placed the crown upon his head when a flourish of trumpets without announced the glad news to the people, and a salute of one hundred and twenty-three guns was fired, the number corresponding to the number of years that the Kajar dynasty has ruled over the Persian Empire. At the conclusion of the reading of the prayers his Majesty returned the crown to the hands of the Regent, and, wearing the cap adorned with the coronet of Nadir Shah, slowly descended the steps of the throne, followed by the Princes and Ministers. The proceedings then concluded with a short reception of the Ministers and members of the Foreign Legations by his Majesty in a room adjoining the throne room.

Departure from Teheran.

A public Salaam (audience) was given the next morning (July 22) by his Majesty, seated on the Takht-Marmor (Marble Throne) in the Palace, the grounds of which were lined with a guard furnished by the gendarmes, Cossacks, and police. After the salutation of the people, his Majesty left the city for his summer residence of Sahib Keranieh, driving in state through the streets, which were kept by the police and gendarmerie.

To the minds of Europeans accustomed to a greater display of pageantry, the ceremonials they had witnessed conveyed an impression of haste and absence of formality. Thus, in the Mejliss we would have expected to hear a loyal address presented by the Deputies and a speech from the Nasr-el-Mulk on the occasion of his handing over the Regency to the young Emperor. Similarly, at the Coronation itself much more might have been made of the presentation of the various emblems of State to his Majesty by the Royal Princes. For whereas it was laid down in the "Order of Ceremonial to be Observed on the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty's Coronation" that the Princes severally were to deliver to the Shah the Sword, Shield, Sceptre and the Imperial Bow and Arrow on his entry into the throne room, these ceremonies were performed in a most inconspicuous and unimpressive manner before his Majesty had mounted the steps of the throne. Here again we were disappointed in not hearing a few graceful words from the Regent on handing over the reins of government. The Shah throughout the proceedings both in the Mejliss and in the throne room was the sole actor. He performed his part with credit, in spite of the intense heat and profound emotion with which he was evidently overcome.

The city of Teheran was gaily decorated and illuminated on both nights, the streets being a blaze of light. Conspicuous among them all were the fine illuminations of the Imperial Bank of Persia, which was outlined with electric lamps. Very large crowds assembled in the Maiden-Topkhaneh (Gun Square) to see the display of fireworks that inevitably accompanies rejoicings in Persia.

Much credit is due to the Commissioner of Police, Monsieur Westdal, for the admirable manner in which the several processions were conducted without the slightest hitch, and for the remarkable efficiency with which the police and the troops controlled the loyal crowds.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Glancing through the "News from All Sources" in last week's NEAR EAST I came across the news, culled from the *Zionist Gazette*, that two American Jews intend to establish a clothing factory, "in American style," in Jerusalem. This statement, I must admit, horrified me, and I am sure that most of my readers who know the East and care for it will share my feelings. As far as its outward appearance and the appearance of its inhabitants are concerned, Jerusalem is probably one of the least attractive spots in the Near East. As a matter of fact, the so-called "Mosque of Omar" is about the only thing in the city that has any outstanding artistic merit. But even so, I cannot without a qualm picture to myself the effect upon the Holy City of a wholesale donning of reach-me-downs, such as seems to be threatened according to the *Zionist Gazette's* announcement. Unless my memory plays me false, Sir Mark Sykes, in *Dar-ul-Islam*, drew a lively picture of the effect upon London (and Henley, I think) of all the Jews in our midst reverting to Oriental garb. Personally I should prefer even that to the sight (or thought) of all Jerusalem and Palestine dressed in the "very latest," or thereabouts, from New York. Western clothes may be comfortable, practical, all sorts of things that the Oriental clothes are not (to us), but they certainly lack the charm of colour. Compare the Arab's *kefiyeh* with the City man's silk hat, the Cairo donkey boy's blue *galabiyeh* with the unlovely tubular garments of the London street urchin, the flowing robes, dignified turban, and picturesque shoes of the average Oriental merchant with the formal, sad-hued suits, hard hats, and hideous footwear of the average Occidental, and decide for yourself which is the more artistic!

***

This war is breaking quite a number of records. Not only are we at war with Austria, "a thing we have never done before," but the Montenegrins have a number of naval prisoners under their charge. Unlike those armchair politicians who were in the habit of thinking that the British Navy was capable of being used with effect to settle any disagreement we might have with Timbuctoo, Tibet, or Abyssinia, Sultan Abdul Hamid and his predecessors realised the limitations of their own fleet, and never used it in attacks upon Cettinje. Hence captive admirals are rare birds in Tsrnagora, which until 1909 was not even allowed to own an armed ship of her own, and never embarked on naval warfare. I remember receiving, during the first Balkan War, a picture postcard commemorative of the occupation of Durazzo by the Servians. It bore the legend, "The first Servian port," and had a picture of two soldiers and a destroyer flying the Servian flag. Perhaps we shall be seeing such a destroyer "in being" before so very long.

***

Old memories are being wonderfully revived nowadays, and the historians have to work overtime in order to keep pace with the repetitions of history which daily occur. We meet with long-familiar names and fight once more on ancient battlefields; "the Allies" and "the enemy" figure once more on the fields of Flanders—the Allies are different but the enemy is the same—the Great Aggressor, whether he be Bourbon, or Bonaparte, or Hohenzollern. Nay more, we have to hark back to the Huns for similes. As, long ago, the outer barbarians tried to overwhelm civilization under a self-styled Scourge of God, so in this year of grace are the hordes in motion from beyond the Rhine. From all accounts civilization in Belgium and France is as much imperilled by the onrush of Germans as it was by Huns, or Tartars, or Turks in the past. The days are over, as the French War Office reminds us, when a bewigged and very gallant French officer could say to bewigged and gallant British soldiers drawn up in close formation a few score yards in front of him, "Messieurs les Anglais, tirez les premiers"

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Heraldically minded folk are somewhat exercised over the number of Eagles engaged in this war. A whole tribe of these fearful fowl has been let loose over the carcase of Europe and dispute the prey with sundry Lions. Russia, Servia, Montenegro, and Austria support double-headed eagles, black or white, according to taste, Prussia has a single-headed bird—black—and Poland, which hopes to be revived, has another single-headed eagle—white. Kaiser Wilhelm, in his subordinate Electoral, Grand Ducal, Princely and Comital capacities, possess countless eagles, and as King of Bohemia the Kaiser Franz Josef owns a lion. The British lion has a brother in Belgium, and unhappy Luxemburg has the same lion of Nassau which figured on our Royal coat of arms when "Dutch William" was our King and fought in Flanders. The splendid beast of St. Mark, the only lion which has wings to flap upon occasion, is well known to those of us who have been to Candia or Famagusta, or Chalkis in the old days, but he has not as yet taken part in the fray. If he does come into line he will be accompanied by yet another eagle, one bearing the Cross of Savoy upon his breast. Amid all these Imperial and Royal birds the Gallic cock is the sole representative of the domestic as opposed to the predatory, but the Emperor Franz Josef, as a Lorrainer, bears three little birds which should be more or less harmless, as they have no claws. Perhaps that may account for his House having lost not only the Duchy of Lorraine but so many other provinces as well.

***

I have received from a Jaffa correspondent a letter giving some account of a visit paid to that port by four of his Majesty's ships of war—the "Warrior," "Black Prince," "Weymouth," and "Chatham." The letter has been much delayed, but it interested me in view of the recent doings of some of the vessels mentioned, which have been making German and Austrian shipping in the Mediterranean very unhappy indeed. Our sailors quite won the hearts of the good people of Jaffa, as they win the hearts of most people wherever they go; and what especially delighted the townspeople was that the bands of two of the ships were allowed to give a concert at the grounds of the International Tennis Club. "Before this," writes my correspondent, "very few of the Europeans, and practically none of the natives, had had the pleasure of hearing such good music on shore here, for when German warships come to Jaffa they generally land their bands to play at their distant colony, Sarona, where only Germans benefit by the music. On this occasion, however, Europeans and natives alike enjoyed the music rendered by the bands of the 'Warrior' and the 'Black Prince.'"

***

The "Black Prince" put in an appearance at Port Said on the 13th of this month, a day before the German steamers lying there were liable to capture. There were ten of these unhappy vessels in the harbour at the time, and I learn from a Port Said correspondent that they all dipped their flags to the cruiser, and that she returned the salute. *Toujours la politesse!* Two days later the "Chatham," being between Port Said and Alexandria, met the big Austrian Lloyd s.s. "Marienbad," and, with great politeness, escorted her to Alexandria. Hard luck on the "Marienbad," no doubt, but she is by no means alone in her misery.

***

I take the following paragraph from the *Egyptian Morning News* of August 14. It is printed under the heading "General News," and is entitled "Nothing to Fear at Alexandria":—

> H.E. the Regent has requested H. E. Fakry Pasha, Deputy-Governor of Alexandria, who went to meet him at Sidi Gaber Station on Tuesday evening, to assure the population of Alexandria that there is absolutely no cause for fear, the situation in Egypt being as satisfactory as could be desired. In any case *no immediate dinner is anticipated*, and the proof is the return of T.E. the Ministers to Bulkeley, where they will reside the rest of the summer.

The italics (I need hardly say) are mine. The sentence seems to me unkind. Surely the Ministers do not leave Bulkeley only when some big "feed" lures them out?

***

A curious lack of a sense of proportion is to be noted in a communication which has reached us entitled "British Women's Anti-Militarist Appeal," which contains a plea for the withdrawal of Great Britain from the European struggle. Incidentally, the phraseology of the leaflet leaves something to be desired, and I am in doubt as to the wisdom of issuing a leaflet which contains so many—shall we say printer's errors, which might give rise to unkind deductions at this juncture. Anyway, it is rather late in the day to publish an appeal of this nature. Besides, the authors leave us in the dark on points on which we are, perhaps, unduly inquisitive. What is their explanation of Germany's policy towards Great Britain for the past fourteen years? It may be they have forgotten or never heard of Agadir, and remain in blissful ignorance of the pleasant maxims of von Bernhardi. The best reply we can make to their leaflet is to suggest that they should spend an hour in the British Museum studying his very dull but unmistakable outline of the purpose of German armaments.

CORSAIR.

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THE LOG OF THE S.S. "MARDINIAN."

War Realities in the Mediterranean.

(From Our Special Correspondent in the Balkans.)

I.

Constantinople, August 5.

The run on the Wiener Laenderbank last week has had the expected result: the moratorium was declared on Friday night and has been in operation ever since. There has been a rush on all stores, and the little available money has been spent on foodstuffs. There is no cash, and the half million in specie expected from London and Paris has not come. . . . Tourists caught napping are hastening away; British officers eager to join their regiments have dashed off across Roumania (will they get through?); officers of the Naval Mission, obliged to remain, are cursing their luck; and there is one great query in the minds of all—"Will there be a general war?" We know nothing; the only telegraphic agencies are Italian or German and Austrian. What is happening? If only we had news! . . The Messageries boat put out for Marseilles, full to the prow with passengers eager to escape before the realities of war broke out. She was stopped at the Dardanelles, and had to return, commandeered by the French Consul for transporting Frenchmen bound for their regiments. The Germans have already left, except the Military Mission, which is riding the high horse. As for the passengers on the Marseilles boat, some have rushed to the "Khedivial," which leaves for Alexandria, where they hope to get connection with the P. and O. for Marseilles (the King's Messenger is among these); others are going to tempt fate across Roumania; others have berthed on an Italian or Greek boat. It is those who can't go who are cursing loudest. . . . At last, at one o'clock to-day, the news, the great news, was flashed out into the streets by one-page special editions of the local Press. England had stood by France! In less than ten minutes all Pera, Stamboul, and Galata knew it. In the clubs where the English gather there were frank expressions of satisfaction, tears of—was it joy or pride?—in the eyes of men, and not a fragment of doubt as to the ultimate issue. Our "day" it will be!

Six hours later the Marseilles boat, beflagged and cheered by an immense crowd, put off from the Galata quay and sailed with her boatload of soldiers round Seraglio Point. She had not been gone two hours when, from the Stamboul side of the Horn, a small cargo boat flying the Union Jack, the good ship "Mardinian," of the Ellerman line, Captain Port in command, steamed slowly into the Bosphorus, homeward bound for Liverpool. Behind her the lights of Constantinople glittered, and Ramazan diadems lit up mosques and minarets; ahead of her the "Goeben" and "Breslau" at large, and—war!

II.

London, August 25.

At Chanak, the northern extremity of the Dardanelles, we had our first taste of the altered situation on the following morning. The captain was ordered ashore to receive final instructions from our Consul and permission to proceed, if it was deemed safe. We dropped anchor at ten in the morning, one of the hottest days I have ever known, the Messageries boat, likewise detained, on our starboard, and about six other boats on the port. At eleven many of the passengers had climbed over the ship's side into the bluest of water, when suddenly a tremendous submarine detonation was heard and felt (a peculiar sensation when you are swimming). Somewhere a mine had exploded. We were soon out of the water. At one there was a military examination of passengers, crew, passports, and cargo by Turkish authorities. It did not lack humour. Poor Mr. "Jones," in spite of his swarthy countenance, paled. At five a torpedo boat signalled, the anchor was raised, and we sailed out, twelve good ships and true, in Indian file behind our leader, down through the mined Straits into the open sea. One of the ships, in its eagerness to pass ahead of a rival, approached too close to the shore; she was quickly warned by cannon shots from the fort.

Sunset found us out in the open sea, some of our companions running away from us, others lagging behind. By midnight—a glorious moon, almost full, was shining—we were to all appearances alone in the Eastern Mediterranean, lights out, the captain pacing the quarter-deck, and navigating to the east of the usual course, among the Greek islands. The night was oppressive, and the lifeboat canvas a regal bed.

We were steaming without wireless, no boats within hailing or signalling distance. Consequently we were yearning for news. Great happenings whispered dumbly around us—perhaps victories and disasters, or the coming and going of friends and foes. But we knew nothing; though living a page of modern history we were buried in a past that knew neither wireless nor other means of communication. We were completely lost at sea, attempting to dodge enemies and possible enemies. For three days the captain never left his beat, and we sailed slily and warily on to Malta.

The excitement of the third day out was a stowaway, nipped early in the morning in the steward's hold. Unfortunately he was only a Russian, and not a German. He was landed with twenty-five biscuits on the island of Tinos, on a shore that looked deserted, but the last we saw of him was that he had been approached by two shepherds, and that the three of them walked slowly up the hillside.

On Monday evening we sighted Malta. In a region of no twilights, it was dark before we came up to the island, and searchlights were already illuminating the entrance to Valetta Harbour in a path of light, or flashing restlessly out into the night, now falling on some suspicious object and resting there, now boldly sweeping the horizon line. Patrol ships, submarines, and torpedo craft were keeping a watchful eye, and we were quickly signalled and questioned, one of the first questions, to be repeated many a time before the Mersey was reached, being the "Have you seen any Germans?" No, we had not. We were ordered to lie three miles off the entrance and to wait for the examination on the following morning, August 11. It was over by nine, and we were sailing into Valetta Harbour.

The impression of the harbour was that of a ship cleared for action; it was perfect, as impressive for its staggering exhibition of man's handiwork as "Gib." is for its natural strength. Wonderful! . . . A destroyer was in, the aft gun and a funnel shot away—how?—where? We were not informed. Twelve hours later she had been patched up with a canvas funnel, and out she had gone again. A German prize of the Levant Line was in, her crew arrested, her engines dismounted. The Germans resident on the island had all been arrested, but the most prominent citizens were let out on parole, which they misused, with the result that they had been clapped back into prison; one had been found harbouring evil intentions against the Governor's residence; he was, the captain told us, immediately and summarily shot that very day. Another interesting vessel in the harbour was a cargo boat loading 5.000 tons of coal in twenty-four hours (quick work) for the French fleet.

News at last, and what news! The German fleet smashed in the North Sea (hurrah!), four boats bottled up in Vigo, two prize Dreadnoughts in Hull, the German cruisers in the Atlantic destroyed, Togoland French, Italy on our side, Turkey still neutral, and the "Goeben" and "Breslau" bottled up with the Austrian fleet in the Adriatic. Better still, Lord Kitchener at the War Office (hurrah!), and the Bank rate down to 5 per cent. We cradled all this news and discussed it over and over again until Liverpool was reached.

We went ashore, the captain to the naval authorities, we in quest of more news. So many questions were as yet unanswered! The islanders were enthusiastic, and their great joy was that Italy was on our side. Patriotic proclamations were posted up at different corners of the principal streets, and news of the naval battle was loudly acclaimed. Incidentally, the price of everything had gone up 20 per cent., and all tobacco had been commandeered by the authorities. As for the Fleet, it was out—somewhere in the Mediterranean, and there had been fighting. We had won. Hurrah!

The following day we left that marvel called Malta and steered for the African coast—past Bona and Philippeville in Tunis, which had both been bombarded by the "Goeben" and "Breslau"—and then in a west-north-westerly direction to the nearest point on the Spanish coast. We sighted

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it on Friday night to the north-east of Cartagena, where, years ago, King Edward had his celebrated interview with King Alfonso. Then past the southern coast of Spain to Gibraltar, with Trafalgar hard by in the offing of Tarifa.

"Gib." is always a marvel, but never so wonderful as when we are at war. That is when the old rock of Tarik must be seen. It was night when we approached it, and the sight will be unforgettable. The rock, seen from the east, stood out grim and sombre, excepting for searchlights to the north and south. Magdalena Bay, the neutral ground and the Straits themselves were swept by a thin stream of light, and from over on Africa's shore, somewhere between Ceuta and Gebel Musa, an answering light linked up with that emanating from Europa Point. As we came nearer to the rock, signal lights grew visible, and we were soon giving the password and stating our business. We passed on, through bands of lights playing on our decks and hull, past Europa Point and into full view of the harbour and town, and the Bay of Algeciras and Algeciras beyond—nothing but a silent, quivering riot of light with the Rock looming up, a gigantic signal-station. Not a ship or a boat of our fleet was in sight—yet they were everywhere. Black out of the darkness invisible torpedo craft sped up to our sides; for an instant they flashed their lights full on our prow or stern; then, satisfied, they melted away into the darkness and we plodded on.

Still ten days to go, hugging the Portuguese and Spanish shores before the Mersey would be reached, before news was to be had! In the meantime cargo boats crossed our path, passed us or were passed by us. A solitary British cruiser would now and again be outlined against the sky, showing how effectively our fleet was patrolling and policing the trade routes. We could not help feeling proud.

An uneventful trip, shorn of excitement, followed. The blue waters of the Mediterranean were behind us, and once again we were skimming over the green waters of the Atlantic. We were nearing home, confident in the victory of our battle fleet in the North Sea. How the pilot when he boarded us with his papers and budget of news in the Mersey disillusioned us! There had been no engagement in the North Sea, and the "Goeben" and "Breslau" had finished an ignominious career by being sold to the Turks. By how many miles we escaped the two German ships no one knows, but according to the captain's calculations we must have sailed past them one night in the darkness, with only the island of Milos between us. A narrow shave, and a lucky one! In connection with these two ships, I will refer to a rumour which was current in Constantinople before the war broke out, namely, that General Liman von Sanders had tried to induce the Ottoman Government to purchase the "Goeben." This would seem to indicate that the sale had been long premeditated. As for the ship herself, I have it from the best authority that she is too low in the water, has a list to the starboard, and cannot fire her big guns without risk to herself. The Germans have evidently "befriended" their friends again with their customary honest chivalry.

THE PRESS ON THE WAR.

The Cause of Human Progress.

Since the outbreak of the war we have for the benefit of our readers abroad given many extracts from the Home Press upon the situation. We quote now the concluding passages from an article entitled "What Will the Great Navies Do?" contributed by "A Naval Officer" to *The Independent* (New York). They will be read with feelings of sincere pleasure, we are sure, by all our countrymen both here and in the Near East, and the hope with which the writer concludes his article will warm the hearts of not a few of us:—

Whatever be the results of the first clash of arms the ultimate outcome cannot be doubted. The perseverance and grim determination of the British nation, forced against its will into the most unholy war of which we have any knowledge, will in the end prevail, leaving the Kaiser to mourn over the ruin of the vast and noble structure of his seemingly miraculous development of Germany's commerce and industries. To exchange this splendid record for the doubtful chance of being known as a second Napoleon or Frederick the Great evidences either poor judgment or a disordered mind.

Of one thing we may be certain, that while all Christendom will have to share the burden of distress, it is upon Germany that the larger part will fall in useful lives extinguished in financial misery, idle shipping, closed factories.

That this is all due to the insane growth of armies and navies, stimulated, yes, necessitated by Germany's practice, no one can deny. This war is not a bolt out of the blue. It has long been recognised as unavoidable, and it bears the earmarks of deliberate planning. Nothing was lacking but a good excuse. And this excuse has been found, or manufactured, as you please. It is right that Germany should pay heaviest.

Let us hope the plea for bloated armaments as essential to national safety may never again be heard. We now perceive what they lead to. And let us hope that victory may rest with the British who, as a hundred years ago, are fighting in the cause of human progress and world-wide peace against the tyranny of personal, arbitrary government.

Looking Ahead.

In an article published on August 21, *The Globe* shows how Germany and Austria—but especially Germany—are seeking desperately to find friends by means of most lavish promises, but how the various countries approached display no great readiness to accept those promises at their face value. It would be wise, *The Globe* thinks, to let it be known what the Entente Powers would wish to do when the time comes to redraw the map of Europe, what are the principles by which we shall be guided, and what are the restraints that we shall observe.

The jealousies and rivalries that have convulsed the Balkans, for instance, as well as those that have so long converted Europe into an armed camp, are as largely the product of false and artificial adjustments as of overweening ambition. The legitimate ambitions of the nations are not really incompatible, and the declared object of the Allies should be to adjust and satisfy them. Not only Servia, but Bulgaria, Roumania, Greece, and Italy, and even Turkey, can count on being stronger and freer if the insatiable dominance of Germany is broken. The purpose of the Allies should be proclaimed in terms that cannot be misunderstood or distrusted. That will be the most effective answer to German machinations, and the best assurance that when the war ends a state of things will not be created from which the old dissensions and antagonisms will simply grow again.

1814 and 1914.

A characteristic article by Mr. G. K. Chesterton appears in *The New Witness* for August 13, the title being "1914." The writer makes a comparison between 1814 and 1914, showing how the antagonists of a century ago have become reconciled and why. He says:—

Is there anyone still asking why these extremes meet? Why those who set fire to Moscow to save Russia may yet set fire to Russia and save Paris? The reason, of course, is simple enough. This heavy and puzzled hundred years has given us time to locate an evil that is worse than the worst of either; worse than the worst tyranny of the Czars, worse than the worst massacres of the Jacobins. Nietzsche stated it with suicidal precision: it is the Will to Power. It has none of the scandalous inconsistencies that deface the divine and human ideals of the duellists of "1812." It has a dreary consistency without fruition. The Russians did their unholy things for the sake of Holy Russia. The French Revolution did its inhuman acts for the sake of the human race. But the Prussian is like a murderer who knifes a man neither for his blood nor his gold, but only to steal a knife with which to murder others. He is like a burglar who steals gold, and does not spend it in beer, but in buying another burgling kit. This eternal and sterile success, these enormous and endless avenues of unrewarded energy; this is the huge and naked insanity of the North, against which the lucid Latin and the devout Slav instinctively and instantly combine. A man uses power because he has a will to love or hate or laughter; but if he has a will to power, he must be locked up. There is something wrong with his head; he is worshipping the means and not the end. Men differ very much about how large or small is this area of disease: some attribute it to a nation, some to a family, some even to an individual. But assuredly it was not a state but a scar; and when it has healed it will have vanished.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Welcome to Our Allies.

The arrival of the French fleet at Malta a fortnight ago aroused indescribable enthusiasm amongst the islanders. In an article entitled "The Union of Heart and Hand," *The Daily Malta Chronicle* says:—

We were stirred with all kinds of feelings of pride and gladness. All Malta was thrilled through and through. All persons showed their interest in the ordinary ways, and in ways not ordinary. There was a rush, of course, to the Barraccas as soon as the French Fleet was known to be approaching our shores. The reception was in a way formal and informal: our bands represented us as a people; we represented ourselves in the thousands of us who took position wherever the harbours' heights give the best view of the expanses of harbour water. Eight and ten deep the lines of watching and admiring people were on the Barraccas. Impressions thrilled from end to end of the lines, as if individuality had disappeared for the time. Indeed, all who stood side by side were but one—one in all that they thought of.

As to the work before this fleet the writer says:—

The task that they have been set is not known; but everybody knows. Although not formally communicated, it needs no telling. We shall tell proudly of accomplishment, and we should like to contribute to fulfilment. But who will say that good wishes have no effect? We wish for the triumph of France. The British Empire, solid with France, is working for the triumph of France, whose cause is the cause of the Empire. Victory will go with right and will correspond with the supreme efforts that the Empire is making in all its parts, conscious of its power, confident of itself, and of its destiny.

The Austrian "Punitive Expedition."

The announcement made by the Vienna Official Telegraph Agency, that owing to the intervention of Russia in the Servian war Austria intends to look on that war "as a punitive expedition and not as a definite war" has set a good many people thinking furiously. *The Westminster Gazette*, for instance, remarks:—

It is a punitive expedition, apparently, in which all the punishing is being done by the Servians, whose claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the Austrians in the battle of the Drina last Friday is admitted in Vienna. The official explanation is that these losses are not surprising, "seeing the great superiority in numbers of the enemy and the fact that the latter are fighting for their existence." The admission that the punitive expedition, so-called, threatened the existence of Servia is worth recording in view of the denials on this subject which were part of the pre-war diplomacy. In the circumstances in which she finds herself, we do not think it is probable that Austria will be a formidable antagonist in what she calls the principal struggle in the north-east. . . . A war of the kind in which she is engaged must drive a wedge between her different races and nationalities. Slav troops cannot be used without grave risk against either Servia or Russia, and German troops cannot be moved far from her western frontiers, while the intentions of Italy are unknown, and, according to all the signs, not friendly.

The Balkan States and the War.

In an article entitled "The Extension of the War," *The Daily Chronicle* (August 24) observes that "The number of nations at war is now nine, and one cannot ignore possibilities of its being increased." Italy, it is pointed out, has her fleet and her splendid army mobilized, and circumstances may very well induce her to descend into the arena. If she is to get all she can from the situation she will "have to give active support" to one side or other. The Balkan nations are similarly situated.

They all have an unsettled international account which they wish to have put finally right when the great settlement comes. Servia is already in the war, and according to the latest reports doing quite her share of it. Her well-known ambition is to absorb the millions of Serbs hitherto ruled by Austria-Hungary, and she can reckon on very substantial gains if Austria-Hungary is beaten. Roumania would be in the same position if she threw in her lot with the Triple Entente; she could look forward to taking over the millions of Roumans who inhabit Transylvania and Bukovina, and thus bringing the whole Rouman people for the first time under the national flag.

Similarly, Austrian jealousy—and Austrian power—being removed, Greece might attain her national aims, and the unfortunate Italo-Greek antagonism might be solved.

There remains Bulgaria. . . . Beyond question she has been hardly used, and her present situation, in which she benefits those who have injured her, by interposing her territory between them and a Turkish attack, is something of a paradox. If she maintains it, her services should be recognised by the beneficiaries and by the Triple Entente; and we scarcely see how she can be expected to maintain it unless they are. . . . These changes all taken together would so reconstitute the Balkan Peninsula as to secure a maximum of coincidence between the racial and the national divisions, at the same time increasing the area and geographical advantages of all the four principal races.

Then follows some very sound remarks upon the position of Turkey, much on the lines of what has appeared in THE NEAR EAST's leading article last week. Turkey has nothing to gain by going to war. Should she do so she

would be hurrying down the steep place. If she took part in the war, she would lose whichever side won. A German victory would tighten the last links of the chain, which has already been forged for her in the Bagdad Railway. She would succumb to Germany as completely as Tunis has succumbed to France. Abdul Hamid, pro-German as he was, would have been too acute to make such a mistake.

Mr. Kipling on Egypt.

In the August issue of *Nash's Magazine*, Mr. Kipling continues his series of articles on Egypt. Taking as his subject "Cairo, Sorceress of Cities," he passes some remarks on Cairo which will hardly please its inhabitants, and compares it with Alexandria, much to the advantage of the latter. Turning to the general situation in Egypt, he writes, with characteristic pungency of phrase:—

Here is a country which is not a country, but a longish strip of market-garden, nominally in charge of a Government which is not a Government, but the disconnected Satrapy of an Oriental Empire; controlled Pecksniffingly by a power which is not a Power but an Agency, which Agency has been tied up by years, custom, and blackmail in all sorts of intimate relations with six or seven European Powers, all with rights and perquisites, none of whose subjects seem directly amenable to any Power which at first, second, or third hand is supposed to be responsible. That is the barest outline. To fill in the details (if any living man knows them) would be as easy as to explain baseball to an Englishman or the Eton Wall game to a citizen of the United States. But it is a fascinating play. There are Frenchmen in it, whose logical mind it offends, and they seem to revenge themselves by printing the finance reports and the catalogue of the Boulak Museum in pure French. There are Germans in it whose demands must be carefully weighed—not that they can by any means be satisfied, but they serve to block other people's. There are Russians in it, who do not very much matter at present, but will be heard from later; there are Italians and Greeks in it (both rather pleased with themselves just now), full of the higher finance and the finer emotions; there are Egyptian pashas in it, who come back from Paris at intervals and ask plaintively to whom they are supposed to belong. There is His Highness the Khedive in it, and he must be considered not a little; and there are women in it, up to their eyes; and there are great English cotton and sugar interests and angry English importers clamouring to know why they cannot do business on rational lines or get into the Soudan, which they hold is ripe for development, if the administration there would only see reason. Among these conflicting interests and amusements sits and perspires the English official, whose job is irrigating or draining or reclaiming land on behalf of a trifle of ten million people, and he finds himself tripped up by skeins of intrigue and bafflement which may ramify through half a dozen harems and four consulates. All this makes for sanvity, toleration, and the blessed habit of not being surprised at anything whatever.

Enver of To-day—and of Yesterday.

Mr. F. G. Aflalo begins an interesting article ("What Will Turkey Do?") in *The Outlook* (August 22) with a comparison of the Enver of to-day with the Enver of five years ago, when they used to sit together of an evening in a restaurant, and Enver would expound his dreams of a regenerated Turkey.

We conversed in German, a language of which, thanks to having served with German regiments, Enver had some command, and he was even then more German than Turk, even training his moustache in respectful imitation of his hero. At that time Enver was content to be a simple soldier, obeying, had he known it, the motto, "Silent enim leges inter arma," and meddling little in politics. I remember him best on the day when, having marched his "Army of Deliverance" from Adrianople, he first shelled the mutinous barracks and then rode, with his friend Niazi, through the Grande Rue of Pera, cheered by frantic crowds of Greeks and other riffraff, who gazed transfigured on these demi-gods even as Ezekiel might have gazed on the Cherubim. Since then Enver is fallen from his high estate and, with ever warmer German sympathies, took to intriguing with von Bieberstein and his successor to the aggrandisement of German interests at the Porte and the corresponding undermining of British influence. Well I remember translating for him the stirring speeches in which Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey hailed the Turkish Constitution, and his professions of gratitude on his country's behalf were unbounded. Time brings strange changes, and now we find this apostle of liberty ranged on the side of feudalism. It may be objected that Enver Pasha is not Turkey. Well, he is not; but those who, having lived in Constantinople through political crises, know their Turk will not feel too confident of his inability to drag his country into the net adroitly spread by German diplomatists when, at their wits' end, they engineered the flight of the "Goeben" and "Breslau" in the hope of so embroiling the Ottoman Government with the Entente as to force it into an offensive and defensive alliance with Berlin and Vienna.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

GERMANY AND TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Having just returned from Constantinople, I was surprised to see in the London Press a message from the Athens correspondent of the *Temps* to the effect that, "according to information coming from Smyrna, the persecution of the English and French in that region continues. Most of the English subjects have left Smyrna to escape the vexations to which they have been subjected by the Ottoman authorities."

I do not know to what extent we can trust news about Turkey coming from a Greek source, but I do wish to point out that the possibility of an anti-English or anti-French campaign in Asiatic Turkey does exist, more particularly if General Liman von Sanders is allowed to remain as unofficial head of the whole Ottoman military organisation. I remember having been informed in the Club de Constantinople, shortly after the return of the dragomans from their visit of inspection to the Smyrna district after the so-called "massacres," that the real perpetrators of the movement were Germans. It would appear—and I have no reason to doubt the sincerity and inside knowledge of my informant—that Liman von Sanders himself impressed on Enver Pasha and Talaat Bey the necessity of clearing the Asiatic coast as far south as Smyrna, and for a distance of 50 km. landwards, of all Greek subjects. The Young Turks listened to this mad advice, and gave orders to their agents on the spot, who in many cases zealously exceeded their orders, with the result already known to the world.

Nothing, of course, is to keep General Liman von Sanders from repeating his achievement, but this time against the English and French. Should he do so he cannot be brought to book, whilst the Turks, guilty of listening to advice from Great Britain's enemies and acting on that advice, will be forced into the ranks of our foes.

There can be but one possible course to follow—now, immediately. General Liman von Sanders must go, and we must insist that he should go. As long as he is in Constantinople the Turks can at any moment be forced into a situation which is none of their making and contrary to their own interests. Besides, it is not only our duty to look after our own interests in Asia, but also to save Turkey from the snares of the enemy.

Von Sanders must go!—Yours faithfully,

London, August 27. C. K.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

Unauthorised Appeals.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

DEAR SIR,—We regret to say that the Subscription Sub-Committee of the National Relief Fund has heard of a good many cases in which use has been made of its name, or of the names of those connected with it, with the object of securing support for appeals which are quite unauthorised.

We hope you will be so good as to permit the appearance of this letter, the object of which is to inform your readers that they may be assured that any extravagant or grotesque appeals emanate from persons who have neither the authorisation nor the support of this Committee.—Yours faithfully,

C. ARTHUR PEARSON,
HEDLEY F. LE BAS,
FREDERICK PONSONBY,
Joint Secretaries,
Subscription Sub-Committee, National Relief Fund.

York House, St. James's Palace, S.W.,
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THE CAPITULATIONS.

AN ITALIAN POINT OF VIEW.

The "Letter from Cairo" in *La Vita Italiana del' Estero* for July 25 contains some interesting reflections, from an Italian point of view, on Lord Kitchener's Report, with special reference to the Capitulations. We give below the gist of the correspondent's letter, so far as it deals with this delicate subject:—

In the days of Lord Cromer these annual statements were awaited with calm by both natives and foreigners. Now, however, partly by reason of the economic depression which followed the departure of Lord Cromer, and which still endures, partly because everyone is aware that the principal aim of Lord Kitchener is to deliver Egypt (and incidentally Great Britain) from the international bonds which in a certain measure subject the country to the control of the Great Powers, partly also because of the impulsive and autocratic character of the Proconsul himself, his report is awaited with a general feeling of unrest.

The natives, although they are by no means prepared as yet for the exercise of political power, await it with lively hopes of seeing their privileges extended in every direction. The foreigners, on the other hand, who are perfectly aware of the unprepared state of the natives, await it with sentiments of an accused man who is not allowed to speak in his own defence. They know by experience that the extension of the powers of the natives will involve an immediate and inevitable curtailment of their personal security and of the real and tangible guarantees which they now possess in favour of the countries which they represent.

In the last Report of Lord Kitchener the part which refers to the Mixed Tribunals, and the Capitulations, which are intimately connected with them, forms the conclusion of his general observations regarding the state of Egypt (introduction). Lord Kitchener expresses himself thus:—

> I am not able to foresee the possibility of effecting any radical improvement in a situation the faults of which are inherent in the existing system of the "Capitulations." The fundamental modification of this system has been urged in the annual reports emanating from this Agency for many years past, and it may be hoped that a settlement of the question will not now be much longer delayed.

We do not know to what extent the hope of Lord Kitchener is well-grounded, but it is certain that he would like to add to his present brilliant titles, and style himself "Lord Kitchener of Khartoum *and of the Capitulations.*" I cannot get it out of my head that Lord Kitchener's dislike for the Capitulations is due not to any conviction of their uselessness, but to his feeling that he would like to see them "capitulate"—like the Mahdi and the Transvaal.

Be that as it may, it is beyond doubt that negotiations are on foot between the British Government and the Great Powers with the object of obtaining the suppression of the Capitulations, which, in spite of their ill-omened name, have for many years withstood all attacks of the English and of the Mohammedans of Egypt and other countries.

An account of these negotiations was involuntarily divulged by our diplomatic Mission which had been sent by the Italian Government to consult the Italian colony here with respect to this question. It would appear that our Agent did not take all the necessary precautions to avoid indiscretion, and his very reserved confidence was betrayed by one of his Alexandrian friends. His remarks went the rounds of the local Press, causing the greatest commotion among the public and in our Agency. The latter, seconded in this by the English Press, published one denial after another, and at length succeeded somehow in silencing the indiscreet journals. The secret is now, however, everybody's secret, and the denials only served to confirm the rumour.

No one doubts that the Capitulations constitute a serious obstacle to the development of the work of organisation undertaken with appreciable success by the British Government, but its agents exaggerate the importance of this obstacle, and the exaggeration very often helps to conceal the unfitness of the great majority of their national and Egyptian colleagues.

INDIAN MOSLEMS AND TURKISH NEUTRALITY.

Reuter's Calcutta correspondent reports, under date of the 26th inst., that the following telegram has been sent to the Grand Vizier at Constantinople:—

Representative Bengal Moslems offer to his Imperial Majesty their respectful congratulations on the occasion of the Feast of Bairam, and express gratification at Turkey's neutrality and the British assurance of Turkey's integrity.

The Indian Moslems, who consider loyalty to the British Crown their paramount duty, would greatly deplore any estrangement between England and Turkey.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Aug.	1914. Aug.		Shawwal.	Ellul.
28	15	Friday	6	6
29	16	Saturday	7	7
30	17	Sunday	8	8
31	18	Monday	9	9
Sept.				
1	19	Tuesday	10	10
2	20	Wednesday	11	11
3	21	Thursday	12	12

To-day, Shawal 6, is the birthday of H.I.H. Omar Faruk Effendi, nephew of the Ottoman Heir Apparent and son of H.I.H. Abdul Mejid Effendi.

Sunday is the birthday of H.S.H. Prince Frederick Victor, the eldest son of the Prince of Hohenzollern, and of his twin brother Prince Franz Josef. They are nephews to the Crown Prince of Roumania and brothers to her Majesty Queen Augusta Victoria.

Sunday is the birthday of H.S.H. Prince Günther of Schönburg-Waldenburg, brother of H.H. the Mpreteresha of Albania.

Monday, Shawal 9, is the birthday of the Valiahd, Prince Mohammed Hassan Mirza, brother and next heir to His Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah.

Monday is the birthday of the eldest son of H.H. the Khedive, Prince Mohammed Abdul Mouneim.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.S.H. Prince Karl Anton, of Hohenzollern, brother of the Crown Prince of Roumania. He is married to the sister of the King of the Belgians.

Tuesday, Shawal 10, is the anniversary of the wedding day of H.I.H. Jemile Sultana, sister of His Imperial Majesty Mohamed Reshad Khan, to the late Damad Mahmud Jellal-ed-Din Pasha.

King Carol of Roumania, who has been indisposed, is now restored to health. On Tuesday he received the Turkish and Greek delegates.

Telegrams received in London at the beginning of the week stated that Mohammed Ali, ex-Shah of Persia, had returned to Odessa.

A correspondent writes:—"Though Egypt may suffer, in company with the greater part of Europe, from being declared in a state of war, the country may congratulate itself on the fact that its military control is vested in Major-General the Hon. Julian H. G. Byng. Scarcely yet turned fifty, General Byng has achieved an extraordinarily fine record of service since he joined the 10th Royal Hussars in 1883, and his energetic personality, no less than his ripe experience, has made him a true leader of men. Never sparing of himself, he possesses the true respect and confidence of his troops, who are all prepared to follow him to certain death should occasion warrant the sacrifice. No carpet knight nor society entertainer, Major-General Byng represents the very best type of our British military officer, an officer endowed with a fine intelligence and mental acquirements in keeping with his military instinct and the natural qualities which make the born leader. Various are the stirring stories told of him during his service in South Africa in the troublous years of 1899-1902, and the later incidents connected with his command in Egypt, if lacking, perhaps, in picturesque detail, acclaim him the General *par excellence* to carry through the duties entrusted to him during the present anxious time."

The Crown Prince of Albania and his sister have left Durazzo and proceeded to Brindisi.

Prince Mohammed Aly Pasha, brother of the Khedive, arrived at Alexandria on the 12th inst. by the Italian steamer "Siracusa" on his return from Europe.

According to *The Times*, Prince Friederich Leopold of Prussia, brother to H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, has been killed in action.

One of the sons of H.H. the Bey of Tunis has volunteered for the French Army.

Judge Sanderson, of Cairo, has left Edinburgh on his return to Egypt.

Mrs. Carkeet James is leaving London to rejoin her husband in Cairo on the 12th prox.

The death has occurred at Constantinople of Rifaat Pasha, a retired general and a former member of the Commission of Military Inspection. The deceased officer, who was ninety years of age, took part in two Turco-Russian wars, and was present at the historic defence of Plevna, where he was wounded by the bursting of a shell.

Mirza Mohammed Ali Khan, the Ala es Sultaneh, the new Persian Foreign Minister, entered the public service soon after the Anglo-Persian War in 1856, and after holding consular appointments at Bombay and Tiflis became Persian Minister in London under Nasr-ed-Din Shah, and retained that post for many years. Married to the sister of the Sadr Azam, Mirza Ali Khan Amin-ed-Dowleh, he has himself been Chief Minister, and, indeed, was Sadr Azam at the time of the Coronation. His great age naturally militates against any great administrative activity on his part.

On August 3, at Moda, Constantinople, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Graves.

On August 20, at 5, Highbury Quadrant, N., the wife (*née* "Joycie" Watters) of Mr. Arthur P. Bolland, Sudan Agency, Cairo, and Maison Maghraby, Meadi, gave birth to a son.

Last Saturday, August 22, at Wollaton Rectory, Nottingham, the wife of Mr. T. W. Russell, Assistant Commandant of the Cairo City Police, gave birth to a son.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Maloney on Tuesday. Mr. Maloney, who had been acting as Reuter's correspondent in Constantinople during the absence of Mr. Werndel, only arrived in England on Tuesday morning, and has since had to hurry off to Paris. Before her marriage, it will be remembered, Mrs. Maloney was a Miss Elliot, being the daughter of Sir Francis Elliot, G.C.V.O., the British Ambassador at Athens.

The marriage arranged to take place to-day between Lieutenant H. G. Evans-Jones, 1st Battalion Welsh Regiment, and Miss Nancy Bolton, of Troödos, Cyprus, is indefinitely postponed, as the war prevents the bridegroom leaving India.

Sir Normand Maclaurin, Chancellor of the University of Sydney, whose death is announced from Melbourne, formerly served in the Royal Navy as a surgeon. Serving in the "Marlborough" in the Mediterranean, he was present in Athens when King Otto was deposed (1862). He settled in Australia some twenty years later, was made Chancellor of the University of Sydney in 1896, and was knighted in 1902.

The death occurred on August 17 of Major Arthur Hughes-Onslow, at the age of fifty-two. Major Hughes-Onslow served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1884 at the battles of Teb and Tamai, receiving the medal with claps and Khedive's star. He also saw service in the South African War, for which he received the Queen's medal and three clasps. Promoted to major in 1898, he retired in 1903, and was placed on the reserve of officers.

Miss Katherine Wheatley, who had been asked by the Turkish Government to conduct a nurses' training organization, left Constantinople on August 5 for Liverpool, the scheme having had to be temporarily abandoned owing to financial difficulties. On her arrival in the Mersey Nurse Wheatley, who is a Reserve nurse, received instructions to proceed immediately to the front.

The death is announced of General Francis William Hastings, C.B., Colonel-Commandant Royal Artillery. He entered the Army in 1843, and served through the Crimean Campaign, when he was present at the siege and fall of Sebastopol, receiving the medal with clasp and promotion, the Fifth Class of the Mejidieh Order, and the Turkish medal. He became Colonel in 1870, and Lieut.-General in 1886, retiring in the following year with the honorary rank of General.

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We regret to announce the death, which occurred recently in Switzerland, of Mr. Van Heller, who was very well known in Cairo. His two sons, Messrs. G. and E. Van Heller, have taken a prominent part in polo at the Khedivial Sporting Club every winter.

Lieut.-General W. P. Campbell, C.B., who has been appointed to succeed General Sir H. L. Smith-Dorrien in the Southern Command, took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-85 with the Mounted Infantry, when he was present at the battle of Abu Klea, and for which he was awarded the medal, with two clasps, and the bronze star.

Captain Charles Ernest Wynell-Mayow died on August 13 at Brighton, aged fifty-seven. Captain Wynell-Mayow saw active service in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882 at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, receiving the medal with clasp and the Khedive's star. In 1894 he was promoted to captain in the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment, and became Adjutant of the 4th (Militia) Battalion in 1899, retiring three years later.

Among the passengers for Egypt by the P. and O. steamer "Moldavia," which left London on Saturday last, were Mr. and Mrs. Blagden, Mr. P. W. Carver, Mr. R. Carver, Mr. N. W. de Courcy, Mr. and Mrs. Huri, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Mr. and Mrs. W. Peel, Mr. W. Snow, Mr. W. B. Trelawny, Captain Westropp, etc

Among the passengers on board the s.s. "Mardinian," of the Ellerman line, which arrived in Liverpool from Constantinople last Friday, were Miss Katherine Wheatley, Miss B. D. Ellis, and Messrs. T. Bolton, H. Green, L. Frost, R. S. Woods, H. Toulouk, and A. Pavlantes.

In a letter received this week, but dated July 28, our Jaffa Correspondent writes:—

Dr. J. Melville Keith, physician in charge of the English hospital at Jaffa, left us yesterday, by the Khedivial steamer, on his way home to Scotland. His departure was greatly regretted by all Jaffa and this district. As soon as the news of his resignation was known here, a long telegram, signed on behalf of Jaffa Christians, Moslems, and Jews, was addressed to the Church Missionary Society's headquarters, earnestly requesting, for the sake of the society and humanity, that every effort should be made to persuade Dr. Keith to remain here. Finding, however, that he had decided definitely to leave Jaffa, his friends, acquaintances, and admirers at once began to arrange and collect for a presentation to him. This was most heartily supported, and in the evening of the 14th instant a large gathering assembled at the late Miss Walker-Arnott's Tabeetha School for the purpose of the presentation. Eloquent speeches were delivered by the Rev. John E. C. Ross and the Rev. Butros Moussa, both of the C.M.S. here, also by Mr. N. H. Fiani, the British Acting-Vice-Consul, Mr. Joseph El-Issa, editor of the *Palestine*, Emin Effendi Nasif, and Mr. Shukri Moussa. The presentation was then made. It consisted of a massive Georgian silver tea tray, with the following inscription: "Presented to Dr. and Mrs. J. Melville Keith by their friends in Jaffa as a token of respect and affection, and in grateful appreciation of their invaluable labours during sixteen years of medical mission work.—Jaffa, Palestine, July 14, 1914." The presentation also included a very handsome silver tea service.

Colonel R. A. Nugent, retired pay, who has been appointed Assistant Director of Military Transport at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, formerly belonged to the Army Service Corps, and saw service in the Egyptian Campaign of '82. He was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and he also took part in the actions at Teb, Tamai, and Abu Klea. He had previously seen service in the Ashanti War (1873-74).

Major-General E. D'H. Fairtlough, who entered his eighty-fourth year on Monday, served in the Crimean Campaign, when he was present at the siege and fall of Sebastopol.

The death is announced from Geneva of Mr. Robert Stabile, a leading member of the Maltese community of Alexandria.

Chevalier Aquilina is leaving Liverpool by a Henderson liner on the 10th prox., on his return to Alexandria.

Mr. W. H. G. Werndel, Reuter's correspondent in Constantinople, who went for a holiday to Austria, has had to return to Constantinople.

Reuter's correspondent reports that an intercession service commemorative of the Crimean War was held at the Anglican Church in Constantinople, in the presence of Sir Louis Mallet, the British Ambassador, and the members of the British Colony.

The Bairam feast at the end of Ramadan (the Moslem Lent) was celebrated in the Sudan on Saturday last. The Government offices were closed for four days. Colonel Crawford, the acting Sirdar and Governor-General, held a parade of the Egyptian troops in the morning, and there was a levee at the palace which was attended by the officers, officials, and the principal residents. The Order of the Osmanieh (4th Class) has been conferred upon Kaimakam Kenney Bey, and the Imperial Order of Mejidieh (4th Class) upon Kaimakam C. M. Drow Bey.

A Reuter's message from Paris says:—The keenness of Frenchmen of all classes all over the world to join the colours is instanced by the priests in Palestine. Numbers of those in Jerusalem, hearing of the mobilisation order, left by the first boat for France, among them the Dominican Father Vincent, who was engaged at the time in writing an archæological work on ancient Jerusalem.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The appointment of Lieut-General Sir Alfred E. Codrington, K.C.V.O., C.B., to be Military Secretary to the Secretary of State for War and Secretary of the Selection Board, vice Lieut.-General Sir W. E. Franklyn, K.C.B., is gazetted, to date August 9, 1914.

Lieut.-Colonel H. Picot, who was formerly British Military Attaché in Teheran, has been appointed Military Attaché in Berne.

It is announced that Field Marshal Von der Goltz Pasha has been appointed German Military Governor of the conquered districts of Belgium.

The following appointment in the Egyptian Army is gazetted:—

Brevet Major Alexander W. F. Baird, D.S.O., Gordon Highlanders, having reported his arrival in Egypt from England, is taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army from 15-7-14, with the rank of Bimbashi, vice El Miralai J. L. J. Conry Bey, D.S.O., killed in action. This officer is posted in the Upper Nile District.

According to the *Jeune Turc*, Suleiman Hikmet Bey, Kaimakam of Uzun Kupru, has been promoted Mutessarif of Lazistan on the Black Sea.

Kemal Bey, Mutessarif of the Sanjak of Sinope, has been transferred to the Sanjak of Adalia.

Lieutenant W. L. Clinton, of the King's Royal Rifles, has been selected for service with the Egyptian Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

GRAVES.—On August 3, to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Graves, at Moda, Constantinople, a daughter.

DEATHS.

BIRD.—On August 15, Mary Rebecca Stewart Bird, C.M.S. missionary, at Kerman, Persia (typhoid).

SMAIL.—On the 20th inst., at Atbara, the Sudan, Gervase Husey Smail, the eldest and dearly beloved son of the late Commander Smail, R.N., and of Mrs. Smail, 2, Sussex Terrace, Southsea.

PRIOR.—On the 10th inst., at the Deaconesses' Hospital, Alexandria, after a short illness, Edward J. Prior, aged 34 years, only and dearly loved son of Mrs. M. F. Prior and the late Captain Prior.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914.

THE BLUFFING OF THE BALLPLATZ.

It is difficult in time of peace to fathom depths of diplomatic duplicity in which the deep-laid policies of certain Powers have moved. In time of war the task is even harder, news is scanty, often untrustworthy, frequently deliberately misleading, sources of information available in peace are dried up, and the inquirer can make at best but slow progress. Consequently it is only now that it is becoming possible to collate the various events which led up to the outbreak of war, and estimate the value of protestations and assertions made by, or on behalf of, the Teutonic Powers. Berlin at the present moment, by means of wireless messages to the world at large and of special missions to the United States in particular, gives daily assurances that war was forced upon Germany by insidious foes. The Emperor William himself wishes people to believe that the sword was thrust into his hand, and his armies were told that they were entering Belgium solely in order to rid that kingdom of French and British invaders. The dramatically minded Prussian Monarch endeavours to pose as the protector of pacific Teutonic culture (so admirably portrayed in this week's *Punch*) against an unjust and malignant conspiracy engineered by vindictive Frenchmen, barbarous Russians, and envious Britons. This may be possible in the eyes of the German public, but it does not deceive the West, and this eagerness to assume a profitable pose suggests that there may be something more than mere disaster to conceal. We hear very little of Germany's ally in these statements—that ally on behalf of whom the Prussians claim to have drawn the sword. One might almost gather from the official utterances of Berlin that "Deutschland über Alles" means that Austria is among the "Alles" and does not partake of the dominant character of "Deutschland."

If we come to examine the various State documents that have been published in this country in connection with the efforts of Sir Edward Grey to keep the peace of Europe, we perceive that the five Powers did not drift into war fortuitously, as some have been led to suppose, but were driven into it by the evil genius which pervades Potsdam. We do not say that that genius is the Emperor William, but we must confess that the Prussian King appears to have yielded with no great reluctance to its destructive inspiration. Those of us who have followed the course of Austro-Servian relations from the day when the Obrenovitchs became a sovereign dynasty to the day when the Karageorgevitchs became too strong to be the vassals of Vienna, realised some time ago that the antipathies of the two States would probably lead to bloodshed. Indeed, neither party seemed at any time to be taking any real precautions to prevent an outburst. Servia, was at times deliberately provocative; Austria-Hungary was often directly menacing. Servia upon occasion crossed Austria's path; Austria was known to be impatient of the very existence of Servia. Consequently when an opportunity arose for attacking Servia with some show of justice, Austria, relying upon the unfortunate association of Belgrade with flagrant regicide in the past, decided to strike. It is very curious, however, that the moment for action should have been timed not so much in accordance with what had occurred in Serajevo, but with what was occurring in Ulster, in St. Petersburg, and in Paris. It is known that multitudes of Germans pervaded Ireland during the few weeks just before the war, and it would be more than surprising if none of them had reported confidentially to Berlin. We know also that overtures had been made in Constantinople and in Sofia, and it is now obvious that Berlin made use of the Austrian grievance in order to attempt a *coup de théâtre* in the Balkans. An immense humiliation was to be put upon Servia, and Belgrade was to be made to sign away its independence. Russia, supposedly distracted by strikes, was to be frightened off from any attempt at interference, and the Teutonic Powers were to manifest to the Balkans, the Turks, and the rest of the world that diplomacy in shining armour was the only kind that was of any avail, and that Berlin was really the arbiter of the destinies of the East. The allusion to Salonika in the White Book shows that prestige and a protectorate over Servia were not the only objects in view. The master-strokes of the annexation of Bosnia and of Agadir were to be repeated, and a third and more brilliant move on the diplomatic chessboard was to place armed Teutonism on the Ægean, while an obsequious action of an allied or dependent Porte was to assure to Berlin the veiled dominion of the Dardanelles. This appears to have been the scheme. And the pawn put forward by the master-mind in Berlin, not necessarily, we repeat, an Imperial mind, was the pathetic figure of the Austrian Emperor. The hands that delivered the ultimatum were the hands of Austria, but the words were those of Germany. Thus Austria was put forward to spring the grand diplomatic mine which was to blow up the last obstacle, since the dissolution of the Balkan Alliance, between Teutonism and the Asia Minor which held its highest hopes. Austria was to bear the blame for bullying a small if somewhat unruly State, Austria was to browbeat, "protect," and if necessary fight the Servians, while Germany reserved to herself the heroic pose of defending her ally's back against the attacks of Russia, France, and England, no one of whom—so Berlin was fully persuaded—was in any condition to move against her. Consequently the Kaiser Franz Josef was impelled along the path of aggression on the strict understanding that Berlin would take care that Russia did not move.

Then madness came upon those who dictated German policy. The fact that Russia was willing to permit Servia to suffer to a limited extent, and consonant with the preservation of her sovereignty, was taken as indicative of hopeless weakness. The anxiety of Sir Edward Grey to keep the peace was interpreted as a sign of fear, British magnanimity being once again mistaken for pusillanimity. Berlin proceeded to bluff. The Ballplatz had been bluffed into embarking upon the Servian War for the benefit of Germany under the assurance that Russia would remain quiescent; now that St. Petersburg began to stipulate for the preservation of the independence of Servia steps must be taken to frighten the Tsar. Berlin appears to have believed that its bluff would be successful. A diplomatic document was drawn up congratulating the Russian Government on abandoning its support of Servia, and this, by inadvertence, was left at the Russian Foreign Office when, events having taken a contrary course, the German Ambassador called for the purpose of declaring war. The bluff had to be called, for the dominion of Europe was not to be had for the asking. German diplomacy had, in demanding everything for itself, gone too far, and in the prosecution of its own selfish ends it had landed its only ally in an impossible position. The Austrian Emperor, in the evening of his days, was first thrust forward into the battle line, and when he had taken up a position which was tenable only if Russia kept the peace, was suddenly exposed by the ambitious folly of Berlin to the attacks of all those who sought to check the savage aggression of the Germans. We have no quarrel with the aged Hapsburg, least of all with his Hungarian or Dalmatian subjects. France has no quarrel with him, yet he is at war with her and with Japan as well, in addition to the Slavonic peoples, who regard his rule as oppressive for their kin. The Ballplatz has been as greatly deceived by Berlin as the Wilhelmstrasse has been by its own diplomatic agents, who gave assurances that neither Russia, France, nor Great Britain could move. It is a tragic end for a long reign. The Kaiser Franz Josef might

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well have been allowed to die in peace. War he never wanted to see again, having seen it twice in his life. Yet his life, perhaps his crown, must now be sacrificed, because the self-assertive Junkers of Prussia seek to push forward the shoddy Hohenzollern Monarchy as the symbol of Teutonism in the future, regardless of the fate of the pathetic head of the time-honoured dynasty of Hapsburg-Lorraine. Prussia schemed against Franz Josef from the very beginning of his reign. In 1866 she actually struck him down, and now at the end of his reign—for the Austrian Emperor is believed to be a dying man—she has forced him into a false position and abandoned him to his fate at the hands of those she has raised up against him. The humiliation of being defeated by Prussia in 1866 is as nothing compared with that felt by the Emperor of Austria in the realisation that he has been made the catspaw and dupe of the Hohenzollern Kaiser in 1914. It may well have crushed the spirit of a Hapsburg.

SERVIA'S SHARE IN THE WAR.

The great struggle is barely a month old and it may still experience many vicissitudes before the last shot has been fired. But both Servia and Belgium have played their parts so well that it is possible to sum up at this stage their respective contributions to the cause of the Triple Entente without running any risk of the estimate of their earlier services being affected by subsequent developments. If Germany counted upon being able to deliver a crushing blow upon France before she was called upon to pay any serious attention to the Russian danger, Austria-Hungary, we may be sure, had not contemplated any serious preoccupation in the south which would distract her attention from the main task on her Eastern border. Thanks to the gallant defence of the Servians, things have gone thoroughly unsatisfactorily, if not disastrously, for the Austrians on their Servian frontier. Very little light has been thrown on the general situation in the Dual Monarchy. The campaign against Servia has not been undertaken in a manner at all commensurate with Austria-Hungary's full strength; but we have not sufficient information to go upon to decide whether the paucity of the numbers sent to the Danube and Save was due to a studied contempt of the Servians or whether the Austro-Hungarian plan of campaign had to be modified owing to the unexpectedly rapid mobilization effected by Russia. A third reason has been vaguely hinted at—that Austria-Hungary's plans have been thrown out of gear by disaffection among her Slav subjects. Rumour has spoken of actual mutinies among her troops, of reservists not joining the colours, and of the loyalty of certain districts only being assured by the taking of hostages. There are no means of verifying these reports, and for the present we must disbelieve them. The fact, however, remains that the forces with which Austria-Hungary moved against Servia were wholly inadequate for the task allotted to them. Belgrade, it is true, has been subjected off and on to a ruinous bombardment, which has destroyed a considerable portion of the city without advancing the Austrian cause one whit; but in the light of the ostensible reason for the outbreak of the European War Austria-Hungary's achievements in regard to the punishment of Servia have so far merely covered her with disgrace.

The declaration of war from Vienna was followed by a rapid movement of troops to the Save and Danube. Belgrade, the first objective, was evacuated by the Servian Government, but troops were left to delay the Austrian advance. But neither opposite Semendria, lower down the Danube, nor on the Save above Belgrade did the Austrians display any persistence in their attempts to reach Servian territory. The ill-success of these half-hearted efforts was followed by a more vigorous turning movement farther up the Save and from the west across the Drina. No serious resistance was offered by the Servians, who appear to have lured their enemies on into difficult country. When more than three army corps had made their way into the horseshoe formed by the Drina and Save the Servian army fell upon the Austrians and completely routed them. In their flight the Austrian troops had to sacrifice some 53 guns and a miscellaneous quantity of stores and equipment. Their losses are put at from five to ten thousand, while four thousand and fifty were taken prisoners. The Servians followed up their victory by a pursuit on Bosnian territory, while farther to the south they are said to have advanced on Visegrad in the direction of Serajevo. Of the moral effect of such an encounter both upon the Servians and the Austrians there can be no doubt. The Austrian force engaged was not a large one, and in ordinary circumstances it would not be difficult to avenge the defeat. But the Servian victory coincides with the invasion of Galicia by the Russian army, and the announcement of the Vienna Government that it will henceforth confine its operations in the south to punitive expeditions indicates that the pressure from the east is engaging the whole of Austria-Hungary's attention.

If the Austrian army abandons the offensive in the south the Battle of the Drina will have played an important part on the course of the war. In the face of a refusal to try definite conclusions with Servia the Austrians are unlikely to be willing to spare many troops to help the Germans in Alsace. At the same time, the force that they must keep to watch the Servians, though less numerous than the one that would have been required for the subjugation of Servia, will still be considerable. The Servian army has behind it experience in actual warfare, and whether in generalship or in the confidence of its veteran troops seems to possess a distinct advantage over Austria's untried legions. But it is to be hoped that it will not press its good fortune to the point of rashness. A too vigorous offensive might lead to a disaster as complete as the rout of the Austrians on the Drina. On the other hand, the prestige that Servia will have gained for herself in Bosnia and Herzegovina by her victory, if carefully fostered by steady military progress and by the means which the Servians have at their disposal of rousing the sympathies of their fellow Slavs under the Hapsburg yoke, must stand her in almost as good stead as further victories, but at much less cost. Then when the Russian advance has been pressed home and the Austrian army is more fully occupied than it is at present, the time will have come for establishing Servian claims upon Bosnian territory. Time is all on the side of the Powers ranged against Germany and Austria-Hungary. The fight which these two countries have provoked must be fought to a finish, if their claim to annul at will the independence of weaker States is to be successfully challenged. Servia, therefore, will do well to merge her quarrel with Austria-Hungary into the great reckoning which is being prepared against the disturbers of the peace of Europe. Her military operations should be co-ordinated with those of Russia, so that the maximum pressure may be put upon Austria-Hungary at the psychological moment. There is no need for her to waste her strength against Bosnian fortresses or upon the Austrian army in a strongly entrenched position. She has achieved her immediate purpose by driving the Austrians from Servian soil.

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FORLORN ALBANIA.

A ROMANTIC RELIC.

By the courtesy of "The Times" we are enabled to reproduce the following article from its special correspondent in Albania, which appeared only in the first edition of August 26:—

The palace windows of Durazzo look sheer upon the sea, and now across the horizon steal trails of smoke from the warships that pass in search of prey. The noise of battle rolls from Antivari, while close from the landward side is a nightly rattle of rifles, the long, spitting racket of machine-guns, and the heavy roar of shrapnel. And when I think of those palace windows and of the lonely Prince and Princess who watch within, staring over the blue sea for some fresh portent, some new vexation in their harassed world, I tell myself that there indeed is the fulfilment of the poet's vision wherein for all time he crystallised Romance. Are not these the

> Magic casements opening on the foam
> Of perilous seas, in faëry lands forlorn?

Who now shall say that Romance is dead? At Durazzo we lived and moved and had our being in it. There was every element from high tragedy to low comedy. No manager of musical comedy has ever staged anything better than the Durazzo scene. This was a sandy square with a little jetty running into the bluest of deep-blue bays, which shimmered under an unclouded sun by day and a searchlight moon by night. On one side was the Custom house, on the other the Royal Palace, with a small shady garden. The warships of the Great Powers lay at anchor in the bay, and smart pinnaces were to be seen forever dashing to and from the jetty, landing natty naval officers dressed in white uniforms and sun-helmets.

In the square all went with a swing, and for two hours before sunset every evening we met for gossip—diplomatists, Dutch officers, Roumanian officers, European Control Commissioners, admirals, Austrian volunteers, soldiers of fortune from many countries, journalists, famous lady travellers, and mysterious titled ladies of various nationalities who were said to be Young Turk, or Austrian, or Italian agents, or somebody's spies for certain. From the windows of the palace, between the green jalousies, equerries and court-marshals in "Merry Widow" uniforms conducted conversations or intrigues with members of the crowd below, and sometimes a lady-in-waiting might be seen smiling to a rosy-cheeked flag-lieutenant. The band from H.M.S. "Defence" played just the right kind of ragtime, and there was a full chorus of Albanian mountaineers. Their tunics were stiff with gold and silver, and to provide the precious metals and stones in the butts of their pistols alone would have seriously depleted the takings at the box-office of any musical comedy.

Sometimes the Prince and Princess walked through the crowd, on their way to take tea or dinner aboard a warship. The tall Prince wore the last word in gorgeous uniforms, and as he passed with glittering aides-de-camp the Albanians roared loyalty in unison and fired a *feu de joie*.

Then the sunset, and we had to know three new passwords every night. Martial law was of the strictest, and there was no getting home from a bridge party without some excited Italian or Austrian sailor sentry ramming a bayonet almost into one's face. The Albanian sentries were more polite, but there were bad men who fired from roofs by night, and more than once I heard a bullet sing mysteriously in a quiet street.

We dined, diplomatists, soldiers, and journalists, in a rough wooden hotel, a symbolic shelter, the hasty creation of Europe. And almost every night before the coffee was finished under the trees the ripple of rifle fire began from the trenches 400 yards away. Soon the ripple swelled, and presently the artillery joined in. For a space there was all the deafening noise of battle, and sometimes in the morning we found some dead. But for the most part the night attacks were negligible, and the noise was all on our side. There were two real attacks, by daylight. In one we had ten killed, including Colonel Thomson. In the other the town lost thirty-seven men and over sixty were wounded, but the enemy's losses were probably three times as great.

It was third-class war, but I suppose that in Durazzo I may have heard more bullets and seen more shells burst than all we correspondents are likely to be allowed to see or hear in the whole of the European Armageddon.

In the end of July the mutterings of greater war began to reach us. With an international squadron in the bay the Concert of Europe had a real existence in Durazzo. Before our eyes we saw Europe dissolve and disappear.

The Russian cruiser was the first to steal away—"to get the washing at Corfu," the captain told me. Corfu was the fleet's laundry, but we both smiled when he told me that he would return. Next there went the French battle cruiser, "Edgar Quinet." The same afternoon Admiral Troubridge and some officers of H.M.S. "Defence" came on shore. They breathed no hint of an early departure, but I noticed that their shore signalling station disappeared, and I drew my own conclusions. Next morning we searched the horizon in vain for the British ships. The German "Breslau," unwisely for it, remained longer, but on July 31 it also disappeared.

Friends had become enemies, for of all friendships in Durazzo the most striking *camaraderie* was between the officers of the "Defence" and of the "Breslau." The latter were specially interested in English methods of keeping the men hard and happy, and the "Defence" taught the "Breslau" to play water polo. On August 1 the Austrians left, and nought but Italians remained in the bay.

On shore it was a sad scene. Diplomatists and European Commissioners saw themselves gradually being marooned. Their ships were gone. Fate had made them the enemies of one another. Their powers depended on a united Europe, and, behold, Europe was at war. All the soldiers, the Dutch officers, the Austrian volunteers, and everybody upon whom the Prince depended, were recalled to their own countries. The Prince's equerries, his butler, his cook—all were mobilised. The cook's departure was perhaps the heaviest blow of all, for he had been a stand-by.

But the Prince and Princess hung doggedly on. There were floods of tears in the Palace, and my last memory is of a sad red-eyed Princess on the balcony above the sea.

The insurgents were still at the gates of Durazzo.

WAR MAPS.

Messrs. Sifton Praed, the Map House, 67, St. James's Street, have issued a strategic map of the countries bordering on the North Sea, on a scale of 1:2,000,000, or about 31½ miles to one inch (2s. 6d.). There might with advantage have been a few more names on this map, but great care has been taken to indicate the position of the immense areas of sand on the North Sea coast of Germany which are exposed at low tide—a point which is of importance in naval warfare. The same firm has also issued a four-sheet map (at 6s.) of the seat of war in France and Belgium. It is enlarged from the well-known French staff maps, and is on a scale of four miles to one inch. As the originals from which it was prepared are now almost unobtainable, many students of war telegrams will find these sheets a useful substitute.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The movement which is being organised at home with a view to enable our manufacturers and exporters to fight German trade successfully and to oust it, once and for all, out of markets which used to be ours exclusively, is rapidly gaining in popularity. Applied to the Near East, where German and Austrian trade have dealt us many a nasty blow, its immediate effectiveness can only be relative, as a glance at the economic situation will readily show us. Servia will not be a purchaser for some time; Bulgaria has not been able to raise her loan; in Turkey the moratorium has been declared; and as for Greece and Roumania, they are perforce playing a waiting game.

***

But these economic effects are only of a temporary nature. When matters have become normalised again the Near East will regain its position as a good market for machinery and manufactured goods, and by then we must be in a position to beat the Germans and Austrians on one of their favourite grounds. It can be done most easily, if we only go about it in the right way. What we chiefly want are: practical Consular officers, banking facilities, travellers, and capable agents. We need fear neither competitive prices nor Germany and Austria's transport facilities. All we have to fear is their superior organization, and the men who place or aid in placing German rubbish.

***

The immediate question is: What shall we do now to prepare for the eventual conquest of the Near Eastern market? As a matter of fact, like many a question, it is easier put than answered. We want to educate travellers in languages and in the nature of the markets to be covered. We want to get in touch with good agents and, having got hold of them, meet them halfway as regards samples and means of publicity. Business will then come unasked. In the past our conservative policy ruined hundreds of chances. I will cite some instances. In one of the Near Eastern States British business men prefer to deal through a German bank rather than through an English one because the latter is (or was) unenterprising. I know of several firms who, unable to get good English travellers, employed Germans. I know of a Consular officer who on his visiting card describes himself as "Britisch." I know of firms, big firms, who lost a sure business by refusing to allow their agents either samples or an advertising fund. These are follies which will have to be guarded against in future. My way of looking at the whole question is: if a firm wishes to introduce its articles on the Near East market, it must go about it in the proper way; if it only wishes to nibble, without working the market, the best thing it can do is to leave it religiously alone. There is no half-way.

***

Apart from educating our travellers and influencing the authorities to improve, when and where necessary, our Consular service, there is little to be done at present. This must be frankly admitted. Banking facilities will come later, and Servia, which is our stout little ally in this terrible war, will be deserving of special attention, and doubtless she will get it, because trade in the new Servia in the making will be excellent. Bulgaria is a much more industrial country—besides being agricultural—and will wish to create her own industries. This means machinery, and it means the erection of factories. This can be done by British firms. Roumania is in a similar position, and there are already quite a few British firms who have erected branch factories in the country. They are doing well. Turkey, on the other hand, is too vast an empire to be able to manufacture sufficiently to cover even a tithe of its wants, and will always be a tremendous purchaser from Europe. Nevertheless, and assuming that the present war will leave the Empire unscathed, there will be an industrial *essor* of considerable dimensions.

***

Thus, after all and whatever the present situation, the outlook is an excellent one, and we must be thoroughly prepared to take advantage of circumstances as they come along. Egypt will certainly be the first country in the Eastern Mediterranean to recover, and Greece, if allowed to continue its even tenor unmolested, will be an easy second. Roumania at present is the only purchaser to any extent, but who knows what to-morrow may have in store for the country. A victory on the part of the Austrians would hardly keep her people from the fray, because there is no doubt that the Roumanians hate their Western neighbours. So that, until the situation has cleared, little can be suggested as regards a British trade expansion in the Near East. The only thing to be done is to study *now* trade conditions and requirements in the Near East, and act as soon as circumstances allow.

***

Besides, and this is an important point to be remembered, the end of the war will most likely have increased the number of markets in the Near East which will be open to British trade. That is, on the natural assumption that we and our allies do not lose the war. A slice taken away from Austria-Hungary means a slice gained to foreign trade, and there seems to be little doubt that the Dual Monarchy will lose several slices. Hitherto trade in Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Slavonia, etc., has been very restricted as far as we are concerned, and if these or parts of these are incorporated in the Servian State, we shall have an excellent chance of doing good business.

***

I referred above to the Bulgarian loan. In this connection I cannot refrain from mentioning a circumstance which I first saw mentioned in the *Journal des Debats*, and which was later taken over by the *Journal des Balkans* and other Near Eastern papers. According to this report, the Austro-German group which concluded the loan expressly stated in an official clause that, if a European war broke out before the date of the issue of the loan (September), the lenders should be entirely free to revoke their contract. I see no reason to doubt this report, and regard Germany's action in this matter as another proof that she had been preparing for war throughout the spring, and knew that it was coming.

***

Now that the two ignominious German ships, the "Goeben" and the "Breslau," have evacuated the Mediterranean, the trade route to and from Egypt will have been freed from danger, unless, of course, unexpected developments should take place in the near future. As our Alexandria Correspondent points out, Egypt's only importer during the past few months has been Italy, and occasionally an Australian boat. This state of affairs, producing as it did an extraordinary increase in the cost of living, will now come to an end, and the situation should become more or less normal in a very short time. As a matter of fact, the outlook for Egypt is not so bad as many would have us believe. Speculation in cotton, etc., will have received a blow likely to last some time, but this will hardly affect the material prosperity of the country. The moving of the crop will be attended without grave inconvenience, and the enforced paper currency, though naturally not meaning so much to the fellaheen as gold currency, will enable the banks to stem the worst of the tide. As for purchasers, Egypt will have lost nothing, as there are more than enough looms to take all she can produce, without taking into account those which have been lost to her on the Continent.

***

The Roumanian Bureau of Statistics has published a resumé of last year's agricultural output for the whole country. According to these statistics, the total value of the output amounted to 1,346,256,438 frs., or a slight decrease of 4 million francs as compared with 1912. Considering that the kingdom was engaged in a war towards the latter part of 1913 just when crops were ripening, the results are excellent; and if, as seems likely, this year's output is up to or above the average, Roumania will be in an excellent economic situation and a good purchaser. Germany and Austria being hampered in their exports, an excellent chance presents itself for our manufacturers, whom I advise to keep a keen look-out for possible business towards the latter part of this year or the beginning of next.

***

I read in *La Politique* of August 6, just to hand, that the Roumanian Steamship Company has suspended its postal service between Constantza, Constantinople, Pirœus, and Alexandria. It is to be regretted. When war first broke out Constantinople would have been completely isolated, had it not been for the Constantza line, and though now, of course, this route cannot be made use of, as it crosses Germany, nevertheless Bucharest is further from us than ever—in itself a serious consideration, even if the abandonment of the service does not affect Constantinople. Mails addressed to Bucharest will in future remain in Galata until a boat sails for Constantza, or will have to take a roundabout way viâ Philippopolis and Rustchuk. This is a great disadvantage for British merchants and exporters.

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Business Conditions in Salonika

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, July 25.

If for nothing else, as is far too well known, Salonika has long been notorious by reason of its fires; but since the Greek occupation these have been much less frequent, whether from a wholesome fear of the consequences or from what cause hardly matters so long as the improvement is an actual fact.

For several years the insurance companies here undoubtedly lost money, and so were forced, some five or six years ago, to increase the rates of premium in self defence, thus adding considerably to the burdens of those who did not insure as a matter of speculation or temporary investment. A few months ago some of our local editors, possibly short of copy, or wishing to pose as public benefactors, ignoring the losses the insurance companies had borne for years, took up the subject of the increase in the rates of premium, enlarged on the hardship of it, condemned the rapacity of the companies, and appealed to the authorities to take action in the matter. In discreet silence and without comment our local papers now tell us that the syndicate of the insurance companies in Athens wrote to the syndicate of the insurance companies established here inviting the latter to impose (it is remarkable how many "invitations" of this kind now get issued for all sorts of pecuniary purposes) a surtax of 5 per cent. on the present premiums, the proceeds of the same to be paid to our municipality as in Old Greece; and that, at a recent meeting of the syndicate here, this invitation from Athens was accepted and the additional tax came into operation on the 14th inst.

The Fire Brigade.

The beautifying of our decaying town may be a very laudable object in its proper season, but at present it is going to cost the general public pretty dear, while it will not feed the thousands of homeless refugees around us. But this is not all we have to look forward to, for Article 9 of a new law imposes on every foreign or native insurance company working in Greece an annual licence duty of £60, with, in addition, an income-tax of 6 per cent. on the companies' net profits made in Greece. Likewise a tax of 2 per cent. on the premiums for the maintenance of a fire brigade which does not yet exist here; another little regulation being that when the firemen are called out and are in attendance less than six hours, each of the companies interested in the fire pay one pound for their services, and the same sum for every succeeding period of six hours. Of this 2 per cent. for the firemen the companies are to be allowed to make their customers bear a part; but it seems more than probable the latter will, in the end, have to pay the piper in full, or remain uninsured. One can only hope that under our enlightened Government there will be such security that fires will become a nightmare of the past and insurance a superfluity.

Banking Hours.

In the good old prehistoric days, when Salonika was prosperous, its commerce advancing by bounds, and its future more hopeful, our banks had no fixed closing hours, but transacted business up to quite late in the evening. Naturally, the staffs thought the more when dilatory customers straggled in late; but all that is now changed, and things are much more restful for the employees, as the banks close for the day at one p.m.—except on Fridays, when they are open until noon, and again from three to six. A facetious correspondent in a local paper suggests that our merchants would do well to imitate the banks, for then our commerce, which now limps with one foot, would do so with both feet.

Transit Trammels.

Unhappily, it seems more than probable that our merchants will, in any case, have to follow the example of the banks, as the Austrians have put a spoke in our commercial wheel in the matter of our transit export trade. The latter have now protested to the Servian Government against the present railway carriage rates on grain, etc., coming to this port, which rates they contend are preferential ones (fixed under the Turkish régime) prejudicial to them in favour of Salonika, and are contrary to the treaties now existing between the two countries. Consequently, the Servians have had to raise the rates from Nish to this port from 125 to 226 francs per wagon of ten tons, which increase will make it impossible for our merchants to buy grain in Servia for Europe, and will make them send it round by way of Belgrade and Semendria, down the Danube, to the Black Sea, so killing the trade through Salonika.

Street Naming.

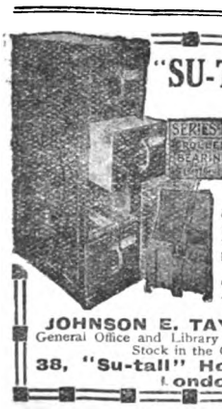
Meanwhile, there is one evidence of advancement here in the naming of the streets and the numbering of the houses. No doubt something of this sort was absolutely needed, otherwise it was quite impossible for our postal authorities to deliver letters to the vast majority of the inhabitants, who had no address whatever. It is to be regretted, however, that the names of the streets and roads are not also indicated in Latin characters; for, as it is, only a very small minority can read them. As a local paper says, it now only remains to decipher the names, to understand them, and then to know where we are. All the same, it is an improvement, and an advantage, to have an address, which has not been the case hitherto.

OIL IN BUSREH.

According to a British Consular report, out of 332,670 cases of petroleum imported into the consular district of Busreh during 1913, 179,294 were the product of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, imported from Mohammerah. Sixty-six thousand three hundred and seventy-six cases were imported by the Standard Oil Company, and the remainder from Russia. As the season 1913-14 is the first in which the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has attained its full marketing strength, the year's business may be considered satisfactory on comparing its share with those of its competitors. The prices of kerosene, petrol, and benzine imported to Busreh and Baghdad were approximately as follows:—First quality, per case, 6s. 8d.; second quality, per case, 5s. 4d.; petrol, per gallon, 1s. 8d.; benzine, per gallon, 1s. 2d. These rates are approximate only, and have necessarily varied from time to time.

At present the Anglo-Persian Oil Company are practically the sole suppliers of benzine to the local market. The quantity of benzine imported into Baghdad and Busreh in 1913 was 430 drums of four gallons each. It is remarked in regard to kerosene that the prices of the Standard Oil Company early in 1914 were reduced by 1s. 3d. per case, and then rose again to the original rate and advanced a shilling more.

It is interesting to note that while the importation of candles decreased, the use of petroleum lamps is said to be becoming more general.



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The Egyptian Trade in Building Materials.

The following article, which appeared in the August issue of the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, is of particular interest at this juncture:—

The principal building materials imported by Egypt are timber, cement, iron, steel, and metal goods of all descriptions, drain pipes, sanitary goods, paint and varnish, tiles both glazed, roofing and paving, hydraulic lime, tar, etc. As will be seen from the following table, Great Britain's share in this branch of the local import trade was £E317,129, or 15.2 per cent. in 1911, £E343,646 or 16.8 per cent. in 1912, and £E343,071 or 14.8 per cent. in 1913.

During 1913, as will be seen in the following table, Great Britain took the lead in the following lines, though sometimes but slightly. Bricks and firebricks, earthenware pipes, paint, varnish, cast-iron, cast-iron pipes, wrought iron and steel pipes, and tar.

More than 50 per cent. of the building material imported into Egypt from abroad consists of timber—there are practically no timber producing trees in Egypt—which Great Britain and her colonies are in a position to supply to a limited extent only, the freight from Newfoundland and Canada, and the lack of direct shipping facilities, rendering it impossible for these colonies to compete in the Egyptian timber trade. Great Britain's insignificant share in this branch of business is shown in the table.

The timber imports of Egypt are nearly equally divided between five countries, namely: Austria-Hungary, Roumania, Russia, Sweden, and Turkey, the value of the shipments from each country during 1913 varying between Turkey's share of £E232,581, and Roumania's share of £E301,539.

Nevertheless the United Kingdom does supply worked timber to a limited extent in the form of office furniture and high-class joinery, and it should be noted that there is a certain demand for good joinery—although, generally speaking, cheapness, not quality, is the principal recommendation to buyers in the building trade in Egypt—and a not insignificant trade might be done by English master joiners in good work, of well-seasoned timber, at reasonable prices.

During the same year lead pipes to the value of £E7,503 were imported, of which only £E26 worth came from the United Kingdom, the principal suppliers being France £E4,326, Algeria £E1,497, and Germany £E1,053.

As regards wrought iron and steel pipes, the British product is acknowledged to be superior to any other, chiefly on account of the accurate threading of the ends, which always fit when jointed, and British makers will not depart from this accuracy for the sake of cheapness. During the year 1913 Germany supplied wrought iron and steel pipes to the value of £E52,271, United States of America £E10,143, Holland £E,5,636, and Belgium £E2,949, as compared with £E86,015 from the United Kingdom. The demand for pipes for artesian wells has been extremely heavy since the latter part of 1913.

In this branch of trade the British manufacturer is supreme. A large increase in the demand should be looked for during the next few years when the new drainage scheme in Cairo will be complete. Sewage disposal works, on a considerable scale, are also being carried out in Port Said, and important extensions in the drainage system of Alexandria are contemplated in the near future. Many of the more important towns in the interior will also probably undertake similar works as soon as funds permit.

In tiles, however, Great Britain's share is practically negligible, only amounting to £E21 in 1913, nearly all the rest coming from France, at a value of £E5,544. This is explained by the word "Marseilles," where corrugated, and many kinds of roofing tiles, are made on the seaboard and shipped direct. Yet if the United Kingdom succeeds in selling earthenware pipes it is difficult to understand her inability to obtain a share in the trade in earthenware tiles.

Although England and Wales are well supplied with stone suitable for making hydraulic lime, none is shipped to Egypt. This cannot be accounted for by the heavy cost of transport, as Belgium shipped during 1913 to the value of L.E. 7,905, the balance of L.E. 37,090 coming from France.

That pre-eminently British product Portland cement is being ousted in Egypt by brands of "Portland" cement made elsewhere, and the reason given by some large local users of cement is that the genuine British brands cannot be obtained, because British manufacturers are so full of orders for other parts of the world as not to care for the smaller North Africa (Egypt) orders. This reason can hardly be accepted, and is probably offered by contractors as an excuse for supplying cheaper imitation Portland cement.

The following table gives the value of the imports of cement from the principal countries supplying Egypt with this commodity.

	1911. L.E.	1912. L.E.	1913. L.E.
Total imports....	162,751 ..	168,210 ..	107,869
United Kingdom	61,416 ..	53,683 ..	31,458
Belgium	67,823 ..	67,036 ..	42,299
Austria-Hungary	16,293 ..	28,083 ..	15,844
France	13,314 ..	14,241 ..	13,111
Germany	3,284 ..	4,668 ..	2,585
Italy	209 ..	124 ..	2,001

It will thus be seen that during the three years 1911-1913 the total value of the imports of cement has fallen by about L.E. 55,000, notwithstanding the heavy demand occasioned by the drainage schemes in Cairo and Port Said, and other large works in connection with irrigation projects. This falling off is probably to be accounted for largely, not by a diminution in the use of cement in Egypt, but by the fact that there is a successful cement factory on the Mahmoudieh Canal in Alexandria. Italian cement is rapidly gaining ground in Egypt, at the expense of the Austrian product, and we understand that since the beginning of the present year (1914) the imports from Italy have increased to a very considerable extent, as compared with the same period last year.

Belgium, it will be noted, secures the bulk of the Egyptian trade in cement, and while the imports of British cement have fallen off during the three years under review by approximately L.E. 30,000, or about 50 per cent., those from Belgium only diminished by about L.E. 25,500 or 37.6 per cent. British cement holds its own as regards quality, and the falling off in trade must be ascribed to the higher prices demanded by home manufacturers. Taking as a basis the quantities and values imported from various countries during the year 1913 as given in the Customs statistics the difference in prices would seem to be considerable, the average value per ton of British cement delivered in Alexandria being L.E. 2.291, followed by French at L.E. 1.828, Italian at L.E. 1.714, Belgian at L.E. 1.707, German at L.E. 1.653, and Austrian at L.E. 1.621. Austrian cement therefore works out at no less than 14s. per ton cheaper than British.

As with cement so with steel joists, Belgium heads the list of exporters to Egypt, followed by the United Kingdom. The appended table gives the figures for the imports from the various countries supplying Egypt with this description of building material during the years 1911, 1912 and 1913.

	1911. L.E.	1912. L.E.	1913. L.E.
Total Imports....	92,953 ..	106,193 ..	101,990
United Kingdom	8,608 ..	11,966 ..	13,974
Belgium	77,208 ..	89,794 ..	84,718
Germany	7,137 ..	4,433 ..	1,452
United States....	— ..	— ..	1,846

Unless British steel for building purposes is imported for special work, generally speaking it cannot be obtained in Egypt, while Belgian makes are stocked. Cheapness is the cause of the predominant position of Belgium, but cheap steel in construction work often does not work out to be the cheapest in reality; more of it is needed to carry the same burden, weight for weight, and sectional area for sectional area; and we know of a leading architect who, because of this, specifies that if other than British standard steel be used an extra weight of 10 per cent. must be added. Certain non-British manufacturers state in their catalogues that, if requested, they will roll steel joists to the British and American standard specifications, a sufficient proof that their ordinary standard of rolling is inferior to the British standard. Some of the Continental joists bear the standard mark "P.N." (profile normale) whereas in reality they are as much as 5 per cent. under the standard weight. This is taken advantage of by unscrupulous architects to the detriment of their clients. If, as in the case of the Belgian manufacturers mentioned above, British makers of steel joists offered greater facilities to their buyers or agents to hold stocks, it is probable that a greater share of Egypt's trade in this line might be obtained.

There is much room for improvement of British trade in shutter and window bolts of the "espagnolette" type. Scarcely an Eng-

	1911. Total Imports.	1911. Great Britain's Share.	1912. Total Imports.	1912. Great Britain's Share.	1913. Total Imports.	1913. Great Britain's Share.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Timber	1,157,218	52	1,045,745	40	1,357,980	9,122
Bricks—ordinary and fire..	18,848	13,507	34,895	29,870	14,971	11,179
Tiles	10,622	42	4,133	833	5,544	21
Earthenware pipes.....	10,400	10,099	10,595	10,025	11,424	11,339
Marble	52,469	2,512	42,126	1,508	33,883	3,391
Worked building stone....	13,425	2,003	10,054	51	16,182	4,630
Lime.....	25,877	—	40,795	—	44,995	—
Cement.....	162.751	61,416	168,210	53,683	107,869	31,458
Sanitary articles—earthenware and cementware ..	34,079	15,444	26,805	13,888	32,186	16,724
Window glass	34,816	6,325	31,155	6,125	39,709	6,401
Gypsum*	7,616	—	4,114	—	2,035	—
Paints	60,767	25,456	63,211	31,005	59,661	22,366
Varnish	14,251	6,775	13,747	7,790	11,672	6,072
Cast iron	5,094	4,908	6,319	6,319	7,348	6,599
Cast-iron pipes	65,805	40,470	54,764	30,457	57,393	35,466
Rolled steel joists	92,953	8,608	106,193	11,966	101,990	13,974
Sheet iron, including corrugated.....	60,708	10,654	82,065	29,658	89,196	22,643
Wrought iron and steel pipes.....	106,232	71,448	129,377	69,350	158,114	86,015
Locks, window fittings, etc.	117.887	22,010	124,821	18,506	110,925	28,503
Lead pipes	13.600	246	10,052	693	7,503	26
Asphalt.....	9,081	610	7,369	252	5.960	299
Tar	18,317	14,544	29,435	21,627	35,139	26,843
	2,092,816	317,129	2,045,980	343,646	2,311,885	343,071

* British Possessions in Mediterranean 1911, £E6,352; 1912, £E3,985; 1913, £E1,947.

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lish bolt of this description can be seen. Notwithstanding the fact that the general demand is for the cheapest, and often the flimsiest, quality of hardware, British ironmongery, which is always of a good class, should be more in evidence, there being a fair amount of building done for which good quality fittings are specified. British hardware is universally recognised as second to none, and there is much to be said for the refusal of home firms to turn out the low quality fittings. An obstacle to British trade is that local ironmongers, in view of the fact that English fittings are usually required in connection with British enterprises, add a larger proportion of profit to their prices than in the case of the cheaper continental fittings. Unfortunately for English makers, the choice of the style of fittings is often left to the architect, who is accustomed to continental designs and systems.

The English stove, which is recognised to be of good quality, is not much in evidence. With all the facilities for manufacture in England and Scotland this state of affairs seems to point to lack of enterprise and study of the local demand on the part of home manufacturers. The stove mostly in use is of the light type, not too light, with some white enamel front work. There is also a limited but increasing demand for fire-grates.

In conclusion we would emphasize the fact that it is often complained that it is somewhat difficult to obtain British articles of hardware, more especially steel goods, for the building trade in Egypt, although this is less true of Cairo than Alexandria and the towns of the interior. A suggestion which has been made to us by a local architect, and which we consider of sufficient interest to reproduce, is that a group of British non-competitive manufacturers of the various classes of building material should combine in forming a large depôt at Alexandria; not a small office, but a warehouse where articles in general demand for the building trade might be stocked, and samples of other articles be placed on view, and where transactions could be made and orders sent home. If this were done on a comprehensive scale a considerable increase in trade might be looked for. Without lending our support to this suggestion we would lay stress on the necessity for British manufacturers, if they wish to obtain a fair share of Egypt's trade in building materials, to grant their agents as extensive facilities as possible, both as regards credit and by allowing them to maintain a fair stock, in order that they may be in a position to compete successfully with their foreign rivals. A careful study of the articles in demand in this market, which are at present, as in the case of the "espagnolette" bolts mentioned before, supplied by other countries, might lead to remunerative business.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is reported from Paris that General Lyautey has decided to abandon none of the advanced positions occupied by the French troops in Morocco, since even a temporary withdrawal might be construed by the natives as a sign of weakness.

In their Weekly Circular, dated August 7, Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., Alexandria, report that the stock of coal is "decreasing rapidly, and now estimated (including quantities aboard steamers in port discharging) at 30,000 tons. Prices cannot really be quoted: Cardiff to-day selling at over 50s., and North Cambay qualities at 45s. and over per ton f.i.w.'

The same report puts the exports of cotton-seed since September 1, 1913, at 3,641,840 ardebs.

The cruiser "Helli," recently purchased by Greece from the Chinese Government before she left the American shipyard, has arrived in Greece.

A Reuter's message from Cairo, dated last Friday, says:—A decree is published here to-day regulating the prices of foodstuffs in Egypt. The maximum prices will be fixed by a commission every Friday.

Our Athens Correspondent informs us that the new Greek cruiser "Lemnos" arrived at Phaleron on the 8th inst.

The price of crude oil in Roumania has again fallen. During the ten days ending August 1 the price of best Bushtenari decreased from 7.42 frs. per 100 kilos to 7 frs. per 100 kilos. Other types of crude oil were reduced proportionately.

Many of the newsboys (says the *World*) still run through the streets crying "All the winners! Victory for Allies!" Such is habit.

The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent reports, under date of August 24, that 160 sailors of the German warships "Goeben" and "Breslau" landed at Brindisi the previous night, having travelled via Alexandria. They left immediately for Ala.

An Athens telegram states that the "Kilkich," the second of the battleships bought by Greece from the United States, arrived at Phaleron early this week.

The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works announces that at the adjudication, held on July 20, for filling access roads to the new English bridge, the offer made by Messrs. Bondi and Co., contractors, Cairo, was accepted for the amount of £E1,050.

Two new "halts," called Gabbary Garden and Metras respectively (situated between Nuzha and Mex Junction) have been opened on the Mariout Railway for passenger service only.

The *Orient* of August 5 reports that the washouts on the Anatolian and Pandermа-Soma railroads, caused by the great rains of the first week in July, have been completely repaired, and traffic has been resumed on both lines.

The Egyptian University has suspended work on its new premises at Bulak Dakrur on the land given by Princess Zenab. This, we understand, is on account of the crisis, as the funds, amounting to £20,000, are deposited in the Deutsch Orientbank, which, availing itself of the moratorium, only give out 5 per cent. on deposits.

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The New School Year will begin in September, 1914. An Entrance Examination will be held on the first day of term.

Applications for admission, particularly as Boarders, should be made early, as the number of places is strictly limited.

G. E. CHARTERS, B.A., London, *Directress.*

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Near East Markets.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, August 26.

Sugar.

All conditions considered, it seems quite clear that the Government has largely assumed control of all sugar refineries of this country, and while fixing the retail price will also regulate the selling price. They are also taking steps to secure raw sugar for the refiners to melt, and are said to have paid up to about 20s. c.i.f. London for about 200,000 tons Javas and other sugars, sufficient to keep the refiners at full work up to the end of the year. In the meantime, the Government has notified all the colonies that for the time being all export of sugar is to be prohibited, doubtless with a view to securing that it shall eventually come to the United Kingdom. Fair sales have taken place during this past week in English refined at late rates. Foreign on the spot continues quiet, but there is no alteration in prices.

Coffee.

There is still little business passing in the spot market, but prices show no quotable change. Mocha, long berry, 83s. 6d. to 85s.; East India, fine ord. to low mid., 61s. to 70s.; Costa Rica, ord. to low mid., 56s. to 73s.; Mexican, good to fine ord., 60s. to 66s.

Currants.

Low grades, which are getting scarce, are in fair demand and dearer, but the better qualities are quiet. Pyrgos sold at 25s. to 25s. 6d., Amalias 26s. to 26s. 6d., Zante 27s. to 28s., Gulf and Panariti 28s. to 32s., Vostizzas 31s. to 35s., and Smalls 26s. to 30s. Nothing definite can be said about new crop, although there are reports that some shipments may take place in the immediate future. According to the latest information from Greece, the fears entertained there that owing to the war the export of the fruit will be considerably curtailed this year have increased, and the Government has made arrangements with the National Bank of Greece that in case of need the latter will come to the assistance of the currant growers by offering to them loans guaranteed by the Government. With regard to the retention, the growers agreed to this being increased from 35 to 50 per cent. this year, on condition that this increase of 15 per cent. should not be in favour of the Privileged Currant Company but of the State, and should be used as a guarantee for insurance against risks of war, which will be undertaken by the Government.

Sultanas.

Sales have been of fair extent at steady prices. Smyrna, rain damaged, 28s. to 30s.; ordinary to medium, 32s. to 35s.; good to fine, 38s. to 42s. The Smyrna position seems to present great difficulties in regard to future shipments.

Figs.

New Crop: No business is possible at present on account of the absence of freight. Naturals are quoted 30s. to 31s., layers 30s. to 40s.

Dates.

Old crop is dearer. New crop is not being dealt in at present. Persian, boxes, are quoted 10s. to 15s.

Seeds.

Linseed: No business doing here, and Hull market, both for Calcutta and La Plata, has been nominal. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 51s. Rapeseed: Toria, arrived, quoted 50s. 6d. London. Cotton-seed.—London: No quotations obtainable. Hull: Egyptian is lower. Business was done ex store at £10 15s., and the closing quotation is £9. Bombay spot has declined 20s.—viz., £6 15s. nearest. Canary-seed: Turkish, 125s. spot.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet. Spot pipes, 26s. 3d.; barrels, 26s. 9d. Cotton oil: Refined spot pipes, pale, £31; sweet, barrels, £37. Olive oil: There is an improved demand, and a fair business is passing on the spot at hardening prices.

Gums.

The market is quiet, with only moderate business passing at more or less steady prices. Arabic, Egyptian, Turkey, sorts, quoted 37s. to £2 17s. 6d.; East India, Aden, 28s. to £1 12s.; Mastic, Turkey, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 9d. per lb.; Myrrh, good to fine, cwt., 96s. to 100s.; Olibanum, drop, 35s. to 50s.; Tragacanth, 1st and 2nds, £19 to £25; medium to good, £8 to £16; low to medium, £4 10s. to £6 10s.

Various.

Valonia, per cwt.: Smyrna, £9 10s. to £11 10s.; Greek, etc., £8 10s. to £11. Almonds: Jordan, £11 5s. to £12 10s.; Barbary, sweet, £6 10s.; bitter, £5 15s. Lentils: 19s. to 21s. 100 lbs.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending August 7:—"Owing to the general war on the Continent, all our banks have closed their doors, declaring a moratorium; consequently no business in opium (as well as in all other articles) has taken place. Our quotations are nominally the same as last week, viz., 16s. to 19s., as to quality, for eligible material. The arrivals are 1,100 cases, against 2,124 at same date last year."

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, August 26.

It cannot be said that any marked development in the market has occurred since a week ago. During the last day or two traders have been very much depressed by the bad war news, and more favourable business conditions are not likely to occur until the Allies are meeting with greater success. All kinds of matters have been discussed on 'Change, but scarcely anyone makes an attempt at fresh business. Spinners express no satisfaction whatever with the conditions ruling in the Liverpool market. There is no probability of any further alteration in prices for some time to come. More favourable reports are now being received relating to the American crop, with the possibility of a record output. The new Egyptian growth is also believed to be doing well. According to some people, a little improvement is showing itself in Egypt in the way of a cash business in piece goods. We hear of one firm having received a remittance this week by telegraph. Arrangements are being made for the despatch of a boat during the next few days with a full cargo. Makers of cloth suitable for India continue to deliver against old orders, and goods are being sent out, as shippers do not wish to have contracts cancelled. There is no particular development with regard to China. Very little is heard of the South American outlets. The depression in weaving districts is very acute. Some sheds are closed down for an indefinite period, and others are only working alternate weeks. In American yarns for home use business has been practically at a standstill. A little more stuff is now being sent in to users chiefly in the finer numbers. Occasional instructions to deliver are mentioned in shipping descriptions. Bolton yarns remain idle, and there is considerable curtailment of production.

SUDAN CROPS AND THE WAR.

The Sudanese Government has issued a circular which says:—

The Government having learned that certain merchants had profited by the present crisis to buy up the cultivators' ripening crops at ridiculous prices, the public is informed that deeds of sale of a present or future crop will not be considered by the courts according to the terms in which they are conceived. That is to say, if a merchant sues for damages for the non-fulfilment of a deed of sale these damages shall be calculated on the basis of the price actually paid increased by 25 per cent.

We understand, says the *Egyptian Mail*, that the Ministry of Agriculture are prepared to give every facility to cultivators desirous of planting their lands with rice. It is, of course, rather late to commence sowing rice, but this is scarcely a normal year, and as there is plenty of water available a fair measure of success with the crop may be expected.

EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRIA, August 14.

The Commission de la Bourse des Marchandises has imposed the price of 15⅝ tallaris for the liquidation of all open positions. A large number of export houses and the Liverpool Cotton Exchange have protested against this rate of 15⅝ tallaris; they would have preferred to see the open positions left in abeyance until the reopening of the Bourse, and in the meantime those concerned would have come to an arrangement with regard to liquidation.

We have already received samples of the new cotton from Upper Egypt. In Lower Egypt the crop is very good, and promises to be quite abundant, although here and there the boll-worm has made its appearance to a slight extent. Towards the end of October the Lower Egypt crop will be reaching Alexandria, and it is therefore time to deal with the situation. The spot market at Minet-el-Bassal should be opened again about the beginning of September if we are to prevent a veritable calamity of an economic character for Egypt. Italy, the United States, Japan, Spain, and Switzerland are all ready to buy cotton, and transit to these countries has become normal again. The reopening of the Bourse is therefore a matter of urgent necessity. As soon as navigation in the Mediterranean is not attended with any serious danger cargo boats will be coming here again, and we shall be able to resume our usual exports of cotton to England.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi and Co., of Liverpool, have received the following figures from Alexandria per mail:—

Alexandria, July 29, 1914.

From September 1.	1913-1914. Cantars.	1912-1913. Cantars.	1911-1912. Cantars.
Receipts	7,610.304	7,456,760	7,258,394
Stock	857,000	709,000	482,000
DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPORTS.			
Shipments to Liverpool	205,937	203,691	201,757
Shipments to Manchester	221,737	204,664	227,627
Total Shipments to Great Britain	427,674	408,355	429,384
Shipments to France and Spain	122,164	115,063	106,421
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	216,353	196,412	188,176
Shipments to Russia	76,036	68,840	67,076
Ditto to Turkey and Greece	2,227	906	1,034
Total Shipments to Continent	416,780	381,221	362,707
Shipments to U.S. America	87,200	123,325	118,189
Ditto to India and Japan	21,834	20,254	18,904
Total Shipments to all parts	953,488	933,155	929,184
Total crop (interior gross weight)	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

Alexandria, August 5, 1914.

From 1st September	1913-14. Cantars.	1912-1913. Cantars.	1911-1912. Cantars.
Receipts	7,610,504	7,457,544	7,258,394
Stock	801,000	594,000	370,000
DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXPORTS.			
Shipments to Liverpool	Bales. 205,937	Bales. 206,594	Bales. 201,757
Shipments to Manchester	225,396	204,664	231,879
Total Shipments to Great Britain	431,333	411,258	433,636
Shipments to France and Spain	123,625	115,999	108,421
Shipments to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, and Norway	218,658	193,876	191,467
Shipments to Russia	76,036	75,574	71,904
Ditto to Turkey & Greece	2,227	906	1,034
Total Shipments to Continent	420,546	392,355	372,826
Shipments to U.S. America	87,200	124,325	118,289
Ditto to India and Japan	21,834	20,667	19,204
Total Shipments to all parts	960,913	948,605	943,955
Total crop (interior gross weight	Cantars. —	Cantars. 7,532,920	Cantars. 7,424,208

STEAMERS SAILED SINCE LAST CIRCULAR.

August 1.—"Kaffir Prince," Manchester.

August 17.—"Esneh."

FINANCING THE CROP.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports that a meeting of the leading cotton exporters, cultivators and merchants, presided over by the Regent, was held on the 19th inst. at the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the question of financing the cotton crop. Several projects were submitted, but were regarded as unsuitable, and no decision was reached, the meeting being adjourned for the preparation of a suitable scheme.

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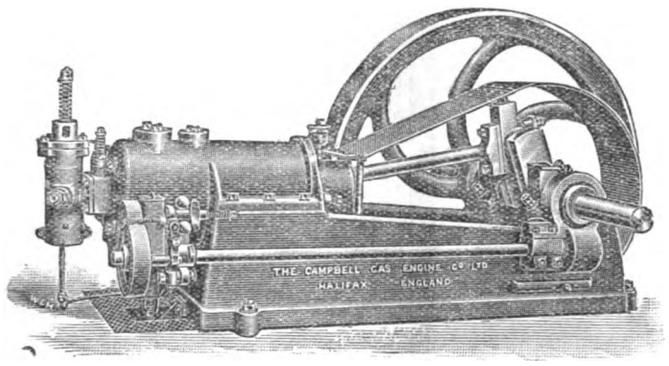

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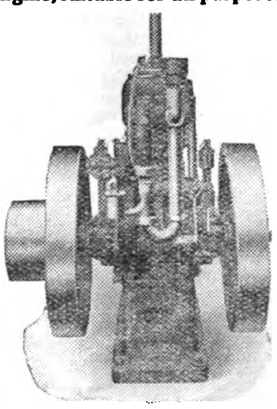

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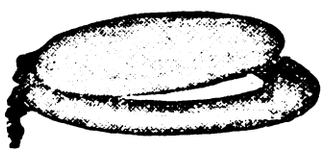

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Engineering Notes.

Haifa Harbour Works.

Under date of July 24, our Haifa Correspondent writes:—"General disgust has lately been apparent at the long delay in beginning the Haifa harbour works, which, it has been reported from time to time, were to be put in hand very soon. People here are all dependent on the realisation of this project for an improvement in the present deplorable state of business. Telegraphic news has now reached us from the capital announcing the departure of the engineers of the French syndicate which has been entrusted with the construction of the harbour. The news is, of course, received with much satisfaction, and the inhabitants are anxiously awaiting the safe arrival of the engineers." For the sake of Haifa, it is to be hoped that the outbreak of war will not again delay the works. But the hope is rather a forlorn one, we fear.

Egyptian Contractors and the War.

A deputation of contractors lately waited on the Egyptian Ministers at Bulkeley, and was received by them in Council. The deputation had been charged by a great number of contractors in the country with the duty of representing to the Government the hardships experienced by them and the critical position they were in by reason of the refusal of all credit by the banks. Nearly all building works, it is stated, had been closed, and 30,000 workmen were out of employment. H.E. Hussein Pasha Rushdi promised to investigate the matter, in order to assist the contractors to continue their works and to come to the help of the large number of labourers who were out of work.

Suez Canal Works and the War.

Owing to the departure for France of all the principal heads of the Administration of the Suez Canal Company all the work in hand has been suspended (says *The Egyptian Gazette*). There were about thirty gangs of men working on the widening and deepening of the Canal, which was decided on at the last meeting in June. The only men left are those engaged in the dredging work. On account of this suspension of work thousands of workmen are out of employment. It is probable that all these men will be employed on the fortifications which the Government has decided to put up on strategical points along the Canal.

Austro-German Motor Trade.

The Board of Trade have issued a bulletin on the Austro-German export trade in internal combustion and explosion motors, gas motors, etc., which states that the value of such exports from Germany was £2,826,000, and from Austria, £37,000. Amongst the principal German markets for stationary combustion and explosion motors and blast furnace gas motors were Russia, Roumania, Egypt, and the United Kingdom. Steam and gas turbines combined with dynamos, pumps, hammers, etc., were sent mainly to Russia, the United Kingdom, Spain, British South Africa, Italy, and France.

Mechanical Aid to Marksmen.

All soldiers who have been in battle know that the vast majority of bullets never find their billet. It has been estimated by military experts in recent wars that it required from 3,000 to 5,000 bullets to hit one of the enemy. This is due chiefly to the difficulty which soldiers have in finding their distance range in the heat of battle. The boldest and bravest man is excited, and it is a supreme test of nerves and skill to make that cool calculation which is necessary to judge the distance between himself and the enemy. With the present system of service rifles the soldier must estimate the distance, set his slide to the distance marked, and shoot. If he has judged the distance wrongly by ever so little, or made an error of as much as two or three-hundredths of an inch in fixing his slide, the bullet will either strike the ground in front or whistle over the enemy's head; and, according to statistics given by musketry schools, the usual percentage of error in judging distance is about 25 per cent. In actual battle, of course, it would be very much more. But now with a new device—the invention of a famous marksman—every soldier can be a dead shot. It is a new rifle-sight which does away altogether with the difficulty of finding the distance. The soldier simply has to judge the apparent height of the object which he desires to hit, which by experience is known to be absurdly easy, and to shoot, according to a fixed sight, at a point below the object equal to its height. If he does that he "drops" his man.

The invention is based on a simple geometrical law—very simple, like other things, when one happens to know it—the "negative angle" sighting, and this law has been used to produce a sight so that the shot, when it leaves the barrel and reaches its vortex, attains a height just double that of the target. In scientific language "the negative aim creates an angle below the ground line which automatically subtracts from the angle of elevation." The system has, therefore, been called "the negative angle" sighting. It has been tested by experts, and the results show that the percentage of hits has risen from 19 to 95. The only interesting criticism of the "negative angle" system is whether in actual fighting men could control themselves sufficiently to aim indirectly at their objective. The instinct of human nature would not be to aim 6 ft. below the enemy and so ensure his death, but to fire at his head, and hit the chimney-pot above. We do not know whether the device, as described above, has been adapted to the British service rifle, but it is well known that every British soldier is a good shot, and this has been confirmed by the German officers—whom the British took prisoners last Sunday at the battle of Mons—one of whom, referring to their firing, remarked: "We had never expected anything like it; it was staggering."

Mechanical Appliances for Office Work.

The successful conduct of business has been greatly aided by mechanical inventions, all of which tend to the economy of time. Indeed, an up-to-date office looks to-day like an intricate machine. Envelopes are opened and sealed and stamps are put on by a simple mechanical process. There are both hand-power and machine-power devices for this purpose. Thus 6,000 letters can be sealed and stamped in an hour.

For heads of business houses and Government departments who have to sign their names hundreds of times a day a machine has also been invented, called the "Signagraph." The person whose signature is to be reproduced uses what is called a "monitor pen," which is attached to mechanism which moves ten or eighteen other pens simultaneously. The sheets of paper are arranged one above the other. As soon as each set is signed a button is touched and steel fingers take them away. With an 18-pen machine 5,000 signatures can be affixed in twenty-eight minutes, although that number per hour would be considered fast enough for all ordinary purposes.

The new calculating machine is even more wonderful. This device adds, subtracts, multiplies, or divides. Some of these machines are operated by hand, numbered keys being pressed successively. In others electricity is used, a small motor supplying the power for effecting the mechanical movement. All the operator has to do is to set the keys by a simple pressure and then turn on the power. This power is stored in a coiled spring, which is automatically wound by the motor every four revolutions of the main cylinder of the machine. To solve mechanically a mathematical problem with a calculating machine is remarkably easy. There is a primary and a secondary keyboard. If two numbers are to be multiplied they are set down by the machine by pressing the proper figures in each keyboard. A touch is given to the operating lever, the computing cylinder begins to revolve, and in a few seconds the result is shown in a line of figures at the back of the machine; so that all the mental work of every calculation is done by the motions of the mechanism.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*The London agent of the Egyptian Government is Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., at whose office particulars of tenders marked (L) are to be obtained.*]

[*Further information concerning tenders marked (B) can be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*]

Steel Roofing.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of steel roofing for Gedaref. September 30. (L.)

Tools, Pipes, and Fittings, Window Glass, Underclothing, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Alexandria Municipality for the supply and delivery of miscellaneous stores, including tools, steam and galvanized iron pipes and fittings, window glass, cotton and woollen underclothing, etc. 10 per cent. deposit. Tenders to "M. le Directeur Général de la Municipalité d'Alexandrie." September 1.

SUDAN.

Open Shed, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian War Office for the supply of an open shed for Khartoum North, and for steel roofing for Gedaref. September 30. (L.) (Note.—Enquirers should quote the reference number M.W.H.Q. 312/44.)

Instructions are said to have been received in Egypt by cable from England ordering the work on the Abu Zabal wireless station to be completed within three weeks from now. The construction of the station has barely been started yet, and the erection of such a building and its final completion is ordinarily a matter of some months. In the present circumstances, therefore, a temporary structure will have to be put up (says *The Egyptian Gazette*).

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Shipping Intelligence.

SHIPPING IN THE LEVANT.

Writing on August 12, the Port Said correspondent of *The Egyptian Gazette* gives the following interesting sketch of the state of things in Port Said Harbour at that date:—

"There are at present more than fifty ships in Port Said Harbour, and the harbour thus presents a very pretty sight, with its forest of masts and funnels. Many are, of course, tied up in the various basins beyond the Canal Company's office, whilst those in the entrance of the harbour are moored in pairs owing to lack of space. Thus we find two British boats on one side, and immediately behind them two German boats, whilst there are no fewer than five French Messageries steamers in a group. In some places the ships are even moored crosswise instead of lengthwise.

"British shipping does not seem to be much impeded by the crisis, except, of course, tramp steamers, colliers, etc. The passenger boats come and go with their usual regularity. The German sailings are at present quite suspended, and, judging from the number of Messageries boats, the French service must be also a trifle irregular, although several of their liners have passed, always crowded with passengers. The Austrian Lloyd steamship 'Marienbad' arrived this morning, and the 'Trieste' left last Monday.

"There are ten German boats in the harbour—'Derflinger,' 'Rostock,' 'Pindos,' 'Annis Rickmers,' 'Barenfels,' 'Rabentels,' 'Werdenfels,' 'Lauterfels,' 'Gutenfels,' and 'Heligoland.' The French include 'Euphrate,' 'Caledonien,' 'Chile,' 'Nera,' 'Himalaya,' and 'Djemnah.' The Austrians are 'Tatra' and 'Marienbad.' The Italians include 'Orseolo,' 'Ciampo,' and 'Nilo.' The Russian: 'Mogeleff' and 'Baron Driesen.' There are also the 'Patrician' (Henderson Line), 'Penrose,' 'Hindu,' and 'Ecclesia.' There are about ten colliers, including 'Trevethoe,' 'Lydia,' 'Westoll,' 'Bronwen,' 'Fullerton,' and 'Treveal.' The Admiralty tank steamer, 'Petroleum,' is also in the harbour."

On the following day the same correspondent reports:—"Port Said Harbour is to-day beginning to assume its usual appearance. On Tuesday night the 'Medina' left for the Mediterranean, followed at regular intervals by a large number of other boats. Last night, just at nightfall, the 'Caledonien' left, followed by the 'Ecclesiasticat' and a Henderson liner, and, evidently following some prearrangement, a whole suite of cargo boats followed at short and regular intervals. To-night probably the French ships 'Chili,' 'Djemnah,' and 'Nera' will lead off the dance, with the French reservists on board. The 'Caledonien,' taking some of the Alexandrian French reservists, will then, with the 'Lotus,' meet the 'Chili.'

"The Austrian Lloyd 'Marienbad' arrived in Port Said Harbour yesterday at about nine o'clock from China, and left, four hours after, en route for Austria."

The "Marienbad," it may be mentioned, was subsequently captured by H.M.S. "Chatham" and taken into Alexandria. The "Caledonien" is mentioned twice amongst the departures, but probably we should read "Himalaya" in one place.

GREECE'S TIMBER IMPORTS.

Practically all the lumber consumption in Greece is of foreign origin, says the *Timber News and Sawmill Engineer*.

Imports consist of fir and white pine with very small quantities of oak, walnut, and other woods. The fir and pine, in the form of both logs and sawed lumber, are at present supplied by Austria. A small part of this trade goes by way of Trieste and the Adriatic, but by far the greater part goes via Galatz by river and thence in transhipment through the Dardanelles direct to Patras in cargo lots.

It is estimated by the trade that the annual imports of fir and white pine timber into Patras amount to £48,000 worth of logs and £50,000 worth of sawn timber of various dimensions. This is used chiefly in the manufacture of cases for the export of dried currants, and, secondly, for building purposes.

OIL STEAMER SUNK AT SUEZ.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs that on Monday night a steamer belonging to the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Refinery Company suddenly sank in Suez Harbour. Half an hour later a tank belonging to the same company containing £12,000 worth of oil exploded. The tank contained refined oil and consequently the supply of liquid fuel is not affected.

CUNARD MEDITERRANEAN SAILINGS.

The Cunard Steamship Co., Limited, Liverpool, has issued the following notice to shippers, viz:—

"We beg to notify you that, owing to the war, our ordinary steamship services to the Mediterranean have been discontinued until further notice, and that in consequence all rates of freight are suspended. In order to prevent the total stoppage of business we are prepared to put a steamer on the berth under war conditions as opportunity and inducement offers, and would send a steamer from Liverpool and Swansea to call at the above ports, closing in Liverpool about the end of August, proceeding to Swansea to complete. Shippers are hereby informed we will charge an extra 50 per cent. on all contract and tariff rates to cover the war risk premiums and other expenses. Such surcharge to be calculated on the net freight at the foot of the bill of lading."

"CITY OF WINCHESTER."

The news as to the sinking of the "Hyades" and the capture of the "City of Winchester" by the Germans (says the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*) has made the market for war risks at Lloyds very stiff, and rates are now steady at 60s. for India. In the case of the "City of Winchester" nothing is yet definitely known as to the fate of the steamer. She was on her maiden voyage, and had on board a large consignment of tea, part of which was of a valuable character.

SHIPPING AT GIBRALTAR.

Stringent regulations governing the movements of shipping at Gibraltar, says *Syren and Shipping*, have been issued in the form of a proclamation by the Acting-Governor and Commander-in-Chief. Not only sea-going vessels, but tugs, launches, lighters, and boats of every description are included within their scope. Ships' wireless installations must be dismantled in port, and shipowners and shipping agents are told that it is desirable, in their own interests, to arrange, as far as possible, that their vessels arrive between the hours of sunrise and sunset. Other regulations concern the method of entering the port, movements within the harbour area, etc.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Board of Trade states that information has been received from Odessa that it has been decided that vessels navigating between Ochakov and Odessa and drawing over 15 feet must take a pilot at Ochakov, Odessa, or Nicolaieff.

A Paris telegram, dated August 22, reports:—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal on the 20th inst. amounted to 220,000 frs.—Reuter.

It is officially announced from Constantinople that the Porte has sent circular telegrams to all foreign diplomatic representatives stating that the Dardanelles are open to all trading vessels.

The Times Cairo correspondent states that England has agreed to allow the export of coal, with the exception of Cardiff steam, to Egypt. This ensures the continuance of local industrial irrigation enterprises, especially of the cotton ginneries and sugar factories, with which the embargo on coal exports threatened to interfere seriously.

The port of Burgas is closed to navigation, and Varna is only open between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

CARGO INSURANCES UNDER WAR RISKS.

An explanatory memorandum on cargo insurances, as revised on Tuesday, has been issued by the War Risks Insurance Office. It is pointed out that cargo only is insured under King's enemy war risks. The insurance is undertaken subject more particularly to the following conditions:—

(a) That any cargo may be insured which is not enemy property, or goods the transport of which is prohibited by proclamation or otherwise restricted;

(b) That the cargo is carried on a British steamer which is entered in one of the undermentioned War Risks Associations approved by the Government, and that a war risks policy has been taken out on the vessel covering the voyage in question under the Government scheme for the re-insurance of hulls; and

(c) That the voyage is not one which is prohibited by the Admiralty.

The approved War Risks Associations are: The North of England Protecting and Indemnity Association, Collingwood Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne; the Liverpool and London War Risks Insurance Association, Limited, 10, Water Street, Liverpool; and the London Group of War Risks Associations, 24, St. Mary Axe.

As a general rule, cargo carried on a vessel which has already sailed cannot be insured under the Government scheme, but the War Risks Insurance Office is, notwithstanding, authorised to consider applications for the insurance of cargo on a vessel which has already sailed, or can be warranted safe at a port of call or at some point on her voyage.

The premium is charged at a flat rate irrespective of the voyage or of the character of the cargo insured. All applications for cancellation or return of premiums must be accompanied by a statement of reasons and supporting evidence, together with the stamped slip and policy. In the case of claim for partial cancellation the marine policy should be produced. Where the application for cancellation or return is consequent on war risk insurance previously effected elsewhere, the slip and policy relating to the other insurance must be produced.

Cargo insured against King's enemy war risks under the Government scheme must be covered by approved marine insurance policies as already defined.

Applicants desiring to retain at their own risk a portion of the war risk, insuring the remainder under the Government scheme, may so retain up to but not exceeding 50 per cent. of the declared value, but with the reservation that whatever be the proportion so retained at the inception of the risk it shall be retained at the risk of the assured until its termination. In such cases the total value of the interest at risk must be declared on the application slip for insertion in the policy. The foregoing does not preclude the assured from insuring with approved underwriters or insurance companies any portion of the war risk not placed with the War Risks Insurance Office, provided that such insurance be effected not later than the insurance with the War Risks Insurance Office. The value for the purpose of insurance against war risks must not exceed the value for insurance against sea risks. The premium in force at the time the insurance was effected cannot, unless in the case provided for in Clause 1 of the policy, be afterwards reduced or increased. Payment of admitted claims will be made promptly by cheque on the Bank of England.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

Considerable congestion of traffic appears likely to ensue at either end of the Suez Canal if the Canal Company continue to enforce the system they have introduced since the commencement of hostilities of making every vessel pay its transit dues in hard cash. Formerly (says *The Egyptian Mail*) it has been the custom for captains of ships to give the Canal Company cheques on their owners in payment of the dues, and it is but seldom that a captain finds himself with enough spare cash on board to pay such a sum as that to which the transit dues amount.

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Alexandria Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, August 7.

The Financial Situation.

Egypt has declared its neutrality, but the effects of the European war are already being felt. Both the Stock and Cotton Exchanges have been closed until further orders. There has been a run on the banks, the panic-stricken public rushing to the National Bank to have their bank-notes changed into gold. The result was a meeting of the leading bankers under the presidency of the Prime Minister, when it was decided to introduce the obligatory currency of National Bank notes. Further, it was decided to enable the National Bank to issue new notes up to £E1,000,000 and to re-issue the old £E1 and P.T. 50 notes. The total thus to be issued amounts to £E3,500,000.

Deutsche Orientbank.

In order to help the banks, the Government decided to prolong the August Bank Holiday from the 5th to the 8th of August. In spite of this, the banks remained open, with the exception of the Banco di Roma and the Deutsche Orientbank. Owing to the moratorium in Italy, the former bank has stopped all financial operations in Egypt. Regarding the Deutsche Orientbank, about £E480,000 were paid out last week, and the cash still in hand is estimated at £E90,000, which, with the £E400,000 expected from Germany but seized by the German Government, would have sufficed to meet the situation. The Egyptian banks received yesterday about £E700,000 in specie.

Private Speculation.

Certain foodstuffs and articles, such as oil, coal, etc., have increased in price up to 30 per cent., in some cases up to 100 per cent. This has met with the most decided opposition on the part of the public, and in some cases—Port Said, Mansura and Alexandria—the municipalities have decided to buy stores officially and sell them to the public. The Government, on the other hand, has decided to draw up a maximum tariff and to oblige retailers to keep within it. The Consuls at Alexandria have, moreover, held a meeting for the purpose of devising means for combating the extraordinary rise in the cost of living. On the other hand, the Government has forbidden the exportation of certain foodstuffs.

Improved Situation.

August 14.

The situation has improved. The National Bank has reduced its rate from 12 to 7 per cent., and most banks have not taken advantage of the moratorium, paying their depositors in full. The Deutsche Orientbank has re-opened and is paying its depositors; the Banco di Roma will open next week. These two banks had been unable to obtain the necessary specie from Europe in time, which accounts for their having been obliged to close their doors. Thus the panic is over and the situation is calm. The cost of foodstuffs, etc., has dropped to a more normal level.

Unfortunately, trade is at an utter standstill. Our commercial relations are restricted to Italy, which sends us foodstuffs. Australia, also, is sending us flour. The market is impatiently waiting for the time when the Mediterranean will be cleared of the enemy's ships and normal communications will have been re-established with England.

Wadi Kom Ombo.

The Société anonyme de Wadi Kom Ombo has paid a dividend of 3 per cent. on its ordinary shares. The company has a capital of £1,000,000, of which £E721,387 has been expended on the development of about 22,000 feddans and £E177,000 on the installation of pumps and agricultural implements, as well as transport. The cost price of the land is £E33 per feddan, independent of the £E177,000 referred to above, which the company proposes to write off gradually. The net profits last year amounted to £E29,693, as compared with £E17,904 in 1912. These figures are very satisfactory, and it is certain that the profits would have been higher still had not the low level of the Nile brought about an increase in the expenditure connected with pumping. Nevertheless, the results are quite up to expectations, and show steady progress. This progress is likely to be greater during the current year. The sugar cane planted on 4,568 feddans for the year 1912-13 yielded 118,157 tons, whilst in 1913-14 the area planted to sugar cane was only 4,302 feddans, and the yield exceeded 153,000 tons of cane.

Sidi Salem Company.

The Société anonyme de Héhéra has taken over the 12,000 feddans of land constituting the assets of the Sidi Salem Company. The latter company will be liquidated, but it is doubtful whether its holders will receive anything.

Salonika Cigarette Company.

The above company has built a huge factory in Alexandria, and is sub-letting that at Cairo. There is a tendency on the part of the big cigarette firms to move to Alexandria in preference to Cairo in order to reduce the cost of transport. Besides, it has been demonstratively shown that the climate of Alexandria is, for the making of cigarettes, superior to that of the capital.

Alexandria Municipality.

The Alexandria Municipality, which had the intention of issuing on the London market its new loan of £E500,000, has been obliged to postpone the operation indefinitely. The building of the breakwater by the Schneider group has been interrupted, and this delay is likely to imperil the safety of the tramlines.

Tobacco Cultivation.

The acting Diplomatic Agent for Greece in Cairo, who was entrusted with the negotiations for the renewal of the Greco-Egyptian Commercial Treaty, has stated that the Egyptian Government, after a lengthy study of the question, had decided to continue not to allow tobacco to be cultivated in Egypt. There is, therefore, no question, for the time being, of creating a monopoly, which would have a detrimental effect on the export of Egyptian cigarettes.

THE MORATORIUM IN EGYPT.

The following notice has been issued by the Egyptian Government :—

It has come to the knowledge of the Government that certain unscrupulous dealers are taking advantage of the provisions of the decree of August 9, ordering a general commercial moratorium, to refuse delivery of goods due by them in virtue of pre-existing contracts, unless the purchasers consent to an increase in the price.

By acting thus, not only do they show their deliberate intention of fraudulently breaking their contracts in order to conclude others more advantageous to themselves, but they render themselves liable, after the expiration of the moratorium, to legal proceedings on the part of the purchasers and to pay heavy damages for their dishonest failure to fulfil their engagements.

Moreover, at the present time they are equally liable to seizure of the goods, which might be ordered by the judge as a purely protective measure in favour of the purchasers.

The Government calls the attention of all whom it concerns to the consequences of such modes of action, which are manifestly opposed to the spirit and object of the decree of August 9, 1914, regarding the moratorium.

THE WHITE NILE.

We extract the following from *The Sudan Times* of August 3 :—

"The White Nile is still lower than it was during the corresponding period of last year. Steamers with cargo for Wau and the intermediate stations have not yet been able to start on their journey up, and it is expected that no more than two through departures for the above destination will take place this year owing to the state of the White Nile. The first steamer with cargo for Wau will leave Khartoum on the 9th and the second on the 20th inst.

RELIEVING THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

The Times' Cairo correspondent, telegraphing on the 20th inst., says :—

"Efforts are being made to remedy the serious situation caused by the closing of markets and the impossibility to import gold, and assist the fellaheen cultivators to move the cotton crop, the maturity of which is imminent.

"A meeting of leading bankers, dealers, and cultivators, with the Prime Minister presiding and the chief Government officials attending, was held yesterday. No definite decision was arrived at, but various schemes are now under consideration for an advance, pending the reopening of markets, to the fellaheen against the deposit of their cotton in Government or bank warehouses of amounts sufficient to enable them to carry on agricultural occupations, pay taxes, and live. An extra good millet crop has just ripened, and an extra large acreage of maize has just been sown. The Government has arranged for special imports of wheat, flour, and live stock, by reason of which the outlook is one of hopefulness.

EGYPTIAN GOLD REQUIREMENTS.

At this time of year preparations are usually being made by the Egyptian banks to finance the cotton crop of the Delta, and if the usual programme were adhered to sovereigns should now begin to be exported from this side. Under existing conditions the dispatch of gold either from this country or France is not to be loooked for, says *The Financial Times*, and the Egyptian authorities have lately been considering other means of financing the crop movement. A commission has had under consideration the employment of the notes of the National Bank of Egypt as legal tender, and it is not unlikely that this step will be adopted.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Juin, 1914, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

		£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		924,740
Titres divers		616,867
Comptes-Courants		397,395
Avances sur Marchandises		1,382,386
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,426,480
Avances sur d'autres garanties		849,443
Effets sur l'Etranger		758,521
Effets sur l'Egypte		568,874
Immeubles et mobilier		255,950
Placements à courte échéance		745,875
Comptes Banquiers		344,333
Gouvern. du Soudan		300,271
Encaisse:		
Espèces:		
Or	£E.470,008	
Argent et nickel	£E.469,176	
	£E.939,184	
Billets de Banque	£E.303,811	1,242,995
Divers		108,727
		£E.9,922,857

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,462,500
Fonds de Prévoyance	24,375
Comptes-Courant, Dépôts et autres	2,729,206
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,749,576
Ministère des Finances	460,679
Ministère Compte spécial	33,112
Comptes Banquiers	108,180
Chèques et effets à payer	105,187
Divers	325,042
	£E.9,922,857

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.1,200,157
Titres	1,199,843
	£E.2,400,000
Billets émis	£E.2,400,000
	£E.2,400,000

ALBERT SINGER
KHARTOUM SUDAN

EXPORT OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

Agency for firms desirous of introducing their brands of goods into the Sudan.

Established 1900.

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THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Paid up, £400,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £600,000.

Branches:

BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	**£800,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - -	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND - - - -	**65,000**

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - -	**Frs. 45,500,000**
RESERVE FUNDS - - -	**,, 14,500,000**

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	**£850,000**
RESERVE - - - - -	**£210,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI.
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU
C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH. MOSCHUNA.

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THE CRISIS IN THE CITY.

Financing Trade.

(By Our City Editor.)

The position at the moment of writing looks clearer. It is believed that the moratorium will be abolished, and the Government is issuing certificates for the purpose of enabling trade to be more readily financed. It would seem that the joint stock banks will obtain certificates which are to be exchangeable into currency notes on demand. What these certificates are to be secured upon is not at present disclosed. Clearly Mr. Lloyd George expects the banks to make advances to traders and to generally help the country. Clearly some of the banks have refused to use the deposits of their customers for this purpose, and such banks are threatened with exposure if they continue to act as trustees for their depositors.

We are told that the old notes are to be withdrawn and better ones substituted, and from the artistic standpoint this is greatly to be desired. We are also told that some of the banks have been sending back notes to the Bank of England. This rather tends to show that the stringency of cash which rendered the issue of these notes essential is now a thing of the past, and that the world of commerce has adapted itself successfully to the new conditions.

Perhaps the matter of most vital importance to the trade and credit of the country is that the Government shall be provided with ample funds to carry on the war. Now it seems almost impossible for anyone to subscribe largely for war loans if their whole capital is locked up in securities. The country needs immense sums of money—many hundreds of millions—if it is to emerge victorious.

If we wish to see how a nation can meet its engagements and put its house in order we must turn to our foe, Germany. *The Daily Telegraph*, in Thursday's issue, gives the Reichsbank return, which shows that the German Imperial Bank now holds a record supply of gold. Also, it has issued paper money to the value of 4,425,984,000 marks, an increase on the previous week of 688,910,000 marks. It has established war banks in every large town, which will help the people by making advances. Again, it is making loans freely upon grain, metals, and stocks generally. It has faced the situation in a bold way—indeed, the only way.

Certificates of value are no use, except for bankers, and surely the Government does not wish the nation to go on under the heel of the usurer. For, remember that a bank is, after all, only a moneylending institution—nothing else. The banks must be helped—this we all admit. But the nation needs help much more, and to put the trader, the merchant, and the manufacturer deeper into debt to the bank is a wicked and reckless thing.

There seems no possible way out of the trouble except the issue of currency against Trustee stocks up to 50 per cent. of their value. This would give all solvent people cash with which to carry on their business. It would reduce their loans to the bank, and it would put the banks in funds again. Their cash is now locked up. A currency secured upon Trustee stocks may not be an ideal, but in days of extreme danger we must take extreme measures. The moratorium out of the way and an ample currency provided for all sound firms, we could reopen the Stock Exchange under a new set of rules and "carry on business as usual."

BULGARIA'S INTEREST PAYMENT.

Reuter's Sofia correspondent telegraphs that the management of the public debt has issued a statement that, in view of the European War, which has interrupted postal communication and rendered impossible all international operations, it wishes to inform holders of Bulgarian Treasury bonds payable abroad that until further orders the management holds at their disposal, at the National Bank in Sofia, the amount due, which persons concerned may acquire at any moment on forwarding their securities.

The *Aegyptische Nachrichten* has been suspended for publishing a scurrilous article upon the Tsar of Russia.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Roumanian Produce.

The accounts of the Anglo-Roumanian Produce Co., Limited, for the year ended December 31, last shows a loss of £14,480, which, added to the £37,298 brought forward, makes a total debit balance of £51,778 to be carried forward. The directors' report states that since the close of the financial year the Roumanian Government have taken possession of the farm in what the board believe to be an entirely illegal manner; this procedure is the subject of legal action in the Roumanian Courts, but the outburst of war has stopped all negotiations.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Piræus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway.—The receipts during the month of June amounted to 600,460 drs., an increase of 34,383 drs. over the corresponding period of last year. Aggregate receipts from January 1 amounted to 4,051,702 drs., an increase of 386,995 drs.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.—The numbers are published of 1,215 three and a-half per cent. bonds drawn for repayment at 515 francs on and after October 1, when payment of coupon No. 33 will also be made.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—Receipts for the week ended August 22 amounted to £6,714, a decrease of £1,037 as compared with the corresponding week of last year. Aggregate receipts from July 1 amounted to £54,659, a decrease of £6,283.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 1,070 tons (last week, 1,132 tons), of which Hurgada, 90 tons (last week, 72 tons).

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts on Sunday, 23rd instant, amounted to 140,000 frs., against 230,000 frs. last year.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for eleven days ended July 31 amounted to £E5,878, a decrease of £E1,152 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Egyptian Markets.—Receipts for week ended August 20—£569, a decrease of £52. Total to date, £38,822, a decrease of £1,548.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has issued the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to June 30, 1914 (new style: January 14 to July 15, 1914):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, June,	1914	2,910,001.67	2,327,552.90
Do. do do	1913	2,083,188.38	1,733,273.75
Estimated Receipts for 6 months (Law of Control)		14,450,000.00	5,350,000.00
Actual receipts for 6 months,	1914	19,331,726.47	15,111,641.05
Do. do. do.	1913	14,207,884.26	12,139,239.37
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months	1914	+ 4,881,726.47	+9,761,641.05
	1913	— 242,115.74	+6,789,239.37

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

Reports from Roumanian oil centres state that a few days after Austria declared war on Servia there was an almost total suspension of oil transport. Tank wagons were pushed into sidings. The oil trade of the Danube was also brought to a standstill. Reports shows that there is no possibility of Roumanian companies getting oil into Germany.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS

The directors of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., have issued a circular to the shareholders stating that owing to the state of war telegraph and postal facilities practically ceased to exist as from 27th ultimo, and it has been impossible since that date to publish the usual reports of production and drilling progress. *The Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* of August 2 has now reached this country, contains the following information of interest to the company:—

General production.—The production of crude oil in Roumania is maintained. During the last few days we have to record the first eruption of Moreni well No. 39 of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields with an output of from 300 to 350 tons a day. Baicoi well No. 1, belonging to the same company, which gave about 700 tons a day before being shut down, will shortly be restarted. The prospects of a large increase in the production are good.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.—On July 29, Moreni well No. 24, which had been flowing steadily for about two months, became corked with sand and ozokerite. Cleaning operations were commenced immediately and the well began to flow again on the following day at the rate of about 200 tons a day.

Moreni well No. 39, which, as we have already stated, is in the same source as well No. 24, made a violent eruption a fortnight since, which destroyed the derrick. The damage has now been repaired and on July 29 the well again commenced to flow. For the first day it gave about 700 tons, and subsequently from 300 to 350 tons a day.

Moreni well No. 29 has been repaired and is now cleaned almost to the bottom. At Baicoi large reservoirs have been constructed in the vicinity of well No. 1 and all arrangements made for the storage of great quantities of oil. This well will be restarted to-day.

The total production of Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., for July, 1914, was 10,060 tons.

The July output constitutes a record and compares with 8,029 tons for June. A cablegram from the company's manager, dated a fortnight later than the newspaper extracts above, but delayed in transit, states that the drilling programme is much curtailed at present by the shortage of labour, but that the producing wells continue in operation. Roumania has mobilised for the defence of her frontiers, but at the same time has declared that she proposes to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality. In no eventuality which is likely to occur is there reason to fear any serious interference with the company's property or with its prospects. On the contrary, there can hardly fail in the near future to be an increased demand for Roumanian oil and its products.

EGYPT'S MEAT SUPPLY.

Papers and letters received from Egypt by the latest mail indicate that there was for a short time some little anxiety regarding a possible failure of the meat supply in some of the larger towns. Thus, at Alexandria there were rumours that the number of animals to be slaughtered had been reduced, but the *Bourse Egyptienne* contradicts these rumours.

As a precautionary measure, we learn, Mr. Littlewood, Chief Veterinary Surgeon of the Sanitary Department in Cairo, wrote to the Alexandria Sanitary Department asking if they were in need of any cattle, as the importation from abroad was prohibited. If that were so excellent oxen could be brought from the Sudan, provided that the animals underwent a few days' quarantine on arrival at destination.

As about 50 animals would be required from the Sudan every day to supply the town, instructions were promptly given to commence deliveries. These animals will arrive in Alexandria after about three weeks' journey, and, seeing that the importation of oxen from the Sudan has been forbidden on account of the diseases with which they were affected, bovine typhus and bovine plague, the long journey will be in lieu of quarantine.

A large market for fezzes, particularly in Turkey, India, British Africa, and Egypt, is now open to British traders, Austria-Hungary having supplied these countries with £184,800 worth of fezzes in 1913.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

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F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
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H.E. NAIL BEY.
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HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
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R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,500,000.**
Paid up Capital - -	**500,000.**
Reserve - - - - -	**680,000.**

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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بانق عثمانی

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

Head Office: **GALATA**
Branches - **STAMBOUL and PERA** } **CONSTANTINOPLE.**

ALEXANDRIA. PORT SAID. CAIRO.

London: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C. Paris: 7, RUE MEYERBEER.

Manchester: 25, PALL MALL.

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Mr. ARTHUR NIAS, Director-General. Mr. LOUIS STEEG, Director-General-Adjoint.

M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CARTALLI, } Directors.

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E. W. H. BARRY.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.	GEORGES HEINE.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.	HENRY.
LORD HILLINGDON.	LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
HON. HERBERT A. LAWRENCE.	ALBERT MIRABAUD
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE.	RAOUL MALLET.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, BART.	PYRAME NAVILLE.
	LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
	FELIX VERNES.

London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

EUROPE.
Adrianople
Cavalla
Dedeagatch
Drama
Gumuldjina
Janina
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Soufli
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adalia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Aziz)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

SYRIA.
Aleppo
Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
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Jerusalem
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Saida
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SEVERAL NEW BRANCHES WILL BE OPENED SHORTLY.

The Bank undertakes every description of BANKING BUSINESS, and is always at the disposal of firms wishing to open up business with the Near East. Tariffs of Charges, etc., can be obtained on application.

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Shortest and most picturesque sea passage between Europe and Egypt. Fast steamers in connection with the Orient express train-de-luxe from Paris, Ostend, Vienna, Berlin, and Budapest leave Constantinople every Tuesday afternoon for Smyrna, Piræus and Alexandria. Return from Alexandria every Wednesday afternoon via same ports.

Service between TURKEY, SYRIA & EGYPT.

Fast steamers leave Constantinople every Saturday for Gallipoli, Dardanelles, Mitylene, Smyrna, Chios, Rhodes, Mersina, Alexandretta, Tripoli, Beyrout, Caiffa, Jaffa (for Jerusalem), Port Said and Alexandria. The voyage takes ten days.

Departure from Alexandria every Saturday, and from Port Said every Sunday, for above ports.

CYPRUS SERVICE.

Fast steamers weekly from Alexandria on Tuesday afternoons, and from Port Said on Wednesday mornings, for Famagusta, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos.

SUDAN MAIL (SUMMER) SERVICE.

Steamers leave Suez Docks fortnightly on Friday, at 5 p.m., for Port Sudan, whence trains may be taken for Khartoum. Calls made at Suakim as required.

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THE NEAR EAST

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[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 174.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The steady advance of the invaders across Northern France right up to the gates of Paris is distressing, in that it has led to the devastation of a considerable territory and a heavy loss of life to our own troops and to those of our Allies. It is regrettable also because the appearance of a German army before the capital which our enemies have claimed as the goal of their campaign may induce certain neutral States to misinterpret the signs of the times and commit themselves under the belief that Fortune has already declared herself. It is for the benefit of these people that we take this opportunity of reminding them that what has happened so far cannot affect the outcome of this war, except that it has exasperated the Allies against the invaders.

Great Britain is a country slow to move. The public is only just beginning to realise that the country is at war, and why. But now that it understands it is arranging to see the matter through to a successful end, just as our great-grandfathers saw the war against Napoleon through to a successful end. We are proud of being a nation of shopkeepers, because our business instincts enabled us to realise that we could not afford to lose in that struggle. The same conditions apply now, only that they are even more apparent and more pressing. As merchants we know that we cannot afford to fail in the present struggle; consequently we must go on with it until we win. It may be sooner, or it may be later, but we intend to carry it through to a successful conclusion, even though it last as long as the Great War of the Nineteenth Century. Hannibal defeated the Romans again, and again, and again. He destroyed the flower of the Roman Army arrayed under both Consuls at Cannæ. But he had to live to taste defeat at Zama, Carthage was destroyed, and to Rome was given the empire of the world. Great Britain does not aspire to the empire of the world; her motto is "Live, and let live;" but ever since she found herself, her invariable policy—thrust upon her by imperative necessity—has been that no other Power should have the empire of the world. By that policy we abide now, and we earnestly hope that no neutral States will be so foolish as to take any action which might bring them across the path along which we must march in the pursuit of that policy.

The situation abroad is slowly becoming regularized, if one may use the word in such a connection. The Ballplatz is working hard to catch up with the more impetuous Wilhelmstrasse in the preparation of declarations of war. As the result of this activity Austria-Hungary has notified the unhappy Belgians that the Dual Monarchy considers their treatment of its subjects to be so intolerable as to involve instant hostilities. As this fresh outbreak cannot add anything to the woes of our gallant little Ally, one can afford to consider it in its true light.

In a moment of European crisis nearly forty years ago Disraeli provoked the keenest criticism by bringing Indian troops to Malta. Now, amid general applause, Lord Kitchener brings Indian troops to France. The ancient civilisation of Hindustan has been called in to help that of Europe in its need. India in the past has tasted the tender mercies of the White Huns and of Mongol hordes, and now at the call of the King-Emperor is sending men to help against similar barbarians on the fields of France. At first it was believed that the limit of their voyage was to have been Egypt, but now we learn that it is in Europe itself, and against the Red Huns of the North, that his Majesty's Indian Army is to be arrayed. The destruction of Louvain has stamped the German of to-day as the worthy successor of Attila or Hulagu. The outrage was an insult to the whole world, and now men from five continents flock to Flanders to impress upon the Prussians, *vi et armis*, the only argument they can understand, that they are now considered as being outside the pale of civilization.

The arrival of the Indian Expeditionary Force in Egypt has been announced by the permission of the Egyptian authorities, and we regard with pride yet another example of army transport on a large scale. In view of possible contingencies it is satisfactory to learn that so substantial a force is now available for the defence of Egypt, for even if some units be detached for service in France there will still remain a well-seasoned fighting force of professional soldiers perfectly capable of protecting the country from any attack. We understand, moreover, that the Home authorities are fully aware of the importance of Egypt, and are making arrangements to provide substitutes, when necessary, for those detachments which may be sent to France.

The very handsome defeat which the Russians have inflicted on the Kaiserlichs in Galicia has led immediately to the occupation of Lwow, which the Germans call Lemberg, by the troops of the Tsar. It will, however, very probably have ultimate results of a highly important character. So conspicuous a success

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as the recovery after hard fighting of so great a city of the Slavs as Lwow will greatly encourage those members of that race who dwell along the Danube, and will tend to strengthen those who stand for racial solidarity in Bulgaria against the possible influence of Teutonic dynastic ties.

So far as it is possible to gather, the Servians have been giving their army a rest, very necessary and well deserved after its fine performance in ridding the national soil of Austrian invaders. No invasion of Bosnia on a large scale has as yet been announced, and apparently, in spite of a bombardment by the Allied Fleet, Cattaro itself is still in the hands of the Kaiserlichs, who, it seems, have again been repulsed by the Montenegrins in an assault upon the Lovtchen Mountain. It is understood that the Servians will press forward into their Promised Land so soon as they shall be in condition to undertake a considerable movement of this nature, and it is to be hoped that the pressure of the Russian armies upon Galicia will have compelled the Kaiserlichs to withdraw troops from the south.

It is to be feared that the situation in the southern Slav countries of the Dual Monarchy is very grave. The Government is known to be enforcing coercive measures. There is a rigorous censorship of disaffected journals, and the subsidized reptile Press is being extended by means of official purchases. It is stated that hostages are being taken by the Government for the good behaviour of the Slav populations in Bosnia, and that a number of executions have already taken place at Serajevo. The victims appear to have been prominent leaders among the local population, and the executions were purposely carried out in public. It is, of course, impossible to verify this information, but it must be confessed that the volume of evidence is already considerable, and that the actions with which the Kaiserlichs are charged have an unfortunate similarity with those which disfigured the later years of their domination in Lombardy and Venetia.

The position of Italy is still uncertain. We know that she is exposed to considerable and skilfully applied pressure from her Teutonic neighbours, and that offers of substantial territorial "compensation" (at the expense of France) have been made to her by those Powers. Public opinion in the peninsula is from all accounts utterly opposed to the *Tedeschi*, and will not tolerate any policy which would array Italy against the Liberal Powers on the side of Teutonic militarism. We may, however, point out that the cost of the Tripolitan War and the subsequent operations in Libya has been very heavy indeed, and that the Roman Treasury is in all probability extremely short of funds. The traditional practice of Great Britain, when arranging European coalitions against a public enemy, has always led our Government to supplement the exiguity of our military forces in the field by furnishing other States with the wherewithal to put their own troops in motion for our support. Consequently we suggest that an intimation to the Consulta that in certain circumstances the necessary money would be forthcoming would enable the Italian Government to give expression to the wishes of the nation and take the field in defence of the public law and civilization of Europe against an inrush of destructive barbarians.

The move on the part of the Sofia Government which has been announced was fully expected in London. Energetic efforts had been made for some time past to induce Bulgaria to declare herself on the side of the Entente and clear away the tissue of falsehood which had been spun round her by Teutonic newsmongers. Her action has dispelled the assertions that she had an alliance with Turkey, or an understanding with Austria-Hungary, and reveals that she is prepared to repel any attempt at Ottoman aggression upon Europe and thus defend the Triple Entente and its Allies against the assaults of the misguided Turks in the rear. It was known that Bulgaria was completely opposed to a policy of adventure, and would never take up arms against Russia, the traditional Liberator of Bulgaria, or against the Liberal Powers of the West. Her neutrality was certain, but now by the offer of her valuable services for preserving the peace in the Near East, she becomes entitled to substantial recognition at the time of the general settlement.

At the moment of writing Roumania is still poised upon the uneasy fence of neutrality. Rumour is busy with the King's health, his intentions, and the policy of his Government. We are told that the Hohenzollern blood of the dynasty is likely to be thicker than that of all the separated Roumanians of Transylvania. We are told that Bucharest longs more ardently for the Bessarabia which is lost than for the provinces beyond the Carpathians which are not yet won. So faithful has Roumania been to her self-imposed rôle as the Gendarme of Europe watching the Treaty of Bucharest that she requires time in which to reorient herself now that the Treaty of Bucharest has been buried by the action of Bulgaria in declaring herself on the side of the Powers of the Entente, and the old Europe which petted and patted her for her action in 1913 has vanished as surely as the Holy Roman Empire or the *Ancien Régime*. Bulgaria has given Bucharest a lead. The Roumanian Cabinet must be fully aware that a declaration of war against Russia will be followed within a few hours by a Bulgarian attack, and there are a good many military men who are prepared to consider King Ferdinand's army as still formidable to any single antagonist. On the other hand, the Cabinet of Sofia has undertaken not to seek vengeance for 1913 if Roumania removes her *corps d'observation* from the southern frontier and precipitates them across the Carpathians.

It is believed that the Ottoman delegates who were recently sent to Bucharest in order to negotiate with the Hellenic representatives on the outstanding features of the Ægean Question put forward curiously suggestive proposals. Apparently the Turks were not content with demanding the retrocession of Chios and Mytilene for their own benefit, but even endeavoured to extort a substantial rectification of frontier in favour of Bulgaria as the price of Ottoman friendship for Greece. It was an ingenious move to propose that Bulgaria should be compensated for her losses in the Treaty of Constantinople at the expense of Greece. It was still more ingenious to sow suspicion between two neighbours who are only just on speaking terms. It has the appearance of being a reversion to the astute diplomacy of the Hamidian era, but we cannot help thinking that the inspiration came rather from Berlin than from Yildiz Kiosk.

The Hellenic Government is to be congratulated upon the action of Great Britain in recognizing her annexation of the new territories. In consequence of this the Capitulations come to an end, and the Hellenic authority is fully established throughout the whole of the territories acquired from Turkey after the Balkan War.

According to recent information from Albania the town of Valona has definitely been occupied by the rebels, the Mpret has withdrawn from his capital, and is stated to have started for Germany in order to take part in the war. We are accustomed to the appearance of German Sovereigns in the Imperial armies, but the return of the Prince in order to take up the obligation of that nationality which he had discarded at the moment when he was recognized as a European Sovereign by the Powers undoubtedly nullifies that recognition. Prince William must be considered as being once more merely the cadet of a mediatized German family and no longer as the Mpret of Albania. It is announced that the International Commission of Control has taken over the government of the Principality, but in the circumstances we cannot expect much from that body. It will be interesting to learn the intentions of the rebels now that the Prince against whom their efforts were directed has removed himself after a nominal reign of not quite six months.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 17.

Departure of French Reservists.

After nearly a fortnight's weary waiting, due to the fact that the German cruiser "Goeben" was still roaming the Mediterranean, the French reservists, numbering about 3,000—they included contingents from Syria as well as from Egypt—have embarked on the "Lotus" and other French steamers in order to take their share in the defence of their fatherland. An enthusiastic send-off was given to them in Alexandria, but the manner of the departure from Cairo of the 600 men who formed the quota from the capital was indeed remarkable. The special train—by the by, the State railways rose to the occasion and, declining to supply the third-class carriages applied for, insisted on sending first and second-class coaches without extra charge—was timed to leave at eight o'clock, and the reservists had orders to assemble an hour earlier. As early as six o'clock there were at the station many people whom curiosity, friendship, or goodwill had impelled thither to wish God-speed to the band of plucky men and women—for there were quite a number of volunteer nurses amongst the departing band—who were breaking up their homes and abandoning their businesses at their country's call to arms.

The railway authorities expected somewhat of a crowd and so had chosen the centre platform for the departure, but their expectations, whatever they may have been, were far surpassed by what actually occurred. Indeed, the scene that unfolded itself before the eyes of a comparatively late arrival—say, at 7.15—was as unprecedented as it was inspiriting and pleasing. Not only the centre platform, but also the two adjoining ones were closely packed with a surging crowd; the carriages of the train and of others waiting in the station had been taken by assault and their tops were thronged with spectators; the intervening lines were crowded with a dense mass which stretched out of the station right down as far as the signalling boxes, whilst every available nook and cranny had been seized upon and sheltered some interested spectator. Right at the head of the train stood a gigantic Union Jack and a Tricolour, which had been carried into the station amid the acclamation of the mob; miniatures of those flags were carried on high by individual spectators or stuck out of the carriage windows; bouquets were hurled into the train by well-wishers and those who could not get near to their departing friends, and amid the sad weeping of mothers and wives and the embraces of friends there went up heartfelt cries of "Vive la France!" "Vive l'Entente!" "Vive l'Angleterre!" with which were mingled those of "Vive la Belgique!" and "Vive la Russie!"

At about 7.30 the pipers of the Gordons and the band of the Devons marched into the station and took up their position opposite the train—a delicate but none the less fitting attention on the part of the British military authorities. Patriotic tunes and marches were played by them and lent a martial air to the whole proceedings. Shortly before eight o'clock the French Consul and one or two others delivered allocutions and then, the line and the tops of the carriages having been with some difficulty disencumbered of the watching crowds by the Boy Scouts, punctually at the appointed hour the departure signal was given. Slowly, very slowly, to allow of the last handshake, the last embrace, the train drew out of the station to the tune of "La Marseillaise," played by the British bands. The spectacle of those last few moments absolutely beggars description. For nigh on two hours the general enthusiasm had been gradually working itself up, and it then reached its climax. As the train wound its way out the station became a seething mass of humanity which gesticulated wildly in its delirium and sent up a shout that must have been heard at the other end of the town. The air was white with straw hats and handkerchiefs, and the ten thousand people assembled there took up as one man the strains of the French national anthem. All nationalities were present and outvied one another in their enthusiasm. There were Frenchmen, Britons, Italians, Belgians, Russians, Greeks, Dutchmen, Scandinavians, Syrians, Egyptians—and, be it added to their credit, several Austrians and Hungarians, who did not allow the relations of their countries to stop them from wishing God-speed to the men who had in the past worked side by side with them in an alien country to uphold European traditions. The presence of these men was a most striking and most pleasing feature: an eloquent testimony to the esteem which these sons of France had won for themselves; and *en passant* it may be said that it foreshadowed an interesting international situation which will, it is expected, arise in this land of paradox *par excellence*, and to which I shall refer when the time arrives. (Be it noted that not one single word disparaging to the Triplice was uttered throughout the proceedings.)

Twice the band played "La Marseillaise," and then, the train having disappeared, they struck up "God Save the King." In a twinkling the crowds faced round towards the bands, all hats were off, and complete silence prevailed. The tune concluded, the crowd broke into shouts of "Vive l'Angleterre" and "Vive l'Entente," and insisted on the anthem being replayed. This departure scene is not likely to be forgotten by those who were present at it. To call it thrilling were to use too prosaic a word.

If good wishes count for anything, then the arms of the Entente should surely prevail, for the cosmopolitan nature of the crowd that literally held Cairo station on the morning of August 14 may be taken as an indication of the general feeling throughout the world towards the belligerent nations.

The Second Declaration of War.

England having declared war on Austria-Hungary, Egypt has followed suit, and a decree was issued this week to the effect that H.H. the Khedive considered his country to be in a state of war with the Dual Monarchy. Austro-Hungarian steamers at present in Egyptian waters will be given until the 22nd instant to leave or to conform to the conditions of the decree. It is interesting to note—and the fact merits some explanation—that, as in the case of the declaration of war between England and Germany, a notification to that effect was posted outside the British Consulate General in Alexandria at least twelve hours before it was officially notified in Cairo. The "Goeben" and "Breslau" having taken refuge in the Dardanelles, navigation in the Mediterranean, excepting the Ægean Sea, is now free, but we are still without any correspondence or papers from England and France since those bearing the date of the 1st instant.

Turkey's Attitude.

Great interest is being shown here in the attitude which Turkey may now take up. Feeling for an easily understandable reason has of late swung round very much. Whilst for the most part the fellaheen are more interested in the fate which their cotton crop will meet, the effendi class has assumed a decidedly pro-German tendency. Especially is this noticeable in Alexandria and the coast towns, where the local native population is in daily fear of being bombarded. The better class

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and more moderate natives admit that Turkey is committing a serious breach of neutrality, and they consider that if she decides to enter the war arena she will be making a most grievous mistake, which will probably cost her what little remains of her Empire. Arrivals from Constantinople affirm that pan-German influences are predominant there, and that the government of the Ottoman Dominions is largely in the hands of men who are subservient in everything to the Teutons.

German Nowspaper Suspended.

On Saturday the German official organ *Die Ægyptische Nachrichten* was suspended at the request of the Government. The ostensible cause of this action was an article published by it wherein the Tsar and his family were referred to in most disparaging terms, but the real reason was that this paper has since the outbreak of the war printed "telegraphic news" that was obviously home-made, and that could not fail to have an exciting and prejudicial effect on the local population, as undoubtedly it was calculated to do.

THE GARRISON IN EGYPT.

The last issue to hand of *The Egyptian Gazette*, dated August 21, publishes the following:—

"The British military authorities having informed us that no further useful purposes will be served by our holding back the information we have regarding the troops about to arrive in Egypt from India, we are now at liberty to give the following particulars which have been confirmed by reference to indisputable authority.

"About 40,000 troops of all arms—some British and some Indian—are expected, but the exact composition of the force is not yet known here. One important corps, however, regarding which nothing has been stated in any of our contemporaries, but which is known to be coming, is the Bikanir Camel Corps, a splendid body of Imperial Service troops maintained by the State of Bikanir and put at the disposal of the King-Emperor by the Maharajah.

"The troops will all land at Alexandria. The objection to their landing either at Suez or Port Said are, firstly, there is no convenient landing places at either of these ports, and, secondly, both Suez and Port Said are involved in the international treaties regarding the Suez Canal, and questions of neutrality which might arise can be avoided by landing the troops at Alexandria.

"It is expected that about half of the force will remain at Alexandria and that the others will be quartered at Heliopolis.

"Nearly all the British troops at present in Egypt, with the exception of the Worcestershire Regiment, have been instructed to hold themselves in readiness to leave for Europe when required, but no definite orders have been given for their leaving. It is certain that they will not leave until at least an equivalent number of troops have arrived to replace them. The first troops to arrive will be the staff officers, engineers, and other advance parties, whose duties will consist of preparing camps, etc., for the remainder of the force.

"It is worthy of note that amongst recent arrivals in Egypt are Major-General H. B. B. Watkis, C.B., Colonel T. E. O'Leary, Captain R. G. Alexander, and Lieut. H. L. Watkis. Major-General Watkis is the Commander of the 3rd (Lahore) Division, while the others are staff officers serving with the same division, Colonel O'Leary being G.S.O. at Headquarters, Captain Alexander, 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse), staff captain of the Jullundur Brigade, and Lieut. Watkis, 31st Punjabis, A.D.C. to the General. It seems to point to the whole or part of the Lahore Division being comprised in the force. The British troops in the division are the 8th King's Royal Hussars, 'A' and 'B' Batteries Royal Horse Artillery, with 'C' and 'I' Ammunition Columns, 18th, 59th, 62nd, 93rd, and 94th Batteries Royal Field Artillery with No. 3 Ammunition Column, 2nd and 5th Mountain Batteries, 82nd Company and 90th Battery Royal Garrison Artillery, 'H' Company Royal Engineers, and the following battalions of infantry:—2nd Northumberland Fusiliers, 1st West Ridings, 2nd South Lancashires, 2nd Royal West Kents, 1st Manchesters, 1st Highland Light Infantry, 1st Connaught Rangers, and 4th Rifle Brigade. It is not certain, however, that all these regiments are coming nor is it known here what other troops will be comprised in the force."

BOOK RECEIVED.

Anti-Christ in Egypt. By W. N. Willis. (Anglo-Eastern Publishing Co.)

NOTES FROM SERVIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, August 12.

The Bombardment of Belgrade.

I left Belgrade for Nish at six o'clock last Saturday morning. Up to that time it was the Austro-Hungarian warships on the Save that had taken the principal part in the artillery fire directed against Belgrade or its surroundings, and but little damage had been done to the town; and it was supposed that the few houses hit at that time might have been struck accidentally through being in the line of fire. The firing was directed on one side upon the Servian garrison at Banitza, in the vicinity of Belgrade, in another direction upon the troops assembled at Torloch, a village a short distance beyond the town, and, thirdly, upon the fortress. Many of the inhabitants of Belgrade had already fled from the dangers of a bombardment, but there were many still remaining, and these, though still in a nervous state, had become somewhat accustomed to the frequent cracking of rifle-shots, the rattling of machine-gun fire, and the occasional whistling of a flying cannon ball. When night came on the women and children sought refuge in the cellars of their houses and in the basements of the foreign legations and consulates. At break of day the dawning light dispelling fears, they returned to their respective homes to prepare their meals and pass the day, returning to their underground shelter on the succeeding night. The streets were almost empty, and those who did venture out avoided the dangerous zones.

After I left Belgrade there was unfortunately a change for the worse. The bombardment became more pronounced, life and property were in greater jeopardy. One day and one night there was a continuous rain of heavy shells, wrecking some of the finest edifices in Belgrade, and setting some houses in flames. The damage done is reported to be enormous.

In order to continue my duties as a Press correspondent I was compelled to leave Belgrade, whence telegraphic and postal communication with foreign parts was almost impossible. Getting away was not an easy matter, however. The railway line for some distance was bombarded the moment the enemy perceived any moving train, and therefore I had to drive a distance of two hours to reach the station from which the outgoing train started.

The Exodus.

To get a cab or cart or conveyance of any sort was a difficult matter, as nearly all vehicles had been requisitioned by the military, and nearly all the fleeing people had to walk that long distance. Some had with them small handbags containing only a change of clothes, others had nothing but the clothes they stood up in. There were only military trains, consisting of trucks and carriages for horses and cattle, and in any of those trucks that were empty people had to manage as well as they could. Very often these trains were full of soldiers or of military stores.

The journey to Nish, instead of occupying about six hours, as in ordinary times, lasted twenty-four to thirty hours. Consisting of a sleepless night and a tiresome day, it was certainly no pleasure trip. However, no one had to pay railway fare; free conveyance was open to all, and that was certainly a boon to poor people who were desirous of leaving Belgrade. Once in the train one had at least the comfort that no sounds of rifle fire or booming of cannon were heard. The atmosphere was calm and peaceful, cattle were grazing quietly, the fields were green and fruit plentiful. It almost seemed as if the war were a dream.

Nish is crowded and it was not possible to obtain a

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lodging at any of the hotels. Some of the Diplomatic Corps occupy rooms at small hotels, and the Servian Cabinet Ministers and the numerous officials of various State departments transferred from Belgrade to Nish must all be provided with lodgings. The private houses are also full, but it is there only that accommodation can be found. Prices for lodgings are moderate, the Government having ordered a fixed tariff to protect visitors and strangers.

NISH, August 13.

The Austrian Attack.

It was thought that immediately on the declaration of war the Austro-Hungarian troops would succeed in crossing the Save and occupying Belgrade. The Austro-Hungarian Government placed great faith in the prowess of their troops. It was undoubtedly this inflated belief that led them to despatch the summary ultimatum to Servia which only brute force could dictate.

To-day, sixteen days have elapsed since the rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and still there is no sign of Austro-Hungarian troops being able to cross the Save or other frontier and occupy Belgrade. Far from being able to do so, far from being able to set foot easily on Servian soil, the enemy, we hear in Nish, is fortifying itself on the River Save near the railway bridge. Do they fear that the aggressors may became the defenders?

At first the Austro-Hungarian monitors were used for the purpose of shelling Belgrade and the surroundings; but after patiently submitting for a long time to this barbarous treatment, the bombardment of a defenceless city, four cannon shots, well aimed from Servian artillery which had arrived at a point near Belgrade, sent the Austrian ships scampering to save their hulls, and now at a long distance—it is said to be 14 kilometres—the enemy has installed powerful artillery, whose special aim seems to be to destroy the newest and most valuable buildings in Belgrade. A noble achievement! Are they venting their wrath or do they wish to intimidate the inhabitants of Belgrade.

The Servians are not intimidated by this inhuman procedure; their army has entered South Bosnia and seized two important positions, and at the first favourable opportunity it will take the offensive in other parts.

The Nish leaflets are published every day giving the latest news, communicated to the editors of the papers by the Press Bureau, which receives constant telegraphic communications from London, Paris, Rome, Brussels, and St. Petersburg of the march of events, so that we are not entirely shut off from the outer world.

NISH, August 17.

The Bombardment of Belgrade.

Night after night and day after day the Austro-Hungarian forces continue to bombard certain sections of the city of Belgrade, and at fairly regular intervals do terrible and ever-increasing damage to the town.

The water supply is deranged again, and the evil effects of this would be appalling, but fortunately many houses have wells, and these furnish water to the neighbouring residents. In the central part of the town, however, the want of water will be sorely felt if the supply continues to be cut off. The central electric light works have also suffered in consequence of the bombardment, and at night darkness obscures the streets; and if the damage done to these works cannot be readily remedied it is possible that the lighting up of the streets with petroleum will be reverted to. Otherwise, except when the moon shines, it will be a city of darkness. As for the tram service, the cars ceased to run on the day that Austria-Hungary declared war.

One fine edifice after the other is being damaged; destruction is doing its worst, but every attempt made by the enemy to cross the river in order to enter Belgrade is met by a counter attack on the Servian side, and up to now these efforts to cross the frontier at Belgrade have only served to show what a herculean task the enemy has undertaken. The Austro-Hungarian forces on each occasion sustain immense losses, and their dead bodies in numbers are seen floating down the river.

The Enemy's Advance.

At Shabatz, a flat country on the river Save, where the Servian garrison was comparatively weak, the Austro-Hungarian troops succeeded in setting foot on Servian soil, and for a time holding the position. The retiring Servian forces cannot fire on the town without the risk of doing harm to the inhabitants.

At Loznitza, a strong Servian position, some distance to the west of Shabatz, the enemy has fought hard in the endeavour to penetrate into Servia, but is being repulsed. It is at these points now that the battle rages.

When Austria-Hungary declared war she thought it was an easy matter to land her troops at Belgrade or at any point along the frontier of the Save and the Danube, but events have proved this belief to have been a sad delusion. So certain did the enemy feel of a rapid success that the Hungarian *Pester-Lloyd* last week prematurely gave an account of the occupation of Belgrade and the advance of the Austro-Hungarian troops into the interior of Servia. Newspaper correspondents in Semlin, knowing of the intention of the Austrian troops when they set out on their march of conquest, imagined that the mere effort was an accomplished fact, and telegraphed the "news" to other papers. The public here are busy with conjectures as to the future action of Roumania and Bulgaria. Both these countries have mobilized, and in both cases their neutrality in the future is doubtful. It is difficult to judge of their intentions, and for the present it is all supposition.

Japan's Action Welcomed.

Japan's action is joyfully greeted, and the hearts of Servians beat cheerfully when they see how the foes of Germany and Austria are increasing in number, and how likely it is that Austrian dominancy over Servia will receive its quietus, enabling Servia to live peacefully and develop its resources unhindered by her big neighbour. Indeed, in many a heart hopes are entertained of the realization in the near future of aspirations which after the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had become cinders in a dying fire. It is in Bosnia that the Servian forces have taken the offensive. Is it an auspicious sign?

THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET.

The Official Press Bureau has issued the following statement regarding the Mediterranean Fleet and Admiral Sir Berkeley Milne's resignation:—"The Admiralissimo of the French Fleet, Vice Admiral Boué de Lapeyrère, has assumed command of the combined Anglo-French Fleet in the Mediterranean. As a consequence, Admiral Sir Berkeley Milne, Bart., who is senior to this officer, has given over the command of the Mediterranean Fleet and returned home. The conduct and dispositions of Admiral Sir Berkeley Milne in regard to the German vessels Goeben and Breslau have been the subject of the careful examination of the Board of Admiralty, with the result that their lordships have approved the measures taken by him in all respects."

EMIGRATION FROM JERUSALEM.

In a recently published report, the American Vice-Consul in Jerusalem reports that "many of the Arabian peasant population have recently emigrated to North and South America. Following the example of the Christian population in previous years, which emigrated chiefly from the town of Bethlehem and the neighbouring town of Bedshala, the Mohammedan population from the environs of Jerusalem is beginning to emigrate. The lack of suitable employment is the cause of this exodus, and although the influx of the Jewish element counterbalances to a great extent the emigration of the Arabian population, it must still be remembered that the former settle mostly in Jaffa and in the neighbouring Jewish colonies."

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 8.

The Crown Council.

Last Monday was full of excitement for everybody here. The Crown Council—the meeting of the Cabinet and political leaders under the presidency of the King—was postponed from Sunday till Monday afternoon, to enable certain statesmen to be present—notably Mr. Take Jonescu, who was hurrying home from England. He had, by the way, to stand in the corridor of a train nearly all the way across Hungary, for owing to the mobilization there rolling stock seems to have been at a premium; and there were, moreover, crowds of alarmed holiday-makers returning from the various summer and health resorts. Roumanians, Servians, and Bulgarians all had to travel by the one line over the Predeal frontier, all having received a hint—none too polite—from the Hungarian authorities to make themselves scarce.

The same scenes which attended the declaration of war and mobilization a year ago were repeated on Monday night. The streets were crowded, and the Calea Victoria, to which all roads lead, was so packed in parts that motors and carriages could barely make a way through. About Capsa's and the Café Royal the "smart" portion of the crowd congregated, and the jokes and badinage passed from one party of strollers to another showed the curious side of the Roumanian character, which could make a holiday over what might plunge them into the horrors of war. It was quite 10.30 when at last the result of the Council meeting came through from Sinaia. "A waiting policy and no mobilization," said the papers. "No mobilization!" Looks of intense disappointment were on every face.

Declaration of Policy.

The morning papers gave us the official communiqué, which ran as follows:—"At a Cabinet Council presided over by his Majesty the King, and at which there were present H.R.H. Prince Ferdinand of Roumania, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, former President of the Council, and several former Ministers, Representatives of the Opposition, the attitude to be adopted by Roumania in the present circumstances was considered. Nearly unanimous, the Council has decided that Roumania must take all measures necessary to guard her frontiers."

The meeting lasted from five o'clock till after nine, and after it was over the members of the Cabinet met again at the house of Mr. Emile Costinescu, Minister of Finance, where the wording of the communiqué was decided on. The only dissentient was Mr. P. Carp, who has ever remained firm to the friendship with Austria-Hungary, and perhaps voices the private opinion of the King.

Since then it has been decided to mobilize a small part of the army, calling up a few classes of reserves, enough to place a formal guard on the frontier, without alarming either Austria-Hungary or Russia.

Balkan Alliance Rumours.

A rumour is now current of negotiations for a reconstitution of the Balkan Alliance, but this time with Roumania and Turkey included. Various cessions of territory are spoken of, and this—to which this country is said to be agreeable—would, of course, mean a modification of the Treaty of Bucharest.

The incidents on the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier have now been satisfactorily arranged by the Commission. The agreement states that it is difficult to decide who was in the wrong or who were the aggressors in either case. Each country will give ample monetary compensation to the relations of the soldiers of the other country who were killed. The last two weeks and the moving events in Western Europe have had the effect of greatly improving the relations between this country and her southern neighbours, which may also have been influenced by the proposals, said to have emanated from Sofia, for the reconstitution of the Alliance. As to the actual settlement of the frontier incidents there is no doubt that much is due to the diplomatic talent and level-headedness of Mr. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister here.

Francophil Demonstration.

A stirring manifestation of sympathy for France was made on Tuesday afternoon at the Gare du Nord on the departure of about 200 French reservists who have left by the Constantza-Constantinople-Marseilles route, practically the only one open at present to Western Europe. The entire French colony and thousands of Roumanians filled the station to bid good-bye to their Latin brothers and cousins. A large party of Roumanian students of both sexes came bearing a large French flag, and all wearing the French and Roumanian tricolors. Bouquets of flowers were offered to the reservists, and as the train left the station the entire concourse burst into the "Marseillaise."

Lack of News.

Bucharest, August 12.

We are in a state of splendid isolation; no news of any sort from the outside world except the few contradictory telegrams which the local newspapers receive; no English newspapers or letters since July 30. The questions which everybody puts to everybody else are: "Has Liége fallen?" "Is Belfort taken?" "Have the English really landed 100,000 men at Antwerp?"

Strict neutrality is this country's policy unless events occur that force her to take action. Meanwhile every precaution is taken, and concentration is going on quietly but completely. Though none of the stirring scenes of last year's mobilization are seen, it is computed that 400,000 men are under arms and ready to move at a moment's notice. The failings shown by last year's campaign have been rectified, and it will be a very well and completely equipped army that will move, if move it does. There is little doubt that it will be as the ally of Russia that she would act, though there are hundreds of people in Austria-Hungary who fondly hope that she is still the friend of her western neighbour.

An Austrian Invention.

In connection with the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, an authority lately returned from Austria states that all papers publish the most sensational statement to the effect that the individual so much spoken of in connection with the crime and for whom such an active search has been made, "Ziganovich" by name, does not exist. The real name of this person is no less than Prince George of Servia! This news is spread as absolutely correct in Austria-Hungary, the publication of the actual "proofs" being promised shortly.

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BEYROUT LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, August 12.

Mobilization!

The terrible nightmare that has been haunting the armed peace of Europe has at last become a reality, but people in this country, who are not yet directly involved, talk of the events that are daily reported by the telegraphic agencies as they would of mere sensational news of the day.

So far the Turkish Government has maintained its neutrality, but the alarming rapidity with which events have developed seems to have thrown it into a state of bewilderment and perplexity. It started by ordering a general mobilization, calling up all the classes of the Redif and Reserve, and declining the exemption tax. Then further orders and counter-orders followed, and at no time could the military authorities here give definite information to anxious inquirers. Many things, however, seem to point to a bellicose attitude on the part of Turkey. The authorities here have been commandeering all available mules and horses, and the Port Company has been requested to prepare a list of all the foodstuffs lying in the Custom House depots under its management. It is even said that the transport of such stuffs outside the town into the Lebanon is being prohibited. Of course, the export of grain and foodstuffs to foreign countries is also prohibited. A state of siege is declared, and telegrams are accepted only in plain language, in Turkish and French, and with the full address of the receiver and sender. The private coal stores have been closed and sealed by the authorities, and as all of them belong to foreign protected subjects the latter have addressed protests to their respective consulates. The Messageries steamer due to leave to-morrow for Alexandria could only obtain a supply of coal with a special permission from the Vali. I have just heard that at the last moment she has given up her sailing; and it is said that she remains here at the request of the British, Russian, and French Consuls, so as to be able to communicate by her wireless with their respective Governments. The Ottoman wires, in view of the attitude of the Government, are very unreliable.

It is said that about 150,000 soldiers are concentrated at Aleppo and Jerusalem, and the trains have mostly been requisitioned lately for the transport of troops. Indeed, owing to a shortage of gendarmes and soldiers in the town, civilians of the Redif class have been recruited to do gendarme service; and these improvised protectors of public security can be seen going about the streets in their ordinary native attire, but wearing a red rag on the left arm to distinguish them from ordinary civilians, and accompanied by a gendarme in uniform. The proprietors of stores dealing in textiles of use to the army, such as blankets, etc., have been placed under contribution; and when some of them closed their shops to avoid this contribution they were placed under arrest for a short time as a punishment for their lack of patriotism! It is said that one of them, a French protected subject, was treated with such disregard of the usual formalities that his Consulate-General had to intervene.

The Absence of News.

Owing to the indefiniteness of instructions relative to military service, and the active military preparations of the authorities here, practically all the young men liable to service are still at large, scattered about in the Lebanon, and the town looks more deserted than ever. The telegrams that are being received and published by the local telegraph agencies are said to be subjected to such strict censorship that the public was looking forward with exhausted patience to the arrival of the first mail by the Italian steamer due here yesterday, and it was a bitter disappointment to learn that she has been delayed at Alexandria through an accident that caused this sailing to be cancelled, and that the other Italian steamer due to arrive here to-morrow was also twenty-four hours overdue through an accident to her engines. It is announced by the Khedivial agency that the weekly service will be resumed next week, and what with the Khedivial, Italian, and the new service of the American Coasting Line "Archipelago" to Port Said, Alexandria, and back, it is hoped that we shall not be very badly off for news, and no more cut off from the outside world than we have been of late.

On the 5th instant the German steamer "Peter Rickmers" arrived here and anchored outside the harbour flying the red flag. It was soon rumoured that part of her cargo consisted of dynamite and other explosive ammunition, and a general feeling of nervousness prevailed because the steamer was not at a safe distance from the shore. But when she was brought into the harbour and actually started discharging alongside the quay, and when it was ascertained that her explosives consisted of about 300 tons of dynamite and about 360 tons of cartridges and other war ammunition, amazement and consternation superseded the feeling of fear. Besides these explosives the steamer carries rails, iron girders, bridge accessories, and other general merchandise, making a full cargo of over 6,000 tons. It is said that this cargo was destined for Vladivostok, and that the steamer, which is provided with a wireless apparatus, happening to catch a message while nearing Port Said about the declaration of war, changed her course and came to Beyrout as a neutral port for refuge. Since then the authorities have taken over, no doubt by an agreement with the German consular authorities, the explosive part of the cargo, which has been discharged by day and by night and sent over by rail to the interior. Turkish military officials superintended the discharge. Comment is superfluous on this incident, which is deeply significant of the attitude of the Turkish Government, and the Consuls of the Entente Powers must have watched the whole business very closely.

The "Peter Rickmers" has to-day moved back from the quay, having finished the discharge of the explosives, and she will in all probability have to stay here for safety. It is said that her crew has left by way of Aleppo, and that there remain on board only the master, the chief engineer, one officer, two firemen, and one cook.

MOSLEMS AND THE EMPIRE.

According to *The Times*, a resolution has been passed recently by the British Muslims Association expressing indignation at the threats of the German Press to incite the Islamic population of the British Empire to revolt. It points out that in the past, through belief in Germany's false assurances, Turkey has lost Tripoli and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and declares the Musulmans of the world "now know Germany to be like Shaitan (the Devil), and in the words of our Holy Al-Koran, 'the evil whisperer who whispereth evil suggestions into the breasts of men.'" It proceeds:—

"Words cannot be found to express the anger we feel at Germany daring to proclaim that British Islamic subjects would prove false to their religion and cowardly enough to attempt to take a mean and contemptible advantage of the country to whom they owe allegiance, and which has accorded them civil and religious liberty and protection. We desire to affirm the unflinching loyalty of British Musulmans to His Imperial Majesty King George the Fifth, and to assure him that all his subjects of the Islamic faith are fully prepared and burning with a desire to shed their blood on behalf of England side by side with the sons of Islam, natives of Algeria, who are already fighting for France. We as Muslims recognize the seriousness of Germany having deliberately broken treaties signed by her in concert with other large Powers, and feel that such acts on the part of Germany are a distinct challenge to the civilized nations of the world, which not only justifies but impels all Muslims to offer their services to the Allies in punishing Germany for such conduct and once more re-establishing the sancitity of treaties. We therefore humbly pray that his Imperial Majesty's Britannic Government will accept us and our brother Muslims to perform active service in the British Army, and thus share the sacrifices which the British people are so nobly making in the cause of civilization generally."

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, August 19.

The Isolation of Salonika.

When I last wrote, on July 25, the political sky was, as far as we knew here, clear; but out of it the bolt of an Austrian ultimatum to Servia had actually fallen. What has occurred since then seems a hideous nightmare; and even yet we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the long-dreaded European war is an actual, terrible fact. But of what is really happening we are in complete ignorance, the date of our latest London daily paper being the 4th inst., and our last Near East July 31. By rail we are entirely cut off from everywhere, and almost so by the sea, now that the British, Austrian, French, German, Dutch, and some other regular services are suspended. Fortunately, the Italian steamers still run, and so we are kept somewhat in touch with the rest of the world. Anchored in the bay, held up for divers reasons, are a German, Dutch, Swedish, and a so-called British coasting steamer. Our commerce is entirely paralyzed, the only article seen carted about in any quantity being flour, which has already risen over 50 per cent.; while sugar is eight piastres the oke, instead of about two, as it used to be.

The Financial Situation.

A moratorium has again been imposed until September 14. After a short run on them, our banks suspended all further payments, depositors being now only allowed to withdraw the equivalent of two pounds a month, which, in any circumstances, is but a grim mockery. Cheques and bills on anywhere are quite unnegotiable; for articles of export there are not even quotations; in fact, everything commercial and financial is altogether dead, and ruin stares thousands in the face. A few days ago we were to have had £100,000 in gold by a Messageries steamer from Constantinople—we heard it was actually shipped, but instead of calling here, as usual, she went direct to Marseilles with conscripts, and so we lost that help to our money market, which, had it come, could not have greatly relieved the situation.

Yet, with all this state of affairs, refugees still arrive in hundreds at a time; while in the town many employers of labour have to close their works owing to the utter impossibility of getting money with which to carry on. Even the large tobacco companies in Kavalla, Drama, Serres, Salonika, etc., have had to close down through being unable to procure the wherewithal to pay wages, thus throwing out of work thousands in this one branch of commerce alone. In Kavalla, a scheme of issuing a kind of promissory note by the different tobacco companies to their men for wages due, a sort of private paper currency, was suggested, and I believe tried, but fell through: probably the discount on it exacted by the trades people was too great. So the general distress is already most acute, and if this is the case at the beginning of the war—while the small Balkan States with Roumania and Turkey still remain quiet—what will it be if it still farther spreads?

"Many-Tongued Rumour."

Possibly the lack of better things to do accounts for so much time being given up to the concocting of war "news" telegrams. The most amazing stories are published in our local papers and their supplements; and although we know them to be false we, nevertheless, rush to buy them. The British fleet has sunk and captured so many German ships in the North Sea: 135 British warships have surrounded the German fleet in Sicilian waters: the "Goeben" and "Breslau" have been sunk: they have been captured: they have escaped up the Adriatic, etc., etc., *ad nauseam*. Telegrams in one column are contradicted in another, and we throw the paper or supplement aside in disgust, quite bewildered as to what is, or is not, really happening. Fortunately, we have a chief of police who must be a humorist; for he has just made an order regulating the issuing of supplements, forbidding the shouting out of their contents, etc., while Article 3 enacts that "the publishing of false news by supplements is forbidden, and especially of that calculated to trouble public tranquillity." So we may now rely upon the news given to us being strictly true; and we may take it as a fact that the "Goeben" and "Breslau" have wiped the eye of the British and French fleets, so that the officers and crews of the former are very rudely "taking a sight" at the officers and crews of the latter from the safe shelter of the Dardanelles forts, while the Turks are laughing in their sleeves. An Italian steamer, arrived from Constantinople, brings the report that, when she passed them, the "Goeben" was flying the Turkish, and the "Breslau" the German, flag. A Greek supplement has just told us that 28 German and 16 British warships have been sunk in a naval battle in the North Sea; while we also are told that Trieste has been bombarded, and the Austrian fleet at Pola practically destroyed. But what says our chief of police? He remains silent.

Although the drilling of recruits goes steadily on here, general mobilisation has not, so far, been ordered. All the same, full instructions have been issued, and everything is ready should the decree to mobilize be issued from Athens.

BULGARIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 6.

The Premier on the Situation.

During the debate in the Sobranje upon the budget of the Foreign Ministry the leaders of the various Opposition groups expressed approval of the Government's policy of strict neutrality in the present crisis. Mr. N. Tzanoff, the leader of the Radicals, urged that neutrality must be observed for the present at all costs, and that upon the conclusion of the fighting Bulgaria should enter into an understanding with her neighbours. Mr. Gueshoff declared that party flags must be furled, that all parties must work together, and that his party will support the policy of strict neutrality. Then the Prime Minister announced that (1) Bulgaria will maintain strict neutrality; (2) The incidents with Roumania have been satisfactorily disposed of; (3) Relations with Turkey are friendly, and the new Turco-Roumanian commercial convention has been signed; (4) Relations with Greece are not bad, and the consular question between the two countries has been settled; (5) The policy of the Cabinet is purely Bulgarian. This statement was well received by the Chamber, and the Foreign Ministry budget was voted without modification. The bills for the credit of 150,000,000 frs. for the payment of requisitions made during the two Balkan wars and a second credit of equal amount for military purposes were also adopted.

Reported Plot Against King Ferdinand.

The secret police here are reported to have secured some documents relating to a conspiracy against the life of King Ferdinand. The plot is said to have originated abroad, and six persons are reported to have been told off to perpetrate the assassination on the day of the consecration of the new cathedral church, St. Alexander Nevsky.

Relations with Roumania.

According to trustworthy reports from Varna, there were in the New Dobruja prior to July 30 five infantry regiments, five cavalry regiments, and thirteen batteries of artillery; the police-force along the frontier had been greatly reinforced, and there had been many expulsions of citizens. But now there is an entire change. The Roumanian troops concentrated against Bulgaria have been withdrawn, and communication across the frontier, which was restricted, is now free. The Foreign Ministry here ascribes this change to the exertions of the Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

There is an old Scots adage about the following of freits —but certainly Mme. de Thèbes last winter made some remarkable predictions about the events of this summer. Now we are assured that the Great Aggressor insisted upon maintaining the peace until 1913 was well out of the way because of the gipsy's prophecy to his equally aggressive Herr Grossvater in 1849. She predicted that he, who was then only the fugitive heir of a tottering throne, would become an Emperor in the year indicated by adding 1 plus 8 plus 4 plus 9 to 1849, and would die in the year indicated by the addition of 1 plus 8 plus 7 plus 1 to 1871. Both these predictions came true. His dynasty, however, was to suffer a grievous shock in 1888 plus 1 plus 8 plus 8 plus 8. Consequently William, the grandson, was very ware of 1913, and only embarked upon his long expected career of Napoleonism when, as he hoped, Fate had been appeased. According to *Le Matin*, I see that other freits are to be noted in this connection. A storm blew down the "Peace Poplar" at Jena, planted to commemorate the fall of Napoleon in 1815, on the very day that the Austrians set match to the train which has since blown up the European powder-magazine by sending her Note to Servia.

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We are told that Kaiser Wilhelm, who so obligingly rid the British Navy and Army of his presence, has begun to sell his British decorations. I imagine that a "George" or the Collar of the Garter should fetch a good price, and doubtless the worthy Monarch thinks to pose patriotically in the matter before the Prussian public. It is to be hoped that the restoration of these insignia will be exacted at the end of the war, and it is obvious that a great deal of water will have to roll under the bridges of Berlin before any British Order has again to admit, even as honorary members, any "gentlemen from Germany." Doubtless those British subjects who have received the Black Eagle, or the Red, or any other German decorations will now politely return the stars and crosses whence they came viâ the American Embassy in this country, for it is difficult to see how any honour can attach to these "honours" now. Apart from the Kaiser, there are seven German Princes enrolled among the Knights of the Garter. Surely these can now be relieved of any such English connection, and at the same time the opportunity might be taken to recover the British Royal Dukedoms which are now buried in Germany.

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In a leading article the other day *The Daily News* concluded a scathing summary of the Kaiser by remarking:—

> We now know the significance of his message to Abdul Hamid when the Great Assassin's hands were dripping with the blood of the massacred Armenians. It was the message of a kindred spirit.

I would advise the *News* to insert an apology promptly. Abdul may be forgotten, utterly forgotten by the majority, to-day. But he is not dead. And though I do not profess to know much law, I feel tolerably certain that he would have good grounds for a libel action on the strength of the passage quoted. And the damages that would be awarded him by a British jury—or a jury of any other nationality, for that matter—just now!

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The effect of the war on political geography is already becoming apparent. The up-to-date schoolboy now has to learn that the capital of Servia is Nish, that of Montenegro Podgoritza; the Belgians look to Antwerp, on the Scheldt, and the French, as in 1870-1 to Bordeaux. on the Gironde. It must be annoying to the schoolboy to have to re-learn his lesson, but even he will be able to understand how serious a matter must be a change of capital and how grave the necessity which produces it.

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Among certain races a place-name is a very important matter. In the Balkan Peninsula the place-name is an ensign of the dominant race. Edirneh, which we call Adrianople, was re-named Odrin during the few months that it was a Bulgarian town. Selanik of the Turks was for weeks in doubt whether its future name was to be Soloun or Thessalonika. Küprülü has become Veles, Uskub is now Skoplje, and the whole Ægean Question turns on whether a certain island is to be called Mytilene or Medellü. Now I see that the Russians have determined to be rid of the place-names in Russia which date from the period when the great Slav Empire humbly sat at the feet of Brandenburgers, Anhalters, Holsteiners, and the like, and meekly allowed itself to be drilled, bullied, and governed by these imported taskmasters. St. Petersburg with its Teutonic termination now gives way to Petrograd, which is the Russian way of saying the same thing.

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As I write the future of the Ottoman Empire appears to depend upon the will of one man, Damad Enver Pasha. The Sultan's Minister of War enjoys a greater reputation for energy and force of character than for judgment or self-control, and it is particularly unfortunate that at such a moment an officer with his record should exercise so considerable an influence over the fortunes of an ancient Empire. It is greatly to be hoped that Turkey will not permit herself to be plunged into a policy of adventure at the nod of an impulsive and ambitious soldier. Such a policy could not fail to bring the Porte into collision with that group of Powers which hold the command of the sea. It is possible that a study of history finds an inadequate place in the education of Ottoman officers and Committeemen; if so, I hope that they will allow me to remind them that Victory has ever shown herself strangely fond of successful sailors and a fine fleet.

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Some alarmists, I see, are suggesting that if Turkey should be unwise enough to buckle on the scimetar once more, at Germany's behest, she would not only aim at invading Egypt, but would also move on Koweit with her Baghdad troops. Of course, if she should commit the greater folly she might be infatuated enough to commit the smaller also. But for the life of me I cannot see what *Turkey* could hope to gain by a move on Koweit, though it is quite easy to see why Germany should egg her on to make one.—For in the unlikely event of Germany and Turkey triumphing there would be a fine harbour ready—for Germany to make use of. If, on the other hand, Germany emerges at the small end of the horn, as we all believe she will, the capture of Koweit (or the reverse) cannot make things any worse for her. And as to Turkey, the Kaiser and his advisers care for her not at all—But I should like to point out to the good people who think Turkey will move on the Gulf that Sheikh Mubarek is quite well able to take care of himself; that the Turks know it; and that their latest experiences in the Gulf are hardly calculated to make them eager for fresh adventures in that direction. Moreover, the Arabs of Lower Mesopotamia do not love the Turk, and if there is any fighting going they are almost sure to take a part in it. But on which side? Could the Vali of Baghdad tell us?

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Another query that strikes me in connection with the anxiety as to Turkey's movements is this: How could Turkey declare a *jehad* and yet limit its scope to Britain, France and Russia? The game would be too dangerous. The attempt to play it would inevitably lead to a general massacre of Europeans *and Americans* in Turkey. And then——? I wonder if the Germans have considered the point. Do they really want to have the United States about them too? It almost looks like it.

***

A story which has an element of grim humour reaches me from Malta. There, as everywhere, the all-absorbing topic of conversation during the first few days of August was the war. At Casal Zebbug a young woman went to the village store to buy provisions, and, as village gossips will, tarried awhile to have a "crack" with the shopkeeper's wife. But the lapses and indiscretions of this and that neighbour, and the domestic incidents which form the warp and woof of ordinary human life during a time of peace, were overshadowed by a world-wide calamity. The conversation, which naturally turned on the chances of bombardment from aeroplanes and the like, was suddenly and rudely interrupted by a terrific explosion, which wrecked the shop and brought down the roof. The shopkeeper and his wife rushed out screaming and terror-stricken, believing that the Germans had indeed come. The unfortunate young woman was buried beneath the débris, and when she was extricated (the local paper says "after about an hour of arduous labour"), the district medical officer attended her for a broken arm and other injuries aggravated by shock. But she was a victim—not of the war, but of an explosion of gas.

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An evening journal harrows us with stories of German aggression, and narrates:

> A Russian officer at the front states that during their occupation of the west of Russian Poland the Germans stabled their horses in churches, and covered them with priests' investments.

I have often heard of the financial dexterity of certain Athiot monks, but had no idea that the Catholic clergy in Poland were so wealthy as to possess such quantities of scrip as to provide horsecloths for any really large body of cavalry, or so careless as to leave it where Germans could get at it! Certainly the Kalogeroi of Athos give the impression of being in many cases better men of business than are their Latin *confrères* in the opinion of our contemporary.

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In the Emperor of Austria's telegram to the Kaiser there was a sentence: "Words fail to express what moves me, and with me my army, in these days of the world's history." Mr. Punch is unkind enough to suggest that "the word 'Servia' might express what moves his army."

CORSAIR.

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THE "GOEBEN" IN THE DARDANELLES.

More fortunate than some of his contemporaries, Mr. Punch has received (per wireless?) some "extracts from a diary kept at intervals by a very special correspondent in the Dardanelles," which he publishes under the heading "How Germany Came Off." We take the liberty of reproducing the "extracts," which are quite in *Punch's* best vein:—

Goeben arrives Dardanelles. Announcement of sale to Turkey and of disembarcation of German crew.

Goeben still in Dardanelles. Having been disposed of to Turkey, the ship again disembarced her crew.

Goeben continuing in Dardanelles, the disembarcation of German crew, which was completed three days ago and again yesterday, began again to-day and was carried out successfully.

The *Goeben* still being at anchor in the Dardanelles, it was decided to carry out a disembarcation of her German crew on a scale surpassing all previous efforts.

The *Goeben* continues in the Dardanelles. Owing to the remarkable expertness which her crew has acquired, it was possible to carry out three disembarcations this afternoon. The officer commanding, indeed, proposes shortly to issue a challenge to ships of all nationalities for the Open Disembarcation Championship of the World.

The *Goeben* remains in the Dardanelles. In response to a pressing request from great masses of the Turkish population, who have been unable before to witness the ceremony, it has been decided again to disembark the German crew, and, beginning to-morrow at 10 A.M., the impressive spectacle will be gone through at regular intervals of an hour throughout the day. All railways companies have announced cheap excursions, and there can be no doubt that these disembarcations will easily surpass all earlier ones.

The German crew of the *Goeben* are agitating for an eight-hour day.

Instructions having reached the crew of the *Goeben* to return to Germany, a magnificent Farewell Disembarcation took place last night. At its conclusion sympathisers presented an illuminated address bearing the following inscription: "To the crew of the *Goeben* on the occasion of their final disembarcation before leaving for the Fatherland."

Later.—Arrival of the crew of the *Goeben* at Kiel. Great popular enthusiasm. KAISER orders a Special Disembarcation to take place before entire Fleet, a duplicate cruiser (in the regrettable absence of the *Goeben*) being lent for the purpose.

GERMANY AND ISLAM.

The following are extracts from an article entitled "Turkey and the War" which appears in *The Indiaman* of to-day's date:—

't did not require the outbreak of the war to satisfy the British nation that among the Indian subjects of the King-Emperor there are none more loyal than the Indian Mohammedans. The British nation has been fully aware of the fact for many years past; hence its amusement at the quaint German conceit that the Kaiser, with the assistance of his little circle of friends at Constantinople, could set the Indian Mohammedan world in a blaze whenever he found it convenient to do so. At the present moment there are thousands of stout Mohammedan soldiers in India who are rejoicing at the prospect of meeting the Kaiser's legions in the field, and when the longed-for day arrives they are quite satisfied that they will give as good an account of themselves as their Algerian co-religionists, who by their exploits in their recent encounter with the Prussian Guard Corps have given a further proof to the world of the loyalty of the Mohammedan soldier. The Kaiser, in his self-assumed character of the champion of Pan-Islamism, will find no audience to play to outside the walls of Constantinople. . . .

Germany in her extremity is scouring the earth for allies. To all she offers bribes . . . . every one accompanied by a threat, and Turkey no doubt has been warned that like Belgium a terrible fate is in store for her if she refuses to support Germany at the present juncture. But Germany has the Old Turks to reckon with as well as the young ones, and even if these Old Turks have not exactly shone as administrators they long ago established their reputation as diplomatists. . . . They may be counted on to appreciate the motives underlying the policy of Germany in seeking to draw their country into the present conflict, and the fact that while Germany screams to Turkey for help England is content merely to ask her to remain neutral will not be lost upon them. But it remains to be seen whether their influence at Constantinople is strong enough to counteract the growth of the pro-German movement so sedulously fostered by the Young Turks. The Young Turks and their German friends control the Army, or, at any rate, the portion of it centred in the capital, and it is feared that they have the power to drag their country into the war. But that they have the power to carry the operations of the Turkish Army in this war to a successful conclusion is more than doubtful. With the mass of the Turkish people and with the bulk of the Turkish Army a war with England would be an unpopular war. They would go into it without the faintest suggestion of religious fanaticism to inspire them in the field, and haunted with the unpleasant reflection that every war undertaken by Turkey under the new régime has left her the poorer in territory, money, and military reputation.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Some Causes of the War.

The following are extracts from an article, "Causes of the European War," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the current *Contemporary*:—

I travelled through Germany on my way from Constantinople, and during my journey a few foretokens of what was coming were brought to my cognisance. One of these was the curious circumstance that while the Central Berlin Government was in appearance taking endless pains to hold Austria back and to hinder the outbreak of war, her Ambassador in Vienna was working strenuously, and doubtless conscientiously, in the contrary direction, egging on, stirring up, widening the gulf which he was supposed to be bridging. . . . Less commonly known, but not wholly concealed, was the silent and unavowed movement of German troops towards the Western frontiers, shortly before the Austrian ultimatum had left the Ballhausplatz in Vienna. . . . But what, to my thinking, was incomparably more significant than all other indications of what was brewing, was the circumstance which came to my knowledge as a fact, not as a supposition or as an inference, that the Kaiser himself was kept informed of the various phases of the Austro-Servian quarrel, that the ultimatum was laid before him in the rough draft, and that, having read it, he made a suggestion to sharpen it, which was approved and adopted.

. . . It is now matter of common knowledge that this violation of the neutrality of the two little States was decided on long in advance, and the German plan of campaign based upon it. Yet hypocritical assurances of the contrary were repeatedly volunteered by every German personage who had to do with Belgium of late years, including the Kaiser himself. Even after it had become clear that war was inevitable with France, the respect which Germany entertained for Belgium neutrality was harped on. Thus on Sunday, August 2, the German Military Attaché in Brussels, in conversation with the Belgian War Minister, M. de Brouqueville, exclaimed: "I cannot for the life of me understand what you mean by mobilising. Have you anything to fear? Is not your neutrality guaranteed?" And a few *hours* later Belgium received the German ultimatum.

The Governance of Albania.

In the current number of *The Asiatic Review* Mr. C. Telford Erickson writes sympathetically on the unhappy condition of Albania under the heading "The Truth about Albania." The European Powers cannot now put their hands to the task of undoing the mischief for which some of them are responsible in that country, but perhaps in the future Mr. Erickson's suggestions may be acted upon. He writes:—

With the setting of Albania's Government house in order I have nothing to do. I am simply an American missionary to this people, who believes in them and who loves them, who has sacrificed for them, and is ready, if need be, to do so again. Before any Prince was appointed I strongly advised the Albanian leaders against the plan, urging instead that they ask for Commission form of government, at least for some years—a Commission chosen from some one neutral Power, having no personal interest in the country; a British, or even an American, Commission would have served admirably. The head would be a man with experience in dealing with primitive peoples; each member of the Commission would be an expert chosen for some department because of his knowledge and ability in that department, for agriculture an expert, for finance an expert, all going in without show or ceremony, and setting to work at once to better the condition of the people. I believe with all my heart that such a plan would have succeeded. I believe that were Albania neutralised by the Powers now, every nation taking its hand off from trying to order affairs there, guaranteeing only the integrity of the State with its present boundaries, giving notice to those Powers who are secretly making trouble to cease—which could very easily be done—that with this, half of her troubles would be at an end. For the other half it must be recognized that wrongs centuries old have taken root there, that thousands are homeless and starving, that the people have been bled and betrayed and deceived with false promises and fed on false hopes so long that only much patience and kindness and sympathy will heal the wound.

King Carol and the War.

In connection with reports that King Carol of Roumania is seriously ill and contemplates abdicating *The Morning Post's* Paris correspondent forwards some comments from the *Temps*, which are certainly not without interest:—

It has been an open secret that King Carol has opposed the popular feeling of his people, which is all against Germany and Austria. Public opinion in Roumania insists that when a final division comes they should not be found with their swords sheathed while the future of the Roumanian territory now held by Austria-Hungary is being decided. It is felt that intervention should be made before the fortunes of war have been so far decided that it becomes superfluous and of no value. When Roumania intervened in the second Balkan War, fomented by Austrian intrigue, King Carol offered to abdicate rather than invade Bulgaria, and his attitude now is stated to be still more decided.

Of course, the present reported retirement may really be due to motives of health, because King Carol suffers from chronic

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liver trouble, and not long ago had a very severe attack. Moreover, he is seventy-five years old. He is a lifelong friend of the Emperor of Austria, and although the King of the Belgians is his nephew, his leanings are towards the Hohenzollerns. The marriage of the Crown Prince of Roumania with a Saxe-Coburg-Gotha princess rather complicates the situation, yet it cannot be forgotten that King Carol has been largely responsible for building up the present position of Roumania.

The Greek Navy.

In an interesting note upon the cosmopolitan character of some navies *The Globe* says:—

The most cosmopolitan of foreign navies is probably the Greek. It includes one Italian-built Turkish torpedo-boat, four British-built Argentine destroyers, three French-built battleships, and an Italian-built armoured cruiser. The small cruiser "Fei-Hung," which was building at New York for China, has been taken over by Greece, and there is a Dreadnought battleship, the "Salamis," under construction in Germany, which will be fitted with American guns and armour. Another battleship was recently ordered in France. Finally, the naval affairs of the country are under the direction of a British Commission, of which Rear-Admiral Mark Kerr is the head.

The Carnegie Commission: A Criticism.

Ever since the appointment of the Carnegie Commission the question of its impartiality has been debated with a good deal of heat; and in view of the warmth of feeling displayed by the partisans both of Greece and of Bulgaria one may almost suppose that the question will always remain a vexed one. A notice of the Commissioners' report (both American and French editions) appears in *The Athenæum* of August 29. The reviewer is inclined to blame the editors—not unfairly, we think—for the delay in publishing the report, and expresses the opinion that "the Greek side is treated without sympathy or knowledge." His criticisms are levelled chiefly at the "Greek Soldiers' Letters" portion of the report and the charge concerning certain events that took place, or were reported to have taken place, after the Bulgarian evacuation of Serres. Our readers have probably heard more than enough about the "letters"; but the second topic is not so familiar to them, and we quote the writer's views upon it:—

One of the charges brought against the Bulgarian army by the Greeks was that, when evacuating Serres for the first time, it had taken with it as hostages four notables of the town, whose dead bodies were afterwards found on the line of the Bulgarian retreat. One of these four men was said to be the director of the Serres branch of the Orient Bank. The attitude of the Commissioners to this charge is so naive and unscientific as to be almost incredible.

"The member of our Commission [they say] who visited Serres had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman, M. Ghiné, alive, well, and unharmed, and enjoyed his hospitality. Such discoveries as this are a warning that even official statements regarding these events must be subjected to careful scrutiny."

We can imagine that visit to Serres! Here at least was a matter which our Commissioner could get to the bottom of. He could go to the bank itself and inquire. Was there anyone at home who could give him information about the death of the director? Why! the director himself was at home, M. Ghiné. A look of intelligent triumph passed over the Commissioner's face. The director himself at home! Here was another of those Greek lies nailed to the counter, and the affable M. Ghiné smiled when the Commissioner told him that it was rumoured that he was dead. One must not believe all rumours, he said, as he passed the wine. Our simple Commissioner had forgotten that "director of the Orient Bank," like Pharaoh, is not a proper name. It never occurred to him that, if the director for the time being had been murdered, the Orient Bank was not likely to leave his place open for six weeks. In point of fact, no one had ever suggested that M. Ghiné was murdered. It was his predecessor, M. Constantine Stamoulis. M. Ghiné was at the time assistant director, and succeeded to the directorship in consequence of the murder of his chief. In the longer Greek versions of the "Bulgarian Atrocities," not only M. Stamoulis's name is given, but also his photograph, and there are allusions by name to his assistant, M. Ghiné, with no suggestion that he was anything but alive and well. In the small Greek publication which the report actually quotes for its damaging "discovery" M. Stamoulis's name is given on p. 50, although only his title occurs on p. 24, the page quoted. Could carelessness go further?

Our War Minister.

Lord Kitchener's appointment as War Minister has naturally led to the publication of a great number of articles, reminiscences, anecdotes, and so forth concerning him. The following are typical extracts from one of these articles, entitled "Lord Kitchener of Khartoum," contributed by "C. F." to *Everyman* (August 28):—

. . . . What matters is the character shown in public actions. Of this we have seen a good deal in the last few weeks. We have seen it first, indirectly, in the calmness and satisfaction that his appointment as War Minister has brought to the country. "Now, at least," men seem to be saying, "we shall have all done for us that can be done. If we are ready, we shall be pushed into the thick of this fight as swiftly and as effectively as may be; if unprepared, we have the strongest and steadiest hand in the nation to pull us into shape. We can go forward with the confidence bred of knowing that we move in the right direction." Scarce a criticism of the appointment has been heard.

. . . . The vote of one hundred millions sterling and the demand for a New Army of half a million men were the direct indications of Lord Kitchener's character. They pointed to his predominant qualities, not only energy and swiftness, but determination, for it must have cost something to Ministers who had declared England equipped for any emergency to agree to them. Doubtless they were the price of his assumption of office.

The price seems high, but we look for a great return. In this war we are fighting, firstly, for our own prestige, secondly, for the nationhood of a small people; thirdly, for the preservation of the highest civilisation that Europe has yet attained. The enemy of all three is that *barbarie scientifique* that a great French writer has declared to be the mark of modern Prussia. The man to break it if any can, perhaps because he has in him a strain of the scientific barbarian, is, we believe, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

Servian Hopes and Aims.

Mr. Chedo Miyatovich contributes to *The Outlook* (August 29) an article on "What the Servians Want and What They Hope to Attain," from which we quote the concluding paragraph:—

We Servians did not wish for that war at present. After two bloody wars our people wanted peace and rest to recuperate their strength and financial resources. We wanted time to organize newly annexed countries, to create and train a new army of some six hundred thousand soldiers. We were just on the point to order three hundred thousand new rifles and three hundred thousand new soldiers' uniforms in England. We wanted at least five years to organize, train, and properly equip our forces. Just to preserve peace, so necessary to us, our Government went to the utmost limits of self-humiliation in accepting nine out of ten Austrian demands. Austria and Germany were evidently determined to provoke the general war at once. We were not afraid of the war, even when the conduct of Great Britain was still doubtful. But since England has declared war on Germany and Austria, we will continue the war with enthusiasm, firmly believing that it will finish with the victory for the Allies of Russia, and that the Allies, dictating the conditions of peace, will sanction the union of Bosnia, Hertzegovina, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, with the kingdoms of Servia and Montenegro, into a great and strong south Slavonic kingdom.

Bathing—East and West.

Mr. F. G. Aflalo contributes to *The Academy* (August 29) a light article, "Memories of the Bath," in which he gives some personal experiences of swimming in many quarters of the globe. He writes with true appreciation of the "quiet chance of a swim . . . on the edge of sunlit gulf in Asiatic Turkey," but, naturally, is not enthusiastic regarding the bathing attractions of the Dead Sea. One of the greatest surprises ever sprung on him, he says:—

. . . . was in the Brook Cherith, Elijah's brook, when the sudden apparition of a moderate-sized crab, not, as seen through the water, very different in appearance from those of our own rock pools, inspired hasty removal of my feet from the ground. In the Jordan itself I could never make up my mind to swim, for, its sacred traditions apart, it is a very dirty river, and it is not easy wholly to dissociate its uninviting hue with the very imperfect ablutioners who, that Easter week, were being dipped in its healing flood a little farther up-stream.

His prejudice seems to be shared by not a few travellers to the Holy Land. Here is his concluding paragraph, in which he contrasts the *hammam* of the East with its European copy:—

The Turkish bath is an institution for the full enjoyment of which men are unevenly qualified, some being even prevented by constitutional weakness from exposure to its extremes of temperature. Personally, when in the mood, I appreciate its restfulness and relaxation, physical and mental, and I have squandered, not without profit, many hours in the *hammam* from Jermyn Street to Damascus, the first-named being far more deliberately Oriental in its appointments than any that I know in the Ottoman dominions, though the real effect of Eastern *keyeff* is more perfectly realised without effort, in the Hamman el Malaky at Damascus, where you recline after the bath and smoke your *nargileh* in sight of shaggy camels swinging past the open gates. Physically, no doubt, with the services of a vigorous masseur, the Turkish bath is cleansing; but its sovereign virtue for those who readily enter into the spirit of its rites is complete rest for the mind, which, divorced from earthly cares, benefits immeasurably from a dreamless rest unattainable with the aid of any anodyne as harmless. It is the very converse of American surf-bathing. It was the invention of a very different race.

Articles to Note.

"The Literary Culture of the Turk," in *The Outlook* (August 29).

"In Albania," by Captain G. Moltedo, and "La Serbia e le sue relazioni economiche con l'Italia," by G. Kara, in *L'Esplorazione Commerciale* (July 27).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Sept.	1914. Aug.		1332. Shawal.	5674. Elul.
4	22	Friday	13	13
5	23	Saturday	14	14
6	24	Sunday	15	15
7	25	Monday	16	16
8	26	Tuesday	17	17
9	27	Wednesday	18	18
10	28	Thursday	19	19

THE NEW POPE.

A Reuter's message from Rome announces that Cardinal della Chiesa has been elected Pope, and that he has taken the title of Benedict XV.

To-day is the birthday of her Majesty the Queen Mother of the Hellenes.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess August Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, *née* Archduchess of Austria and niece of the Tsar of the Bulgarians.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.I.H. Mehmed Selim Effendi, eldest son of the ex-Sultan.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George, elder brother of the Crown Prince of Servia.

Thursday is the birthday of H.H. Princess Maria Immaculata of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, grand niece of the Tsar of the Bulgarians.

Thursday is the birthday of T.I.H. Nazime Sultana, sister of the Heir and Zckie Sultana, eldest daughter of the ex-Sultan and wife of Damad Nur-ed-Din Pasha, son of the celebrated Ghazi Osman Pasha.

Conflicting reports regarding the health of King Carol of Roumania have been circulating throughout the week. Upon enquiry we learn that the Roumanian Legation has no news tending to confirm the report that His Majesty is seriously ill. On the other hand it is understood that the King has quite recovered from his late illness, but he is reported to be deeply affected by the war.

Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians has paid a short visit to this country in order to bring her children to a place of safety. Her Majesty was the guest of Earl Curzon while in England.

A correspondent writes:—"When the seven lean years of Egypt's financial crisis were overtaken by the prosperity of the tourist season of last winter hopes rose high for the return of the good old days once more. But wars and rumours of wars have suddenly dashed these hopes to the ground, and now there is but little chance of there being a social season to chronicle at all in the capital, where Egypt's residents and Egypt's visitors love to congregate during the winter months. Hotel proprietors and tourist agencies are indeed viewing the prospect with rank dismay, and even if peace were proclaimed within the next few weeks it would come too late to save the situation So far most of the Government officials are back from their leave, but the European population is almost entirely a male one, and it is quite an open question whether the gentler sex will be able to follow its lords and masters. With regard to the hotels and those who manage them so well, there is nothing to be gleaned. It is whispered that various of the palatial caravanserai will not open their doors this winter unless some enterprising hoteliers of neutral sentiments start them as convalescent homes for our wounded heroes, and certainly there will be but little doing in the way of river tourist traffic. It is a sorry prospect for Egypt generally, and her only consolation must be the fact that she is suffering in good company."

The Diadoch of Greece and his uncle, Prince Christopher, left Egypt on August 19 for Greece. Prior to their departure they attended a Te Deum at the Evangelismos Church, Alexandria.

We deeply regret to record that, according to the French papers, H.I.H. the Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovitch of Russia, nephew of the King of the Hellenes, has been killed in battle in East Prussia.

From the same source it appears that H.H. Prince John Constantinovitch of Russia, son-in-law to the King of Servia, and his brother, Prince Olog, have both been killed in action in East Prussia.

It is reported that H.S.H. Prince Frederick of Saxe-Meiningen, brother-in-law of the Queen of the Hellenes, has been killed in action, and that his brother, Prince Ernest, has been wounded and taken prisoner.

The Tsar of Russia has conferred on the Œcumenical Patriarch the Grand Cross of St. Vladimir in brilliants.

Prince Cantacuzene left Egypt on August 19 for Greece, travelling on the s.s. "Salonica."

According to Egyptian papers just received, Sir Reginald Wingate Pasha, the Sirdar, was expected to spend ten days in Cairo, and subsequently to go on to the Sudan, where he would inspect the army, returning afterwards to Cairo.

Mr. Malcolm Wingate, son of the Sirdar, is among the English officers attached to the Expeditionary Force now in France.

Lady Raglan is slowly recovering from the accident she had some weeks ago when, through a fall, she hurt her spine, and this has kept her in London. Her two younger sons are serving in the war and her eldest son is in the Sudan.

H.H. Tewfik Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador, returned to the Embassy on Monday from Eastbourne.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister returned to London from Eastbourne on Monday. Madame Misu, however, still remains at Eastbourne.

Captain Deedes, of the Ottoman Ministry of the Interior, left Constantinople on August 1 somewhat suddenly for London. We understand that a report has been current that Captain Deedes had been detained by the Germans, but we are happy to be able to state that such is not the case. He is, we understand, now very actively employed at the War Office.

Mr. H. N. Bowden Smith, of the Ministry of Finance, Egypt, is returning to Egypt on board the s.s. "City of Nagpur."

Mr. Olney Arnold, American Agent and Consul-General in Cairo, is reported to be detained in Germany, at Munich, where his son is at school.

Mr. Harry H. Lamb, C.M.G., and Mrs. Lamb have arrived in London from Durazzo, and intend to take a short holiday in Sidmouth, which will doubtless be very welcome after the hard work and worry through which Mr. Lamb has passed at Salonika and, latterly, in Albania as British member of the International Commission of Control.

On Thursday of last week at Staithe House, Beccles, a son was born to Mr. Noel E. Waterfield, F.R.C.S., of the Sudan Medical Service, and Mrs. Waterfield.

We regret to announce that the death occurred on Wednesday, at Portslade, Sussex, of Colonel Henry Harding Mathias, C.B., who led the Gordon Highlanders at the storming of Dargai in the Tirah campaign of 1897. Born in 1850, Colonel Mathias was educated at Marlborough and entered the 75th Regiment in 1869, and in 1879 obtained a captaincy in the Gordon Highlanders, the first battalion of which regiment he commanded from 1895 to 1899. He also saw service with the Nile Expedition of 1884-85, and the Chitral Relief Force of 1895. He commanded the 75th Regimental District from 1899 to 1904. Colonel Mathias married in 1875 Florence, daughter of the late Sir Thomas Shepstone.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bart., C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., who has been promoted to that rank vice the late Sir J. M. Grierson, was employed with the Egyptian Army from 1896 to 1903. He served with the Dongola Expedition in 1896, receiving the Egyptian medal with two clasps. In the following year he saw service with the Nile Expedition, including the capture of Abu Hamed and occupation of Berber, for which he received the brevet of Major and two clasps to his former medal. In 1898 he was again up the Nile under Lord Kitchener, and was present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum and the defeat of Ahmed Fedil's army, when he was severely wounded. For his services he received the D.S.O., the brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel and three additional clasps. In 1899 he took part in the first advance against the Khalifa, gaining another clasp to his medal and the Third Class of the

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Mejidieh. From 1909 to 1912 General Fergusson was Inspector of Infantry, and at the outbreak of the present war commanded the 5th Division, Irish Command.

The Orient reports that Countess Wertheim, daughter of the U.S. Ambassador Morgenthau, with three children, and Captain Macauley of U.S.S. "Scorpion," and Mrs. Macauley were among the passengers arriving in Constantinople on August 10 by the Italian steamer from Venice, which carried more than 1,100 passengers.

M. Carton de Wiart, the Belgian Minister of Justice, who has passed through this country on his way to the United States, as a member of the Belgian Special Mission, is a brother of Maitre Carton de Wiart, the well-known Cairo advocate.

Captain C. F. Nesham, who has been appointed to the H.A.C., embodied in connection with the war, is a brother of an officer who took part in the famous charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman.

Mr. Freeman, British Consul at Port Said, has arrived at that town with his family. Mr. Freeman was formerly Consul at Benghazi, and was appointed to Port Said last March. He had been expected in Port Said since April 1.

Owing to the exceptionally heavy work caused by the war at the British Consulate, Port Said, Mr. A. B. Geary has been temporarily transferred there from Alexandria to assist.

We regret to record the sudden death on Tuesday, July 28, in Kadi Keuy, Constantinople, of Mrs. Rhodie Tully, the wife of Mr. Arthur P. Tully, Constantinople manager of the Gresham Life Insurance Company.

We regret to report the death in Constantinople, on July 31, of Mr. John Henry Cuming, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cuming, of Galata. The deceased was married five months ago in England, and towards the beginning of July he and his young bride went out on a picnic with some friends. A few days later both, suffering from typhoid, had to be removed from their residence to the British Hospital at Galata, where the wife succumbed a week before her husband.

Count Forgach de Ghymes et Gacs, whose appointment as Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Berlin, is announced by Reuter's Geneva correspondent, was at one time Austrian Minister at Belgrade. It was during his tenure of that office that the famous Agram Trial took place, and the "evidence" given against the Croats who were on trial was shown to have been manufactured in the Belgrade Embassy of the Dual Monarchy. Count Forgach was afterwards a Chief of Section in the Austrian Foreign Office.

Several Egyptian notables are reported to have petitioned Prince Mohammed Aly, as President of the Egyptian Red Crescent League, to allow the formation of a medical staff for service with the armies of the Triple Entente during the war.

The Orient reports that on August 7 the ceremony of the Sacred Mantle was observed with all the usual pomp. The Sultan performed his noon devotions at the Dolma Baghtché Mosque, and then crossed the harbour in his yacht, the "Seuyüdlü," to Seraglio Point, where he was received by the Prefect of the City. After a brief rest at the Medjidié Kiosk, His Majesty went to the place where the *Khurka-i-Sherif*, or Sacred Mantle of the Prophet, is kept, and venerated the Mantle. He distributed to the invited guests the napkins that had been kept with the Sacred Mantle, and placed a new consignment of napkins in the *bohja*, or bundle, with the Mantle, to be there till next year. After the ceremony His Majesty spent some time at the Baghdad Kiosk, and then returned on the yacht to Dolma Baghtché and drove up to Yildiz Palace where he is for the summer.

Indian officers travelling by the "Mooltan" were stopped at Port Said when the vessel arrived.

The appeal for the Building Fund of the English Church at Bucharest is, we understand, still open. Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Rev. J. H. Adeney, Chaplain.

Wednesday was the anniversary of the battle of Omdurman and the reconquest of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

By the will of the late Mrs. Maria Jesup, widow of Morris K. Jesup, the Syrian Protestant College receives 400,000 dollars, says *The Orient*.

Among the passengers for Egypt by the P. and O. steamer "Persia," which left London on Saturday last, were Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Elsworth and the Misses Elsworth, Mr. C. Q. Henriques, Dr. and Mrs. Nimr, Mr. H. F. C. Parkinson, Mr. T. R. Richmond, Sir David Semple, and Mr. H. W. Tite.

A Reuter's telegram received from Urmia states that some members of the Commission for fixing the Turco-Persian boundaries, whilst out shooting near the Pass of Khanesour, were attacked by Kurds. Mr. Herbert, the Secretary of the Commission, was slightly injured.

At the Isle of Wight County Petty Sessions on Saturday, Captain Frederick W. von Herbert, a resident of Shanklin for many years, was charged with failing to obtain an alien enemy permit to remain within a prohibited area. Defendant is the author of "The Defence of Plevna," and served as an officer in the Turkish Army during the war with Russia in 1877 and 1878, and as an officer in the 4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment in the South African War. The solicitor for the defence said that Captain von Herbert positively declined to register as an alien enemy, because he was neither an alien nor an enemy, but a British subject. His father was an Hanoverian when Hanover was a British dominion, and his mother was a Frenchwoman. He had medals presented to him for service in South Africa. The police asked for a remand for a week to complete the evidence. The Bench granted the remand and admitted defendant to bail on his own recognisances, defendant stating that he wished to appear.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Acting Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Drake, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Bray, and B. Burnett, Esq., P.W.D., to act temporarily as additional members of the Governor-General's Council.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of August 20 states:—"Lieut. R. Granville Waddy, K.E.H., Inspector of Ophthalmic Hospitals, Department of Public Health, has been recalled by cable to rejoin his regiment, King Edward's Horse, King's Overseas Dominions Regiment, on Special Reserve. Lieut. Waddy and Mrs. Waddy left Port Said on Tuesday on the Orient s.s. 'Orama' for England."

Mr. Mavrodieff, Prefect of the Department of Sofia, has been appointed Prefect of Police in the Bulgarian capital, and is succeeded by Mr. I. Michailoff, editor of the illustrated review *Svetlina*.

It is stated that Marshal Liman von Sanders Pasha has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Ottoman Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

ILES.—On August 23, at Territet, Switzerland, the wife of George Ehret Iles, Sudan Civil Service—a son (Cyril Ehret).

THRING.—At Khartoum, on August 11, to Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Thring—a son.

MARRIAGE.

DE SMIDT—WINGFIELD.—On August 26, at St. Augustine's Church, Queen's Gate, by the Rev. Lewis Wingfield, Leonard de Smidt, Egyptian Irrigation Service, son of the late Abraham de Smidt (Surveyor-General, Cape Colony), to Violet Wingfield, daughter of the late Canon Wingfield.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1914.

A WORD OF WARNING.

Little more than two years ago we received a letter from the Imperial Ottoman Embassy in London acknowledging that "THE NEAR EAST has strenuously and impartially defended the interests of the (Ottoman) Empire" and referring to the "loyal and friendly attitude of THE NEAR EAST towards Turkey," which, it was hoped, would "facilitate the re-establishment of more friendly relations between England and Turkey, a result which is in conformity with the interests of the two countries." We quote these sentences as showing that for years past THE NEAR EAST has laboured unceasingly to promote the traditional friendship which has so long existed between Great Britain and the Porte. At times we have spoken, as befits a friend to a friend, in reprobation of some hazardous policy or some act calculated to impair the honour or the welfare of the Guarded Realms. We have at other times sympathized with Turkey in her moments of danger or distress. And at all times the diplomacy of this country has been exerted to save her from herself and from the aggressions of her neighbours. The Porte should not have so soon forgotten that it was Lord Beaconsfield who intervened on its behalf after it had actually accepted dismemberment at San Stefano. The Porte should still remember that on the day when Bulgaria proclaimed her independence and the Dual Monarchy annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina Great Britain forbore to "regularize" her position in Cyprus and Egypt. It would have been to the financial benefit of Great Britain to have done so, and she was earnestly pressed to share in the spoils of Turkey. She declined, preferring to consider herself bound by her agreements, and being unwilling to take advantage of what she hoped was only the passing weakness of an old friend who had just made a step in the direction of constitutional development. Moreover, Great Britain in matters commercial has invariably acted with an honesty which has appealed strongly to individual Turks and compares very favourably with the one-sided bargains and astonishing financial impositions which at one time or another have been forced upon the country by foreign diplomatists in pursuit of their policy of national self-aggrandizement at the expense of Turkey. Great Britain never cozened the Porte to pay a kilometric guarantee on a railway to be built primarily for the commercial and strategic benefit of this country. In the tedious negotiations which were in progress about railways, oil, and river-navigation in Mesopotamia Great Britain laboured unceasingly to consult the interests and preserve the prestige of the Porte, while arranging at the same time for the opening up of immense areas of Turkey in Asia to international commerce.

Yet in spite of this long tradition of friendship those who are now impelling the Ottoman Empire headlong down the road to ruin have seen fit to interpret the neutrality which they declared recently in a manner highly beneficial to our enemies, and at the same time to subject British subjects and British interests under their control to harassing restrictions. They have taken refuge in the procrastination of Oriental diplomacy when an honest neutrality demanded reasonable dispatch; they have not only facilitated in every way the dissemination of garbled news emanating from interested sources, but have actually permitted the Ottoman flag to cover movements incompatible with strict neutrality. We say nothing about the criminal negligence of ordinary police precautions; we merely assert that neutrality as practised by Damad Enver Pasha and his adherents is in point of fact no neutrality at all. Certain members of the present Cabinet profess, as Ministers of the Turkish Padishah, to direct the powers vested in his person as Khalif. This ruling clique of Crypto-Jews, Donmehs, and Freemasons of a schismatic Grand Orient which is not recognized by the true Craft affects to claim the assistance of all Islam to further its schemes for the recovery of Salonika, a city which enjoys no particular sanctity in the eyes of Moslems, and for a campaign in support of a cause which has in sober fact no interest to the vast majority, exploited, misled, and deceived, of the inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire.

It is possible that the ruling classes in Constantinople are misled by inaccurate news. We know full well how efficacious a Press campaign, even when wholly dissociated from the truth, can be in the Balkan Peninsula, and how powerful are the agencies for the dissemination of false impressions in that part of the world. We should like to make it plain to the Turks as a whole that events in Western Europe are of no immediate interest to them, and that they have no call whatever to feel any obligation to participate in the present hostilities. Nor, if they are wise, will they embark upon a private war of their own. As matters stand there is no room in Europe for two separate and distinct wars. If the Sultan once more takes the field he is bound to find himself in opposition to one or other of the groups of warring Powers or of their protégés. The Powers of the Triple Entente have not only refrained from soliciting his armed assistance, but have earnestly advised him to keep the peace. Consequently action on his part can hardly fail to run contrary to the wishes of these Powers. Such being the case, we should like to emphasize two points. The Fleets of the Triple Entente enjoy the command of the sea, the British Empire has not yet begun to put forth its strength. Our Expeditionary Force which is now in France represents but a very small part of that strength; and though it is natural enough that events now in progress on the Continent should attract a great deal of attention, viewed in true perspective it is obvious that anything that can happen on the Continent can affect the Empire as a whole only to a slight extent. THE NEAR EAST, from its proved friendship to the Ottoman Empire in the past, is entitled to utter a word of warning to an old friend. The warning is: "Keep the peace."

THE NEAR EAST.

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SMYRNA. Dem. Tzannou, Petite Rue de Rose, and F. S. McVittie.

JERUSALEM. Palestine Educational Store, Jaffa Road.

CAIRO. Diemer and Company, Shepheard's Buildings; The British Library, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil; C.M.S. Bookstall, 15, Sharia Madabegh; and at Railway Bookstalls.

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SALONIKA. Librairie Francaise, Rue Sabri Pasha.

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ROUMANIAN SYMPATHIES AND THE WAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

From the Roumanian newspapers, which now take almost as many days as the South African mail to reach this country, it is possible to supplement our information regarding the attitude of the peoples of the Near East towards the European War. The position of Roumania has necessarily been one of considerable delicacy. King Carol not only belongs to one of the branches of the Hohenzollern family, but has long been on terms of close friendship with the Emperor Francis Joseph. Prince Ferdinand, the Heir Presumptive, is also a Hohenzollern, but is married to an English Princess, the eldest daughter of the late Duke of Edinburgh. The recent history of Roumania, however, has shown that King Carol is well able to sink his personal predilections in furtherance of the interests of his adopted country. Since the outbreak of the first Balkan War the ties binding Roumania to the Triple Alliance have been completely severed, and there has been a significant consolidation of Russo-Roumanian friendship. But while the grievances of the Roumans in Hungary have been a strong factor in the estrangement of public feeling in Roumania from the Dual Monarchy, the presence of these kinsmen in the ranks of the Austro-Hungarian army in the field is calculated to embarrass the Bucharest Government in the contemplation of actual hostilities against its north-western neighbour. To take up arms for the emancipation of their fellow-countrymen from the Magyar yoke would be, at least, a comprehensible line of action for Roumanians; but it becomes a far more awkward proceeding to engage Austro-Hungarian forces in which the Roumanian kinsmen are actually serving with no little fervour, if report be true. The Austro-Hungarian authorities, it may be noted, have taken care that the Roumanian Press should be notified of the readiness with which the Roumans in Transylvania have responded to the call to arms, and should ring with the heroism of Roumanian troops taking part in the bombardment of Belgrade.

But in spite of dynastic relationships, in spite of Austro-Hungarian blandishments and German misrepresentations, the people of Roumania have had no difficulty in making up their minds on which side their sympathies rest in the European struggle. Germany's responsibility for the war is duly appreciated, while the violation of Belgian territory by German armies has come as a grave shock to Roumanian susceptibilities. Throughout there has been a conscientious effort to respect the official attitude of neutrality adopted by the country. *Communiqués* from the different Legations and Governments are given impartially, and information from one source is not more suspect than that of any other. But in analysing the causes of this Titanic struggle Roumanian intelligence had little difficulty in sifting the true from the false. The opinions that the Press arrived at appear to have been reached without the help of any *exposé* of the British case; for it was the German apologia that reached Bucharest in full, while Sir Edward Grey's statement had to be summarized by telegram in a very few words. Contradictions in the German version are noted, and Germany's case was not assisted by a German announcement to the effect that the "conclusive evidence" which Germany possessed in regard to the alleged intention of the French to march through Belgium was a photograph of an old treaty between France and Belgium! Great Britain's request to Germany and France to respect the neutrality of Belgium is noted with approval, and the ready response of France is contrasted with Germany's action. Finally, references to Great Britain are sympathetic, and Roumanian readers were reminded before the Expeditionary Force reached France that, although the British Army is small, it has a habit of rendering a good account of itself, and has in the past been able to determine the fortunes of continental battles.

No time was lost in deciding the attitude which Roumania would adopt officially towards the belligerents. A Crown Council held at Sinaia on August 3 was attended by members of the Government and representatives of all political parties. As the result of that meeting Roumania proclaimed her neutrality, while reserving to herself the right to take the necessary steps to give effect to such a decision. It was not overlooked that geographically Roumania is situated almost as much between two of the belligerents as Belgium is; but fortunately for her the configuration of the land is less favourable for military operations. The co-operation of all parties in the Crown Council virtually secured a political truce, which was confirmed by a partial mobilization. Public opinion very quickly had occasion to be exercised over the financial and economic situation in Roumania arising out of the war. There was the usual attempt to "corner" goods and to hoard money. Indeed, the financial stringency was such that the National Bank had early to issue five-franc notes to the value of £1,000,000; but up to the present no moratorium has been proclaimed. The prices of goods were fixed by the municipal authorities, and steps were taken to circumvent attempts to depreciate the paper coinage. It was realized that with ordinary precautions Roumania's economic position need not be other than satisfactory. Her agricultural wealth is great, and if hostilities do not spread to the Balkans her export trade, though undergoing modifications, should not suffer.

Naturally, after her declaration of neutrality the situation in the Balkans occupies Roumania's chief attention. It is recognised that Roumania and Bulgaria offer the stable features in that situation. At the outbreak of the war these two countries very wisely patched up their quarrel over various frontier incidents. With a statesmanship that did both Governments credit, it was resolved to let bygones be bygones and to take steps to avoid friction on the frontier in future. Bulgaria was actually the first to proclaim her neutrality, and until events falsify the theory, it may be supposed that the correct attitude of the Sofia Government has been of assistance to Roumania in her efforts to secure the maintenance of peace in the Near East. German efforts to stir up trouble, we may be sure, have never been relaxed. How compelling they have been in Constantinople we can form a shrewd idea; but if Roumania and Bulgaria are at one in their determination to discourage Turkish attempts to disturb the peace, then with the help of Greece they can secure respect for their wishes, and all will be well.

From co-operation for this purpose it should prove but a short step to fuller co-operation between Roumania, Greece, Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, with a view to dealing with the situation at the close of the European struggle. The map of Europe is going to be altered, and the Balkans can hardly be excluded from the operation. Servia stands to be dismembered or to enlarge her territories according as her Allies in the struggle are defeated or victorious. In neither case can the rest of the Near Eastern States remain indifferent, and it is surely a wiser plan to make provision

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H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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beforehand for friendly consultation than to run the risk of reviving the discreditable quarrel that followed the victorious struggle of the Balkan Alliance against Turkey. We are not suggesting that the moment has arrived for the division of the lion's skin; but there can be no doubt that the interests of the Near East will best be served by a candid understanding between the countries concerned. It would lessen the chances of hostilities breaking out in the Balkans, and would hardly fail to exercise a moral effect on the main struggle. The experience of Servia has shown what minor States may expect from the victory of German and Austrian arms. They may be offered protection while they remain humble and acknowledge dependence upon their benefactors; but their integrity is at once threatened, if they venture to aspire to greatness. On the battlefields of Central Europe is being fought out the cause of small States, the cause of justice against the oppression of brute strength. That cause will ultimately prevail. The Balkan States, therefore, which stand to benefit, should see to it that they do not disgrace the hour of triumph by exhibitions on a minor scale of the tyranny and injustice which, it is hoped, is about to be for ever overthrown.

THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Staying Power.

The Military Correspondent of *The Times*, writing in yesterday's issue, points out that both Great Britain and Russia are prepared to consider time as being of no account in this war:—"The Germans have some talents which we must acknowledge, and amongst them is the happy inspiration of preparing for war before it begins, instead of after it as we do. But the defect of these Germans is that they prepare their plans with such meticulous precision that if anything at all unexpected happens the plans go all awry. Whatever befalls in the West, we and Russia are going on, if need be for twenty years, because we do not propose to be Germanized and trodden under the Prussian heel. We know what is happening in Germany. German factories are silent. The furnaces are cold. German ships by the hundred lie still alongside silent quays. German industry at home and abroad is sterilized. There are few male workers in the fields. We propose that this situation shall last, not for the six months or a year of the German anticipation, but for just so long as it takes Germany to surrender and to give up any territory she may have seized, with ample compensation for all the disturbance and losses which she has caused.

"That is not quite the German conception, but it happens to be ours, and no victories which Germany may win in France will make the slightest difference either to Russia's resolution or to ours."

The Haste of the War Lord.

An interesting article entitled "The War and After" is contributed to the *Contemporary* by the Right Hon. W. H. Dickinson, M.P. We quote the following passage, which emphasizes the extraordinary haste of Austria—acting, of course, on Germany's counsel—to plunge into war:—

Just one week passed between the delivery of Austria's demands for satisfaction from Servia and the commencement of the general European war. Within that week the principal negotiations were compressed into hardly more than three or four days. Two ordinary litigants would not have embarked on a lawsuit with so little consideration, and yet this was all the time that was allowed to Europe before she was launched on a struggle costing millions of pounds a day and destined to wreck the lives, the fortunes, and the homes of tens of millions of peace-loving and innocent men and women.

The Kaiser and His People.

The Kaiser, while blasphemously claiming God as his companion in arms, has adopted Attila the Hun as his model in warfare. He has become an outlaw of civilisation, an enemy of the human race, a criminal with whom neither now nor henceforth civilised society can hold intercourse. The German people we shall make terms with again when the horror is over, and when the land of Luther and Goethe and Beethoven is delivered from the devilish and brutish materialism of Bismarck. But the Kaiser has outlawed himself for ever. His policy of calculated barbarism, of which the destruction of Louvain—about which further ghastly details are given by one of our correspondents to-day—is the most shocking example, will not only mobilise every noble impulse in every land against him, but stamps him as a criminal that human society must never tolerate again.—*Daily News*, August 31.

Indian Loyalty.

Not only are the Moslems of India loyal, but the Hindus are not a whit behind them. A very remarkable instance of this is Mr. Tilak, a cultured man of high ideals, but formerly a most determined opponent of our rule. The murderer of Mr. Jackson at Nasik owned that he was influenced by Tilak's appeals to racial fanaticism, and even the long-forbearing Lord Morley had him summarily deported. Yet this very man, on returning from his exile, urges all his followers to support the Government in every possible way.

The flame of enthusiastic loyalty throughout India is one of the most wonderful phenomena of the war, and it is our obvious duty to gratify the general desire of the Indians to be represented on the European battlefields. We owe it to them as follow members with us of the Empire with whose prosperity their own fortunes are bound up. At present it is proposed to take 50,000 men only, but it is quite certain that if we liked we could within six weeks have at our disposal an Indian Army of 200,000 men.—*Evening Standard*, August 29.

Already the Bengal Moslems have telegraphed to the Grand Vizier of Turkey urging upon him to avoid any estrangement from England.

So far as the African territories of the Mediterranean are concerned the only person who could lead a "jehad" against British and French power with the slightest hope of success would be a holy man of Islamic sanctity like the Madhi or the Sheik-el-Senussi.

The idea that the Occidentalised leaders of the Young Turks, who have only a veneer of Mohammedanism, could rouse the wild tribesmen of Northern Africa to a religious enterprise of this sort is the sort of thing a German professor might plan, but it won't work. No doubt it was to put a stop to intrigues of this kind that the German Consul was forcibly removed from Morocco a few days ago by French troops.—*The Star*, August 29.

Turkish Intervention?

Persistent reports from South-Eastern Europe point to an intention on the part of Turkey—denied, it is true, by the Embassy in London—to reopen her quarrel with Greece and Servia. She hopes apparently for Bulgarian assistance. The meaning of this policy would be that Turkey takes sides with Germany and Austria against the Allied Powers. Such action must bring about the intervention of Rumania, and possibly that of Italy also. Thus Turkey would stake her future on the success of Germany and Austria. That has long been a part of the German design, which has aimed at a German-Austrian league controlling all the territory between Bremen and Baghdad. The Balkan States would be Germanised, Greece under German control, and Turkey would be a German protectorate and recruiting ground. It is a part of the programme prepared for the event of Germany's victory. . . . We shall continue to hope that Turkey will keep the peace with her neighbours, and that the neutral States of South Eastern Europe will balance one another.—*Morning Post*, August 31.

Turkish statesmanship should have learnt by this time the value of the advice that comes to her from Berlin. The whole intercourse of Turkey with that city has been one monotonous record of German faithlessness and deceit, and of Turkish credulity and loss. From the days when Frederick the Great, in plotting the partition of Poland, induced Austria to betray and abandon her Turkish allay, and facilitated the Russian occupation of the Black Sea fortresses, until the days of Abdul Hamid and the Baghdad Railway concession, what good has ever come to Turkey from the Germans? All the loss has been hers, all the profit has been theirs. They have been the puppets, first of Prussia's European policy and now German's world policy. Now Berlin is egging them on to a course from which it is hardly conceivable that they can gain anything, and on which they would venture at the risk of their existence.—*The Times*, August 29.

If Turkey once plunges into the big war, she stakes her all, and she may be sure that the Triple Alliance will in the long run prove a very flimsy defence against her nearer neighbour. Her appearance on the scene would also, we hope, lead to the revival of the Balkan League in its original form; for it is difficult to believe that Servains and Bulgarians would not compose their comparatively trivial quarrel in order to make common cause aganst their hereditary enemy. Turkey has one clear line of safety, the line of complete neutrality, and we are confident that when she reflects on the situation she will not allow herself to be driven out of it.—*Westminster Gazette*, August 31.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We are publishing on another page a series of extracts from other papers, giving information of use to merchants and exporters eager to profit by the turn events are taking in the world's markets. Some of the extracts and notices are deserving of more remarks than those bestowed upon them elsewhere.

***

In the first place, H. E. P.'s letter to the Editor of THE NEAR EAST strikes a new note in the present campaign. Before discussing the vital argument of the letter, I should like to point out an error which has been general in England, namely, that the Dardanelles were closed. They were not closed, and have not been closed since the beginning of the war. There was, it is true, an attempted embargo by the Ottoman Government on grain boats from the Black Sea sailing or steaming through the Bosphorus, but Sir Louis Mallet's return to Constantinople quickly put a stop to this little move in a game for which we have to thank Liman v. Sanders and Co. As for the Dardanelles, though mined and guarded by extreme formalities bordering on red-tapism, they have been open to merchantmen (even to some warships!) in spite of all statements to the contrary. The Turks must be given their due when deserved—or does the credit belong to European diplomacy and the force of circumstances?

***

I now come to the vital argument. The Near Eastern situation is so unsettled, so undecided, that really I can hardly blame the Government—supposing it to have proffered advice—if it dissuades shipping companies from venturing through the Dardanelles. The situation in the recent war was quite different owing to diplomatic pressure; this pressure does not exist to-day because Europe is divided into two camps working against each other and the impression is gaining ground here that that camp which harbours our enemies is carrying matters with a high hand at Stamboul. This, in itself, would be sufficient reason against organising or keeping open a regular service between an English port and Constantinople. But there are other reasons. On the one hand, the war risk is too high to make the venture worth while, and as long as there are other trade routes open, showing better profits, the Near East is bound to remain in the shade. Then again, there is the question of trade. As I pointed out last week, no Near Eastern country, excepting Greece and Roumania, is in a position to purchase, and as for selling, most of them have placed an embargo on the exportation of such raw material as is in request here. The inducement, therefore, is far from being enticing.

***

I do not wish to be unduly pessimistic, however. There is no denying that, whatever the ultimate issue of the war and the changes introduced into the map of Europe, the Near East is bound to be an active purchasing market for Western goods. We must prepare now for conquering that market later, and, certainly, shipping facilities will form the most powerful agent in the great campaign. At present little can be done, and the Messageries sailings need not worry us. Later on we shall need all the Cunarders, Moss boats, and those of the Ellerman combine (by the way, I do not think that the Moss line forms part of the Ellerman combine) we can get, and it is to be hoped that many of the prize boats which have fallen to the Navy will be used to back up our expanding trade—it is bound to expand—in the Near East. What is wanted at present is not so much the realisation of a project as the thorough organisation of a plan of campaign to be put in execution as soon as the war stops, that is, when we know exactly where we are as regards Near Eastern countries.

***

Reference above to the Cunard reminds me that there are two British companies in possession of special concessions in Austria-Hungary—namely, the Cunard, which has sailings to America from Fiume, and the Canadian Pacific, which runs a service between Trieste and Canada. The Austrian Government's maltreatment of the latter company last year is still fresh in the minds of my readers, and it was only a few weeks before the war broke out that the concession which had been partially withdrawn was reinstated in the C.P.R.'s favour. What the ultimate status of the two British companies will be in Austria-Hungary it is impossible to predict; a lot will depend on the existence or non-existence of the Dual Monarchy after the war. On the other hand, it is quite safe to predict that, whichever way the war turns, Trieste and Fiume are bound by their position and by the happy disorganisation of the Hamburg-America and North German Lloyd services to reassert themselves as important ports, freed from a sorrowful subservience to Bremen and Hamburg.

***

The "War on German Trade" is going on apace, and the Board of Trade is continuing its excellent campaign already referred to in these columns. The monograms on the different trades being published under official auspices are meeting with the attention they deserve, and are in great demand. The Tariff Commission has also appeared in the lists with the first of a series of memoranda on German trade; the complete set will do a lot to open our eyes to the great possibilities for our manufacturing exporters. In the absence of immediate trade openings in the Near East, we shall in future devote considerable space in the commercial section of this journal to the above reports, and shall comment on them with reference principally to the Near Eastern market. Thus, in our own way, we hope to be of considerable use to British firms now preparing for our "day." It will come.

***

In connection with the above, we reproduce this week on our page devoted to the "War on German Trade" an opinion expressed by the City Editor of the *World*. In so many words, he praises the movement, but quite reasonably argues that without ammunition there can be no fight; that is, the banks must back the movement with funds. About this question, namely, the support of banks for commercial and industrial enterprises, a lot can be written. I attribute Germany's tremendous commercial and industrial development in the past in no small measure to the enterprise of Berlin's financiers, who were ever ready to help and aid the economic *Aufschwung*, whose funds were much more readily placed in commercial and industrial undertakings than speculatively employed elsewhere, and to whose backing is primarily due the success of such gigantic enterprises as the Baghdad Railway, the Steaua Romana, the Bavarian Lloyd, and those two huge steamship companies, the Hapag and N.D.L., which practically controlled Continental shipping. But apart from these undertakings on a big scale, German capital, in a more modest way, was at the back of German commerce and trade in all countries, and the Near East was no exception. The whole subject is such an extraordinarily complicated one, and at the same time so admirably organised down to its minor details, that I shall have to refer to it again at some length.

***

British finance, or rather the employment and investment of British capital abroad, has been run on much more haphazard methods than ever was the case in Germany. This is partly due to our greater command of wealth, which enabled us to place our funds where the more astute German hesitated to invest, chiefly because he had less to throw away. Ours was, more or less, an unorganised investment of capital; his was organised, in the interests of the Fatherland. We would do well to follow to a certain extent his methods and to increase our percentage of the whole wealth invested in business undertakings as against that invested in speculative undertakings. It is a matter which will have to be carefully considered by our leading financiers if the "War on German Trade" is to be the success it deserves to be. Not only are industries to be financed—and that is evidently what the *World* wishes more particularly to emphasise—but new, sound, British commercial banks with local participation will have to be opened in the markets where we wish to carry the war. This is a most important consideration, and one that will have to be developed in these columns at some length, with special reference to German trade methods in the Near East.

COMMENTATOR.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

British Firms interested in carrying into the Near Eastern market the war against German trade, and desirous of specific information concerning the prospects there, are invited to communicate with the Commercial Editor, "THE NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, E.C.

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War on German Trade.

OPENINGS IN THE NEAR EAST

The following business openings in the Near East are mentioned in the current issue of *The Chamber of Commerce Journal*:—

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.—In the trade in pharmaceutical products in Beirut, Asiatic Turkey, Germany has the first place, England the second, and France the third. France sends mineral waters and pharmaceutical specialities, the use of which is recognised by the French School of Medicine in the town. This institution gives France great influence in medical and pharmaceutical matters in this part of the Orient. There is no special time for travellers to visit customers, but facilities for travelling are greater in the spring. Customs duties are 11 per cent. *ad valorem*, to which port duties, cost of unloading, etc., must be added. Credit is given up to 160 days. The English, French, Russian, German and Austrian Post Offices have agents at Beirut, thus permitting of the despatch of goods by parcel post.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING.—The *Nachrichten für Handel und Industrie*, of Berlin, states that second-hand clothing would find a good sale in the region of Trebizond, Turkey-in-Asia. The imports of these goods amount in value to about £4,600 annually, of which France sends £3,200 worth and the United States £600. The remainder comes from Germany, England, and Austria. Jackets and overcoats are much in demand, but second-hand trousers find a very limited sale.

SEWING MACHINES.—Sewing machines find a good opening in Syria as well as in the neighbouring Turkish provinces. The United States and Germany are the chief suppliers. The favourable terms of payment conceded by the Americans facilitate the extension of their trade. At normal times about 700 machines a year are imported to Syria from the United States and from 300 to 400 machines from Germany.

COTTON GOODS.—Aden continues to be an important centre for the distribution of cotton goods, notwithstanding the proximity of Jibuti and other growing ports. From 1909 to 1912 the imports of cotton yarns increased in value from Rs. 1,900,000 to Rs. 2,700,000; those of unbleached cotton tissues from Rs. 10,600,000 to Rs. 18,200,000; those of bleached tissues from Rs. 1,360,000 to Rs. 2,400,000; and those of printed tissues from Rs. 3,600,000 to Rs. 4,900,000.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The following information has been received by the Board of Trade from his Majesty's Consul at Alexandria: "If the cotton crop is successfully financed the conditions and prospects of trade will be favourable. The United Kingdom should secure a large proportion of the German Empire's very valuable trade with Egypt, in all manufactures of good quality such as machinery, especially artesian well apparatus, canvas hose, machine tools, gauges, wrought-iron pipes and tubes, files, bolts, etc., and in textiles imitating popular patterns. Successful competition is improbable in inferior 'cheap and nasty' goods, such as crockery, pewter, ironmongery, hosiery and haberdashery. Our serious difficulty is that long credit (six or twelve months) is indispensable as fellaheen pay only by instalments."

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ATTITUDE OF BRITISH SHIPPERS.

(*To the Editor of* THE NEAR EAST.)

Sir,—A great deal is being talked and written about concerning the capture of German trade, and everybody is being urged to do their best with such an object. I should be glad to see the campaign carried on in Turkey, where for years now the Germans have been capturing our commerce. To carry on such a campaign against German trade, or even to continue to hold our own, it is necessary that our Liverpool shipping companies, especially the four—namely, the Cunard, Moss, Leyland, and Papayanni (the last three forming part of the "Ellerman" combine)—should not discontinue their services to Constantinople and the Near East. To my great astonishment, I learn that the "Ellerman Line" has informed one of its biggest shippers that no steamers will run to the Levant, stating that "the Admiralty has asked them not to despatch any vessels to Turkish waters owing to the closing of the Dardanelles."

Well, the Dardanelles has been open now since Sir Louis Mallet's return to Constantinople, but the Liverpool lines prefer to take it as closed, and do not propose to run boats.

On inquiry yesterday at the French Messageries Maritimes in Cannon Street, they stated, in writing, that their usual service from London viâ Marseilles for the Levant was resumed and running, and that the service from Marseilles to the Near East, instead of being weekly, was now twice a week.

We had a lamentable experience of the want of enterprise by the usual trading shipping lines to the Near East during the Italian and Balkan-Turkish war. Is it now to be repeated? If so, then the Italians will be those who will profit.

H. E. P. Constantinopolitan).

Ryde, August 28.

NEW TRADE PUBLICATION.

We have received from the Tariff Commission a monogram entitled "Trade Aspects of the War with Germany," giving statistics on (a) the home market, (b) German trade with the British Empire outside the United Kingdom, (c) German trade with foreign countries outside Europe, and a list of German goods competing with British products. The introduction to the memorandum states that in the course of its investigations the Tariff Commission has collected much detailed information as to the conditions of competition between this country and Germany in various markets; and in view of the desirability of keeping the industries of this country as fully occupied as possible during the war crisis, the Tariff Commission is anxious to place this information at the disposal of the trading public. The first memorandum sketches the general ground, and deals only with German trade outside Europe; it will be followed by other statements. It must be remembered that for many years Germany has vigorously pursued a trade policy largely directed to ousting British goods; and that policy has been steadily and successfully pursued in the teeth of British competition. In order to win back markets we have lost, and to obtain and retain after the war markets in which Germany has established her position, we must organise all our trade forces, including finance, and get to close grips with the details of the various markets concerned. Manufacturers and merchants are invited to apply to the Secretary, Tariff Commission, 7, Victoria Street, London, S.W., for any further detailed information which they may desire. The Tariff Commission will do its best to assist any trader so far as its resources permit.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.

GENTLEMAN, just returned from Near East, is open for appointment as Travelling Representative of British Export House. Pushing and Energetic. Long business experience in Europe, the Near East, and Far East. Excellent References. Write, "N.S.," 31, Gordon Road, Ealing.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following regulations to be observed by commercial travellers are mentioned by *The Export World*:—

Cyprus.

No special regulations and no licence are required. Even if the travellers sell samples they are not subject to a licence. Commercial travellers are not subject to income tax in respect of the sales they effect, nor are they subject to any charges of a like nature. No duty is charged on samples of no commercial value.

Bulgaria.

Commercial travellers must be provided with a certificate of identity and with a special licence. The application for this licence must contain (a) a full description of the class of goods sold, (b) the name of the firm represented, (c) the period for which the licence is required. It must be accompanied by (1) the legitimation certificate above referred to, which must be duly legalised and translated into Bulgarian; (2) a power of attorney delivered by the firm represented. This power of attorney must clearly define the rights given to the commercial traveller, and must be translated into Bulgarian and duly legalised. The licences are issued by the Ministry of Commerce, and are delivered to commercial travellers by the Custom House of the first Bulgarian town entered.

Montenegro.

No special regulations exist in Montenegro regarding the operations of commercial travellers, nor are any licences required. It is, however, advisable that commercial travellers bringing samples of goods should have a certificate showing the nature of their employment. Moreover, commercial travellers who are not known in the country must produce a power of attorney or certificate authorising them to act on behalf of the firms they represent. Commercial travellers are not subject to income tax.

Morocco.

No regulations exist in Morocco in regard to commercial travellers, and no restrictions are imposed on them. Commercial travellers' samples are admitted free of duty provided they are re-exported within six months.

BANKS AND TRADE.

"Capture German trade" seems to be a popular cry, and no doubt the sentiment is sound, but what is the use of capturing a gun if you are short of ammunition? asks the *World*.

English traders who have sorely felt the effects of German competition would no doubt like to have a "cut in" and get "their own" back. But how are they going to do it? They certainly cannot do so without further funds, and how could these funds be raised? Shareholders in existing companies would not to-day subscribe for additional working capital, or even find the necessary cash on debentures.

What about the banks? Will they help?

OFFICIAL INFORMATION FOR TRADERS.

In pursuance of the Board of Trade scheme for assisting British manufacturers and traders to secure trade with British Possessions and foreign countries formerly in the hands of their German and Austrian or Hungarian competitors, bulletins on linoleum and oilcloth and on pumps and pumping machinery were issued on Tuesday. The bulletins previously issued relate to woollen and worsted piece goods, cutlery, cotton hosiery (stockings and socks), hollow ware (enamelled or tinned), iron and steel wire, electrical machinery and appliances, cotton prints, furniture, pottery, earthenware, etc., railway wheels, axles, etc., boots and shoes, leather gloves, gas and oil engines, hats and fezzes, carpets and rugs, implements and tools, men's cotton and woollen clothing, brass wares, soaps, products of the colour printing industry, toys and games, machinery belting, brooms and brushes. Inquiries should be addressed to the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, City.

We shall, in the course of the next few weeks, analyse the majority of these reports with relation to the Near Eastern market.

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Egyptian and American Cotton.

Relation Between Prices at Liverpool.

The Monthly Return (for July) of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has the following article, which will be of interest to our readers :—

In the Monthly Return for May, 1914, page 10, a table and chart were published, exhibiting the spot prices of Egyptian and American cotton at Liverpool on successive Fridays from 1900 to 1913. A cursory examination of the chart shows—what is well known in the commercial world—that there exists a connection between the prices of the two kinds of cotton, and it is the purpose of this note to examine this connection more closely. The statistical method indicated for such an investigation is that known as the method of correlation, which may be briefly described as follows :—

A correlation is said to exist between two variable quantities when a variation of one entails in the other a certain amount of variation of a calculable nature. If we knew all the factors that influence the second variable, and the exact expression of the relationship, we could calculate exactly (subject to errors of observation) the variation required, but in general we know neither the whole of the factors in play nor the relationship. It is usual, however, to assume that the relationship is one of proportionality, or that a given change in one variable causes a proportional change in the other, and this assumption can be justified practically for small variations, whether or not it holds true for large ones. When this is the case it is legitimate to calculate the effect due to one factor at a time and to ignore the others for the moment. In ordinary phrase the connection is worked out "other things being equal." As the other factors become known their effects—including their mutual dependence—may be calculated, and the relationship becomes more precise, but in the absence of such knowledge the calculation of the desired variable falls short of complete success. The measure of success attained is expressed statistically by the "coefficient of correlation," which is usually denoted by the letter r. This is not the place to explain the theory of the investigation of this coefficient, but it will be sufficient to state that, when r is positive unity the connection between the variables is complete, so that a change in one entails a proportionate change in the same direction in the other; when r is negative unity the changes are proportionate, but in opposite directions; when r is zero there is no connection. A coefficient exceeding 0.3 generally means that the connection is real, but that we are far from knowing all the factors.

The existence of the correlation may be studied by means of a table of the two variables, similar to Table I., which has been constructed from the data already published in No. 9 (May) of this Return. This table exhibits the number of cases when the prices of Egyptian and American cotton fell within certain limits. Thus on twenty occasions, when the price of American lay between 5.1 and 5.5 pence per pound, the price of Egyptian fell between 7.5 and 8.0 pence per pound.

An inspection of the table shows that there is a connection, more or less close, between the two prices, so that high prices of the one accompany high prices of the other; average prices accompany average; and low prices, low. When the coefficient of correlation is evaluated, it is found to be +0.7825. The positive sign signifies that both prices vary in the same direction, as might naturally be expected; the high value of the coefficient—nearly 0.8—shows that we have accounted for by far the greater part of the variation in prices.

In itself, the coefficient of correlation gives no indication which of the variables stands to the other in the relation of cause to effect. In the case in point, however, there can be no manner of doubt that the controlling factor is the price of American, and the controlled that of Egyptian. In 1912-1913, the American crop was about ten times the size of the Egyptian and constituted over 50 per cent. of the cotton crop of the world.

From Table I. it is possible to obtain the equation giving the price of Egyptian, when that of American is known. This may be put in the form—

The deviation of the price of Egyptian from its mean is 1.3633 times the deviation of the price of American from its mean. Or, the actual price of Egyptian is 0.694 pence plus 1.3633 times the actual price of American.

It is also found that the price of Egyptian is more variable than American (even after due allowance for difference of prices) in the ratio of 21.8 to 18.4.

Using the above equation, the price of Egyptian has been calculated for each Friday of the period under examination, with the results shown in Table II. The second column in each year gives the actual price of Egyptian; the first column, the price calculated from American; and the third column the difference. In half the cases the difference is under 0.5 pence per pound, and from the nature of the calculation the sum of the errors in excess balances those in defect.

One method of regarding the coefficient of correlation is to consider the effect on the error of prediction. If no equation for the price of Egyptian cotton is known, the most likely price is the mean. If this is predicted on every occasion, half the predictions would lie within 1.315 pence of the truth. By adopting the above equation, the limit of error, that includes half the predictions, is lowered to 0.5 pence, or by 62 per cent.

Other factors that determine the price of Egyptian are the quality of the crop, the demand, the amount of the crop, and possibly others, and if these are invoked to account for variations in the price, the utmost they can effect is to lower the above limit another 38 per cent. It is thus seen how small relatively to the price of American the effect of any one of these factors separately must be.

I.—CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SPOT PRICES OF EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

PRICE OF EGYPTIAN COTTON (pence per pound).

PRICE OF AMERICAN COTTON (pence per lb.

	5	5·5	6	6.5	7	7·5	8	8·5	9	9·5	10	10·5	11	11.5	12	12·5	13	13·5	14	14·5	15	15·5	16	Tot
3·5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
3·9	—	—	—	9	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
4·3	5	28	4	4	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
4·7	1	10	3	5	12	23	12	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75
5·1	—	—	2	3	9	20	21	4	15	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	78
5·5	—	—	9	—	1	17	20	9	6	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	77
5·9	—	—	1	2	4	9	17	9	8	13	20	11	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
6·3	—	—	1	—	4	—	3	1	14	25	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	74
6·7	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	1	6	30	20	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68
7·1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	22	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
7·5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	7	13	2	2	7	3	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	45
7·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	4	2	9	4	3	8	2	3	7	2	2	5	1	58
8·3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
8·7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tot	6	38	20	28	46	86	76	31	61	86	109	31	16	13	6	10	2	6	8	2	4	5	1	691

THE CROP AND ITS FINANCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

A special meeting was held in the Board Room of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce yesterday to discuss the financing of the Egyptian crop. About twenty gentlemen were present, and in addition to spinners and merchants there were representatives of two London banks which have a large business in financing cotton merchants, and also a member of the Commission which has just been appointed by the Egyptian Government to deal with the matter. A prolonged discussion took place, and various proposals were made. Different ideas prevailed as to how much Egyptian cotton Lancashire would require during the next twelve months. No decision was arrived at, but it is expected that a further meeting will be held in the course of the next few weeks.

MOVING THE CROP.

Telegraphing on August 26, *The Times* Cairo correspondent says :—

"With a view of elaborating a scheme to finance the Egyptian cotton crop the Government has approved of the appointment of a Commission to study the cotton position in England and America, to consult spinners, and to ascertain what assistance it is possible to obtain.

"The Commission consists of the Inspector-General of Finance, Mr. Dickson, sub-governor of the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, and Mr. Crichley, the Alexandria manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Mr. Dickson left yesterday to join his colleagues in London."

The desire of the Egyptian Government to assist the native cotton growers in the realisation of this year's crop will, it is expected, result in a scheme very similar to that which has been adopted in connection with the rubber planting industry of the East, under which cultivators have been permitted to draw sufficient sums to cover their actual out of pocket expenses. This scheme was agreed to after careful consultation with experts, says the *Financial Times*, and it is difficult to see how any better arrangement can be arrived at as regards the Nile Valley cotton crop, more especially as the banks will be quite willing to make the necessary advances under Government authority. The principal factor in the problem to be faced consists of a heavy production at a time when some of the most important consuming centres are closed, and short time is being consequently worked in such districts as remain open. In these circumstances, it is essential that cultivators of the staple should be placed in a position which will absolve them from any necessity to realise their crop with undue haste. On the other hand, if their working expenses can be met, little doubt need be felt that they will be able to hold up their supplies, at any rate until next spring, and by that time the European crisis should be at least in a fair way towards settlement. Moreover, with the reopening of the Continental market for cotton, there must inevitably be a great increase in the demand for the staple, and no adequate reason exists why this year's production should not eventually be realised on satisfactory terms.

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Near East Markets.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, September 3.

Sugar.

Fairly good business has been done during the week in cane sugar. At public sales several parcels changed hands. Crystallised St. Lucia sold at 27s., crystallised Demerara 27s. 6d. to 29s., and crystallised Jamaica at 26s. 6d., with Trinidad at 27s. 6d. English refined continues steady at late rates. Tate's cubes No. 1 33s. 6d., No. 2 33s., crushed 31s., nibs 32s., granulated fine 30s. 6d., and standard 30s., castor 30s. 10½d., Lyle's granulated No. 1 30s. 6d., crystals No. 3 30s. Foreign refined is steady but quiet. Low castor on the spot sold at 29s.

Coffee.

The market is very quiet but steady at late rates.

Currants.

The market has been fairly active, but firm, at late prices.

Sultanas.

This fruit has met with moderate attention at steady rates.

Seeds.

The market remains inactive, the limited offerings being confined to spot and near parcels. Linseed is quiet, London-Calcutta spot quoted 51s., La Plata ditto 49s. Rapeseed is firm at late rates. Cotton seed, London-Egyptian on passage £8 10s. per ton. Canary seed has further advanced, particularly Turkish and Magazan, for which 112s. 6d. is now asked; bold Spanish is intrinsically good value at 130s. to 140s.. Haricot beans are slow, a small stock of Danubians and Hungarians offering at 85s. to 92s.. Mustard seed has been in some request, and the limited supplies available command full rates.

Oils.

Linseed oil remains quiet, spot pipes, landed, offered 26s. 3d., barrels, ditto, 26s. 3d. Rape oil is ruling steady, English refined barrels 35s. 6d. Cotton oil is well maintained, refined pale, spot pipes, 31s.; barrels, sweet, 37s.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed Cakes.—Owing to a considerable quantity of foreign descriptions, originally destined for the Continent, and now coming into the English market, values are with difficulty maintained, while in some instances a reduction of 2s. 6d. to 5s. per ton is acceded to on the part of holders. Best London-made sell quietly at £8 17s. 6d. to £9.

Cotton Cakes.—There is only a very limited quantity of Egyptian in store, but, with a considerable falling off in the demand, quotations may also be termed the turn easier at £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d. ex ship, for steamer parcels nearly due, while English makes are also on a lower basis of £5 12s. 6d. to £5 15s., and Bombay £4 15s.

Decorticated cotton cake remains scarce, and quotations are firmly held up at £8 10s. to £8 15s. per ton, ex docks, with digestive cotton meal attractively offered at £6 10s. ex dock.

Maize Germ Meal.—In sympathy with the firmness of the maize market, English makes maintain their value, £6 12s. 6d. to £6 15s. per ton, ex mill; while some landed lots of white African have changed hands at £7 per ton, ex quay.

Locust beans are offered sparingly, and needy buyers are compelled to pay full prices of £6 15s. for whole and £7 5s. for kibbled.

Corn.

Wheat.—The cargo market continues quiet this week, and in the absence of demand values remained unchanged. For steamers choice white Kurrachee afloat and September, 45s. is required. Barley is quite inactive; and no sellers. Oats are nominally unchanged.

Ivory.

The following quantities of ivory have arrived (up to last week) for the quarterly sales, October 20:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
East India	1	10	0	0
Abyssinian	2	2	0	27
Egyptian	7	11	3	15
West Coast Africa	1	0	0	0
Walrus Teeth	1	15	3	10
Tota	13	1	3	24

PERSIAN AND TURKISH PRODUCE.

The following are extracts from the monthly report issued by Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartleet:—

Gum Arabic (Kordofan).—We have sold a fair quantity of ordinary f.a.q. sorts at 42s. 6d. on account of one or two consuming markets being rather short of stock. For arrival we have had no news from Egypt for some time, but we can fairly suppose that there has been little or no change. (Persian Insoluble).—This article, we fear, is likely to be a drug on the market for the next season's crop, owing to the trouble on the Continent, and our outlets are almost closed for the present.

Gum Tragacanth.—We have not much fresh to report this month. A fair business has been done here and there, and some small lots of fine Tragacanth have again been placed at extreme values. All other grades are more or less dull and inactive.

Gum Mastic.—No change. Value, 2s. 6d. per lb.

Galls.—Quite a good business has been done during this month. Blues especially having been placed, and as much as 55s. has been paid. Greens and Whites are in request, but none are offering at present.

Ivory.—See our special report. The next sale should be on October 20, but it is not yet certain if this will be held on account of the war.

Opium.—Since our last report only a few transactions have taken place, owing to the Government prohibiting the export of opium and its by-products, which restriction no doubt will shortly be removed. Merchants are anxious to make progress, but are unable to do so owing to the above-stated reason.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended August 14:—"We have to report again a total absence of business, chiefly owing to the closing of the banks. No gold, silver, or paper is in circulation, and, therefore, no business of any sort is possible. The arrivals are 1,150 cases, against 2,337 at same date last year."

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Dardanelles.

Mr. Vice-Consul Palmer, at Dardanelles, reports that as the result of the call for tenders for the electric lighting of the town, only one applicant (an Italian firm), who had already undertaken similar work at Paderma, put in a tender. The firm's engineer has visited the town in order to draw up a scheme.

In regard to the trade of Gallipoli, it is stated that the manufactured goods are principally of German, French, Italian or British make, but the hardware, plates, etc., come from Germany.

Busreh.

A consular report on the trade of Busreh for 1913 states that the value of the imports of iron and steel material was £1,207,882, compared with £20,325 in 1912. The large increase, as well as the increase in machinery imports from £64,830 to £96,873, was due to the importation of material for the Baghdad railway. The machinery came from the United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium.

Twenty German steamers (of 55,149 tonnage) of the Hamburg-American Line called during the year, compared with 12 ships (of 30,948 tons). German returns give the value of the imports for Baghdad and Busreh by these steamers as £1,957,489 against £528,415 and of the exports as £226,212, compared with £375,760.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
ALEXANDRIA, Aug. 22.

There are anticipations of a crop of 7½ million cantars this year, and with the balance of the old crop left, which amounts to about 750,000 cantars, we shall have close on 8¼ million cantars of Egyptian cotton to dispose of next season. There is therefore reason to expect a heavy fall in prices, as well as a considerable reduction in consumption. The consequence will be that a portion of the crop will be sold, and the balance stored in anticipation of better days. The Egyptian Government, in agreement with the National Bank of Egypt, proposes to advance £2 per cantar on unsold cotton, and the money advanced will be recovered administratively with the taxes.

The news with regard to the new crop is excellent, and it is hoped to reopen the cotton market about September 15 next. The exports of cotton have been held up during the last three weeks, but things ought to be fairly normal again shortly.

In consequence of the moratorium dealers have refused to liquidate their positions in futures at the compensation price of 15⅝ dollars fixed by the Commission des Courtiers en Marchandises, and in face of this opposition the question will have to be referred to the tribunals to reach a settlement.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
MANCHESTER, September 2.

During the past week the conditions prevailing in the market have not got any worse, but it is impossible to record any distinct improvement in the situation. The extension of the moratorium has been criticised, but, on the whole, most traders acknowledge that it would have been disastrous for the proclamation to come to an end on September 4. Shippers have much appreciated the reduction in the insurance rate from three to two guineas per cent. Raw cotton matters at the moment are overshadowed by more important things, but undoubtedly the new American crop has recently made very good progress, and as a result of the condition report published a few days ago, it is thought that there is the possibility of the output being nearly 15½ million bales. With regard to the Egyptian crop, there is some fear that difficulty will be experienced as to finance, and a meeting of various parties interested has been held in Manchester to-day (Wednesday). It is realised that it is a difficult matter to assist planters abroad in this connection. With regard to piece goods for Egypt, practically no fresh business has been done. On the whole, deliveries are being taken a little more freely. The outlets of the Levant remain under a cloud. It is said to be quite impossible to export goods to Constantinople at the moment. Advices from India are rather more encouraging. The payment of accounts is on a better scale than any time since the war began. There is no particular fresh news from China. The home trade houses continue hampered, and undoubtedly the purchasing power of the public is being seriously curtailed. Perhaps in small lots sales and deliveries in yarn have shown a slight improvement. Owing to the Oldham Wakes there has been a big stoppage of machinery this week. Ground is gradually being lost in Egyptian spinnings.

SYRIAN OLIVE CROP.

The U.S. Consul-General at Beyrout reports that the market price of olive oil is advancing. This advance is attributed to the unsatisfactory prospects of the coming crop. On account of this increase cottonseed oil is now being imported from Egypt for mixing with native olive oil. Though this process is prohibited by existing regulations, the dealers of olive oil mix their oils with imported cottonseed oil without any hindrance from local authorities, who do not seem to be disposed to take any proceedings against them.

The stock of olive oil now on hand is held by rich Lebanon landowners and by those who have returned from abroad, and who possess sufficient means to hold these large stocks. The stock above mentioned consists principally of olive oil imported from Smyrna, Mitylene, and Crete, and is sufficient to cover the present demand.

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Shipping Intelligence.

DETAINED VESSELS.

The following are extracts from a circular issued by the Foreign Office :—

In order to furnish information to British and other traders who may be interested in cargoes carried on merchant vessels which have been either detained in British ports on the outbreak of war or have been captured by His Majesty's armed forces, it has been decided to publish lists of these vessels. A list is accordingly being published in *The Supplementary London Gazette* of August 29, 1914, containing such information as is at present available. This list cannot be taken as necessarily complete, and is subject to correction. Supplementary lists will be published from time to time as further particulars are received. These lists will also be communicated to Chambers of Commerce in the United Kingdom, to Shipping Associations, and to any other similar bodies who may intimate to the Foreign Office that they wish to receive them.

All persons having any claims in respect of cargoes which are the subject of proceedings in the British Prize Courts should take steps to have their interests represented in accordance with the Prize Court Rules, copies of which may be procured, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman and Son, 29, Breams Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

Due notice will be given of the institution of proceedings in cases in which vessels are in the custody of the Prize Courts in the United Kingdom. Vessels which have been detained in or brought into British ports outside the United Kingdom will be brought before the Prize Courts established in His Majesty's dominions overseas, and interested parties should take steps to have their interests represented before those Courts.

His Majesty's Government are endeavouring to obtain from the Governments of France, Russia, and Japan lists of merchant vessels which may be similarly detained or captured by the armed forces of those States. All such information as soon as received will be published in the same way.

The following is a list of the enemies' ships detained by us in Near Eastern ports :—

Name.	Nationality	Port.
Altair (3,220)	German	Port Sudan
Annaberg (1,163)	German	Suez
Anne Rickmers (4,083)	German	Port Said
Baerenfels (5,398)	German	Port Said
		Captured in
Christian X (4,956)	German	Persian Gulf
Derfflinger (9,144)	German	Port Said
Erymanthos (2,934)	German	Malta
Goslar (4,331)	German	Suez
Gutenfels (5,528)	German	Port Said
Helgoland (5,666)	German	Port Said
Istria (4,221)	German	Suez
Lautenfels (5,811)	German	Port Said
Lutzow (8,826)	German	Suez
Pindos (2,934)	German	Port Said
Rabensfels (4,629)	German	Port Said
Rostock (2,456)	German	Port Said

MEDITERRANEAN SAILINGS.

The following is the present situation of some of the lines plying in the Mediterranean: —The Ellerman is still running a direct service to Lisbon and Oporto (s.s. "Douro" closed yesterday at Liverpool), and will run a boat (s.s. "Avon," closing September 12) to Gibraltar and the south of Italy. The Papayanni Line announces the sailing of one steamer for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria, closing October. The Prince Line will sail the s.s. "Kaffir Prince" (closing September 10) for Egypt and Syria, whereas the Moss Line announce the sailing of s.s. "Esneh" for Alexandria on September 22. The s.s. "Heathmore," of the Johnston Line is scheduled to leave Liverpool for Piraeus and Salonika to-morrow, and the Cunard s.s. "Brescia" is sailing on the same day for the south of Italy and Patras.

FREIGHT MARKETS.

The conditions of chartering on Monday gave no suggestion of any real change for the better, as the quantity of tonnage at the disposal of merchants in position to do business is still exceptionally large (says *The Times*), and there is no sign of loading positions extending beyond current month, with the result that rates all round were easy, with a tendency to further decline.

Home from the East the demand was exceptionally light, and Karachi shippers secured a September boat on the basis of 16s. 6d. For prompt loading Sulina filled an order for a berth size on the basis of 8s. United Kingdom, with 6d. extra if two ports of discharge on the same coast, but very few orders were quoted by the Mediterranean and Bay mineral trades, and late rates were no more than maintained. La Goulette repeated 8s. on full terms for Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, or Jarrow, while Bilbao was stationary at 4s. 9d. Middlesbrough, and 3s. 10½d. Cardiff.

The inquiry for grain tonnage from the States showed a further shrinkage, and 3s. was not exceeded by the Gulf for Marseilles. On the other hand, coal shippers are beginning to show some slight interest in September loadings and chartered for the lower Plate ports at 18s., and also for the Mediterranean on the basis of 16s. Alexandria. Plate shippers were inclined to take matters somewhat leisurely owing to the ample quantity of tonnage available and the very small needs, although rates were still held at about the basis of from 15s. to 15s. 6d.

SUEZ CANAL DIFFICULTY.

Correspondence from the Chamber of Shipping was read in reply to the committee's representations as to the inconvenience caused by the French authorities insisting upon a double visé of bills of health of vessels passing through the Suez Canal. It was stated that while the Chamber does not propose to take general action, it was agreed that suggestions might be made in certain special cases that a time limit from the date of leaving Port Said, or other infectious ports, should be adopted, after which clean bills of health might be issued without requiring special methods for disinfecting.

THE GRÆCO-TURKISH DANGER.

The prospects of war between Greece and Turkey, says *The Morning Post*, seem definitely to have put an end to any hopes which may have been held regarding the shipment of grain from Roumania by way of the Dardanelles. There is still a number of British steamers at various ports in the Black Sea. These have gone up to fulfil charters, and have then had those charters cancelled, or have been left unloaded by grain shippers. Up to the present there have been possibilities of obtaining fresh employment for these boats from Roumania, and a steamer was chartered on Monday at 8s. per ton freight from Sulina, at the mouth of the Danube, to this country. She had a clause in her charter that in the event of any danger of the Dardanelles becoming closed she was at liberty to leave her loading port immediately with any cargo she might already have had on board. The imminence of trouble between Greece and Turkey will almost certainly result in the closing of the Dardanelles by the latter country. So this particular steamer is, no doubt, well on her way to the danger zone by this time. Such a course on the part of Turkey, however, would almost certainly prolong indefinitely the already too lengthy stay of many British ships in the Black Sea.

[According to *La Politique* (Bucharest) the Roumanian grain crop has not come up to expectations, and it is doubtful whether the Government, in view of the political situation, will allow exports to any appreciable extent.—Ed. "N.E."]

OBITUARY.

There was a very large and representative gathering of mourners, comprising many of the leading shipping and commercial firms of Liverpool, at the funeral of Mr. Fred Swift, late manager of the Ellerman Lines, which took place on Tuesday at the Wallasey Cemetery, Liscard, Liverpool, subsequent to a service which was held at St. James's Church, New Brighton. Mr. Swift died on Saturday last at his residence, "Rothiemay," Egremont Promenade, after an illness extending over several months.

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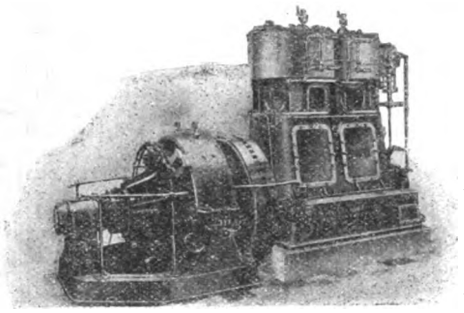

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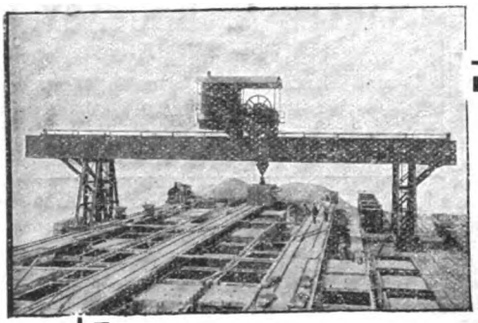

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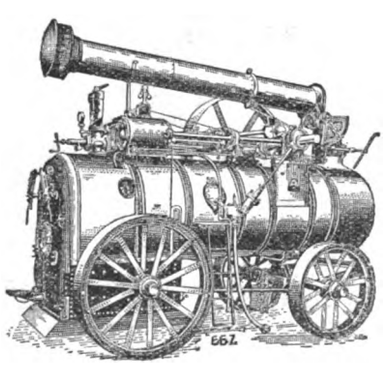

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Engineering Notes.

German Locomotives in Egypt.

The Government of Egypt (says *The Financier*) have of late given what appears to have been a distinct preference to German locomotives. All through the Egyptian Railway Administration have divided their purchases of locomotives principally, if not entirely, between British, Belgian, and German firms. Some years the Belgians have supplied the greater number—or, at any rate, the greater value—but recently the Germans have had the lion's share of the orders. It is not, we understand, contended that the German engines have any unique merits, but the price is low, and the builders are willing to design and deliver quickly machines of any special type required. It is this policy which has won a market, not only in Egypt, but elsewhere. If British firms are to gain substantially by the partial elimination of German competition in this branch of engineering they will have to abandon their customary attitude with respect to design and promptitude of delivery. It is of the utmost importance that a reform in this respect should be brought about. Otherwise, it may be accepted as certain that American, Danish, and Swedish firms will take the place of the Germans as our competitors.

[Incidentally, it may be mentioned that in the Balkan States, including Roumania, most of the engines are of German make. The opportunities, therefore, for British firms will be enormous as soon as ever the situation has cleared, the more so in view of the great development to be given to railway construction in the Balkans and the Ottoman Empire.]

Motor Gunboats.

In connection with the small war craft now building for the Roumanian Navy it is interesting to remember that, as a writer in *The Times* points out, the oil-engine is making headway in other directions than in submarines. Several countries have now one or two coastal defence gunboats which are driven by oil engines—a circumstance to be noted by all the Danube States, for instance. One of the latest is a Dutch craft in which a remarkable engine installation has been carried out, consisting of an inverted V. 12-cylinder four-cycle engine of the Werkspoor type, driving twin screws, and running at about 350 r.p.m. The object of the design, which embodies many features original in Diesel engine construction, was to reduce the weight, and it is stated that by the arrangement adopted, the engines, though they work on the four-cycle principle, are less in weight than two-cycle motors of equal power built by two German firms for similar gunboats. Another type of naval vessel to which the oil engine has been applied is the destroyer. In a boat of this class now under construction on the Clyde, a Diesel engine of 600 b.h.p. will be installed for employment when cruising. It will thus in reality only serve an auxiliary purpose, but the arrangement is interesting, and might be the means of effecting pronounced economy in the operation of such vessels.

Solid Motor Fuel.

With little prospect of a fall in the price of petrol, says *The Times*, the various fuel substitutes for motor vehicles continue to absorb attention. Gasworks still seem to present the most promising solution of the problem, and successful practical experiments have lately been carried out with naphthalene, which is produced in fairly large quantities during the distillation of coal. Owing to its comparatively high boiling point this hydrocarbon is a solid at ordinary temperatures, and though this is, perhaps, a disadvantage, a change to the vaporous form is easily effected by employing a reservoir jacketed by the exhaust gases. The engine may be started up on petrol. The approximate cost of the new fuel amounts to from 0.3d. to 0.5d. per b.h.p. hour, and so far as supplies are concerned the annual production on this country is in the neighbourhood of 130,000 tons. The naphthalene engine has already made some considerable strides on the Continent, and the product is extensively employed as a fuel on the Trans-Siberian Railway. The present cost is about £4 10s. per ton.

Baghdad Railway.

The British Vice-Consul at Adana writes that on the Baghdad Railway the line between Ulu Kishla and Kara Punar was opened to traffic in 1913. Work has been progressing but slowly on the tunnels in the Taurus between Kara Punar and Dorak, owing to the lack of suitable labour and funds to carry on the work. They are, however, expected to be finished in two and a-half years' time. The line between Toprak Kale and Alexandretta was opened in November, 1913. On the Adana-Aleppo section construction trains run as far as Airan, at the westward end of the Amanus tunnel, which latter continues to check progress in this direction. It is, however, hoped to complete the Amanus tunnel in two years' time or less.

Organised Engineering.

According to *The Times*, the British Engineers' Association, which numbers among its members British firms having a capital of about £100,000,000, is issuing the second edition of its official directory, which gives a classified list of engineering manufactures with the firms that are able to supply them. The association, which is not a trading concern, claims to constitute the first attempt on the part of British engineers to organize themselves for the purpose of obtaining a fair share of foreign trade, and to be in a position to find a British manufacturer for every engineering requirement, since its members between them cover the whole range of engineering plant and accessories thereto.

Brevities.

A 45 ft. launch, fitted with an Ailsa Craig type S6 50-h.p. engine, for use in the Persian Gulf has just been completed.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports that an inofficial telegram from Baghdad states that the part of the Baghdad Railway between Sumeikeh and Istabalat was opened last Friday.

The American Vacuum Oil Company has already begun constructing a road from Hebron to their new oilfields in Southern Palestine. The company's automobiles in the city of Jerusalem attract the attention of the populace as they run through the streets.

BULGARIAN IRRIGATION SCHEMES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 8.

The Sobranje has voted a credit of 2,430,000 frs. for canalisation and irrigation works.

Writing on June 3, our Special Correspondent in the Balkans referred to an interview he had had with M. Angeloff, in charge of the irrigation section. According to this authority, £52,000 was to be voted by the Sobranje this year for irrigation purposes, pending the realisation of a loan of about £250,000 to be operated through the Agricultural Bank. (See our Engineering Supplement, June 19.) The £97,200 referred to by our correspondent has reference, doubtless, to the extension of canalisation in the Upper Maritza section. There will be work here for British manufacturing engineers.

TENDERS INVITED.

[*Further information concerning tenders marked (B) can be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*]

EGYPT.

Safes.—Tenders are invited by the Economat Central, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for the supply of 150 safes of the approximate outside size of 63 centimetres high, 48 cm. wide, and 48 cm. deep. (B.)

GREECE.

Water-Supply Works.—The Acting British Consul at Piræus (Mr. J. Joannidis) reports that the Greek Government *Gazette* of July 21 to August 3 notifies that tenders are invited by the Ministries of the Interior, of Finances, and of Communications, for the construction, maintenance, and working of the undertakings necessary for (1) the supply of water to Athens, Piræus, and their suburbs by using the springs at Stymphalie or Medas; and (2) for the laying of a distributing system in Athens, Piræus, and North Phaleron for water supply and sanitation. The estimated value of the contract is 56,000,000 drachmae (£2,240,000). The plans, cahiers des charges, etc., may be seen at the "Bureau du service spécial pour l'alimentation d'eau et des égouts," Athens, where they may be copied at the tenderer's expense. Sealed tenders will be received by the Ministry of Communications, Athens, up to 11 a.m. on March 27 to April 9, 1915. A receipt for the payment of a provisional deposit of 500,000 drachmae (£20,000) to the "Caisse centrale d'Etat" or the National Bank of Greece must accompany each tender. (B.)

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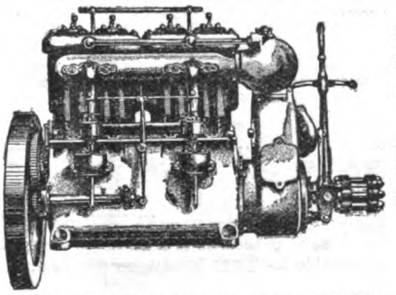
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ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

Return to Normal Conditions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Alexandria, August 22.

The panic which reigned towards the beginning of the war has abated. Confidence has been restored and trade has almost become normal again in spite of the suppression of all credit and the establishment of the moratorium. A noteworthy feature of the situation is that depositors who at the outbreak of hostilities withdrew their deposits from the savings and other banks are replacing them.

Our trading relations with England have been restored, and fuel, which had reached fabulous prices, is dropping again. Important cargoes of coal are on their way out, and we shall soon be in a position to restart work in our local factories, such as refineries, oil mills, foundries, rice factories, etc.

With the exception of two banks, all financial institutions have been in a position not to take advantage of the moratorium, and are paying anxious depositors in full. The Banco di Roma will begin operating again next week.

A certain amount of uneasiness will continue in the country, it is true, but nothing alarming seems likely. Even supposing the war were to continue for some months, local bankruptcies are not to be feared. The greater part of our cotton crop will doubtless be sold abroad, and as for the balance it will be stored here in anticipation of better times. Moreover, the excellent maize crop will recompense us to a certain extent for the losses caused by cotton under sales, and the forthcoming crop will place us in a position to dispense with heavy imports of maize flour. Furthermore, the high Nile flood has enabled the cultivation this year of 400,000 surplus feddans of land with onions and cereals. It will thus be seen that the European conflict will not paralyse the economic situation of the country.

In the circumstances we need not be preoccupied regarding foodstuffs during the war. The proof is that the price of certain articles and foodstuffs, including fowls, eggs, beans, rice, fish, and fruit, has fallen below that obtaining before the war.

As for the repercussion of the war on the financial market, it is practically nil. The value of all shares has dropped so low since the crisis of 1907 that it is impossible for it to fall lower.

THE HEJAZ RAILWAY.

The Egyptian Gazette's Haifa correspondent furnishes an interesting account of the Hejaz Railway, the "British enterprise in Syria that failed," from which we cull the following extracts:—

"Not many people are aware that the present Hejaz Railway was originally a British enterprise. The British Haifa-Damascus Railway, as it was formerly termed, was started in 1898 by a British group of investors. About 1900-1 this enterprise was abandoned and the line became Turkish property.

"Division of opinion exists regarding the real causes contributing to the failure of the Anglo-Syrian Railway. They may, however, be summed up in one—viz., the sudden awakening of the Turkish Government to the extreme religious importance of the line on account of its possible completion to the city of Medina. This awakening is believed by some to be a sequel to Germany's disfavour of the project. Having realised the seriousness of the situation caused by Britain's acquisition of the Haifa-Damascus line, and the considerable economic and political interests involved, Germany took steps at the Sublime Porte to prevent as far as possible the success of the enterprise. To do so was not difficult owing to the intimate friendship which then existed between the German Emperor and the Sultan Abdul Hamid.

"The attention of the Khaliphate was drawn to the importance of the line from a religious point of view and the necessity of its appropriation was impressed upon him. At the instigation of the Turkish authorities endless difficulties were therefore raised whenever an opportunity presented itself. Friction continually existed between the railway people and the Commissioner who represented the Turkish Government, and finally the enterprise was abandoned and was purchased by the private money of Abdul Hamid. It was recently formally attached to the Ministry of Wakfs, which implies that it is religious property of the State. The hope of its absorption by another foreign country is therefore remote, as this step would provoke intense anger and indignation in the Moslem world."

ROUMANIAN OIL NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, August 12.

The petroleum business is suffering considerably on account of the political situation. The stopping of navigation on the Danube will prevent trade with Austria and Germany, apart from the fact that the large contracts with the Servian Government for raw and lamp oil cannot be filled. The blow is all the harder seeing that the output of raw material has been exceptionally heavy of late. For instance, the average production of the Steaua Romana Company during July was 980 tons daily, that of the Astra Romana during the last ten days was 15,557 tons (during July 40,660 tons), and that of the Romana Americana in ten days just under that of the Steaua.

Consolidated Oilfields.

The output has been heavy in the Moreni district. Well No. 9 of the Consolidated Oilfields Company has had a daily output of 30-35 wagons, and No. 1 boring of the same company, which was stopped through the filling of the vents, and which had been yielding about 700 tons a day, is now again gushing.

During the first half of this year the entire production in Roumania was as follows:—January, 68,387; February, 75,009; March, 72,950; April, 95,029; May, 93,938; June, 78,311—total, 483,624 tons.

AFFAIRS OF MR. E. T. BOXALL.

On Monday, at the London Bankruptcy Court, Mr. E. Leadam Hough, Senior Official Receiver, presided at the first meeting of creditors under the failure of Mr. Edward Thomas Boxall, merchant and company director, 64, Cornhill, E.C., trading as E. T. Boxall and Co. The chairman reported that the debtor, in addition to having traded since 1901 as a merchant, had acted as director of the following companies:—United Roumanian Oilfields, Prolongeni Tin Mines, Indolex Syndicate, Olorex, Syrian Exploration Company, Rothay Syndicate, Galician Victoria Petroleum Company, and the Premier Oil and Pipe Line Company. He was the chairman and joint managing director of the last-named company, with fees amounting to £1,750 per annum. No statement of affairs had yet been lodged, but the debtor roughly estimated his unsecured liabilities at £200,000, and assets included interests in a concession granted by the Austrian Government over a very large oil-bearing area in the Bucowina district. The assets further included book debts amounting to £150,000. The debtor did not admit insolvency. It was his desire to submit to the creditors a proposal or scheme under which securities to a large amount would be given up. Mr. Walter B. Styer, on behalf of the debtor, obtained an adjournment for three weeks.

BEYROUT AND THE WAR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
August 3.

The political situation, which has developed with such alarming rapidity, is affecting this town more seriously than the last three wars through which Turkey has successively gone. A moratorium was declared to-day, and business is already practically at a standstill. The Imperial Ottoman Bank kept open this afternoon, and is paying the amounts deposited by its clients.

To aggravate matters, there has been a general call of all the classes of redifs and reserves. The town has a weird, deserted aspect. French subjects are leaving to-day by the Messageries Maritimes steamer, whose agent is awaiting to receive at any moment orders to despatch her direct to Marseilles, instead of allowing her to proceed on her usual itinerary. The Austrian Lloyd steamer "Leopolis," that was to leave to-day for Port Said, Alexandria, and Trieste, has received urgent instructions to proceed in all haste to Trieste direct.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has published a circular on the fumigation of citrus trees.

A water famine is threatened in Jerusalem. A kerosene tin full of water costs two metaliks (2 cents).

Quarantine regulations will be enforced in Egyptian ports against cattle arriving from Chios and Samos; the quarantine against cattle coming from Karachi has been raised.

The adjudication held on July 28, 1914, for the supply of petroleum at the Dokmakhana railway siding, Tura, Egypt, has been adjudicated in favour of "The Asiatic Petroleum Company (Egypt), Ltd.," Cairo, at the total price of L.E. 239.400 millièmes.

A report received in London this week, but dated August 24, announces that the German gunboat "Panther," of Agadir fame, has arrived at Smyrna.

Turkish papers lately received report the arrest of several persons accused of having sold provisions at an excessive price.

The Constantinople Municipality has issued a notice that owing to the drafting as soldiers of the scavengers of the city it will employ anyone who applies, with pay in advance. "The streets," says *The Orient*, "have not for many years been in such deplorable condition as for the past week."

As the result of the liquidation of the Deutsche Palaestina Bank in Germany, the local branches in Palestine and Syria have been taken over by the Deutsche Orient Bank, says the U.S. Vice-Consul at Jerusalem. The banking interests of Germany in Turkey have been divided, the Deutsche Bank taking the north of Turkey, as well as Mesopotamia, and the Deutsche Orient Bank interesting itself in Syria and Palestine.

The new slaughter-house at Burdugeni, Roumania, has been opened, and the exportation of meat to Germany will begin at once. A second slaughter-house is shortly to be opened at Turnu Severin.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (August 6) that Bulgaria has been practically isolated from the rest of Europe. Mails of July 25 reached Sofia, via Dedeagatch (?) on August 5.

A provisional census of population in Greece's new provinces gives the following results: Macedonia, 1,140,776 inhabitants; Epirus, 244,348; islands (including Crete), 645,595; total, 2,030,719. The figures given for Epirus are only approximate, because the frontiers are not yet definitely marked out. The Hellenic Kingdom will have an approximate population of 4,781,000.

Leicester boot manufacturers have within the last few days been approached by agents of the Greek Government with the view of placing heavy contracts for army boots. The English manufacturers, however, are busily engaged day and night on English and French army contracts, and are not able to accept orders from the Greek Government.

In consequence of recent correspondence between the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and certain merchants in India, the latter agreed to supply Egypt with 900 tons of wheat flour at the rate of 21 mms. per oke, delivered at Port Said. The Ministry has informed the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce of this result.

Mr. Henry Boutigny has purchased the Cairo journal, *Progrès*, and that paper and the *Echo Egyptien* will appear as one publication under the title of the *Progrès Egyptien*. Count Max di Collalto, the editor of the *Progrès*, will occupy the same post on the new journal.

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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

The Stock Exchange Committee has at last done the right thing. In a few days it will have discovered exactly how much money has been borrowed by its members upon securities. It will then be able to give the Government valuable information and will be able at any rate to say, "yea or nay" to the numberless schemes that have been put forward. But to be quite frank, very few people believe that the House will be reopened until the war comes to an end. Those who advocate the formation of a trust have evidently no idea of the amount of money loaned out upon securities. Also they do not seem to realise that no one would dream of buying any securities, for they would know that the trust would always be a seller, that such vast blocks of shares would overhang the market that a rise would be impossible. Now, no buyer ever comes into a market to buy unless he is fairly confident that he will not lose money. No man could possibly make money if he purchased securities from the proposed trust. Therefore, the pretended object of the trust would fail. But, of course, the real and undisclosed object is that of every other trust, namely, to transfer an intolerable burden to the backs of others. In short, the proposed Stock Exchange Trust is an attempt to unload, and as such must fail. The idea that solvent firms would increase their subscriptions or in any other way aid by their money the insolvent firms also appears a mere chimera.

Stock Exchange Reopening.

The reopening of the Stock Exchange is imperative, but it can be reopened when all the weak and penniless firms have been hammered. The sustention of quotations at the pre-moratorium level is another impracticable idea. War destroys credit, and stocks and shares are only a species of credit. Therefore they must deteriorate in value. The sooner we all face this the less disappointment we shall have.

The Bank of England continues to wriggle out of its promise to buy all bills "without recourse." It is expected that the Government will have to pay between forty and fifty millions for their adventure in Lombard Street.

The small business which was done by members of the Stock Exchange on a cash basis when the war began has now quite ceased. It was really due to the efforts of a few bears to buy back and a few bulls who wished to close up their positions.

Position in Egypt.

In Egypt a complete moratorium exists, and no business of any kind is being transacted. Indeed many of the banks are closed. The National Bank is busy upon a scheme for financing the cotton crop, and will certainly carry one out. But the details are not yet settled. The cotton crop appears to be of good quality and average quantity. But there is still about a million cantars of last year's crop unsold, and the real trouble would seem to be in the price. It is most unlikely that present prices can be held up. A large amount of this years crop will therefore have to be stored until the war has ended. It is of urgent necessity that the fellaheen should send in all their produce quickly in order that it may be ginned and baled without any delay. Cotton will not keep. The fellah has taken kindly to the paper currency, and he will probably sell his cotton for notes without any trouble. But the Government will have to give him time to pay his taxes. Whether the Government will attempt to hold up the price of cotton is undecided. Probably it will content itself by advancing 50 per cent. of the present value and leave the price to take care of itself. Whether the advance takes the form of paper money or certificates of value is not yet settled. It is not a matter of supreme importance. The crop will be financed—that is sufficient for the cultivator.

Oil Shares.

The Spies circular should reassure the holders of these shares. It is now clear that the South Baskakoff plots are very prolific, and that the water difficulty has been completely overcome. There appears to be little or no trouble as regards labour, and the price remains satisfactory. The Cheleken report shows an increase in profit of nearly £20,000, being £78,000 as against £58,400 in the previous period. Twenty per cent. dividend was paid, and a further 10 per cent. interim was intended, but the war has made the directors cautious. As the company sells all its oil in Russia, the war does not affect revenue, only finance in London.

The news that Turkey intends to join Germany has called forth a strong note from Roumania, and it is believed that the Balkan Alliance will be reconstituted and will include Bulgaria and perhaps Italy. Roumania has not declared any moratorium, nevertheless the Roumanian Consolidated reports serious stoppage of business.

COMPANY NOTES.

Menzaleh Canal Navigation.

This company's operations were interfered with by the exceptionally low Nile and the construction of the Sudd of Faraskur in the month of November instead of February, thus stopping any attempt at developing trade with Mansurah. A large quantity of freight can be obtained from Port Said, but this is not a profitable business without a return freight to Port Said, and so far there is great difficulty in obtaining this.

Wadi Kom Ombo.

We referred last week to the results for the past year of this company. We now learn that the results of cotton cultivation during the year has encouraged the directors to increase the area under cotton this season. With regard to the cultivation of wheat, barley, and beans, this is said to be progressing satisfactorily. A sum of £E5,000 has been written down for depreciation of material, and £E2,587 has been carried forward. The company has a general reserve of £E10,000.

National Steam Navigation of Greece.

In their report for the year 1913 the directors of the National Steam Navigation Company, Limited, of Greece, state that in spite of the difficult times through which Greece has been passing the results obtained have been very satisfactory. The sailings, both of the company's passenger and cargo boats, were greatly interfered with, owing to the Græco-Turkish War, which resulted in many of the company's fleet being taken over by the authorities. During the period under review the paid-up capital of the company has been increased from 8,635,000 fr. to 13,580,000 fr. The profit and loss account shows that apart from the balance of profit of 717,170.50 fr. brought forward from the last year, there are three categories of profits, the first of which represents regular earnings resulting from the working of the cargo and passenger boats, which, added to other items, amounts to 1,969,685.15 fr.; the second represents the amount awarded to the company as remuneration for the employment of the steamers by the Government and the interests thereof, amounting to 490,444.90 fr.; while the third represents extraordinary profits resulting from the difference in value of the 45,000 new shares issued above par and the amount in excess of that mentioned in the 1912 balance-sheet, less depreciation awarded to the company as the actual value of the s.s. "Macedonia," amounting in all to 1,161,006.30 fr. After deducting from the above profits, plus the balance brought forward from last year, the sum of 957,690.45 fr., the directors propose to place 1,110,000 fr. to depreciation, while the balance is disposed of as follows: allocation to reserve (3 per cent.), 62,030.70 fr.; directors' remuneration (3 per cent.), 36,721.95 fr.; management's commission (2 per cent.), 24,481.30 frs.; income-tax, 135,658.25 fr.; duty on reserve funds, 3,101.55 fr.; contribution employés benevolent fund, 10,000 fr.; dividends (interim ordinary shares), 880.140 fr.; (final ordinary shares), 814,800 fr. (for the year, founder's shares), 92,000 fr. This leaves a balance of 8,756.70 fr. to carry forward.

Craiova Oil Company.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that a new company, the Craiova Oil Company, has been registered at Bucharest with a capital of 100,000 frs.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Turco-British Cigarette Syndicate, Ltd.—A meeting of the creditors will be held on September 17, at Winchester House, London.

Eastern Bank.—A call of £1 15s., making £3 paid, plus 15s. premium, has been made on the £10 shares.

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts on Friday, 28th ultimo, amounted to 120,000 francs, against 590,000 francs last year.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—A telegram received from Gemsah yesterday gives the production for the week as 1,017 tons (last week 1,070 tons), of which Hurgada gave 104 tons (last week 90 tons).

Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company.—The directors announce that owing to the present impossibility of obtaining repayment of money lent by the company on short loan against securities prior to the moratorium, they are compelled to postpone posting the dividend warrants due to have been issued on Monday.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—The receipts for the week ended August 29 amounted to £11,742, an increase of £2,049 compared with the corresponding week of last year. Aggregate receipts from July 1 amount to £76,083, a decrease of £5,954.

Egyptian Markets.—Week ending August 27, £239 (decrease, £379); aggregate to date, £33,061 (decrease, £1,927).

RUMANIA AND THE MORATORIUM.

Reuter's Agency is authorised by the Roumanian Legation to declare to interested commercial and financial circles in England that no moratorium has been proclaimed in Roumania. The question of the non-payment of bills due in Roumania or in England on account of the impossibility of sending money will be decided upon by the judicial courts in each case on its own merits, *force majeure* being taken into account.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, AUGUST 8, 1914.

Assets.

Metallic reserve: Gold	153,215,204		209,861,726
Metallic reserve: Foreign bills payable in gold	56,646,522		
Silver and other coins			674,549
Roumanian and foreign bills			229,004,200
Advances against Government securities	32,506,750		63,512,541
On current account	64,425,700		
Unused balance	33,419,909	31,005,791	
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			11,999,357
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,762,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			4,036,281
Premises			6,728,173
Furniture and printing machinery			1,075,749
General expenses			232,773
Government and other securities deposited			134,387,217
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			176,361,430
Current accounts			26,298,432
Security accounts			23,481,353
Sundry accounts			10,935,504
Total Lei			926,626,120

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,179,870
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	476,246,500
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	917,568
Current accounts and drafts at sight	21,293,873
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	310,748,647
Sundry accounts	58,902,856
Total Lei	926,626,120

Bank Rate, 5½ per cent.

THE RISE OF THE NILE.

The Egyptian Gazette of August 20 stated: The Nile rise this year is the best recorded since 1892, and it excels even that one. At that date the Nilometer at Rosseires did not exist, but a comparison can be made between the levels registered at Halfa. At this Nilometer, on Monday, the level was 8m. 81cm., whereas the corresponding day last year it was 7m. 48cm.

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Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

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THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
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Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,500,000.**
Paid up Capital - -	**500,000.**
Reserve - - - - -	**660,000.**

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(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

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(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

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Soufli
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adatia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
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Kutahia
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Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
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Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
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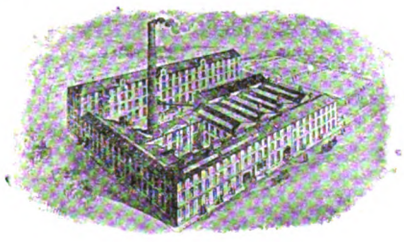
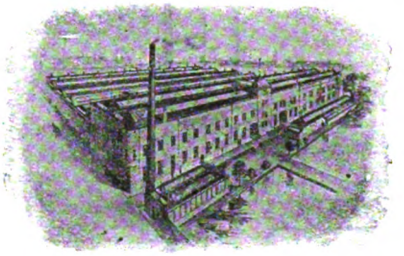

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SEP 1914

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 175.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In these days of war mere geographical boundaries tend to assume a secondary importance, and in the presence of great movements of the nations the confines of the Near East may well be extended. The remarkable response to the call to arms of the Overseas Dominions of the British Crown is impressive in its whole-hearted loyalty, but nowhere have the calculations of our enemy been so utterly confounded as in India. An immense array of princes and troops, both British and Indian, has been passing through the great Gate which de Lesseps opened between East and West. It is indeed fitting that a Frenchman should have prepared the sea path along which the might of India can hasten to the help of France. The shades of Dupleix and of Clive will look with amazement upon this the most astonishing of Time's revenges, and even the bitterest opponents of the Bonapartes will now allow that the Third Napoleon deserves well of this country for having made possible the construction of the Suez Canal. Little did the Empress of the French imagine that the waterway which she ceremonially opened just before the downfall of her throne would ever bear British and Indian troops on their way to fight for France.

As we write it appears that the German invasion of France has reached its limit and the Teutonic tide is upon the point of ebbing. Should this really be the case it is earnestly to be hoped that the Allies will press the retreating invaders as vigorously as they were themselves pressed during the long days of rearguard actions and continuous retirement. Hitherto, with but one exception, the difficulty of the French commanders has been to restrain the eagerness of their troops. Now perhaps the gallant soldiers of the Republic will be permitted to enjoy the long withheld pleasure of attacking. Upon French troops the effect of that pleasure is cumulative. History has numerous instances to show how Frenchmen have made light of obstacles after a few days of offensive action which at the very outset of the campaign would have appeared almost insuperable. The Gallic Cock who has been called upon to fight for his own farmyard needs but a few drops of German water to make him as formidable as the Napoleonic eagle. If he advances to the Rhine he will gather strength enough to take him in triumph to the Elbe and even to the Spree.

It is now apparent that the Russian victory at Lwow (Lemberg) last week was more considerable than was at first considered wise to believe, and its effects have been almost as wide politically as from a military point of view. In the opinion of many the cat has jumped, and signs are not wanting that the creature's action is having its inevitable effect. We could have wished that the influential animal had had cause to jump because of some great victory of the Allies in France or in the North Sea. That is a creditable vanity—for in a war such as this every member of the coalition must put forth his utmost strength for the benefit of the common cause. Suffice it, then, that the Russians have won a very handsome victory, and several States are making every preparation for a descent from the fence on the side of the Allies. They should not, however, delay their action very much longer, for it would be distressing to arrive too late for enrolment on the honourable list of the defenders of civilisation, and only qualify for participation in the spoils of an already defeated Teutondom.

It becomes daily more apparent that the drain of the Tripolitan War upon the resources of Italy was far greater than was generally supposed. We have reason to believe that the Roman Cabinet is well-disposed towards the Powers of the Triple Entente, and that its benevolence would already have been translated into active assistance had not Italy been wholly unprepared for further warfare. Money was lacking, military stores had been seriously depleted and had not been replaced. The supply of boots and ammunition had run low, and it is even asserted that the distribution of fortress artillery was wholly unsatisfactory for a war against Austria. Italy in planting her foot into Libya has rendered herself sensitive to manifestations of Moslem opinion, and the same agencies which have endeavoured to arouse Islam against Great Britain have exercised their ingenuity to excite the Mussulmans resident in what used to be Ottoman Africa against their newly established overlords. The time is now past for pointing out the advantages, territorial and other, of the adhesion of Italy to this group of Powers or to that. It is obvious that her mind is made up, and that she only awaits the moment of preparedness and an adequate occasion to range herself on the field by the side of those who fight for the Public Law of Europe against those barbarians who seek to exalt the Sword of Force above that of Justice. It is fitting that the men who have taken up part of the heritage of Old Rome in Africa should sustain in Europe that traditional reign of law which owes its origin to the Seven Hills.

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For many days past the Turks have been bemused by the din of innumerable Germans announcing unlimited victory for the Prussian arms. They have been exposed to great pressure to embark upon a last adventure, nominally for the recovery of Salonika or the invasion of Egypt, but really in order to provide a distraction which might reduce the opposition which their interested advisers are encountering in Europe. The politicians of Berlin having wonderfully succeeded in making a cat's-paw of the Hapsburg Emperor, have been endeavouring to enlist the services of the Ottoman Sultan in a similar capacity, and at one moment came within an ace of success. Now, however, the Turks have heard another sound and another voice. The noise of victory is in their ears it is true, but it is not a German report, and for a moment the enthusiasm of those who clamour for war is abated. We cannot believe that the influences which during the past few weeks have sought to embroil the Porte in a quarrel wholly foreign to its own interests will be so easily abashed, and it is imperative that every effort should be made to impress upon those who control Ottoman policy the necessity for keeping the peace.

The declaration of the three Powers of the Triple Entente that no peace will be made without the consent of all three has had an excellent effect. Belgium and Japan have since announced their adhesion to this declaration, which has done much to persuade certain neutrals that there can be only one end to this war, and that it will be highly disastrous for any State to take part in the present contest except as an ally and on the invitation of the Powers who enjoy the command of the sea.

A good deal of attention was devoted by the Press during the past week to the opinions expressed in a letter which the Tsar of the Bulgarians is reported to have written to a personal friend in Hungary. The authenticity of the letter has not been established, but, supposing that it was written, the attitude taken up by the writer is entirely creditable to his sense of honour. It must be remembered that King Ferdinand is partly of Magyar blood, that, before his election to the throne of Bulgaria, he spent many years of his life in Hungary, where he owns a considerable property. Moreover, during the period when he was labouring to establish his position in Bulgaria while the greater part of Europe regarded him with a cold eye he found sympathy and support among his Magyar friends. In such circumstances it is not in any way remarkable that King Ferdinand's personal hopes are for Austro-Hungarian success, although it must be obvious to him as a statesman that he cannot justly associate the great bulk of his people in such expressions of opinion. From consanguinity and other even stronger reasons King Ferdinand has naturally inclined towards the Magyro-Teutonic combination which is now in arms against Russia. From Russia in the past King Ferdinand has benefited but little, however great may be the debt of gratitude which Bulgaria owes to her great liberator. In the present circumstances, however, we fully believe that King Ferdinand is too practised a ruler to allow his private predilections to obscure his public policy.

A certain amount of criticism has been aimed at the Bulgarian Government for its "breach of neutrality" in permitting the passage of German sailors *en route* for Constantinople. Apparently the Foreign Office asked for information about the matter, and the Bulgarian Government was able to give a highly satisfactory reply. The Germans, to the number of 600, were properly provided with passports, and travelled in an orderly manner as civilians in a special train chartered for their convenience according to the ordinary Bulgarian railway regulations by the local representative of a German commercial concern. Male subjects of belligerent Powers, even when of military age, can pass freely from one neutral State to another. The Bulgarian Government had no call to interfere with these people so long as they behaved themselves; indeed, to have done so would in itself have been questionable as a possible breach of neutrality. The behaviour of the Bulgarian Government appears to have been entirely correct in the circumstances, and it is probably due to a last dying effort on the part of the Press campaign which for so many months was directed against Sofia, that accusations were brought against Bulgaria for permitting the passage of Germans who had come out of Roumania and were directing their steps into Turkey.

The territory of the Serb States is now clear of invaders, and it appears likely that an invasion of Bosnia on a large scale may shortly be attempted. It should be remembered that the task before the Servian Army is very serious. We have become accustomed to talk of the "fortified frontier" of France which reaches from Belfort by way of Epinal and Toul to Verdun, but few of the public realise that the Kaiserlichs have prepared a more or less similar defence for their Bosnian dominions. The Servian Army, which, on the top of two wars, has had to exert its utmost strength to crush a formidable invasion, may well take time for recuperation before beginning an attack upon the Austrian positions which lie between the Drina and the coveted city of Serajevo. In view of the geographical difficulties which militate against an invasion of Bosnia by the armies of King Peter, it is possible that this ancient Serb territory may have to be recovered on other battlefields than those along the Drina.

The position in Egypt is somewhat curious. The Government of the Khedive has announced that the country is in a state of war with Germany and the Dual Monarchy, yet the German Consul-General in Cairo is permitted to remain and exercise his malevolent activities under shelter of the Capitulations and of the fact that the Porte is still at peace with the German Empire. This cannot fail to strike the observer as Gilbertian. If an enemy is permitted to be a nuisance because of the Capitulations—then let these unnecessary legal fictions be abolished in Egypt. The collapse of an obsolete survival of measures taken to counteract Ottoman maladministration in the remote past would enable the Khedive's Government to extend its authority within its own country, and the noise of that collapse would be as nothing amid the crash of the European State system. The Capitulations exist at present only as monuments of international prestige in Egypt. At least let us overthrow the two Teutonic monuments and expel those who are mischievously active in their shade. The other Capitulations can be suspended during the war and done away with by agreement at the general settlement.

The insurgents are reported to have occupied Durazzo and taken possession of the Palace in the name of "a future Moslem Prince." On the other hand, Prince William of Wied is believed still to consider himself Mpret of Albania, an opinion which can hardly be shared in this country. For the moment Albania must be considered as a State without a Sovereign. An armed majority of the population appears to be unwilling to recognise the Government set up by Europe, and at the present moment Europe is far too busy to recognise the insurgent administration in Albania. It is, however, not improbable that Italian troops may be sent to prevent Valona from becoming a stronghold of the Epirotes, as the Roman Government is generally understood to be nervous about any possible extension of Greek influence along the opposite coast of the Adriatic. It was due very largely to Italian insistence that the Albanian frontier was so drawn as to prevent both sides of the Corfu Channel from passing into Hellenic hands. In view of this, it is doubtful whether any settlement of Albanian affairs can be accepted as definite until the whole question of the Principality and its Sovereign comes up for discussion at the General Congress which will have to be assembled when the war comes to an end. The Albanians will be wise if, during the interval, they abstain from setting up any new Mpret, be he Moslem or Christian, and submit themselves to the rule of just such a Regency as that which administered Bulgaria during the long interregnum between the abdication of Prince Alexander and the election of his successor.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, August 18.

The Porte and the European Situation.

Turkey has undoubtedly been sailing very near the wind during the last ten days, and two days ago it seemed a question of hours before the Porte threw in its lot with the Central Powers. Yesterday, however, the British Ambassador, who had just arrived here from England viâ Brindisi, laid the British Government's views very clearly before the Grand Vizier, with the result that the Porte undertook to give the necessary firmans to British merchantmen laden with cereals, etc., which had not hitherto been given permission to pass out into the Mediterranean viâ the Dardanelles. The Turkish authorities would appear to have defended the refusal of firmans on the ground that they were obliged to see first to the victualling of their own army, which has been mobilized or, rather, is still in process of mobilization. But had the Ottoman Government continued to hold up British shipping in Turkish waters the supplies of grain from South Russia, which form a not unimportant part of our food supplies, would have never reached Great Britain, and our economic condition, which has naturally suffered from the general war, would have grown worse, while Russia, her outlet to the Mediterranean closed, would have been forced sooner or later to take violent measures to free the passage of the Straits. As for the "Goeben" and "Breslau," now the "Yawuz Sultan Selim" and "Midüllü" (Mitylene), the question of the transfer during war time by a belligerent to a neutral Power does not seem likely to be raised by the Entente Powers, always provided that the Porte despatches the great majority of the officers and crews of these vessels to Germany. Some of the engineers and stokers will undoubtedly have to remain to teach the Turks, who have no experience of turbine engines, how to run these vessels.

Reception of the Warships.

According to letters from the Dardanelles, the "Goeben" and "Breslau" arrived at the Straits at 10.50 p.m. on the night of the 10th-11th instant. They promptly took advantage of their safety to send boats' crews to the French Messageries "Saghalien," where they destroyed the wireless gear, under threat of sinking the ship if any resistance were made. The "Breslau's" people boarded several Greek, French, and British merchantmen and searched them. They attempted to take some of the cargo of the British s.s. "Tremayne," but the crew threatened resistance, and after a while the Germans gave up their idea. They reached Tuzla, on the north shore of the Marmora, not far from the entrance to the Gulf of Ismid, on the 13th instant, after coaling, and on the 16th instant showed themselves off Constantinople. They seem to have been hit during a night action off Messina, but the extent of their injuries is not known.

Their reception at Constantinople was not as enthusiastic as the pro-German attitude of the military and of a section of the Press led one to expect. The day of their arrival Admiral Limpus Pasha was removed from his executive command of the Turkish active Fleet, but remained Adviser to the Ministry of Marine. This step on the part of the Turkish authorities appeared sufficient proof to many that the Porte proposed to join the Central Powers.

But at the same time Talaat Bey and Halil Bey, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, left for Bucharest viâ Sofia, and those who profess to be well informed as to Turkey's policy hint that these statesmen propose to discuss the Question of the Islands and the formation of an East Balkan *bloc*, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Whether such a *bloc* could really be formed is more than doubtful. However, "hope springs eternal," etc., and the Turks believe in the possibility.

A Policy of Pin Pricks!

We have practically no news here, and there is reason to believe that news unfavourable to Germany is being suppressed by the Military Censors, who are desperately pro-German. A section of the Cabinet has no decided views as to the policy that Turkey should follow, and one or two Ministers are known to be friendly to the Entente Powers; but the military are Germanophile, and if afraid to strike are extremely willing to wound, often in such mean and petty ways as to make the British resident wonder what has become of the gentlemanly Turk of literature. Every sort of requisition of British goods, often of property which has no particular use for military purposes, is being pursued. Official promises are regularly broken. A British flag has been torn up and trampled on at Galata under the impassive eyes of the police; and the extremist Press, despite the censorship, is permitted to write most violent articles threatening England with the displeasure of the 400,000,000 Moslems, etc., etc., and praying for her overthrow at the hands of the Germans. "The purchase of the German cruisers," said Obeidullah Effendi, a Committee Cleric, deputy for Aidin, and once saved from Abdul Hamid's wrath by British sailors, "means that we have thrust our fist in England's face."

German Mission's Work.

There are great numbers of Turks who reprobate these proceedings, but they cannot do anything at present; nor does it seem that the Government can. Those of us—the writer included—who thought that the British Government made a mistake in protesting too strongly against the powers given to the German military mission by the Porte, were wrong. The Entente Governments were right. The mission has captured the leaders of the Turkish army, has led them to believe that England has no army worth mentioning, that Russia is unwieldy and unready, that the French are not sufficiently prepared to meet the Germans, and that it will be surprising if the latter are not at Paris in another three weeks.

A Postscript. August 19.

The ships containing cargoes which have left for the Dardanelles—there are some forty of them—have been warned that there are new orders, and that they cannot pass for the present despite the firmans! The British Ambassador will be in town to-day, but the early departure of our only mail makes it impossible for me to inform you by this post of the results of his interview with the Porte.

Constantinople, August 25.

A Risky Situation.

The situation has improved in some respects, but not in others. Owing to the vigorous representations of H.B.M.'s Ambassador the British ships carrying grain, coal, and petroleum cargoes which had not yet been requisitioned have been allowed to pass the Dardanelles, their last detention being officially ascribed to the blunders of a subordinate. At the same time the German officers and crews remain on the ex "Goeben" and ex "Breslau"—one can hardly give them their Turkish names till they have their Turkish crews on board, more mines are being laid in the Bosphorus, and the mobilisation is proceeding with vigour. All sorts of people—Greeks, Jews, Armenians, Gipsies, and what not—are being called out up to the age of forty-five. Some are released after some days' detention as untrained men, only to be again called out.

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Others are urged to pay the £T43 exemption tax, the positively last day for payment of which is postponed for a week at regular intervals. Others are sent off to Thrace or elsewhere. Some of the contingents which one sees marching to the depôts to receive their uniforms are a sturdy lot, who with good leadership might do well. The quality of others seems most inferior.

Of the policy of the Government it is hard to write anything; for in the first place it is doubtful indeed whether it has a definite policy, and in the second place the military element, encouraged by real or assumed German successes, may at any time force the hand of the visible Government, and drag this luckless country into a disastrous war. Damad Enver Pasha is said to be as Germanophile as ever. He has lately been indisposed, suffering from boils on the feet. According to the local Press he will be "out and about" in a few days' time. The Press continues to magnify the German Army and to deride the Entente Powers, though British assurances that the battleships which the British Government seized will be returned, if not used in the war, to the builders and by them given to the Porte have slightly abated the "noble rage" of the *Tasvir i-Efkiar* and other extremist organs.

News" from Outside

The Panislamic drum is still being beaten. We are told that dreadful things are happening in India, in Algeria, in Morocco, and even in Egypt, that the Governor of Bombay has fled in disguise, that the Indian Army is disloyal, and much more in the way of imaginative information which would not much surprise one who knew the Turks in times of peace, but which under abnormal conditions, general mobilisation and a strict censorship of the Press, is somewhat surprising. One wonders whether the military censors use the German military mission as their guides in suppressing information or in disseminating fables.

Meanwhile news from Macedonia gives the impression that the Serbs were beaten at Visegrad, but not badly, by an Austrian force, and were completely successful against the Austrian Army of the Drin, which according to the latest official news from Nish has lost fifty-three field guns, eight howitzers, and 4,500 prisoners. Telegrams from the K.u.K. Press Agency published here admit that the Austrian invaders have had to retire with "partially important" loss after a struggle with superior numbers of Serbs fighting desperately for their existence, but left the Servian Army "quite worn out"!

A very solemn and impressive service of intercession was held at the Crimean Memorial Church yesterday. The Rev. Canon Whitehouse and the Rev. H. Wigram officiated, and the service, which commenced with the noble hymn "O God, our help in ages past," was marked by dignity and restraint. The British Ambassador and nearly all the members of the British colony who could come were present.

Financial Situation.

The financial situation of the Government inspires some anxiety. Heaven only knows when the tithes will be collected. The lack of money prevents the crop from being brought down to the ports, and the tithe farmers and others who are unable to obtain credit from the banks are in a melancholy plight. The Government has obtained about £T700,000 by means of the mobilization, but its floating debt on account of requisitions, etc., has been considerably increased. Foreign loans are, of course, absolutely out of the question for a long time to come. If the Turks pay for the "Goeben" and "Breslau," £T4,000,000 will have to be added to the £T3,000,000 or so at which the cost of recent military preparations has been estimated.

Consular and Embassy communiqués to the Press concerning the progress of the war are once again permitted by the censorship. On the other hand, persons sending telegrams are warned that any telegrams infringing the orders issued by the censor will be stopped and their senders will be unable to claim their money back! This warning seems likely to prevent the general public from telegraphing anything which the censor, a captious personage, *may* regard as suspicious, and will effectually muzzle all foreign correspondents.

LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 22.

Sir Reginald Wingate's Return.

After many false alarms Sir Reginald Wingate arrived here on Tuesday. He had been expected for more than a week. When he did not arrive, it gave rise to all manner of alarming rumours, for no one had noticed that he had returned to London with Lord Kitchener when the latter was recalled. The Sirdar arrived at Port Said by the P. and O. s.s. "Mooltan." He had been expected by the "Arabia," which came into port two days earlier, and officials had actually travelled down to Port Said to greet him on that steamer. However, all our anxiety is now at an end. With Sir Reginald came his entire Sudan staff, Lord Edward Cecil, Sir George Macaulay, Mr. W. E. Brunyate, who will act as Judicial Adviser during the present crisis—which in Egypt is bound to be fraught with legal complications—Mr. Ronald Graham, Mr. R. Storrs, Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart, and—the mails, which were more than welcome, even though they only brought us letters and papers up to the 7th inst.

Whilst the high Sudan officials left the following evening for Khartoum, Sir Reginald Wingate will remain in Cairo. No statement has been made as to what official position he will actually hold, but it is understood that pending any serious developments the British Agency will remain in charge of its present officials, and Sir Reginald will merely act as an adviser, residing at his own villa at Gezira. Great satisfaction has been caused by the statement made by a high official, who returned by the "Mooltan," and who brought a message from Lord Kitchener to the effect that he intended as soon as the war would be over to return to the country which has such a high place in his affections.

The Situation in Egypt.

Things continue quiet and satisfactory out here. There is every reason to believe that the pronounced Germanophile feeling amongst the middle-class natives, which showed a decided inclination to spread, is now tending to turn in the opposite direction. That feeling was, no doubt, fostered, first, by the articles that appeared in the *Ægyptische Nachrichten* and by the campaign waged in the form of the distribution of mendacious telegrams by the infamous Wolff and Ottoman-Lloyd Agencies; secondly, by emissaries who left no stone unturned to malign the Entente at the expense of the Triplice, and who insinuated by the affirmation of fallacious facts that the latter was the true friend of Islam; and, thirdly, by *Al Shaab* and its emulators, who, in their explanatory notes to the war cables, cast doubt on their *bonâ fides*, and imparted therein the inference, if at times they did not indeed state it in so many words, that the truth of the victorious progress of German arms on land and sea was being kept back by the British Government for fear of the consequences which such news might have in regard to its authority in the Near and Far East.

The firm action of the Egyptian Government in stopping the publication of the German organ and in forbidding the local Press to print communications from the two above-mentioned telegraphic agencies has been beneficial in so far as it has eradicated one of the main sources of irritation, and its effect has been added to by the avowed intention of the authorities to take summary action against individual fomenters of trouble and disseminators of disturbing news. *Al Shaab* and its *confrères* have received a stern warning that their existence depends entirely on their conduct, and that on the slightest provocation they will be suppressed, whilst a

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comparison between the cables the accuracy of which was impugned and the latest Continental (not French) newspapers to hand has shown that the former gave in every detail a true version of war happenings. The vernacular Press has given publicity to this fact, and one organ went so far as to say that this confirmation was but another instance of the frankness and fearlessness of the British character. These remarks appeared, of course, in Anglophile papers, but they have undoubtedly had their effect on the native mind.

There has, naturally, been a certain amount of sympathy expressed with Turkey, and active intervention by the latter would have met with approval. But the pro-Turkish element is gradually realising what dire consequences such an attitude might bring upon the Ottoman Empire. In the first place a deliberate bellicose action, in no matter what direction, on the part of the Porte would be followed by the declaration of Egypt's independance and by the assumption of her protection by Great Britain; secondly, if Turkey causes another Balkan conflagration, she will undoubtedly be taken in the rear by Russia, who would certainly occupy Constantinople. The pro-Turks are beginning to understand that neutrality for their Empire spells integrity, and that by the maintenance of that attitude they will be entitled, in case of need in the future, to call upon Europe for protection from aggression from the north-east. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Porte also now appreciates these facts more clearly than it appeared to do some few days ago. There is little doubt that as soon as the news of the disabled condition in which the "Goeben" and "Breslau" arrived in the Dardanelles has had time to spread in this country a further change will take place in the attitude of the local pro-Turkish element, which showed an inclination to arrogance and jingoism when the news of the purchase of those units first became known here.

The announcement made in *Al Mokattam* that about 40,000 troops are coming from India has also made an excellent impression. The troops will be partly British, partly native, and the first contingent is expected to arrive about the 27th. As soon as these reinforcements begin to arrive the present British garrison will embark for England, where it is understood they will proceed to join the Expeditionary Force in Belgium. The only battalions that according to present arrangements will remain behind in Egypt are the 1st Worcestershires and the 1st Suffolks.

The Government has very wisely again ordered the postponement of the Tanta and Dessuk Mouleds. Apart from the fact that these fairs take the fellaheen away from their fields just at the time when their presence there is most necessary, the existing political and financial situation does not justify the holding of these Mouleds in the interests of the country and of the fellaheen themselves.

British Prizes of War.

Great activity is being displayed in the Red Sea by H.M.S. "Black Prince." She has lately been in search of German merchantmen, and has just captured the "Istria" and "Suedmark," which were laden with cargo, and have been brought to Alexandria under British colours. H.M.S. "Chatham" also made a capture, the Austrian-Lloyd "Marienbad," which she brought into Alexandria. The prize has, however, had to be released, as she had left Port Said before war was declared. She has now been allowed to continue her journey.

CAIRO, August 25.

The Military Situation in Egypt.

The Indian Expeditionary Force, which will consist of some 40,000 British and Indian troops drawn from the Meerut and Lahore divisions, is now on its way here and should arrive some time this week. Already a certain number of officers returning from leave have arrived here, and a portion of the staff has come over from India. The troops, it is understood, will be quartered at Alexandria, along the Canal, and at Cairo —the bulk will be stationed at Heliopolis, where a vast camping ground has been prepared. As soon as the Indian force has taken up its quarters, the Army of Occupation, with the exception of the Worcesters and Suffolks, will move home, and it is understood that Major-General Byng will also go to England. No information can be obtained as to forthcoming movements and a very severe censorship is being quite rightly exercised.

Feeling in Egypt.

Feeling in the country continues to be Germanophile, but there is a welcome indication of a weakening, and in some cases of a distinct veering round. The Government's firm action has certainly undermined the bad influences that were at work, and it is believed that the arrival of the Indian troops may complete the rout, though this will not cause the authorities to relax their policy, for the situation will require careful watching, until the trouble in Europe is at an end

CYPRUS AND THE WAR.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CYPRUS.

The war, needless to say, is the absorbing topic here. The Greek Press and people recognised at once that it is being waged in spite of every endeavour on the part of Great Britain to avert it. It is branded as an impious act on the part of Germany in the face of humanity, of history and civilisation.

Throughout the island there is a unanimous and strong desire among the Greeks that the victory of the Allies may be assured. The Turkish element, which has always been very loyal, may come to have mixed feelings, as sympathising with any part Turkey may play.

Although the Government took prompt measures to allay anxiety and provide against danger which might threaten the island from scarcity of food, it is but natural that the people should feel some alarm. The effect of the war has been felt at once throughout the island. The banks ceased to advance money. There is a great scarcity of ready cash. Merchants will not be able to fulfil many of their engagements. The villagers in turn cannot obtain money, and in many cases can hardly find the means for gathering crops, *e.g.*, of caroubs (locust beans). Good prices were anticipated for these, but all is now uncertain.

VALUE OF TURKEY'S NEW WARSHIPS.

Commenting on the report of our Constantinople correspondent last week that the "Goeben" and "Breslau" had actually been purchased by Turkey and renamed the "Yawuz Sultan Selim" and "Midüllü" respectively, the naval correspondent of *The Morning Post*, in its issue of September 8, remarks:—

There are various reports of the injuries received by these vessels, inflicted by the "Gloucester" and perhaps by other ships. As Turkey has acquired the German ships when she was at peace, there does not seem to be any reason for raising points of international law with regard to the transaction. The possession of so huge and complicated a vessel as the "Goeben" may embarrass her new owners even more than Turkey's potential enemies. Admiral Limpus, who has been removed from executive command, but who remains adviser to the Ministry of Marine, will probably inform the Ottoman Government that the Turkish navy has no prospect of holding its own at sea. But in default of a powerful navy, Turkey's military operations must be severely restricted. Nor can any naval Power, under modern conditions, accomplish much with one or two capital ships, which, in order to preserve their existence, must keep out of the way of fleets and squadrons. It was, indeed, this necessity that brought the "Goeben" into Turkish waters.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 26.

The Situation in the Balkans.

The great events now taking place in Western Europe react upon the Balkan Peninsula, and it is by no means improbable that other Balkan States besides Servia may be forced into the lists and made to play a part of some importance. Thus, it is believed here that Turkey, egged on by Germany, has mobilized in the hope of drawing Bulgaria in and pitting her against Servia and eventually against Russia; also of preventing Greece from fulfilling her obligations to Servia, in case the latter should be attacked by Bulgaria. Such, it seems, was one of the principal objects of the meeting at Bucharest proposed by the Turks. But on the other hand the Triple Entente is doing its best to prevent the Balkan countries from taking any part in the conflict, so that it may not be called upon to use any part of its military or naval forces in this direction.

Greek Uneasiness.

The uncertainty of the situation causes considerable uneasiness, especially since the Turkish mobilization. The questions that the Greeks are asking one another are, what will happen if there is an entente between Turkey and Bulgaria, and especially what Roumania's attitude will be—if she has in fact ceased to interest herself in preserving the Treaty of Bucharest, as she is reported to have done. As for Bulgaria, whose people still remain faithful to Russia, in spite of the Austrophil tendencies of Mr. Radoslavoff, and all the other ties between Sofia and Vienna, it seems to be certain that Russia's warnings have prevented her not only from falling into the German trap laid for her by Turkey, which would have necessitated her taking up, upon occasion, an attitude of hostility towards Russia herself, but also from attacking Servia or Greece. Thus, for the present at least, Turkey's endeavours on behalf of Germany seem to have failed as far as attempts to stir up the Balkans are concerned, just as Germany's attempts to influence Greece have failed; and Bulgaria is understood to have given a promise to Russia to maintain a strict neutrality. Should that promise be broken the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Franco-British Mediterranean Fleets could make it very difficult for Bulgaria to act, the first by operating against Bourgas and Varna, and the second against Dédéagatch. On the other hand, it is stated that Bulgarian neutrality would be rewarded by Servia, if the latter should be victorious, by the cession of the Shtip-Kochana district, and it is even likely that she would regain the Dobruja if Roumania should receive Transylvania. This attitude of Bulgaria, therefore, is unlikely to encourage Turkey to risk taking action alone against Russia, which would inevitably provoke a prompt invasion of Armenia by the latter—as long as the Russian army remained undefeated. If, however, Germany and Austria-Hungary should defeat the Entente, it is thought that Turkey would find the temptation to join in the war, or to embark on hostilities against Greece, almost irresistible. The name "Mytilene" given by the Turks to one of the war vessels they have acquired from the Germans is considered as an indication of Ottoman intentions regarding the islands.

Roumania's Attitude.

The chance of Turkey's realizing her ambitions with regard to the Islands would be a better one could she and Bulgaria only be certain that Roumania had abandoned the Treaty of Bucharest to its fate, and would not intervene forcibly if it were violated. But that appears to be unlikely. Roumania's interest in the Treaty would cease only in case the Triple Entente should gain the day, when she would no longer hesitate to attack Austria-Hungary, in order to secure Transylvania. But should events fall out otherwise, and the success of the Dual Alliance encourage Turkey and, eventually, Bulgaria to attack Greece, then Roumania, as she would not dare to claim Bessarabia, would necessarily adhere to the maintenance of the Treaty. Such, then, seems to be Roumania's attitude towards the European conflict: strict neutrality, save in the case of a break-up of Austria-Hungary. And accordingly Greece is not likely to find her position threatened one way or the other, since in the event of the Triple Entente being victorious she has nothing to fear. The question remains: In the unlikely event of Bulgaria and Turkey's making an attack on the territories ceded to Servia or Greece by the Treaty of Bucharest, would Roumania still remain neutral? Though she has made no declaration on the point, it is thought here that she would probably be bound to do so, in order to avoid being drawn into a war with Austria through defending Servia.

Greece, then, who would certainly stand by her obligations to Servia, would find herself practically unsupported in defending these territories. But this prospect does not unduly alarm those responsible for the direction of this country's affairs, who believe that in such a case Russia and Great Britain would not fail to come to the assistance of Greece. Besides, if, as it is hoped here, the Russian armies advance into Austria-Hungary, the latter would have to cease operations against Servia, who would thus be set free to join her ally.

The Bucharest Negotiations.

Owing to the extraordinarily complicated situation that has been brought about in the Balkans by the European War, it is felt that in spite of Roumanian efforts to bring about an agreement, the negotiations at Bucharest have not the same chance of success that might have been expected from the Brussels meeting. The Greeks declare that there is little likelihood of any arrangement being arrived at, even with regard to the Islands, on account of the exorbitant demands of the Turks, who stand out on the question of the Customs and the presence of Ottoman troops. And, should the Dual Alliance continue to gain successes, it is thought, the Turks will show themselves more and more "intransigeant." But even if the object with which the Conference was called should not be attained, it will at least have served to clear the political horizon of the Balkans by revealing the true intentions of Turkey and Roumania.

As to the idea of reconstituting the Balkan League, it would appear to be a little difficult of realization at the present time, when all the Balkan States are in a state of indecision. And the question would be even more complicated if it is proposed that Turkey should be a member of the League, for she appears bent upon following a foreign policy radically opposed to that of Greece and Servia.

The Outlook in Albania.

The rumour that Valona may be handed over by the Triple Entente to Italy does not call forth any protestation on the part of Greece. But it is hoped that in that case Northern Epirus beyond Berat will be ceded to Greece, and that Italy, freed from Austria-Hungary's competition, will no longer object to it once she has control of the entrance to the Adriatic. Servia would probably secure Durazzo, in which case she might possibly hand over to Greece the Monastir-Doiran-Ghevgeli district. At least, that is the Greek view.

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SERVIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, August 26.

It was on August 12 that the Austro-Hungarian forces, supported by machine guns, artillery, and heavy infantry fire, succeeded in crossing the Drina and the Save at five different points. The small Servian force stationed at these points was driven back by superior numbers, but fighting hard, foot by foot, kept the enemy in check and impeded its progress until the Servian force received reinforcements, outmanœuvred the Austrians, and defeated them.

The first success was at Tcher, a mountainous position, with hills running up to 600 metres. The second and more important success was in the battle lasting four days and extending along a front of 60 kilometres by Kronpagne, Mount Zavilaka, Mount Iverek, Tcher, and Shabatz, but more particularly in that part of the front situated between Jadar-Iverek-Tcher, where the enemy was crushingly defeated and fled in all directions, the majority escaping by their pontoon bridges across the Drina back into their own country.

The heaviest fighting was on the 17th, 18th, and 19th August, and after a remarkable victory, unequalled in the annals of Servian history, the Servian troops on August 22 reoccupied Leshenitza, Loznitza, and Lioubova. The route taken by the enemy when they crossed into Servia was in the direction of Valjevo, from which place there is easy access in one direction to Belgrade, and in another direction to Kragujevatz, where is the Royal Servian Arsenal and military gun and cartridge factory, but at no point did they succeed in getting beyond twenty-five kilometres on their way, and, as already stated, were finally routed. The joy in Nish when this good news arrived here was indescribable, and there was great astonishment that the mighty neighbour who had so boasted of its power should have shown itself so feeble an antagonist.

Those Austro-Hungarian troops which had crossed the Save and entered Shabatz were so pressed by the Servian forces that they could neither come out of the town nor march forward, and their only alternative was to fortify their position at Shabatz. Finding that they were being surrounded by superior Servian forces, and that their invading forces had been totally beaten and dispersed, they made a desperate sortie on August 24, fighting hand to hand, using their bayonets, and then, defeated, fled across the Save, their precipitate retreat covered by the guns of the Austrian warships lying near Shabatz on the river Save.

Over 250,000 Austro-Hungarian troops took part in this invasion, and to-day the Servian troops have reoccupied all their former positions, their cavalry scour the country, and the whole district is entirely free of the invaders.

The Austrian and Hungarian papers give a different version of the defeat, and seek to disguise the crushing nature of the Servian victory. Facts speak for themselves, however, and these show that more than 4,500 Austro-Hungarians have been taken prisoners, and that their losses in dead and wounded exceed 16,000 men. In their disastrous retreat they abandoned fifty-three field guns, eight howitzers, 104 ammunition waggons, three field hospitals, five waggons of provisions, field kitchens, a quantity of surgical and telegraph materials, horses, rifles, ammunition, etc., etc. It is reported that the defeated troops committed atrocities that seem to belong to the barbarous ages and not to the century of civilisation in which we are now living. For such barbarous atrocities even a defeated army has no excuses.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. Nish is crowded, mostly with Belgrade inhabitants, and the restaurants, whose receipts in ordinary times were, say, 100 francs daily, now take 1,500 francs daily.

Belgrade is comparatively a deserted town to-day. Of the 100,000 inhabitants it is said that there are scarcely 10,000 remaining.

One of the great inconveniences there now is the deficiency of bread. Flour is to be had in abundance, but there is very little water, and few bakers; whilst those who do work must provide bread for the army. Another want is that the town is no longer electrically lighted, and there never has been coal gas; it is a dark city, but as there is an order that the inhabitants of Belgrade must not be out after 8 o'clock in the evening, the lack of light in the streets is not so much felt. In the houses the people use oil.

Very heavy siege guns have been used by the enemy in the bombardment of Belgrade, 15 centimetre, 24 centimetre, and 28 centimetre shells being fired from a long distance away from the frontier. Several houses have been in flames, and many factories and the majority of the State buildings have been damaged. When the Government will return to the capital, or what may happen before its return, no one knows.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

NEWSPAPERS FOR THE FLEET.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The appeal made by my committee for newspapers for the Fleet met with a prompt response from the public and many expressions of sympathetic approval. The generous offer of the great newspaper proprietors to supply their papers has completely changed and greatly simplified the work we are doing, and I shall therefore be greatly obliged by your inserting this letter in order that the public may know our present needs.

We no longer want any daily papers, but shall be glad to receive weekly illustrated papers and illustrated magazines of the *current issues*. These should be addressed: "Hon. Secretary, Newspapers for the Fleet, London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, E.C.," and sent carriage paid.

We have received so many old magazines, novels, playing cards, etc., that we must ask that no more be sent at present.

As the Chamber of Commerce has no corporate funds to carry on this work, money is needed, and contributions should be sent to Mr. L. A. Martin (hon. treasurer), at the offices of the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, E.C.—Yours faithfully,

F. Southwell-Piper,
Hon. Secretary.

September 3, 1914.

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, August 20.

A Balkan Bloc.

Last night Talaat Bey and Halil Bey, the Turkish commissioners who are to discuss with Greek delegates the vexed question of the Ægean Islands, arrived here, having travelled from Constantinople by way of Sofia. They will to-day go to Sinaia, where they will be received in audience by King Carol. It is rumoured here that the Islands question is not the only one that will occupy the Turkish and Greek statesmen; but that proposals for a new Balkan *bloc* will also be under serious consideration; and the fact that Talaat Bey broke his visit at Sofia and had a lengthy audience with King Ferdinand gives strong support to the rumour.

Roumanian Policy.

As to this country's attitude towards the European struggle, it still remains purely expectant. Should Roumania actually move, there can be very little doubt which side she would take. King Carol and a few of the older statesmen still cling tenaciously to the idea of friendship with Austria-Hungary, but it is easy to see that the country, and especially the army, inclines towards Russia. "What," asked one prominent Roumanian, a few days ago, "have we gained in forty years by our friendship with Austria-Hungary?" And, answering his own question, he added: "Not even true religious and educational liberty for our cousins in Transylvania."

Meanwhile, as I have said, the expectant policy—called by hostile critics "the waiting game"—is being faithfully followed. The partial mobilisation is complete, and, though the only unusual thing that has been noticeable to the ordinary observer has been the large number of uniforms to be seen everywhere, 400,000 men are either actually under arms or waiting the order to join their regiments when the latter are within easy distance. In one way it may be argued that no mobilisation at all has taken place, for in every case the men and officers have been called up nominally for three weeks' training. No strengthening of garrisons has taken part on any frontier, and in many cases after reporting themselves at headquarters men have been sent back to their homes, particularly in the case of peasants and farm hands.

Stranded Roumanians.

In order to assist Roumanians who are stranded in the French capital owing to the difficulty of remitting money, the Government telegraphed forty thousand francs to the Minister in Paris, Mr. Al. E. Lahovary, and this being speedily exhausted, a second remittance was forwarded. Mr. C. Arion, a former Minister, his wife, and a number of other Roumanians managed to get away just before the outbreak of hostilities, but only reached Rome, where they appear to be awaiting means of reaching Constanza by way of Brindisi and Constantinople.

Some travellers who arrived here a few days ago were lucky enough to see the encounter between the "Gloucester" and the whilom German ships of war, the "Goeben" and the "Breslau." Eyewitnesses state that the British cruiser attempted to lure the two German vessels into following her, and that they showed too much discretion to accept the invitation. The "Gloucester" afterwards steamed round the Italian steamer in which these interested spectators happened to be, and was greeted with hearty cheers by the passengers and crew, amongst whom were many Russian and Roumanian reservists. An expert in such matters who has just arrived here from Constantinople reports that the "Goeben" and "Breslau" are both badly damaged by gun fire, especially about the turrets, which speaks well for our sailors' marksmanship.

MOBILIZATION IN PALESTINE.

An Occasional Correspondent of The Near East, who is now in England, has communicated the following letters from friends received from Jerusalem on September 1, and dated August 16, which give vivid accounts of the state of that city:—

. . . A few days after that the war trouble began, and Jerusalem and all the Turkish dominions have been very restless, without there being any war against Turkey. First, the Government began to collect every mule found in Jerusalem, and in the towns and villages around; then they blocked all the roads with soldiers, and gave notice that if any man from the age of 20-45 tried to escape and was caught he would be *shot* immediately. Every road leading into Jerusalem from outside was blocked, and the same thing was done to every other town up to to-day. All kinds of notices, orders, and rumours filled the town, and the people were terrified. At last the deputy for Jerusalem sent a telegram to the Mayor saying that the Parliament had decided not to take men of those ages who had never been in the army, but to let them pay one or more (as they pleased) Turkish liras, as a help. This was published and sent round by the Mayor, for it was a real and official telegram from the authorities. It was also sent to all other towns, and we are not quite sure whether it has been carried out or not at Haifa. The Commandant then in Jerusalem sent out official notices against this order, only because it was not sent direct to him, as the head of the military here, and the Mayor had published it without his consent. Yesterday every man between 20 and 45, of whatever creed, had to present himself to be registered, and without delay, and they were then told to go and to return after a few days. Many people say that the Commandant wants to show his authority. Every man who is able to pay £T30 (excluding the help to the Navy, which is of unknown amount) may do so. The majority say that the Commandant must have received orders to dismiss those who have never been in the Army, and to try and get as much money out of the people as he can. Nearly everyone, however, is unwilling to pay, especially the Jews, who swear by the Ten Commandments not to pay one penny. Besides, nobody can get any money, because all the banks have been closed since the war began, and can only give very little indeed. The trouble about the *metalliks* has begun again, and the old ones are no longer accepted. Francs were not taken either, but they have been brought up to their original value. Everything is dearer. The Government sent soldiers to Damascus and Aleppo, via Nablous and Afuleh. Horses and mules were collected, and only the weak and worthless ones were left. At least fifty sacks of flour were collected from every mill and every rich merchant for the soldiers. All ropes were taken from every shop. The soldiers and police have been going round to every shop and taking one-tenth of everything eatable they could find, such as oil, butter, rice, potatoes, biscuits, sugar, sweets, etc. Jerusalem is now in an awful state, all commerce stopped; everybody has gone mad at the treatment of the Government; and no one can find money to emigrate or pay his exemption fee. The Government is not spending one *para* on the soldiers who were collected, but they are feeding themselves, and will be provided with what has been taken. The Government also collected all the sheep they could get round Jerusalem, and meat will soon be very dear. A tin of water costs four *metalliks*. The soldiers who were taken from the villages have been sent to Lifta and Ain Karim to be able to drink, and to live there until they are called for. (Both these villages have good springs.) In the morning when they find peasants coming to Jerusalem to sell cabbages, fruits, etc., they take what is loaded on the donkey, and pay nothing for it at all.

Another letter says:—

Famine is in Jerusalem, and sooner or later the people will have to rob the shops and houses in order to live. . . . I wish I were in England; I would gladly volunteer for England, but Turkey, I will not serve. . . .

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GERMAN "CULTURE" IN PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

A very serious aspect to affairs is given by the deliberate dissemination throughout Turkish dominions of carefully prepared German news. Such a campaign may fail in America for obvious reasons, but in Palestine, where the only news received now is "Germanized," the case is very different. Germany wants Palestine, and she has been preparing for years to get it. She has flattered Turkey grossly; she has made large displays of her own pomp and power—in her Imperial visits, in her showy buildings, in her aggressive and boastful politics, in her careful dissemination of news. In 1910 or 1911, for instance, a small news-sheet of telegrams was issued in Jerusalem three times a week, ostensibly by the Turkish authorities. The telegrams were printed in French and Arabic, and were said to come direct from Europe via Constantinople. It was hailed with delight as the beginning of the freedom of the Press as a result of the new Constitution. Doubts began to creep in when the news was not always confirmed by Reuter telegrams, which came by the post; and invariable Turkish successes in Tripoli, coupled with appalling disasters to Italian troops, were also somewhat surprising. German news was almost the only European news given—and it was very German! Presently it transpired that the whole thing was started and financed by Germany, that Turkey had nothing to do with it beyond foolishly lending her name, and so the subscribers dropped off with a completeness that killed this little effort of Teutonic ingenuity.

The extraordinary buildings that Germany has erected at Jerusalem offer no satisfactory explanation for their existence, though many are given. The comfortable Augusta Victoria Stiftung on the Mount of Olives is a case in point. It is a philanthropic rest-house for missionaries (so it is said), offering every advantage of the best hotel—and far exceeding anything of the kind in Palestine and Syria—at the most reasonable terms. The Kaiser sent out Prince Eitel Friedrich to open it—a truly delightful instance of the Imperial lack of humour. It is perfectly managed by Kaiserworth Deaconesses, and from the bell-tower of this philanthropic hotel a powerful searchlight dominates the countryside. Could incongruity go further? Three years ago some heavy cases, described as furniture for the Stiftung, were landed at Haifa, and brought in mule carts through the country. This surprised everyone, for, by one of the innumerable Turkish concessions, everything for the Stiftung was cleared at the Jaffa Customs duty free, as the Stiftung was a philanthropic institution; why, then, should these cases of furniture suddenly be brought from Haifa, at such cost and difficulty, during the rains, when roads between Haifa and Jerusalem practically do not exist? The cases reached Jerusalem, and were taken up to the Stiftung by night, and their extraordinary weight amazed the carters. One of the carts broke down, the cases fell heavily to the ground, and one of them breaking a little, disclosed the iron muzzle of a small cannon. The secrecy of their landing, despatch by night, and their weight were thus explained.

The feeling of Palestine, Moslem and Christian, is strongly for England and as strongly against Germany in the mass. Neither do the people willingly follow the dictates of an irresponsible and tyrannical clique at Constantinople (not even the whole Cabinet), which is sucking the very life out of them and their country. The pro-German clique may succeed, of course, in rushing Turkey into war at the instance of Germany, but it will be Turkey's last war as an Empire, and probably even as a nation. The real danger—and it is a very grave one—lies in the persevering and continuous dissemination of German, and only German, news throughout Palestine and Syria. To hear only of constant German successes, of England, France, and Russia crumpled up by Germany, may make the people think that in Germany lies their only hope; that the Great Powers will be too broken to help them, or at best too busy in withstanding Germany to look abroad: that Germany, victorious and all-conquering, may treat them better by-and-by if they follow her lead now, but that she will certainly punish most severely any opposition or half-hearted partisanship. It is not Turkey who wants to side with Germany. It is the pro-German clique at the Porte which is madly forcing Turkey to her doom.

SYRIAN NOTES.

(From Our Haifa Correspondent).

Beyrout, August 12.

I have been travelling in the various parts of Syria during the last two days with the object of studying the general state of things consequent upon the outbreak of the European War. The tendencies of public opinion in Syria seem to be divergent. The Moslems are on the German side, while the whole Christian element takes the French side. It is interesting to observe that the war news that is being circulated in the different parts of Syria differs, and is made to correspond to the public sentiment of the particular places in which it is circulated. For instance, in Damascus, repeated announcements of the imaginary victory of the German Army continue to be published. Pro-German demonstrations are being made.

The whole of the Lebanon is in a ferment. The Lebanese have strong Francophile sympathies, and are quite prepared to sacrifice their lives for the sake of France. A considerable number of young men from Lebanon have already proceeded to France in order to join the French Army. In case of necessity a still larger number of them expect to leave.

In Beyrout business is at a complete standstill, and the incalculable loss and suffering occasioned by the war is becoming more apparent hour by hour. Public announcements are incessantly made by the local authorities. A proclamation of martial law was issued on the outbreak of war, and an appeal has been made to the public by the Chief Commissioner of Police requesting the people to assist in the preservation of order.

A general mobilisation has been decreed, but its completion is apparently impossible owing to the refusal of the people to respond to the military call. They are fleeing in large numbers to the Lebanon, which is a safe refuge.

THE ROUTE OF THE MAHMAL.

The question of the route which the Mahmal caravan will follow this year is still under the Government's consideration (says *The Egyptian Mail*). A report has been submitted to the Minister of the Interior by the department studying the matter, recommending that the Mahmal should leave by sea from Suez to Jedda, thence by land to Mecca and Medina, and from the latter town to Yambo, when it will return by sea to Suez. This route, however, requires no less than seventeen days' march in the desert, and it is feared that the Bedouins, who this year have not received the usual annual donation of wheat from the Government, may attack the caravan. It is possible that the question will not be settled before the Khedive's return from Constantinople.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

According to some authorities "the Hungarians are stirring under the Austrian yoke." I can fully appreciate restiveness on the part of the Ruthenian, the Slovak, the Roumanian, the Croat and the Serb subjects of the Dual Monarchy, but it seems almost incredible that the Magyar should join the majority in this way. In the first place, a patriotic Hungarian denies that he is under any yoke, being the subject of his own national Crown of St. Stephen and in every way the equal (to say nothing of being the superior) of the Austrian subjects of the Apostolic King of Hungary. Moreover, I may point out to those who seek to reckon the Magyars among those who are "rightly striving to be free" that most of the racial discontent in the Dual Monarchy has been caused by the anxiety of the Magyars to induce their Ruthenian, Roumanian, Croatian, Slovak and Serb fellow citizens to abandon their racial peculiarities and languages and become like to, but subordinate to, themselves.

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Talking of racial discontent leads me to record the quaintness of its manifestation in the streets of Italian-speaking Trieste. Apparently some ardent irridentists asserted their wholehearted dislike of the dominant Austrians by calling the local police *scarafaggi* to their faces. Very properly arrested for referring to "K und K" police as black beetles the ingenious Italians, when released, silently took vengeance upon their persecutors by symbolically crushing black-beetles on the pavement in the presence of irritated policemen.

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This war is arraying men of very many creeds in line of battle. Latin and Orthodox, Lutheran and Reformiert, Uniat and Evangelical, Moslem and Buddhist, all these we know in arms, but if any proof be wanted of the justness of our cause it may be found in the fact that even Quakers have found it their bounden duty to take up arms—in direct but conscientious opposition to the ordinary traditions of their Society. The Germans have talked at large of raising a Jihad throughout the Dar-ul-Islam against us, but, really, I am inclined to interpret this remarkable action of members of the Society of Friends as an indication that the King of Prussia, failing in one direction, won an undesired success in another, and has started a Holy War throughout Christendom and all the world against Teutonic militarism and inhumanity.

***

The Coptic Church in Egypt has, I gather, been placed in a slightly awkward position by the outbreak of war. The principal Coptic organ reminds us that the Coptic Catholic ritual in Egypt is under the protection of Austria-Hungary, and that though this protection has never been exercised, the clergy still offer up prayers for the Emperor of Austria. It goes on to ask whether these prayers should be continued or stopped. Surely there need be no doubt at all on the subject. No Englishman, I feel sure, would wish to stop the Copts from praying for poor Franz Josef; and no Copt in Egypt would think of praying for the success of Austrian arms in the present war.

***

Next Sunday is the anniversary of two decisive victories in British military annals—Tel-el-Kebir and Quebec. A curious story is told concerning the former. It is said that Lord Wolseley (then Sir Garnet Wolseley), before he left London for the Egyptian campaign of 1882, predicted that he would defeat Arabi at Tel-el-Kebir on September 13, the anniversary of Quebec. In connection with Tel-el-Kebir the number 13 repeated itself, for Sir Garnet had with him about 11,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, a total of 13,000. May next Sunday be even more fortunate to British arms than September 13, 1759, and September 13, 1882.

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The Germans' attempts to influence public opinion in their own favour by the dissemination of doctored "news" do not appear to have met with much success in the United States. They are, in fact, meeting the fate they deserve. The manufactured "news" is treated with quiet contempt: the endeavours to mislead the American public are vigorously condemned. Thus, *The New York Times*, referring to a literary effusion which, with extraordinary hardihood, was entitled "Truth About Germany," and was concocted by a former Chancellor, a Field-Marshal, and the President of the Reichstag, remarks bluntly that the enlightened States' public opinion does not take form on anybody's lies. Americans give their sympathy to those who are fighting in the cause of human liberty, says that journal, and: "We are not agreeably impressed by the blasphemous Imperial invocations of Divine favour upon bloody enterprises. These gentlemen of Germany plead in vain. We can give them no help." That energetic "embellisher" of news, Count Bernstorff, cannot have felt very happy when he read this in the intervals of editing the wonderful wireless messages he is—or says he is—receiving from the Fatherland.

However, it was not of the snubs administered to the Potsdamers by Cousin Jonathan that I set out to write. We are all of us grateful, sincerely grateful, for the friendly feeling shown to us in this hour of trial by the United States; but we recognize that it is a sympathy springing from an understanding of the justice of our cause as much as from the ties of blood. And, in any case, we should never expect such poor bluff as this German Press stuff to impose on the Americans. But with certain countries to the East it is a different matter. In the letter from our Constantinople correspondent which we published a fortnight ago he exclaimed: "If only we had a British telegraphic agency here!"; and since then we have received communications from several correspondents emphasizing the need of such an institution in Turkey. It is practically certain that if there had been such an agency in Constantinople Anglophil Turks and Turcophil Britons would have been spared a good deal of anxiety during the past month. The past cannot be undone, but I hope we shall have learnt the lesson and that the inventive Teutons who have been forcing King George to his knees before the Kaiser (on paper), wiping out our Expeditionary Force (also on paper), and destroying our Fleet (still on paper), will hereafter not have things quite their own way. They ought to have somebody on the spot to give them the lie direct, for our sake as well as for the sake of the Turks.

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In case you may think I am exaggerating the mischief done by these precious "news" agencies, I quote a couple of sentences from a letter received from Haifa, and dated August 14:—

> The local telegrams received here, *and derived from a German source*, since the commencement of hostilities, are all stuffed with nothing but victories of Germany and her ally. If one adds up the numbers of the slaughtered it is clear that half the strength of the Entente Armies has been wiped out already.
>
> The most remarkable fact is that even in small villages in the interior the peasants are already "well informed" as to the German "victories," and prayers are offered daily for the protection of the "Defender of the Moslem Faith" (*Germany, of course!*).

***

I am afraid those "well-informed" peasants of the villages in the interior will have some nasty shocks shortly. But what I most admire is the description of Germany as the Defender of the Moslem Faith. What in the name of all that is wonderful has she ever done to deserve it? As far as I can follow the history of her dealings with Turkey, they may be summed up as a very successful following of the policy of self-seeking. She has built railroads on a kilometric guarantee system that is little short of sharp practice; she has sold rotten ships, rotten aircraft, rotten guns, and a variety of other rotten articles to Turkey at extremely remunerative prices; and she has sought to drag Turkey into a war purely for the benefit of the Prussian Junkers. And just how many Moslem subjects has she? Defender of the Moslem Faith. *Mashallah!* And likewise *Ya salaam ya nas.* Let the worthy villagers of the interior ask what our Moslem troops from India think of the idea of praying for the Kaiser and his country. They might be surprised.

***

Apropos of journalistic enterprise in Turkey, I read lately in an Egyptian paper an article on the Turkish Press. It was based on information collected by an American professor and an Armenian journalist, and it gave some interesting details regarding the subject dealt with. Thus I learned that there are published in Constantinople eleven dailies, of which the principal are the *Sabah* and the *Tanin*, with circulations of 20,000 and 15,000 respectively, the *Ikdam* (18,000), *Yeni Gazetta* (10,000), *Tasvir-i-Efkiar* (10,000), *Alemdar* (8,000), and *Hikmet* (3,000). For the benefit of the curious I may add that the names of these papers translated into English would be, in the order above, "The Morning," "The Echo," "Progress," "New Gazette," "Mirror of Truth, "Standard-Bearer," and "Wisdom." In view of the delightful titles of the journals run in Tabriz by the enterprising Shuja-ed-Dowleh, and of some others in the Orient, one can hardly avoid the conclusion that the Oriental editor and newspaper proprietor has at least a pretty taste in the matter of choosing a title. Of course, he has more practice.

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I see that some folk are suggesting that the Prince of Wales should translate his "Ich dien" motto into English for future use. There might be something to be said for it, (although the Kings of these realms maintained "Dieu et mon droit" through many years of war with France), if one were sure that the motto be really German. I have heard it stated that the words are Welsh and should be spelt differently, perhaps "Eich deen," and that they mean "Here is the man"—a remark which might well have come from the lips of the astute King Edward at Carnarvon.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Modern Turkish Literature.

A brief but very interesting article on the renaissance of Turkish letters appears in *The Outlook* for August 29, under the heading of "The Literary Culture of the Turk." Referring to the literary stock-in-trade of the Turk before he was influenced by Western culture, the writer says:—

Formerly the Turk lived in intellectual isolation. The traditions, training, and the system under which he was governed all combined to paralyse his mental growth. Books, both written and in manuscript, were obtainable by those who could read, and the streets devoted to their sale have always been among the sights of Constantinople; but they did not deal with the modern questions which were being discussed by Western peoples. The volumes on the stalls represent many departments of literature, and some of these ancient and musty tomes have exercised an influence for centuries on the mind of the Turk. Works on theology and the Holy Law of Islam; biographies of saints and heroes; animal tales and fables with moral applications; comic stories of dervishes; histories containing graphic accounts of the deeds of bygone sultans; the works of philosophers—those powerful moral teachers of old—all find a place among the dusty piles.

The writer continues:—

A great intellectual revival took place fifty years ago, which has been slowly but surely permeating all classes. This has been due to increased contact with Western peoples who are in the vanguard of progress and to the spread of education. Men, trained on modern lines and deeply imbued with modern thought, are now producing works which will in time be really valuable to the world. In the intellectual sphere Turkey owes a deep debt of gratitude to France. The more intimate relations with Western Europe resulted in a wider knowledge of French books and ideas, and also of English literature through French translations. This contact brought about the birth of a new literary school that substituted accuracy and simplicity of style for exaggeration, and this new style is now being adopted by all writers of repute. The very language is altering; foreign words are being incorporated and obsolete expressions are being discarded for others more in harmony with the new ideas. In spite of fierce opposition, which discouraged the introduction of Western learning as tending towards Socialism and anarchy, it flourished apace. Original thinkers and brilliant writers were banished, but they continued to serve their country all the same; then their works, which were introduced surreptitiously, had an enormous secret circulation; they were passed on from one reader to another; whole volumes were copied out by hand, and they had no small share in paving the way for the revolution of 1908.

Plight of the Foundling State.

In the course of an article, under the heading of "The Situation in the East," contributed to *The Evening News* of September 7 by Mr. H. Charles Woods, the significance of the recent events in Albania is pointed out. We quote below:—

The real meaning of the departure of Prince William of Wied from Durazzo last Thursday is that a government and prince set up by what used to be called the European Concert, has now been overthrown by Turkish intrigues which have been in full swing in Albania for months. If the Turkish flag is not actually flying throughout the country, there is no doubt that the Ottoman clique at Constantinople, which is endeavouring to hurl Turkey into war on the side of Austria and Germany, will spare no trouble to turn the situation in Albania to their own advantage, and to that of their false and perfidious friends in Berlin and in Vienna. That Albania has now no Government, and that chaos undoubtedly reigns from end to end of the country, may at any moment add yet another factor to the already complicated and critical European situation, by thrusting into prominence a rivalry between the two Powers who have always regarded that country as their special preserve. At the present moment it must be a serious temptation to Italy to secure and to safeguard her naval and other vital interests on the Eastern shores of the Adriatic by sending an expeditionary force to Avlona or elsewhere with the object of maintaining order in districts the conditions prevailing in which are now more than ever before of vital importance to her. According to the laws of equity it may not be justifiable to further your own cause because your rival is occupied elsewhere, but it must always be remembered that, during the Turco-Italian war, the position of Italy was seriously prejudiced owing to the attitude of Austria upon various Adriatic and Eastern Mediterranean questions.

Bulgarian Requirements.

The Manchester Guardian (September 8) has an interesting note on "Turkey and Bulgaria," from which the following is an extract:—

The Bulgarian people will never combine with Turkey to join in the war, for the simple reason that they have nothing to gain. Some might say that they could gain Macedonia. Bulgaria undoubtedly would be glad to gain the part of Macedonia that was to be hers in the original settlement, but to stake her existence again in war there must be a very great reward. Macedonia is not that. What Bulgaria urgently needs is a port. What Turkey most wants is Salonika. The end of the Balkan wars, however, left Bulgaria as a buffer State between Greece and Turkey, but without a real port. Salonika (if it fell to the Turks as a spoil of war) divided from Turkey by Bulgaria would be a political impossibility, and if Bulgaria got Kavala the situation would become worse for Turkey's future development. The position is that neither could get what she wants without injury to the other.

Islam and the Kaiser.

Referring to "the Kaiser's notion of utilising Turkey to mobilise the Islamic world against Great Britain," *The Manchester Dispatch* (September 8) remarks:—

But, as the Kaiser might have learnt from the late Professor Vambery, of Buda, the best brains of Mohammedanism are pro-British. They have prospered under British protection far more than under their own or any other rule. The keynote of this attitude is revealed in the words of a prominent holy man of Islam, which Vambery once quoted in this connection. Speaking of the British in Asia, he said, "Black is their faith, but pure and blameless is their justice."

King George of Greece.

In a review of Captain Christmass's "Life of King George of Greece" which appears in *The Nation* (September 5), the following interesting passage occurs:—

If the regeneration of Greece has been great, proportionally great must be the credit for it. To whom does that credit belong? To the Greeks themselves, of course, and, secondarily, to a Cretan, M. Venizelos, who has been to Greece what Cavour was to Italy. As for King George's share, his biographer tends to make it greater than it was. Yet it was great enough; for almost any other monarch would either have made himself an intolerable nuisance or would have found his sovereignty intolerable. King George had unfailing good temper, patience, simplicity, modesty, and, what is more to the point, enough good sense to keep from meddling. He had none of the qualities that have enabled King Ferdinand to forge a characterful nation out of a herd of ignorant peasants. It was his merit that he was not the least bit clever or ambitious, or forceful in a situation where cleverness, ambition, forcefulness were not wanted, and would have been harmful. Another Ferdinand at Athens would have made a sad mess of it.

The Policy of Roumania.

A noteworthy article, entitled "What Will Roumania Do?" is contributed by Mr. Chedo Mijatovich to *The Outlook* (September 5). After referring to the secret Military Convention concluded in the early 'nineties of last century between Roumania and Austria, the writer continues:—

The text of that secret Convention is naturally not known. It is surmised that casus fœderis is sub-conditioned to an actual attack by Russia, endangering the existence of the one or other Allies. That condition has not yet been fulfilled. The rumours were circulating last year that the Convention was to be renewed then, and was not renewed at the refusal of Roumania, which was hurt by the lukewarm support of Austria in the Dobrucha question. It was well known that, this year more especially, France and Russia made great and determined efforts to detach Roumania from Austria and the Triple Alliance. The brilliant climax of those efforts was the visit of the Tsar to King Carol in Constanza this summer, and the reports of the imminent engagement of the son of the Roumanian Crown Prince to one of the daughters of the Tsar. Apparently nothing came out of all those efforts, Russia being unable to agree to all the conditions of the Roumanian statesmen. From the very beginning of the war Roumania has retained the liberty of her action. It was from the beginning somewhat suspicious that she did not declare herself to be neutral. She mobilised and said she would watch, and her further conduct will be determined by the events and her own interests. Within the last ten days fresh efforts have been made in Bucharest, both by Austria and Germany, and by Russia and France, to obtain the co-operation of the Roumanian Army. According to my information, King Carol considers himself in honour bound to support Germany and Austria, and thinks that support would agree with the best interests of the Roumanian nation. The old arguments of the Panslavonic sea swallowing up the small Latin island have been revived. The dismemberment and annihilation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is now represented as a danger to Roumania, and old Palacky's axiom that if Austria did not exist it would have to be invented is revived. All these arguments are certainly not convincing, and some of the leading Roumanian statesmen are still hesitating for which policy to declare themselves. But according to my information and knowledge of circumstances, there is just at present an acute crisis in Bucharest, and we ought not to be surprised if two or three weeks later we see Roumania join Austria and Germany against Russia, or hear that King Carol has abdicated in favour of his nephew Ferdinand, whose wife is a British princess, being the daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh and granddaughter of the Russian Tsar Alexander II. One thing is in my opinion absolutely certain, that Roumania cannot and will not join Russia against Germany and Austria as long as King Carol sits on the throne of Roumania.

Article to Note.

"Turkey and the European War," by Marmaduke Pickthall, in *The New Age* (Sept. 3).

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Sept.	1914. Aug.		1332. Shawal.	5674. Elul.
11	29	Friday	20	20
12	30	Saturday.....	21	21
13	31	Sunday	22	22
	Sept.			
14	1	Monday	23	23
15	2	Tuesday	24	24
16	3	Wednesday	25	25
17	4	Thursday	26	26

To-day, Shawal 20, is the anniversary of the wedding of H.I.H. Jemile Sultana, sister of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan to the late Damad Mahmud Jelal-ed-Din Pasha in 1274 (June 3, 1858).

To-morrow is the birthday of his Imperial Majesty Sultan Mohammed Reshad Khan, Emperor of the Ottomans, who was born in 1260 (November 3, 1844).

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Duchess of Brunswick, niece of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Michael, eldest son of H.R.H. Prince Mirko of Montenegro.

Wednesday is the birthday of Prince Mohammed Abdul Kader, of Egypt, the second son of his Highness the Khedive.

Mgr. Camassei, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and, under the late Pope, Lieutenant of the Grand Magistracy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, celebrates his birthday on Monday.

Mr. H. H. Lamb, C.M.G., British Member of the International Commission of Control for Albania, and formerly H.B.M. Consul-General for Salonika, celebrates his birthday on Tuesday.

Writing on August 21, our Bucharest Correspondent reported that King Carol, who had been confined to bed with a cold for a few days, was then better, and had been able to receive Talaat Bey.

Prince Ferdinand of Roumania and Prince Carol are both much interested in aviation, and in the latest letter to hand from our Bucharest correspondent he informs us that the Princes had recently motored over to the capital from Sinaia to inspect the flying school at Cotrocein. The school had been very busy, according to our Correspondent, and flights were in progress throughout each day.

Nasr-ul-Mulk arrived in Stockholm from Petrograd on Monday, September 7, on his way to London. The ex-Regent of Persia was received by the Persian Consul-General and by Colonel Hjalmarson, Chief of the Swedish Gendarmerie.

A Reuter's message from Khartoum, dated September 9, says:—"The Governor-General returned to Khartoum this afternoon, and a reception of welcome was held at the Palace."

Among the chiefs selected to accompany the Indian Expeditionary Force are the Maharajah Sir Pertab Singh, the Maharajahs of Bikanir, Patiala, Kishangarh, and Jodhpur, the Rajah of Ratlam, the Nawabs of Jaora, Sachin, and Bhopal, and also the Malik Umar Hayat. It is believed that many of these princes have passed through Egypt and will shortly be in the field in France.

The Teheran correspondent of *The Times* reports, under date of September 5, that the resignation of M. Mornard, the Persian Treasurer-General, has been accepted, and that M. Henynssens, Director-General of Customs and Treasury, has been appointed acting-director.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (August 19):—"Mr. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister, who went to Sofia a few days ago, returned here, in company with Talaat Bey. Mr. Derussi, the Roumanian Minister at Sofia, has also come to Bucharest, his visit being doubtless in connection with the meeting of Turkish and Greek statesmen."

On the same date our Bucharest correspondent reported that Graf Johann Pongrasz, who had accompanied Prince Carol of Roumania from Arad on the Prince's homeward journey from Berlin by motor, was received in audience by King Carol. The King sent warm greetings to Count Tisza by Count Pongrasz.

A Reuter's message from Durazzo, under date of September 3, states that the Mpret left Durazzo on Thursday last week on board an Italian vessel for Venice.

Talaat Bey has returned to Constantinople, and his place is being taken by the Ottoman Minister in Bucharest for the negotiations proceeding there.

Sir Reginald and Lady Oakes are sailing tomorrow (12th inst.) for Egypt, where affairs in connection with the Heliopolis Oasis Company render Sir Reginald's presence very necessary. Their stay in England has been of the shortest, for the war broke out while Sir Reginald was undergoing his annual cure on the Continent, and their journey home through France took them no less than sixteen days to accomplish.

Major A. Pirie, D.S.O., late 21st Lancers and formerly Secretary of the Helouan Sporting Club and Race Club, is throwing all his energies into the work of rounding up old men of the regiment famous for its Kerreri charge.

Mr. T. A. F. Critchley, manager of the Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, and Mr. A. G. M. Dickon, sub-governor of the National Bank of Egypt, have been appointed by the Egyptian Government to serve on the Cotton Commission. Both gentlemen are now in England, and we understand that they are at present in Lancashire.

It is stated in the *Jeune Turc* that Major Bekir Bey was released by Colonel Philips just before the British forces evacuated Scutari. Major Bekir Bey was understood by the *Jeune Turc* to be on his way to Constantinople.

Stack Pasha, Sub-Governor-General of the Sudan, left Cairo on August 26 for Khartoum, accompanied by a large number of officials and officers of the Sudan Government.

A correspondent writes:—"I hear that Colonel J. J. Asser, late second in command to the Sirdar, is doing extraordinarily efficacious work (as Chief of Transport Department, I believe) under Lord Kitchener." We are unable to obtain confirmation of this report at present, but publish it for the benefit of Colonel Asser's numerous friends. In the Sudan no one was more deservedly popular and respected, and all who know him will be glad to learn that at this time his abilities and experience are recognised.

Major-General Sir C. F. N. Macready, K.C.B., the Adjutant-General of the Expeditionary Force, obtained his commission in the Gordon Highlanders in 1881, and in the following year saw service with the Egyptian Expedition and was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. From 1884 to 1889 he held various appointments on the staff in Egypt.

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bart., C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., who has been promoted to that rank vice the late Sir J. M. Grierson, was employed with the Egyptian Army from 1896 to 1903. He served with the Dongola Expedition in 1896, receiving the Egyptian medal with two clasps. In the following year he saw service on the Nile, including the capture of Abu Hamed and occupation of Berber, for which he received the brevet of major and two clasps to his former medal. In 1898 he was again up the Nile under Lord Kitchener, and was present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum and the defeat of Ahmed Fedil's Army, when he was severely wounded. For his services he received the D.S.O., the brevet of lieutenant-colonel, and three additional clasps. In 1899 he took part in the first advance against the Khalifa, gaining another clasp to his medal and the 3rd Class of the Order of the Mejidieh.

Major-General F. I. Maxse, C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., whose promotion has been gazetted, was employed with the Egyptian Army from January, 1897, to December, 1899, and during this period was almost continuously on service up the Nile. In 1897, on the Staff of the General Officer Commanding, he was at the action at Abu Hamed, receiving the Egyptian medal with two clasps. In the following year he served as a brigade major, and

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took part in the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, receiving the D.S.O. and two clasps to his medal. In 1899 he commanded the 13th Sudanese Battalion during the operations which resulted in the final defeat of the Khalifa, for which he was rewarded with the brevet of lieutenant-colonel, the British medal, and two additional clasps to his former medal.

It is to be regretted that the Administration of the Sudan has been deprived of the services of Baron Rudolf von Slatin Pasha, who has naturally resumed his rank in the Austrian Army.

Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Barnes, late of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who has died at Dorchester, served in the Nile Expedition of 1898, for which he was mentioned in despatches, and received two medals with clasp. He also served in the South African War of 1899-1900.

The death is announced of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Maurice Horatio Nelson, third son of the second Earl Nelson, and uncle of the present peer, at Alverstoke on Monday. Born in 1832, he was lieutenant of H.M.S. "Sampson" in the Crimean War and took part in the bombardment of Odessa and the destruction of Redoubt Kaleh.

We regret to record the death of Sir J. Henniker Heaton at Geneva. A memorial service will be held on Saturday at half-past twelve o'clock at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

We have it on good authority that Baron Empain is one of the three wealthy patriots who are acting as guarantors for the enormous war indemnity levied on Brussels by the Germans.

Mr. Ian Ross, son of Mr. John Ross, of Alexandria, has joined the 4th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment as second-lieutenant. It is interesting to note that his paternal great-grandfather, who was an officer in the Sutherlandshire Highlanders, was killed at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815.

Mr. Charles Rosher's numerous friends will be interested to learn that he is acting as Adjutant-Major of the Foreign Legion which is being raised in England.

Mr. Henry de Jongh and family, of Smyrna, have arrived in London for a short stay.

M. and Mme. Max Fischer, who had been detained for some time at Vichy, left Marseilles on their return to Egypt last Friday.

The Armenian community of Manchester has contributed £451 10s. to the National Relief Fund. The community express, through the Lord Mayor, their sorrow for the loss of the British officers, soldiers, and sailors who have sacrificed their lives. They fervently hope that the British forces with the allied armies on land and sea will have a decisive victory over the enemy, and thus liberate true civilisation from the grip of despotic militarism.

A special service was held in Khartoum Cathedral on August 16 to the memory of the late Mr. C. A. Ball, of the Land Settlement Section, whose death by drowning was reported some weeks ago. Sudan papers which have come to hand by the last mail give details of the accident which was responsible for his death. It appears that while the steamboat "Lord Cromer" was on her way down from Roseires she was caught in a very strong current and turned turtle. The crew and engine-room staff, who behaved splendidly, could not save the steamer, but they managed to save the barge that was tied to the steamer. Owing to the fact that the accident took place so early, Mr. C. A. Ball, of the Land Settlement Section, and Mulazim Rachid Eff, Osman of the Arab Battalion, who were still in their cabins on board the steamer, went down with her. Their bodies could not, however, be extricated under tension of the stream.

On September 3, at 25, Cadogan Square, the wife of Captain T. G. L. Lumley Smith, of the 21st Lancers, gave birth to a son. Before her marriage Mrs. Lumley Smith was a Miss Coles, daughter of Coles Pasha, formerly Director of Prisons, Egypt.

Amongst the passengers to Port Said by the Bibby s.s. "Worcestershire," which left Liverpool on September 3, were the following:—Mr. A. Aspden, Mr. K. P. Birley, Mr. M. E. D. Blattner, Rev. Dr. T. A. Branthwaithe and Mrs. Branthwaite, Mrs. A. Carver, Mr. C. J. Choremi, Rev. W. S. Langston Day and Mrs. Langston Day, Mr. Diacono and Mrs. Diacono, Mr. C. E. Duffield, Mr. J. W. Lowe and Mrs. Lowe, Dr. F. Nimr, Mr. P. Swan, Mr. W. Tyrrell.

According to a message from Petrograd, under date of September 8, a telegram from Astrabad (Persia) states that some persons unknown have killed Mr. Dadascheff, a Persian subject and formerly Russian Consular Agent at Balfrush, on the Caspian Sea. A detachment of Cossacks has been sent from Mesched Sir in pursuit of the murderers.

The death occurred last month in Jersey of Mr. J. W. Congdon, one of the oldest members of the British community in Cairo.

According to the well-informed correspondent of *The Morning Post* in Rome, it appears likely that the Moslem insurgents now in occupation of Durazzo will shortly proclaim H.I.H. Burhan-ed-Din Effendi, a younger son of the former Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, as Mpret of Albania.

Lord Kitchener's chaplain in Cairo was the special preacher in York Minster last Sunday.

Mr. Charles Ritchie, of Glasgow, manager of the oilfields of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in Persia, who died on February 28 last, left £8,331 personal estate in the United Kingdom.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Major-General H. B. Watkis, C.B., has succeeded Major-General the Hon. Julian Byng as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Occupation in Egypt, Major-General Byng having been ordered for active service.

Colonel Hoff Bey, the Inspector-General for the southern section of the so-called "Armenian vilayets" of Turkey, has recently been recalled, according to the Constantinople correspondent of *The Times*. Colonel Hoff is a Norwegian, and was quite recently appointed, as our readers may remember.

Dr. Alexander Granville, Director of the Municipality of Alexandria, and Dr. Ruffer have been appointed members of the Commission for fixing the maximum prices of provisions and prime necessaries in Alexandria.

The following are members of similar Commissions:—Mr. M. V. Nixon (Galioubia), Mr. Hartshorn (Sharkia), Mr. M. A. H. Brammal (Menufia), Mr. Sidney Bray (Minia).

Mr. J. M. Norman has been appointed H.B.M. Consul for Suez in succession to Mr. Walter Norman, who has retired.

According to the *Tanin*, Sabur Bey has been appointed Mutessarif of the Sanjak of Adalia.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

MEIKLE.—On September 3, at 9, Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh, the wife of R. Murray Meikle, Kribba, Greece, of a son.

SCOTT.—On the 8th inst., in London, the wife of T. Douglas Scott, Egyptian Survey Department, of a daughter.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.
At foot of the Great Pyramids.

GRAND HOTEL, HELOUAN.
Excellent Family Hotel, adjoining Golf Links.

HOTEL DES BAINS, HELOUAN.
Opposite Sulphur Baths Establishment.

HOTEL CASINO, SAN STEFANO.
Near Alexandria. Favourite Bathing Resort.

CAIRO.

HELIOPOLIS PALACE HOTEL.
The most luxurious and comfortable Hotel in the world.
Connected with the centre of Cairo by the Electric Metropolitan (10 minutes' journey).
Altitude, 40 metres above the Nile valley.
Splendid view over Cairo.
GOLF, POLO, CRICKET. HIPPODROME in vicinity of Hotel.
Under the same management—
HELIOPOLIS HOUSE,
A first-class Family Hotel, with moderate terms.

Alexandria.

WINDSOR HOTEL (*Facing the Sea on the New Quay*).
Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*. French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 50 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
Proprietor and Manager—AUG. van MILLINGEN.

Alexandria.

CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.
Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.
Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.
Patronised by the Elite.
Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. Full Pension P.T. 50 per day.
C. AQUILINA, *Proprietor.*
(Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

Alexandria.

MAJESTIC HOTEL.
Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
150 ROOMS AND SALOONS.
Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1914.

THE ISLES OF UNREST.

If we could be sure of the sources from which the Porte derives its information regarding the course of events in Europe, there could be little doubt that every day must entail some slight abatement of Turkey's war fever. Unfortunately, the news which reaches Constantinople is not above suspicion, and it is possible that the Porte may find it as hard to gauge the political aspect of the present struggle as to discover the real significance from day to day of the military operations in France. The Rubicon, however, has not yet been passed. Talaat Bey can hardly have failed to gain some enlightenment in Bucharest, while the ill-success of Austria-Hungary both on her southern and eastern frontiers must cause Enver Pasha and his military entourage to revise some of their original calculations. So long as the German Army was carrying out with machine-like precision its magnificent advance on Paris the subtle poison poured into Turkish ears by the German Military Mission and the bribe of several hundred German sailors smuggled into Constantinople might well have turned the heads of shrewder politicians than are to be found in Enver Pasha's coterie; but now with every day's delay in taking the fatal step the prospect of wiser counsels prevailing grows brighter. If Austria-Hungary had been able to register a few victories, Turkish military officers would have been sorely tempted to trust to the star of the Central Powers while in the ascendant, in an attempt to restore the prestige of Turkish arms. But the Austro-Hungarian *débâcle* appears to bear such a close resemblance to the experiences of the Turkish Army against the Balkan Alliance that the idea of taking the field at this stage ought to have few attractions even for the most chauvinist among the military leaders. No doubt the Turkish Army is in a better condition than it was at Kirk Kilisse and Lule Burgas; but the task it would be expected to perform now, if it is to aspire to any measure of success, would be far more formidable than when it met the Bulgarians alone. The temptation to appeal once more to the sword may have taken two forms as far as the warlike element in Constantinople is concerned. On the one hand, there will have been the belief in Germany's irresistible power and the desire to draw the sword on the winning side in the international Armageddon. On the other hand, even if later it was realised that Germany was committed to a more perilous venture than she had anticipated, there would remain the hope that, amid the general preoccupation of Europe, Turkey might be allowed to settle her account with Greece without interference from any other State. Unless we are mistaken the Porte will have realized before now that this latter expectation will not be fulfilled. If it throws down the gauntlet to-day it will be called upon to face an absolutely overwhelming combination of Powers, and these would not stay their hands until Turkey had been ejected lock, stock, and barrel out of Europe, to be left the mere shadow of an Empire in Asia Minor.

Although we are convinced that for Turkey to raise the issue of war at this juncture would be equivalent to national suicide, it is impossible not to recognize that the Porte is able to make out to its own satisfaction a case against Greece. Apart from the megalomania of a military caste which has been carefully fostered by German intrigue, political considerations may well enter to a certain extent into the Porte's attitude. The old antagonism between Turks and Greeks has not been lessened by the Balkan wars. While the attitude of the respective Governments in their official dealings may be scrupulously correct, there are many ways in which the new spirit of the Greeks may make itself felt among Turks. The Greek, even after the events of 1897, has never been at pains to hide his light under a bushel. With an eminently successul campaign to his credit he is still less likely to avoid occasions of offence to a discredited rival. Again, Greek propaganda has not been buried with the acquisition of Macedonian territory, and the Porte has doubtless decided that it is more threatening now to Turkish sovereignty than it was before, on account of its enhanced influence upon the Greek *rayah*. In any case, such propaganda will be held responsible for the alleged ill-treatment of Moslems in the new Greek territories. It is not necessary to inquire whether the Porte's fears in this connection are well founded or not. As in Crete and Thessaly, so now in Macedonia, Moslems avoid being left under Greek rule, and it may seem necessary to elaborate some justification for the fulfilment of a tradition. While, therefore, the Porte may hold that the questions which call for regulation between itself and the Greek Government are vital to Turkish interests, it would be particularly attracted by any prospect of being able to settle these questions with Greece alone. To this end its diplomacy has doubtless worked, always with the reflection that a short cut to a solution of most of its difficulties would be the unchallenged command of the Ægean Sea. But events have marched too quickly for the Turkish understanding. The Balkan States have had a surfeit of war, and are in a mood to appreciate the unwisdom of the dissolution of the Balkan Alliance. The command of the Ægean Sea is no longer a question merely of interest to Greece and Turkey; it is bound up with the larger question of the peace of the Near East, and in that five States are deeply interested, and are resolved to make it for the future their special concern.

But if Turkey has a case against Greece, the latter may with equal justice feel suspicious of the Ottoman attitude. The Ægean Islands have been allotted to her by the decision of Europe as the result of a victorious war. These islands are almost exclusively inhabited by Greeks, and their incorporation within the Hellenic Kingdom has been the cherished wish of the inhabitants. Turkey, however, has refused to acquiesce in the verdict of the Great Powers in regard to at least two of the islands, and has schemed to have their decision reversed. At the same time there has been systematic ill-treatment of Greeks resident in Asia Minor, leading to the exodus of large numbers and the threatened extinction of Greek civilisation in Anatolia. The hopes entertained of the Young Turkish régime have not been realized, and the Greeks cannot be blamed for regarding their own degree of culture as being much higher than anything which the Turks show signs of reaching in the near future. This feeling must necessarily make the Greeks intolerant of Turkish supremacy. They can, however, have no desire for a further trial of strength at this moment, knowing that wilful aggression on their part must give the Turks the advantage they seek, the opportunity of meeting the Greeks in single combat. The announcement that Greek and Turkish representatives were to meet in Bucharest with a view to adjusting their differences gave rise to the hope that the joint statesmanship of the two countries would be equal to the task before it. But the reports of that meeting have not yet confirmed this expectation. The good faith of Mr. Venizelos' Government and the Greek Prime Minister's own desire to reach a satisfactory understanding will never be doubted. So far the problem has been for Turkey to put forward a statesman of the same calibre, able to co-operate in evolving a reasonable basis of agreement for the two countries.

*** SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD who are proceeding to England or the Continent for the Summer may have their copies of "The Near East" posted to any address without extra charge, on furnishing particulars of their movements to the Publisher, 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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THE LAND OF THE KNIGHTS.

PATRIOTISM OF THE MALTESE.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Malta, August 23.

I left London almost exactly three weeks ago, since when my sole links with England have been one stray letter, posted the day I left, and a copy of The Near East for August 14, which, most welcome, reached me yesterday. I agree with your editor that postal arrangements have been completely dislocated, but, as he recommends, strive to take the will for the deed and to believe that an enormous budget will shortly arrive to bring me up to date.

I see that in your issue of August 14 you published a letter from me written somewhere off Gibraltar, giving an account of journeyings through France. Reports that the "Goeben" and the "Breslau," after bombarding Bona and Philippeville, were lying up off the Balearic Isles and quietly scuttling merchantmen kept us and some 150 other vessels hung up for several days at Gibraltar. When we did leave, in the P. and O. "Arabia," we laid a course close to the African coast, and at night steamed with all lights dowsed so as to avoid the possible attentions of the German bogey which had at least succeeded in striking terror into all shipping in the Mediterranean. I remember how years ago when this great war was written of as a thing to come, a kind of "ineluctabile fatum," that the German bogey of that moment was the "Von der Tann." I believe the "Von der Tann" got loose in the Atlantic, but apart from this minor detail the supposed ravages wrought by this commerce destroyer were curiously similar to the moral havoc at least wrought by the "Goeben" for one short week before she took refuge in the Dardanelles.

To the Maltese in particular the escape of the "Goeben" came as a very bitter blow. He had made sure that he was to be privileged to see the great battle-cruiser towed into the Grand Harbour. Some months ago, when the "Goeben" was here on a visit, a few German sailors had the impudence to boast that they were shortly returning to take over the island. A crowd of Maltese set on the ill-advised Teutons and generally knocked them about until rescued by the police. Since then it has been the constant prayer of every pious Maltese that he may live to see the arrogant "Goeben" towed in, if necessary for greater indignity stern first.

A Premature Declaration.

When the history of the war comes to be written one of the things to be cleared up will be the premature declaration of war between England and Austria-Hungary, which probably saved the "Goeben" and the "Breslau" from the guns of the British squadron. It is known in the Navy as the two hours' war. Several fast British cruisers—the censor particularly objected to a more exact definition—were in full cry after the "Goeben" and the "Breslau," when somewhere off Cape Matapan news was received from the British Admiralty that war had broken out with Austria-Hungary. The squadron, with visions of the Austrian Fleet steaming hot foot down the Adriatic bound either for Malta or for the transports conveying French troops from Morocco to Marseilles, immediately turned to resume its task of guarding the western Mediterranean. When the declaration was found to have been some days premature it was too late to catch the German cruisers, who were already safe behind the Turkish guns and amusing themselves by holding up and examining shipping.

But these points are purely incidental to the proud position now held by Malta. Owing in great measure to a cheese-paring policy in the past, and partially also to the agreement with France regarding the defence of the Adriatic, Malta has, during recent years, considerably lapsed from the pride of place which it has held for so many years. Just now, however, it has with one bound assumed all its old importance. It lies only about sixty miles distant from Sicily—on a clear day the heights of Etna are visible—and this in itself, whichever way the Italian cat jumps, would render it of first-class importance during the present war. Then, too, it is of enormous value for the operations in the Adriatic, which is about 360 miles away. Had the French Fleet been forced to go to Bizerta and Tunis for supplies they would have been days away from their stations. As it is, hardly a day passes without some French vessel, big or little, steaming into Valetta Harbour to take on board coal or pick up despatches.

Oleanders and Dust.

There is no doubt that Malta and the Maltese are extremely pleased with themselves. They are conscious that when called upon to do so they mobilized in record time, and they are convinced that any invading foe would have a very uncomfortable time did he try to approach the rocky shores of the island. Moreover, the Maltese rather enjoys the holiday from the spade, the cart, and the pen which war conditions imply, and, unlike the Briton, he is proof against sand-flies and mosquitoes, which bivouacking on this sun-baked, treeless island necessarily entail. He is, however, deserving of all praise for the whole-hearted way in which he has thrown himself into the defence of this small but very important outpost of the Empire.

Taken all round, there is not very much to show the new-comer that we are at war. Malta always has plenty of uniforms about, but the Grand Harbour is a good deal busier than is ordinarily the case, and nearly all the retail shops have seized the opportunity to raise prices by 20 per cent. Throughout the day and particularly late in the evening the Baraccas, which are public gardens overlooking the Grand Harbour, are crowded with people watching the coming and going of countless picket boats, while as darkness draws on searchlights sweep the entrance to the harbour and far out to sea; and on the Auberge de Castille, which is now the signalling station, three red lights hoisted in line show that the harbour is closed, and that any vessel approaching will be sunk without asking questions. Apart from these outward and visible signs, however, conditions are almost normal. I am told that it is almost cool for August, and certainly since I came that depressing wind known as the Sciroc has not been blowing for more than five or six days. Many people wear dark glasses on account of the glare, and we all wish that the rocks of which the island is composed were not productive of so much dust. But there is one great saving feature from the natural point of view, and that is the oleanders.

One often associates artists with some one particular object, and as one thinks of Landseer in connection with lions or it may be dogs, so one thinks of Reynolds as *par excellence* a painter of children, and to my mind at least Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema is inextricably bound up with oleanders. Sir Lawrence would have revelled in Malta. Oleanders bloom everywhere, great masses of red and white flowers. Their warm, faintly bitter perfume fills every garden. Avenues of them line many of the roads, and although grey with dust gamely struggle on. "Mirabile dictu" it rained yesterday afternoon, and the oleanders fresh washed are looking their best this morning.

The following is the wording of a poster issued by *The Daily Malta Chronicle* to announce the declaration of war. It bears out what our Special Correspondent writes about the loyalty of the Maltese:—

THE WAR!

England has declared War. Rule Britannia! The Empire is one. We are one in heart and hand with all in the Empire. God Save our King! Send Him Victorious. That is the song of Malta.

LONG LIVE THE TRIPLE ENTENTE!

Daily Malta Chronicle Office.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Hero-Tales and Legends of the Serbians. By Woislav M. Petrovitch. With a preface by Chedo Miyatovich. With illustrations in colour. (Harrap and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

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THE ACTION OF INDIA.

PATRIOTISM OF THE PRINCES.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated September 8, 1914:—

Following is a summary of offers of service, money, etc., made in India to the Viceroy. The Rulers of the Native States in India, who number nearly seven hundred in all, have with one accord rallied to the defence of the Empire and offered their personal services and the resources of their States for the war. From among the many Princes and Nobles who have volunteered for active service the Viceroy has selected the Chiefs of Jodhpur, Bikanir, Kishangarh, Rutlam, Sachim, Patiala, Sir Pertab Singh, Regent of Jodhpur, the Heir Apparent of Bhopal, and a brother of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, together with other cadets of noble families. The veteran Sir Pertab would not be denied his right to serve the King-Emperor in spite of his seventy years, and his nephew, the Maharaja, who is but sixteen years of age, goes with him.

All these have, with the Commander-in-Chief's approval, already joined the Expeditionary Forces. The Maharaja of Gwalior and the Chiefs of Jaora and Dholpur, together with the Heir Apparent of Palanpur, were, to their great regret, prevented from leaving their States. Twenty-seven of the larger States in India maintain Imperial Service Troops, and the services of every corps were immediately placed at the disposal of the Government of India on the outbreak of war. The Viceroy has accepted from twelve States contingents of cavalry, infantry, sappers, and transports, besides a camel corps from Bikaner, and most of them have already embarked. As particular instances of generosity and eager loyalty of the Chiefs the following may be quoted:—Various Durbars have combined together to provide a hospital ship, to be called "The Loyalty," for the use of the Expeditionary Forces. The Maharaja of Mysore has placed Rs. 50 lakhs at the disposal of the Government of India for expenditure in connection with the Expeditionary Force.

The Chief of Gwalior, in addition to sharing in the expenses of the hospital ship, the idea of which was originated with himself and the Begum of Bhopal, has offered to place large sums of money at the disposal of the Government of India and to provide thousands of horses as remounts. From Loharu in the Punjab and Las Bela and Kalat in Baluchistan come offers of camels with drivers, to be supplied and maintained by the Chiefs and Sardars. Several Chiefs have offered to raise additional troops for military service should they be required, and donations to the Indian Relief Fund have poured in from all States. The Maharaja of Rewa has offered his troops, his treasury, and even his private jewellery for the service of the King-Emperor. In addition to contributions to the Indian Fund, some Chiefs—namely, those of Kashmir, Bundi, Orchha, and Gwalior and Indore—have also given large sums to the Prince of Wales's Fund.

The Maharaja of Kashmir, not content with subscribing himself to the Indian Fund, presided at a meeting of 20,000 people held recently at Srinagar and delivered a stirring speech, in response to which large subscriptions were collected.

Maharaja Holkar offers, free of charge, all horses in his State Army which may be suitable for Government purposes. Horses also offered by Nizam's Government, by Jamnagar, and other Bombay States. Every Chief in the Bombay Presidency has placed the resources of his State at the disposal of Government, and all have made contributions to the Relief Fund.

Loyal messages and offers also received from Mehtar of Chitral and tribes of Khyber Agency as well as Khyber Rifles.

Letters have been received from the most remote States in India, all marked by deep sincerity of desire to render some assistance, however humble, to the British Government in its hour of need.

Last, but not least, from beyond the borders of India have been received generous offers of assistance from the Nepal Durbar; the military resources of the State have been placed at the disposal of the British Government, and the Prime Minister has offered a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs to the Viceroy for the purchase of machine guns or field equipment for British Gurkha Regiments proceeding over seas, in addition to large donations from his private purse to the Prince of Wales's Fund and the Imperial Indian Relief Fund.

To the 4th Gurkha Rifles, of which the Prime Minister is honorary colonel, the Prime Minister has offered Rs. 30,000 for the purchase of machine guns in the event of their going on service. The Dalai Lama of Tibet has offered 1,000 Tibetan troops for service under the British Government. His Holiness also states that Lamas innumerable throughout length and breadth of Tibet are offering prayers for success of British Army and for happiness of souls of all victims of war.

The same spirit has prevailed throughout British India. Hundreds of telegrams and letters received by Viceroy expressing loyalty and desire to serve Government either in the field or by co-operation in India. Many hundreds also received by local administrations. They come from communities and associations, religious, political, and social, of all classes and creeds, also from individuals offering their resources or asking for opportunity to prove loyalty by personal service. Following may be mentioned as typical examples:—

The All-India Moslem League, the Bengal Presidency Moslem League, the Moslem Association of Rangoon, the Trustees of the Aligarh College, the Behar Provincial Moslem League, the Central National Mohammedan Association of Calcutta, the Khoja Community and other followers of Aga Khan, the Punjab Moslem League, Mohammedans of Eastern Bengal, Citizens of Calcutta, Madras, Rangoon, and many other cities, Behar Landholders' Association, Madras Provincial Congress, Taluqdars of Oudh, Punjab Chiefs' Association, United Provinces Provincial Congress, Hindus of the Punjab Chief Khalsa Diwan, representing orthodox Sikhs, Bohra Community of Bombay, Parsee Community of Bombay.

Delhi Medical Association offer field hospital that was sent to Turkey during the Balkan War; Bengalee students offer enthusiastic services for an ambulance corps, and there were many other offers of medical aid; Zemindars of Madras have offered 500 horses; and among other practical steps taken to assist Government may be noted the holding of meetings to allay panic, keep down prices, and maintain public confidence and credit. Generous contributions have poured in from all quarters to Imperial Indian Relief Fund.

INDIAN MOSLEMS' LOYALTY.

We give below, as showing the tendencies of Indian Moslem opinion at the earliest stages of the War, two extracts from the Indian Moslem Press. They testify to the universal feeling that the destinies of the Indian people and the British Empire are bound indissolubly together:—

The whole people of India will stand by their Sovereign as one man, and, untrained though they are to take up arms, they will do everything else possible in the defence of the Empire.—*The Mussulman* (August 7).

We do not even wish to talk of "loyalty" in this connection. . . . We therefore talk not of loyalty, but call this patriotism, for even if England may not need us, we have need of her. Believing in political purity rather than in political prudery, we have entered the lists with her biggest bureaucrats in India in time of peace. But in time of war the clash of steel in civic battles must cease and the voice of controversy must be hushed, and if we cannot hastily command in others an enthusiasm for this war which we ourselves do not feel, let us once and for all assure the Government that, so far as we and those within the orbit of our influence are concerned, they can sleep in peace. Let alone provincial satraps and the still greater despots of their districts, their meanest, if not their humblest, policeman will find us at his beck and call whenever civic excitement has to be allayed. More than this we cannot proclaim. Less than this we shall not confess. This is and has always been our creed, and to that we shall adhere.—*The Comrade* (August 12).

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The Prince to the People.

"Buckingham Palace.

"At such a moment we all stand by one another, and it is to the heart of the British people that I confidently make this most earnest appeal.

"EDWARD P."

SUBSCRIPTIONS must be addressed to

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,

Buckingham Palace, London.

ALL LETTERS MAY BE SENT POST FREE.

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THE DESERT FRONTIER.

In view of the presence of a considerable Anglo-Indian force in Egypt and the possibility, which unfortunately exists, that it may be involved in war with Turkey, it is timely to recall the interesting article upon the eastern frontier of Egypt which appeared in *The Times* of May 4, 1906, from the pen of its Military Correspondent.

The Sinai peninsula is a triangular tableland, measuring 260 miles from its Mediterranean base to its Red Sea apex at Ras Mohammed, and 150 miles across from Suez to Akabah. It rises to 7,450 ft. above the sea at Mount Sinai and to 8,530 ft. at Jebel Um Shamar, gradually falling northward across the Desert of the Wandering, and draining towards the Mediterranean by the great depression of the Wady el Arish.

Two main caravan routes lead across the peninsula to Egypt from Turkish territory, the first from Rafah by El Arish to El Kantara, 143 miles; the second by Akabah through Nakhl to Suez, 150 miles.

From Rafah to El Arish the ground is sandy, and water is found only at Sheikh el Zauieh, 22 miles from El Arish. This latter town is situated among palm groves a mile and three-quarters from the beach, and it possesses numerous wells. From El Arish to Bir el Maza the distance is 32 miles and the going usually sound. At El Maza there is only one well, 35 ft. deep, with 6 ft. of water. From Bir el Maza the distance is 31 miles over soft sandy desert to Bir el Abd, where there is a considerable supply of water from wells. Katieh is 17 miles further west, and here there is a large well with 6 ft. of water at a depth of 20 ft., while a good supply of drinkable water can be found by digging at a depth of 10 ft. to 20 ft. below the surface. From Katieh to El Kantara, 33 miles, the road traverses first a marshy plain, then a long reach of holding sand-dunes, and finally 16 miles of good hard desert. El Kantara is on the east bank of the Suez Canal, and is supplied by water from the Fresh Water Canal by means of a pipe which passes under the Suez Canal. The worst part of this route is that between El Arish and Bir el Abd, 63 miles, with a single well half way.

The Akabah-Suez route is little used since the chief pilgrim traffic became diverted to the sea, but there is believed to be water at Bir-eth-Thermed, 35 miles from Akabah, a good supply at Nakhl, 40 miles further west, and wells at Meibeluk, 14 miles from Suez. This route traverses the mountains for a distance of 20 miles in the neighbourhood of Nakhl.

The section of the Mediterranean coast which flanks the road from El Arish to El Kantara is low and dangerous, offering few facilities for a disembarkation. At the head of the Bay of Pelusium, east of the Suez Canal, the five-fathom line is six and a-half miles from the beach. Sandbanks are numerous, the shore is almost dead flat, and the only remarkable feature that can be distinguished from seaward at a distance of over three miles is the sandhill at Ras Kasrun, 270 ft. high, and rather more than half-way between the Suez Canal and El Arish.

For some 50 miles, with Ras Kasrun as a centre, a long strip of reef-like sand separates an interior lagoon, Lake Sirbon, from the sea. This lagoon is from two to six miles broad. It ends about 17 miles west of El Arish, where the shallows also end, and the five-fathom line is only half a mile from the shore. Thus Lake Sirbon and the shallows of the Bay of Pelusium partially cover the sea flank of an army traversing the desert, and it is only in the vicinity of El Arish that a naval force can effect anything serious until the Suez Canal is reached, and in the Canal only by ships with guns mounted at sufficient height to fire over the banks.

The southern caravan route is not exposed to attack from seaward save at its two extremities, Akabah and Suez. The Gulf of Akabah is the continuation of the great depression in which lie the Jordan and the Dead Sea. The head of the gulf forms a circular bay, with a low and sandy shore forming the end of the Wady el Arabah, which is flanked on each side by lofty mountains. The village of Akabah stands on the eastern shore at the head of the gulf. Ships can anchor in 11 fathoms close inshore and only two cables from the Turkish fort, with good protection in northerly winds.

Thus the two main caravan routes leading to Egypt from the eastward both start from points where sea-power can exercise important influence; both traverse some 150 miles of desert where sea-power can effect little, and each is broken by a single set of wells approximately half-way across the desert.

When Napoleon invaded Syria his troops took three and a-half days to cover the distance from Katieh to El Arish and three from El Arish to Gaza. In his time there were six wells at El Arish, and in his opinion 20,000 men could be collected there. The following extract from his Commentaries is of interest:—

"Generals who have marched from Egypt to Syria or from Syria to Egypt have in all periods of history considered this desert the greater obstacle the larger the number of horses they took with them. The ancient historians declare that when Cambyses wished to penetrate into Egypt he made an alliance with an Arab King, who caused a canal to flow with water in the desert, which evidently means that he covered it with camels bearing water. Alexander sought to please the Jews so that they might help him in the passage of the desert. This obstacle, however, was not so great in ancient times as it is to-day, since towns and villages existed, and the industry of man contended with success against the difficulties. To-day scarcely anything remains between Salihiyeh and Gaza. An army must, therefore, cross the desert successively by forming establishments and magazines at Salihiyeh, Katieh, and El Arish. If this army starts from Syria it must first of all form a large magazine at El Arish and then carry it forward to Katieh. But these operations are slow, and they give an enemy time to make his preparations for defence. . . . An army defending Egypt can either assemble at El Arish to oppose the investment of this place, or at Katieh to raise the siege of El Arish, or at Salihiyeh: all these alternatives offer advantages. Of all obstacles which may cover the frontiers of empires, a desert like this is incontestably the greatest. Mountains like the Alps take second rank, and rivers the third. If there is so much difficulty in carrying the food of an army that complete success is rarely obtained, this difficulty becomes twenty times greater when it is necessary to carry water, forage, and fuel, three things which are weighty, difficult to carry, and usually found by armies upon the ground they occupy."

Since Napoleon's time railways have more than half annulled the terrors of the desert, and if Turkey ever entertains ambitious projects against Egypt, the first steps in such policy would be to secure the two jumping off places on the caravan routes and to complete the Syrian railways to these points. When once El Arish and the head of the Gulf of Akabah are made so strong that no naval force can deal with them, the progressive railway advance upon Egypt, preferably by the northern route, enters into the category of normal operations, and the British guardians of the Delta and the Isthmus lose much of the strategical advantage they now possess.

GERMAN PRESS CAMPAIGN.

The *Jeune Turc* of August 6 gives an interesting extract from the *Tasfir-i-Efkiar*, one of the Constantinople papers which is being made use of by the Germans to influence Turkish public opinion. We quote it below as an explanation of German naval strategy from a German point of view:—

D'après nous tant que la guerre sur terre ne donnera pas de résultats importants pour une partie ou pour l'autre, il n'est pas logique de s'attendre à un combat naval, car, pour l'Allemagne, la vraie guerre se déroulera sur terre. Nous croyons que l'état major allemand ne laissera pas l'essentiel pour engager sa flotte dans un combat sur mer. Tant que la guerre durera sur le continent la flotte allemande limitera son activité à la mer Baltique et y restera à l'abri de toute attaque. Si les guerres du continent prennent une forme plus nette, il n'est pas juste de rejeter la possibilité d'un combat naval. Dans un tel combat, le but de la flotte allemande ne peut-être que celle-ci. Etre coulè, mais en couler en méme temps!

A WORLD-FAMOUS PHYSICIAN.

Lecturing recently before the Persia Society on Avicenna, the physician and philosopher, poet and statesman of the Eleventh Century, Professor Margoliouth said that his philosophy was for 400 years dominant in Islam as an intelligent presentation of the system of Aristotle, with an admixture of Plato. Avicenna was born in a village of Bokhara. The information he acquired, with the exception of his knowledge of medicine and philology, was complete when he was eighteen years old. It ripened afterwards, but did not increase. His speculative works consisted of improvisations. With the problem of predestination which occupied Moslem theologians he dealt in the language of determinism. The theory of rewards and punishments he regarded as unsatisfactory, because the memory of a benefit was blurred by the delay between the benefit and its reward. For this reason he considered the Koranic paradise as a free gift and not a reward for services rendered. As to prayer, he thought that only by freeing himself from the body could man enter the presence of his Creator, and that Islamic ceremonies had only a disciplinary value. Avicenna's treatise on love was an exposition of the doctrine contained in Plato's Symposium—that love is the quest after the perfectly good and beautiful. His treatises put Avicenna in the light of a mystic who had attained freedom from material things by the road of intellectual speculation rather than the more popular methods of asceticism. He possessed a quality which was not often appreciated in a man's lifetime—the power of making original observations, and a willingness to incur unpopularity and even infamy by following the leadings of his own mind.

Sir William Osler said that the tomb of Avicenna at Hamadan was in ruins, and it was proposed that the Persia Society should undertake its repair as a tribute to the memory of the greatest of Arabian physicians. Official permission had been received. A sum of £600 was needed. The work of Avicenna was interesting as having transmitted Greek medicine to Western Europe in the Middle Ages.

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THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Egyptian Views.

We have been told on many occasions that an outbreak of a war in Europe in which Great Britain was involved would be the signal for a great rising in India and another, though not on so large a scale, but perhaps even more violent, in Egypt. These gloomy prophecies have been falsified by events. Indians, even bitter opponents of the Government, have eagerly given assurance of their loyalty to the Empire in the present crisis, and Indian troops will doubtless testify to the unity of the Empire in a manner not pleasant to the common foe when they meet him on the Continent. In Egypt likewise the sympathies of Egyptians are not with Germany, as may be inferred from the attitude of the vernacular Press. *Al-Moayad* says:—

Egyptians are anxiously hoping for the termination of this unhappy war, so that business in the country may be restored. That, of course, is looking at the matter from the material point of view. Morally, however, the Egyptians are thoroughly well aware that the English have always behaved in a very satisfactory manner towards Moslems—better, in fact, than any other European nation. She has done her duty towards them by looking after their security and welfare and by guaranteeing the rights of the individual. Moreover, she has given them complete freedom to work for their national, social, and economic upraising so long as this liberty did not infringe on her own policy. Germany, on the other hand, has never done a thing for the Moslems, either in the past or the present. She has no thought for any interests but her own, which she loses no opportunity of pushing forward. Also, Egyptians now look much askance at Germany, for it is she who has brought about this terrible war. For France the Egyptians have always cherished a particular affection for the profuse way in which she has spread education.

Indian Moslems' Views.

The hon. secretary of the London All-India Moslem League has forwarded to us copies of two resolutions adopted at an emergency meeting of the committee of the League. The resolutions are as follows:—

1. That the Committee of the London All-India Moslem League desire to convey, through the favour of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Majesty's Indian troops their good wishes for success in the opportunity accorded to them to share with their British comrades-in-arms in the defence of the Empire on the battle-fields of Europe.

2. That the Committee further desire to place on record their conviction that the Moslem States will, in the titanic struggle in which the nations of Europe have become involved, do all in their power to avoid being drawn into the vortex; and that the Turkish Government will unswervingly maintain the neutrality which it has hitherto faithfully observed, and not allow the Ottoman people to be goaded by malign attempts into any deviation from strict fidelity to its pledges.

Cairo in Time of War.

The Egyptian Gazette, of August 25, gives an interesting description of Cairo and its people in time of war. We give an extract:—

The remarkable restraint and sober-mindedness shown by all classes of the population in Egypt during the present trying conditions is nowhere more conspicuously evident than in the capital itself, where, despite the thousand and one inconveniences of interrupted postal services and extinguished bank accounts, despite many sad partings from relatives and friends whose fate in the field of battle it may be impossible to know of for many weary and anxious months, and in defiance of all disconcerting rumours, people of all classes and all creeds appear to have resigned themselves to a cheerful endurance of whatever may come, confident that their destinies are in safe hands, and that every measure that is humanly possible to relieve their anxieties and ensure their bodily safety is being taken by the authorities.

The article concludes as follows:—

And so, like Mark Tapley, Cairo continues to be "jolly under creditable circumstances." Gay holiday crowds fill the roads to the Pyramids and the Zoo; the Mousky and the bazaars seem as full and as animated as ever; the cafés at night are crowded with all nationalities; the English clubs are filled to overflowing with those who have been recalled from too-short leave, while those who have their ordinary duties to fulfil go about the town marvelling at the peaceful aspect of Cairo in time of war, and blessing the faithful Belgians for maintaining unrestricted a full and punctual service of the trams.

Effect of Russian Victories.

A Reuter's message from Petrograd, under date of September 8, gives the following account of the state of feeling produced in South-Eastern Europe by the news of Austro-Hungarian defeats:—

According to a semi-official communiqué, fugitives from the Austro-Hungarian armies relate that the losses of the latter have been enormous and that numerous regiments have been completely destroyed. The Austrians fear a rising in Bukovina. Hungarian sympathies for Russia are said to be increasing. The *Retch*, in an article, dwells upon the ability of General Joffre, the French Commander-in-Chief, and the heroic stand made by the Belgians. Private correspondents confirm the disorganisation of the Austrian armies. According to news from Galatz (Roumania), the news of the Russian victories has created general enthusiasm there. The Russian National Anthem was sung at the theatre.

From Bucharest comes a report that a revolt has broken out in the Turkish army at Adrianople owing to famine. The people of Constantinople, having found out the falseness of news published by the German semi-official news agency, are said to be crowding in front of the Embassies of the Triple Entente Powers to learn the latest intelligence.

"The Declaration of the Allies."

The declaration of the Allies that none of the three Governments will conclude a separate peace is recognized by all qualified judges as an international act of the highest moment. It defines for all the world the fixed purpose of the signatories and the character of the war. When its significance has been grasped by the masses of the people throughout Europe it will exercise a powerful influence upon belligerents and neutrals alike. Our Rome message to-day shows that it is already beginning to tell upon opinion in Italy, where it has had "a profound and salutary effect." We feel assured that, as the news is spread and permeates the popular mind, it will have a like effect on all populations with intelligence and knowledge enough to realize what it means.—*The Times* (September 8.)

The Belgian Nation.

If among our mighty men, never standing forth so valiantly able as at the beginning of this war, the Foreign Secretary seems a head above the rest, likewise among the nations hurrying on with buckling swords, little Belgium leads the host. If in the past people here have been unjust to Sir Edward Grey, the world in general has been more than unjust to Belgium. Critics called her a political artificiality; said her people were a hybrid race. We have often been told, in fact, that there are no Belgians, and that the welding of many races into a homogeneous whole was yet far distant. This war has changed all that. No more will a slur be cast about racial inequalities; no more will men in debate dispose lightly of the State and its fortunes. Whatever the result of the war, out of it will arise a noble Belgian nation, brothers to a man, and in future to be reckoned with in the councils of Europe.—*The World's Work* (September).

Austria-Hungary, Servia and the War.

The Scots' Pictorial for September 5 contains an interesting article entitled "Austria and her Troubles," which provides a good exposition of the attitude of the Dual Monarchy at the opening of the present struggle. We quote below:—

In 1914, as in 1908, Austria is guilty of a fatal impatience, a desperate disregard of circumstances. She drew her sword to cut the Gordian knot without pausing to reflect on the fact that the same cord bound together the peace of Europe. But her attack on Servia is not to be associated with the German attack on Europe. Between the firm resolution with which Austria entered upon her own little war with Servia and the reluctance with which she joined Germany's big war with everybody there is an inconsistency which wants some explaining, if we are to believe that Austria was in any sense the accomplice of Germany in a plot to undermine the foundations of Europe. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that Austria has two quite different wars to attend to, and that she has no heart in the great one. She, too, seemed to be wondering what had gone wrong with Germany. When Germany was already at war with Russia, France, and Britain, and Austria was at war with Servia, somebody—no doubt the German Emperor—noticed that Austria and Russia were not yet at war with one another. It was with pathetic gravity that Austria formally corrected this omission. It was with pathetic gravity that the derelict barque of the Cæsars consented to set out upon what is likely to prove her last voyage.

Roumania's Attitude.

There is much significance in the fact that Roumania has warned Turkey of the danger of doing anything to complicate the present situation, since it can only mean that in sympathy at least she has ranged herself definitely on the side of the Entente. Germany has been moving heaven and earth to persuade the Porte to take up arms, and by giving advice in the contrary sense Roumania appears as Germany's opponent. This is a very welcome development. . . . Her prudent and resolute conduct during the Balkan War showed that she had retained or recovered an independent point of view and this new move is a further proof of it. We can scarcely doubt that she has been compelled to it by the realisation that Germany will respect no treaties which she finds inconvenient. If international engagements are to be treated as of no value the position of Roumania would become extremely precarious, and all her interests lie in the maintenance of the public laws of Europe.—*Globe* (Sept. 4).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Our suggestion that British firms interested in carrying into Near Eastern countries the campaign against German trade, should send us enquiries for specific information, has already met with the fullest success, the enquiries received covering a vast ground. In some cases the desired information will take some time to collect. However, we hope to be able, in our next issue, to answer some of our correspondents, and in the meantime invite further enquiries.

***

The situation in Persia is not conducive to optimism. On another page we reproduce a rather pessimistic message from the Teheran correspondent of *The Times* which, from a private source, I must reluctantly confirm. There is no trade at the present moment with Southern Persia through the Gulf, and, therefore, the Southern Customs receipts are bound to drop. Moreover, money remittances are practically non-existent throughout the world, and Persia forms no exception. Even the remittance of news is scarce, and remarkably little comes from Persia. It is believed, however, that in Northern Persia the situation is better than in Southern Persia.

***

There was a decided tendency in the City yesterday to regard the Turkish situation as improved. Information received in authoritative circles seemed to indicate greater stability reigning in Constantinople and greater confidence in London. I understand even that the Foreign Office regards the situation as more hopeful. To a certain extent this change for the better—both as regards Turkey and ourselves—is attributed to Sir Louis Mallet's return at an opportune moment. He, together with his French and Russian colleagues, is believed to have been able to dissuade the Ottoman Government from a career of adventure and folly that would have culminated, if not in the dismemberment of the Empire, at least in its utter bankruptcy. We are glad for all concerned that Enver Pasha's pro-German proclivities and his friendship for Liman von Sanders have not been allowed to play havoc with Turkish finance, already sufficiently burdened.

***

Money remittances are, as mentioned elsewhere, practically impossible. This does not apply only to the Near East, but to all countries, and, really, no one is to blame. It is the system that is at fault. In normal times, admittedly, it works well, but we are not living in normal times, and consequently there is a perceptible hitch which can only be overcome by some sort of a supplementary organisation. I will illustrate what I mean. In ordinary times it is not difficult for a bank to send an order for payment of £10,000 to its Roumanian branch, because it is more than likely that at the same time, practically the same amount is being remitted from the Roumanian branch home. Even supposing that this should not be the case, the difference between the credit and balance accounts can easily be settled periodically.

***

In war time there are no such facilities. Consequently banks, which must all strive to keep up normal relations with their branches and thus insure the regular ebb and flow of specie, cannot undertake to remit, say, an order for payment of £10,000 to a branch in Turkey or elsewhere, even if the remitter pays down the sum in cash here, unless there is a chance that simultaneously an approximate amount is being paid in at the other end. The difficulty, I think, can only be overcome in one way: People wishing to remit money to Greece or Turkey, for instance, ought to apply direct to banks dealing with those countries, asking to be put on a list for the sum in question. The bank, in its turn, ought to communicate with its associates or branches abroad with a view to being kept informed as to remittances being made, or proposed to be made, at their end. By this means the demands of the remitters would be met in rotation and with the least possible delay. Personally, I think that this scheme is feasible; therefore, if any banks dealing with Near Eastern countries and interested in the matter wish to consider it, THE NEAR EAST will be only too ready to give them any aid within its power.

***

There is one aspect of the "War on German Trade" which must not be lost sight of, namely, Colonial produce. Within recent years Trieste has become one of the most important sugar centres in the world. She can quite easily lose her place if we go about it in the right way. We can easily control the cane trade, and as for beet, there are many districts within the Empire where the plant could thrive as well as in Germany and Austria. From an extract published on page 638 on the "German Sugar Industry," it will be seen that the war is already causing uneasiness in the Fatherland, whose exports to Turkey and the Near East are likely to dwindle. It is a golden opportunity if we only organize the industry. Incidentally, I may mention that the Balkan States will be purchasers after the war of refining plant. Up to the present the necessary machinery has come exclusively from Germany. I leave it to a British firm to decide whether the matter is worthy of its consideration. Suffice it to state that during a recent trip to the Near East I had two or three enquiries from local commission agents for the names of British firms willing to quote against German firms.

***

Another tropical plant which is deserving of greater attention in certain parts of the Empire is sisal. The Germans have specialised in its cultivation in German East Africa and, I believe, in their South Sea possessions, and are practically in control of the market. The plant fetches a good price for its fibres and the waste makes an excellent and cheap substitute for horse-hair in the upholsterer's trade. According to one authority, this waste, which represents from 15 to 20 per cent. of the material concerned, is twisted into rope, then dyed, and finally untwisted; the fibre retains the twisted character and is springy. Furniture makers, please to note.

***

I understand from the Press that the majority of German engineering firms have stopped their regular work in order to manufacture war material and an air fleet. So much the better for British trade, because it will give us a start of which we must make the best possible use. As for the airships, they are bound to be ours (or destroyed) sooner or later.

***

I wish to draw the attention of engineering firms to the U.S. Consul's remarks on Greek tobacco-growing and the demand for machinery, reproduced on page 636. Both Bulgaria and Servia have likewise acquired, as a result of the war, important tobacco fields, and should be buyers of machinery. In the last-named country the banderole system obtains, though in the former the tobacco industry is a State monopoly, which implies that the State will be the purchaser. Regarding the Salonika suggestion, I can, if desired, obtain more information concerning the leading local exporters and manufacturers of tobacco for British firms interested.

***

Last February, when the German "Association for World-Commerce" was first mooted, I referred to it in these columns, and stated that it was deserving of the closest attention. The fact that the Foreign Office has now published a White Paper dealing with the whole matter proves that I was not wrong in my estimate of the intrinsic significance of a movement which, headed by the great shipping companies, had for object the organisation of the Fatherland's forces with a view to carry on a gigantic commercial campaign against all other nations. The Press was, of course, an important factor in the campaign, and to what an extent this was realised in Berlin is now proven by Sir E. Goschen's reports to Sir Edward Grey. The whole reveals the most ignominious attempt at bribery and corruption that has ever been chronicled in the history of the world, and it is fortunate that the cat has now come out of the bag. It behoves us to fight those organs of publicity which have submitted to ruling by the German Foreign Office. Happily, as I stated at the time, though in some countries it might be easy to influence the Press, in others (and I referred to Great Britain) it would be much more difficult.

COMMENTATOR.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

British Firms interested in carrying into the Near Eastern market the war against German trade, and desirous of specific information concerning the prospects there, are invited to communicate with the Commercial Editor, "THE NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, E.C.

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War on German Trade.

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS

A.—CUTLERY.

German exports of coarse and fine knives and scissors amounted (1912) to £1,747,800, and Austria's exports (1913) to £78,200, as against £836,000 (1913) for the United Kingdom.

Germany's exports to the Near East are relatively small, our greatest rival in that market being Austria. The following figures are available for 1913:—

Coarse knives and shears:—

Roumania	£900
Turkey	£4,700
Egypt	1,300
	£6,900

Pocket and clasp knives:—

Roumania	£3,800
Turkey	3,500
Egypt	400
	£7,700

or a total of £14.600.

Great Britain's exports of cutlery in 1913 were £15,000 to Turkey and £6,000 to Egypt. No figures seem to be available for Roumania.

[We should, in the circumstances, easily be able to increase our exports to the Near East by about £10,000 per annum.]

Greece.

Referring to Greece, the memorandum reports that a good opening for razors is reported in Salonika, where stocks are stated to be exhausted. Razors of German make are sold at 3s. 6d. to 20s. a dozen; those of English make at 3s. a dozen up to 10s. each. Razors are packed in cardboard sheaths and cases. Safety razors are not, so far, in favour at Salonika. The annual sale is estimated at £8,000 in value.

Syria.

A certain amount of cutlery is imported at Beyrout, the principal supplying countries being, in order of their importance, Germany, France, England, and Russia. Cheap goods are especially in good demand. Packing is in strong cases containing twelve packets of 12 light carboard boxes. Cash payments are made, with 2½ per cent. discount, for goods coming from England; for those from France the terms are 3 per cent. or 90 days, and for German goods 5 per cent. or 180 days. Prices are fixed franco factory or f.o.b. port of shipment for France and England; German manufacturers always offer goods delivered at destination.

B.—ENAMMELLED HOLLOW-WARE, ETC.

The estimated annual exports of Germany, Austria, and Great Britain, are:—

Germany	£1,776,000
Austria	124,000
United Kingdom	531.000

Germany's exports are directed mostly oversea, but the following show Austria's exports (1913) to some Near East countries:—

Roumania	£8,200
Turkey	4,330
Egypt	3,040
	£15,570

as against the United Kingdom:—

Roumania	£300
Turkey	16,600
Egypt	8,200
	£25,100

[If more complete figures were available for Near East imports of enamel ware, it would be found that Germany and Austria's exports together were vastly superior to ours, so that in this class of goods a decided opening for British trade is to be had without much trouble.]

The bulletin gives the following particulars:—

Egypt.

According to a German report enamelware is continually pressing out the trade in earthenware owing to the heavy cost of transport and the liability to breakage. There is a demand for every class of article as the natives are using this enamelware in rapidly increasing quantities. The trade has mostly been in the hands of Austria, but German firms have recently been making strenuous attempts to secure a greater share.

An Austrian report recently pointed out that business from Austria to Egypt was only being done under terms of strenuous price cutting. Austrians appeared particularly to feel the competition of English manufacturers.

Syria.

In a recent report the Special Commissioner sent out by the Board of Trade to Syria stated:—

The use of enamelled hollow-ware has become very general in the country, not only in the towns and villages, but has extended to the Bedouin tribes around Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo, as well as to those of Palestine. The trade is a growing one, and it is estimated that the value of the ware which is annually imported through Beyrout is between £40,000 and £60,000. Austrian and German manufacturers have the greater part of the trade. A small quantity of British-made utensils is found on the market—principally saucepans—and these are stocked by large importers in order to complete their assortment. Importers, however, state that the British-made article is too dear for the Syrian market, and although heavier and more substantial, it cannot compete with foreign goods, which perhaps may not be so good yet are cheap and are attractive in design.

Although the general colour of the ware is blue and white—white enamel mostly inside—preference is shown for the mottled colours, or what is termed "tiger enamelling," that is, enamelling in coloured lines on white grounds.

The prices, whether for French, German, or Austrian ware, are all the same for the various classes, the difference, however, being in the rates of discount allowed by the various firms. The terms given by the French manufacturers for goods enamelled in two colours, or in two colours with patterns, are:—70 per cent. discount off prices, with an extra 3 per cent. for cash; or, 70 per cent. discount with four months' credit. Packing free; all c.i.f. Beyrout. Austrian and German prices are:—70 per cent. discount with 10 per cent. off, and an extra 3 per cent. for cash on arrival of goods; or, 70 per cent. discount and 10 per cent. off, with four months' credit; all c.i.f. Beyrout; packing free. These quotations are for any colours.

Quotations are preferred in francs, as there is a 2½ per cent. difference between the rate of the franc and sterling in Beyrout, or, if quotations are in sterling, 2½ per cent. must be added on the price.

GERMAN WAR MATERIAL.

Some twenty months ago (says *Eastern Engineering* in a spirited article from which we take the following extract), we dealt in these columns, in what we consider to have been a very unbiassed manner, with the quality of German war material. We pointed out that the ammunition supplied by the Germans to the Turks during their last war was of inferior quality, and we attributed in some measure the severe and unexpected losses of the Turks to that fact as well as to the tactics of those German officers who had been instructing them in military matters. From this we endeavoured to show how ill-advised the Chinese had been in purchasing their war material from Germany and employing German military instructors. That very simple and straightforward article created a storm of abuse in the German papers, and especially in the technical Press of that country, which is largely owned by Messrs. Krupp and other makers of German war material. Since that time our words have been confirmed. . . . For the German guns and ammunition in the hands of the Germans themselves have already proved to be far inferior to those of any of the forces opposing them . . . . . The object lessons of this war will no doubt reach the uttermost recesses of the earth, and it is not necessary for us to advise the Chinese or any other nation to refrain in the future from purchasing arms and ammunition that have been "made in Germany," for it is quite certain that Germany will not be in a position to furnish anything of the sort for years to come. Possibly there may be no such country as Germany by that time, and in the interests of humanity it is to be hoped that such will be the case.

TOBACCO MACHINERY FOR GREECE

Writing in *The Daily Consular and Trade Reports*, the U.S. Consul at Salonika says that, owing to the withdrawal of the Ottoman Tobacco Régie, the Greek Government is not only facilitating the installation of independent tobacco factories, but is also proceeding to establish a so-called public factory. The purport of this establishment is to assist the small merchant. Provision will be made for the leasing of space to manufacturers who may install their own machinery and operate under the direct supervision of Government weighers and inspectors. Such manufacturers will be exempt from depositing a cash bond, the annual franchise tax, and from the payment of salaries of Government inspectors. The law in old Greece as regards the affixing of tax stamps (or "banderoles") to packages of tobacco or cigarettes has now been extended to the occupied territories. The cigarette tobacco grown in these regions is as fine as is produced anywhere in the world. The Greek refugees who have been swarming into Macedonia from Asia Minor and Turkish Thrace will for the most part apply themselves to the cultivation of tobacco, and in view of the new law, which permits the manufacture of tobacco on open competition, it is probable that several factories will be established in Salonika. A general opinion prevails that the manufacture of cigarettes will eventually become an important industry of this district.

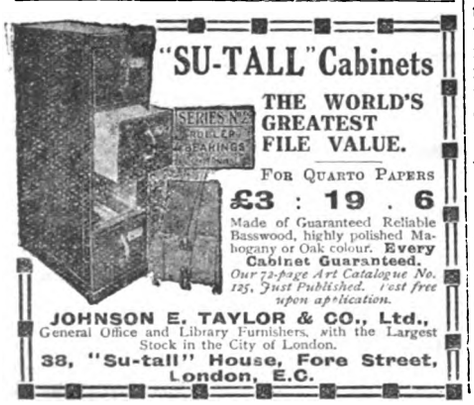
Exporters of tobacco-manufacturing machinery should not delay in availing themselves of the opportunity to introduce their machines. In regard to the manner of entering the local market the following points should be observed:—Price must be the lowest possible, commensurate with quality. Terms should be part cash with order, *i.e.*, sufficient to cover freight charges and expenses both ways, and balance upon arrival of goods. Correspondence and printed matter should be in the French language. Information in regard to the Government requirements for the establishment of tobacco factories in this district can be obtained from Iaanis Andonopoulos, director of tobaccos, Salonika, or the Minister of Finance, Athens.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.

A special meeting of the Board of Trade Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence was held on August 27.

A statement was laid before the Committee as to the action now being taken by the Board of Trade to assist British merchants and manufacturers in an endeavour to secure that share of trade in colonial and neutral markets which has hitherto been in the hands of their German and Austro-Hungarian competitors.

It was reported that arrangements have been made by the Board of Trade and Foreign Office for information to be furnished by the Trade Commissioners and Consular Officers in the various Dominions and other important over-sea markets as to the commercial and financial position there, and as to the likelihood of regular payments being forthcoming. A summary of the reports will be published from time to time.



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Shipping Intelligence.

FREIGHTS AND SHIPPING.

The *Morning Post* publishes from "A Correspondent" the following:—

September 7.

Cable advices have been received from Russia by London grain operators stating that for the present Turkey is permitting the free passage of the Dardanelles to grain-laden steamers. The result has been that many British steamers have made preparations to leave at once those ports in the Black Sea where they have been held up. Owing to Russia's prohibition of the export of grain, there has been a large number of steamers at various Russian ports which have had their charters cancelled, and these have so far been unable to find further employment. Their only chance has been to secure a cargo of grain from the Rumanian ports on the Danube, but owing to the attitude of Turkey in detaining steamers of various nationalities at Constantinople shippers of grain, as well as shipowners, have declined to risk the passage to the Mediterranean. It is stated that Turkey's action was dictated not so much by a desire to raise international complications as by an actual shortage of grain, and she adopted this method as a means of inducing vessels to discharge their cargoes at Constantinople. The immediate result of the granting of the facilities mentioned has been the chartering of a British steamer to load at Sulina, a port at the mouth of the Danube, for this country, for which a freight of 9s. per ton will be paid.

The better feeling as regards rates of freight is maintained, and the partial clearing off of the unchartered steamers which were dragging on the market has rendered the position much clearer. One by one they have secured employment, until there is some possibility that next week the demand may exceed the supply. Everything points to the substantial rise in freights which was foretold some days ago.

September 10.

A hand-to-mouth business is being done in ore cargoes from the Mediterranean, and a Spanish steamer was chartered to carry 4,200 tons from Carthagena, South Spain, to Maryport at the miserable rate of 5s. 6d. per ton. A simple calculation will show what a disastrous voyage from a financial point of view this will be. The cargo will cost 10d. per ton to load, 1s. 2d. per ton to discharge, the port charges may be reckoned at 1s. per ton, commissions at 3d. per ton—in all 3s. 3d. per ton, leaving the owners a net freight of 2s. 3d. per ton, or, say, £450. A period of twenty days would probably be occupied by the prosecution of the voyage, and allowing a cost of £20 daily for the vessel, this would amount to £400. In other words, a balance of about £50 would be left with which to pay war risk insurance. This sum would, of course, be immediately swallowed up by such expense, leaving the owners to face a heavy loss at the conclusion of the voyage.

CUNARD EMPLOYEES AND THE WAR.

No fewer than 115 of the Cunard Company's clerical staff at Water Street office and at their dock offices, as well as several members of the pursers' staff, have responded to the call of their King and country, and are now serving in the Comrades' Battalion. Apart from this, there are some sixty members of the clerical staffs already serving their country in Territorial Divisions and other units. This makes a total of 175 members of the staff at present with the Colours, not including members of the London and other staffs who have also responded to the call.

The Cunard Company have arranged to pay a month's salary to each member of the clerical staff who has volunteered, and thereafter to continue half-pay until the termination of hostilities. In addition, the places of all men so serving are being kept open for them.

RUSSIA AND THE DARDANELLES.

A Lloyd's Dardanelles message, dated September 3, says that Russian vessels no longer pass Dardanelles.

MERCHANT SHIPS FOR THE NAVY.

The monthly Navy List published by Admiralty authority has just been issued for September. This list, which excises the "Amphion" from the list of vessels in commission, though it includes both the "Speedy" and the "Pathfinder," includes a list of merchant vessels commissioned as his Majesty's ships.

The list includes the following:—"Alsatian," "Anglia," "Aquitania," "Armadale Castle," "Cambria," "Carmania," "Caronia," "Empress of Asia," "Empress of Britain," "Empress of Japan," "Empress of Russia," "Engadine," "Himalaya," "Kinfauns Castle," "Macedonia," "Maori," "Mantua," "Marmora," "Oceanic," "Osiris," "Otranto," "Riviera," "Scotia," "Tara," "Venetia," and "Victorian."

The list also includes the names of upwards of 100 trawlers.

The Press Bureau issued the following *communiqué* on Wednesday night:

The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that the armed merchant cruiser "Oceanic," of the White Star Line, was wrecked yesterday near the North Coast of Scotland, and has become a total loss. All the officers and crew were saved.

The "Oceanic" was a twin-screw steamer of 17,274 tons, with triple expansion engines, an indicated horse-power of 28,000, and a speed of 21 knots. She was launched from Harland and Wolff's Yard, Belfast, in 1899. Her length was 685 feet and breadth 68 feet. She had accommodation for 563 first-class and 254 second-class passengers.

NOTICE AFFECTING NAVIGATION.

The following notice affecting navigation has been issued:—

BULGARIA.

August 27.—The port of Bourgas is now reopened during daytime. Vessels approaching the port must await the pilot off Sozopol.

ROUMANIAN S.S. COMPANY.

The Roumanian Steamship Company begs to inform the public that the regular service of fast steamers *de luxe* between Constantinople, Pireaus and Alexandria has been suspended until further communication. A regular service twice a week is now running between Constantinople and Constantza, on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

HOLIDAY RESORTS ON THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Many tourists are now going away, and the stream will not diminish until well into the autumn. The Great Central Railway has quite a long list of attractive resorts, one or the other of which is certain to suit the taste of the most fastidious. For instance, there are the well-known watering-places of the North-East Coast—Scarborough, Bridlington, Cleethorpes, Whitby, Filey, and Redcar. Then there are the Wharfedale hydros, the Cheshire riverside haunts; Southport with its acres of glass, stretches of sand and superb marine lakes; Blackpool with its palaces of merriment and excellent service of sea excursions; the bonny banks of the Avon, where Shakespeare roamed; the old university cities; the ancient battlefields and the rustic nurseries where many of the heroes of the nation were reared.

Tourist and week-end tickets are issued all the year round, and excursion facilities are in operation during the summer. Golfers will find the line most considerate on their behalf. The highways and byways of the many districts served by the G.C.R. and its connections are a revelation to those who appreciate charming rural scenes, many of which are as yet almost unknown with their picturesque villages and farmsteads, flowery meadows, and shady lanes, where parents and their families, as well as the student of nature, may find delight amid an environment giving both physical and mental rejuvenation. A useful illustrated booklet and programme giving particulars of the various facilities may be secured on request to Publicity Office, 216, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Bucharest. August 20.

The export of oats and of all descriptions of forage has been prohibited. Contrary to rumour, wheat, barley, rye, maize, and flour can still be exported, as well as beans, peas, lentils, rape-seed, linseed, sunflower seed, and bran, but the export of any other vegetable or animal substances, usually used for human food, is prohibited. The prohibition practically applies to grain and seed of last year's crop, as this year's wheat is only as yet coming forward in small quantities. The present crop is so large that it is expected that no export prohibition will be introduced.

Sofia. August 21.

In spite of the recent heavy rains the general harvest in the Sofia district is a good one, up to the average. The crops have almost all been gathered.

Regarding the maize crop in Bulgaria, it is expected that this year's production will create a new record.

The following information is extracted from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Seres. August 14.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for July:—

The rains during the month have been beneficial to the growing crops. The cutting of the tobacco crop has begun.

The movement of affairs during the month has been devoid of interest.

Mosul. June 30.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June:—

Forecasts of the yield of this year's crop of gall nuts are pessimistic. There is general agreement of opinion that this year's result will be inferior to last year's, which was considered as well below the average.

In consequence of the firmness of the leading markets, the wool market here showed a good deal of animation during the first fortnight of the month. This state of affairs was due to the number of buyers, but prices declined greatly towards the end of the month.

Money has been rather plentiful owing to the exportation of wool and mohair.

Salonika. June 30.

The following are extracts from the report for May-June:—

Abundant rains have fallen during the two months, but they have not compensated for the damage which the previous drought caused. At the same time, these rains have lightened the labour preparatory to sowing the winter crops.

Business has been very restricted, exports almost nil, and imports only of prime necessaries. The enormous crowds of refugees have rendered the scarcity of these articles more severely felt.

Beyrout. July 20.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June:—

The crops, which were believed to be more abundant than last year's, are now reckoned to be from 10 to 15 per cent. inferior. This applies especially to the wheat crop, which suffered from the frosts in April, and is said to be from 30 to 35 per cent. inferior to last year's crop. Barley and other cereals are only slightly inferior. The quality, however, is good.

The commercial activity of the month has been satisfactory. The export trade has been especially so, the exports being chiefly of wool, butter, and cereals of the old crop, these last being held by speculators and now released at the approach of harvest. Low prices of articles imported have encouraged this trade too, and some wholesalers have bought large stocks for the winter in the belief that prices will not go lower.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, September 10.

Sugar.

English refined, cubes and pieces, are in good steady demand; for crystals and granulated there is a continued good inquiry. All standard quotations remain unchanged, though some sugars are withdrawn. Tate's cubes No. 1, 33s. 6d.; Lyle's granulated, 30s. to 30s. 6d.; crystals No. 3, 30s.; yellow, 27s. 6d. The market for foreign granulated, cubes, etc., remains quiet, but with a generally steady undertone. St. Lucia and Trinidad crystalised changed hands at 28s.; white Java quoted 24s. shipped, and 23s. 9d. for September-October shipment c.i.f. London.

Coffee.

The demand on spot remains quiet, with only small business doing at about steady rates. Regarding the terminal market, the London Produce Clearing House has issued the following circular:—It has been decided, on the recommendation of the Coffee Committee, that liquidation of contracts by brokers shall be allowed to continue by private negotiation within the following range of prices:—Deferred, September 37s. to 38s., December 37s. 6d. to 38s. 6d., March 38s. 3d. to 39s. 3d., May 38s. 9d. to 39s. 9d. To further assist liquidation latitude is given to those who have contracts open to shift positions, provided the total quantity of engagements is not increased, and that the total Clearing House engagements are lessened thereby. Every transaction to be subject to the approval of the Committee.

Seeds.

Linseed has been in quiet demand, and is easier for arrived lots. London spot Calcutta 48s., sellers 46s.; buyers, September-October, offered at 50s.; Hull-Calcutta, on passage, 48s. asked. Rapeseed.—Ferozepore, London spot, 50s. 6d. asked; bold 52s., sellers. Cottonseed. remains quiet; Egyptian-London spot, £8 10s. to £8 12s. 6d.; on passage, £8 10s.; Hull spot, £8 10s.; Bombay spot £6 5s. Canary seed, Turkish, on spot 125s. per 468 lbs. ex store.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cakes are dull and inactive, as may be expected at this season of the year, and with some quantity of foreign descriptions now coming into the market values have again given way to the extent of fully 2s. 6d. per ton. Best London made sell at £8 17s. 6d. to £9. Cotton Cakes.—Although stocks of Egyptians are light, quotations are barely as strong, occasioned by the dulness of trade and further offers from the other side, with sellers of best brands at £5 10s. ex ship, and £5 12s. 6d. ex quay while English makes are without change at £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d., and Bombays at £4 15s.

Corn.

Wheat.—The cargo market is quiet and easier, with resellers showing more disposition to take profits, especially for parcels, which are fully 6d. lower to sell. There is also more offering in Indians by first and second hands. Choice white Karachi afloat offers at 48s., September at 47s. 9d., and October-November 47s. 6d. Barley is firm with few sellers. Black Sea, 25,000 quarters, per "Navarro," arrived at Glasgow, reported part sold on landed terms at 26s. 6d. For this quality arrived 26s. 9d. is wanted, and 26s. 6d. for parcels, while Karachi afloat is quoted 29s. 6d. Maize is quiet and favouring buyers. Galatz-Foxanian, 3,310 French tons, per "Dunarea," sailed August 27, sold at 32s. 6d. Oats are dull and neglected.

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CYPRUS CROPS AND THE WAR.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—

Even before the war the position of agriculturists was causing some anxiety in parts of the island. The yield of cereals was only moderate, considerable damage having been caused by unusually late rains. The progress of the disease which is attacking caroub trees is serious. The district of Kyrenia, in the north of the island, has been hard hit, as a large number of the villagers depend in great measure on the locust bean crop for a living. The yield this year is but moderate. Unfortunately, the olive crop is insignificant. As regards grapes, on which so much depends, the produce is rather disappointing. The hill villages in some parts rely largely on their fruit trees. Fortunately, walnuts and almonds will give a good return; but apples, pears and quinces have failed. Silk-worms did well.

In existing circumstances some anxiety naturally prevails. Petitions have been put forward for relief works, for delay in the collection of all taxes, etc. There is, however, no cause for alarm, as the people can rely on Government taking any measures that may become necessary.

By order of the High Commissioner, all cereal tithes (wheat, barley, oats, and vetches), which are paid in kind, and which were, as usual, advertized for sale to highest bidders, are being retained in the stores. The quantities are approximately as follows:—Of wheat, 268,000 bushels; barley, 262,000 bushels; oats, 49,000; vetches, 23,000. The exportation of grain and various commodities was also prohibited.

GERMAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The German sugar industry has asked the Government to cancel the prohibition of the exportation of sugar. The Government replied that at present this would be impossible, but that they would keep the application in mind, and see what they could do with regard to neutral countries.

The *Kreuz Zeitung* points out that the abolition of the prohibition is a vital question to the German sugar industry, as the production is far greater than the demand, and 25,000,000 centner must be exported. Should this not be possible, commerce and industry will suffer immensely. In the event of the withdrawal of the prohibition, the journal proceeds, German industry could avail itself of the neutrality of Italy, which would be the only country through which exportation to the Levant, Turkey, and Greece would be possible. The Netherlands, too, would be an important country for this transit trade. Another possible channel by which to get rid of the superfluous output, the *Kreuz Zeitung* concludes, would be by way of Scandinavian countries, whence export to America could be inaugurated.—Reuter.

BRITISH COTTON-GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The one hundred and twenty-seventh meeting of the Council was held at the offices, 15, Cross Street, Manchester, on September 1. In the absence of the President, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton occupied the chair.

Reference was made to the loss sustained by the association through the death of Mr. A. H. Gill, M.P., who had been a most valuable member of the Council since the association was formed. It was decided that any member of the association's staff who joined the battalion which is being raised in Manchester should be guaranteed re-engagement on discharge from Army service, and be given all the other benefits agreed upon by the leading Manchester firms. It was reported that a meeting had been held at the Colonial Office on August 19, when members of the London, Liverpool, and Manchester Chambers of Commerce, Chambers of Mines, shipping, banking, and cotton-growing interests were all represented. The question of how West African trade could be carried on during the present crisis had been discussed, and Mr. Hutton had laid stress on the importance of the Government taking over war risk insurance at a nominal premium, that shipping companies should not charge excessive freights, and that there should be better facilities for financing.

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The Egyptian Cotton Crop.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 22.

On Wednesday afternoon a meeting of bankers, dealers, and cultivators was held at the Ministry of the Interior under the presidency of Hussein Pasha Rushdi, the Prime Minister; all the Ministers and the senior Government officials were also in attendance. The object of this meeting was to consider the present situation and to devise some means of financing the cotton crop pending the resumption of business and the reopening of the markets.

Serious Situation.

The position would appear to be a somewhat serious one to all concerned and to justify some special departure. The cotton crop, which is Egypt's staple product on which everything in the country absolutely depends, is about to mature, and picking should start very shortly. The moving of the crop is practically all done on credit; that is to say, the large dealers and ginners are financed by guarantees from home, either through or directly by the local banks, who have to import large amounts of gold at this period of the year.

The outbreak of war has interfered very considerably with this system. Gold can no longer flow in as in times of peace, and notwithstanding the forcing of bank-notes as legal tender, what has come in, added to the local stock, would appear to be only just sufficient to satisfy present ordinary requirements. Moreover, the closing of the markets has undoubtedly prejudiced the position of the dealers and ginners, who are no longer able to find capital in return for their old guarantees if the latter still exist under the existing conditions in Europe.

The elements to suffer in these circumstances are the Government and the fellaheen. The latter to a very large extent look to their cotton for most of their profit, and the payment of the land tax is graduated so that the heaviest instalments fall in October and November, after the crop has been harvested; in addition, with the proceeds of their cotton the fellaheen meet the cost of preparing their estates for winter and other crops.

Government Taxes.

The position is, therefore, serious, in that the fellah, unless he is assisted, will find very great difficulty in executing the preliminaries for other crops, whilst the Government will not be able to collect the important land tax instalments about to fall due, and on which it depends for the balancing of its accounts.

A great many people—and some of them are supposed to be competent men—have been freely asserting that it is necessary to devise some means for financing not only the movement of the crop, but also the picking thereof. It is, however, not necessary to go so far as that. The smallest cultivators do not require any cash to carry out the picking of their cotton. They invariably assist one another, and it is quite usual to find a man working on his holding assisted by his neighbours, who in their turn will each be similarly helped. The medium cultivators have quite sufficient money to pay their pickers, and the tightness of gold will once more prove the truth of the old adage that 'tis an ill-wind that blows no one any good, for it will cause whatever gold hoards still exist to be released and put into circulation. The large estate owners may be somewhat handicapped, but not to any serious extent.

Advance to Fellaheen.

The proposal that is now under consideration is for an advance of £E1 to £E2 per cantar to be made to the cultivators against the deposit of their cotton either in bank shoonahs or in their villages under the guarantee of the local omda. The money, which will be at least some £E7,000,000, will be supplied by the Government authorising the National Bank of Egypt to increase its note issue temporarily against the security of the cotton. If some agreement is speedily come to on this basis, then the situation will be relieved considerably. It will also undoubtedly prevent the great danger which the local cotton merchants fear—the mixing of the various pickings. Competent men point out that the first picking is the one on which the trade relies for its best quality cotton, and from which the cultivators take their seed for the following year's crop. They say that unless the fellaheen are given money with which to pay for the pickers they will not start picking when they should, but will wait until all three pickings have matured, and the whole crop will be an inferior one owing to the resultant mixture. But the argument against that is that picking will with but few rare exceptions probably not be attempted unless and until the fellaheen are assured that if they cannot sell their cotton they can at any rate obtain an advance thereon. The Government and the financial authorities have, therefore, very wisely ignored the demand for assistance for the picking, and are concentrating their attention on finding some satisfactory means of financing the crop pending the reopening of the markets, for it is obvious that the latter will automatically assist the picking, since a fellah can after picking half a cantar or a cantar obtain thereon an advance sufficient to enable him to continue operations. Out here it is confidently believed that whatever arrangement is made will not need to be for any long duration, as it is considered that with the seas now open the cotton trade will soon return to its normal state, and that the spot markets will have to reopen in order to replenish the stocks that are now held in the West, and will speedily be exhausted owing to the great demand that, despite the continuance of war on land, is bound to set in. What is required in addition to same measure for financing the crop during this interval is one forbidding the sale of cotton below a certain figure, for the new crop will, it appears, be an exceedingly large one, and it is to be feared that unless some preventive measure is introduced the fellah may be tempted to sell at an unremuneratively low price as soon as the markets reopen.

August 25.

Negotiations are still in progress with regard to the financing of the cotton crop, and it is believed that a definite decision will not be come to for about three weeks. It is, of course, out of the question for either the Government or the National Bank of Egypt to carry the entire crop over an undefined period. Everything depends on how the spinners stand—*i.e.*, how long their present stocks will last them, and what their requirements will be. Although it may be somewhat restricted, the cotton goods trade will not be brought to a standstill by the war, and so, before coming to a decision, our financial authorities are making inquiries on the above points; in addition to which they hope to get some assistance from circles interested in the cotton trade at home, and thus divide the burden. That the best possible arrangement in the interests of Egypt will be made we may rest assured, for those who have the matter directly in hand have already proved their ability by the clever manner in which they negotiated the crisis of the early days of this month.

Cabling from Cairo on September 3, *The Times* correspondent stated that the Government had intervened in the question of the settlement of cotton contracts which the Alexandria Committee decided on August 6 should be paid for compulsorily at $15\frac{3}{8}$ (talaris). The decree cancels the committee's decision, and declares the Cotton Bourse simply closed.

An explanatory *communiqué* states that the Government considered the temporary dislocation of the cotton market owing to the war too great and the interests involved too widespread to be left to the committee of the Alexandria Bourse as hitherto constituted. It has become clear that the committee's decision is of a nature to hamper the progress of the negotiations with representatives of other cotton markets and the many other interests involved, wherewith it is doubtful the committee are legally competent to deal. The Government has, therefore, intervened and has appointed an advisory committee of bankers, brokers, and dealers to examine the situation afresh. The Government's action is regarded as the wisest course, the committee's decision being too arbitrary.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

Manchester, September 9.

No new feature of any importance has transpired in the market during the past week, but certain matters of interest keep arising, and on the whole the outlook is no worse. It is thought in some quarters that a big victory on the part of the allied troops would do more to establish confidence on the part of buyers than anything else, but, speaking generally, there seems to be little hope of a definite trade revival until there is some appearance of hostilities drawing to an end. Raw cotton matters at the moment require a good deal of attention. By degrees the position in Liverpool is getting more normal. There does not seem to be much prospect of an early opening of the futures market. A serious matter, however, is that buyers in the States are purchasing raw cotton on a much lower basis of values than Lancashire spinners. The Board of Trade returns have attracted considerable interest, and on the whole the takings of our foreign customers in yarn and cloth during August were rather larger than expected, in view of the disorganisation of the world's trade. Piece goods continue to be exported to Egypt, but money is coming in rather slowly from the other side. It is not so much a question of our customers abroad not being able to remit, but difficulty is experienced as to the manner in which money should be sent. The outlets of the Levant remain under a cloud, and sellers of cloth here who depend upon those markets are very depressed. Now and again a little inquiry has been met with for India, but scarcely any fresh business has been done. No news of any importance has come through from China. Buying of any moment for South America does not seem to be near at hand. Common printing cloths are about the worst thing in the market, and can be purchased cheaply. Fair orders are still on the books of producers of light fabrics such as dhooties. There is scarcely any change for the better in home trade circles. A dragging state of affairs has existed in the yarn market. Only trifling lots have been sold in American and Egyptian qualities for home use and export. Instructions as to deliveries have been received very irregularly.

COTTON COMMISSION FOR LONDON.

The Egyptian Gazette announced on August 26 that the Egyptian Government had decided to nominate three special delegates to proceed to London and discuss the financing of the cotton crop with the proper authorities. "The gentlemen selected are:—Mr. H. Higgs, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Finance; Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Sub-Governor of the National Bank; and Mr. Critchley, manager of the Ottoman Bank at Alexandria. Mr. Critchley is now in London, and Mr. Dickson is leaving Alexandria this afternoon for Port Said to embark on the P. and O. liner. He will travel to London via Marseilles. Mr. Dickson was only recently recalled from leave and has been here about three weeks. During his absence his duties are being carried on at Alexandria by Mr. Hornsby."

[We understand that Mr. Dickson and Mr. Critchley have left London for Lancashire, and are not expected back in London until the beginning of next week. Up to the present no decision has been arrived at in connection with the question for the study of which the Committee was appointed.]

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN THE NEAR EAST.

We give below the addresses of Chambers of Commerce established in countries of the Near East in the interests of British trade:—

Turkey.—British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States (Incor.), 34-35, Tunnel Han, Galata, Constantinople. Branches.—51, Boulevard Maria-Louisa, Sofia, Bulgaria; 7, St. Theodore Square, Athens, Greece; 1, Strada Academiei, Bucharest, Roumania; 47, Kniez Mihailova Ulitcha, Belgrade, Servia. (Correspondents at Salonika and Beyrout.) British Chamber of Commerce at Smyrna, Local Honischer, 21, Smyrna.

Egypt.—British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, 6, Rue de l'Ancienne Bourse, Alexandria, and Savoy Chambers, Cairo. (Agents in Suez and London—Messrs. Back and Manson, Egypt House, 36, New Broad Street, E.C.)

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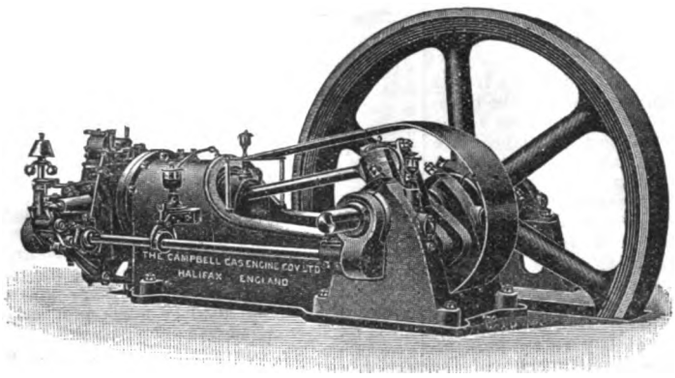

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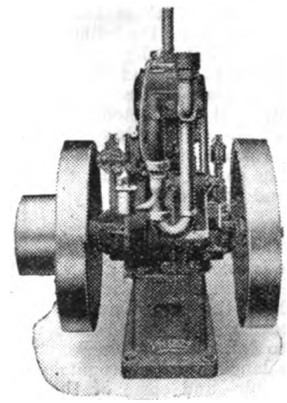

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Engineering Notes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LUBRICATION.

An Oil-Testing Device.

Suitable lubrication is conducive to the efficiency and durability of all machinery in operation. Many excellent engines and other machines have been found faulty or inefficient in their work simply because those who were in charge of them did not know that the true source of the trouble was the use of unsuitable lubricants. There are still innumerable power-users, especially abroad, who think that any lubricant can be used indiscriminately for any class of machinery, ignoring the fact that of the various kinds of lubricating oils not perhaps two of them are equally suitable for any one special purpose. There are, for example, scores of cylinder oils divided into two classes, for steam or internal combustion engines; each class being, again, divided for use according to the speed of the engine, the temperature at which it works, the load, etc. Then there are the varieties of special oils for electrical machinery, oils for special machines and for turbine work, dynamo oils, transformer oils, etc. Now, all these lubricating oils, with an infinite variety of "special ordinary" lubricants—these latter, more or less, made or prepared in Germany—are very puzzling to the average power-user, who, unable to test them, and relying on the recommendations of some "interested" expert, often gets what is unsuitable for his purpose. The result is that he soon finds a considerable decrease in the output of his machinery and frequent troubles with his plant, but never suspects the unsuitable lubrication. A knowledge, therefore, of oils and oil testing should be cultivated by all power-users, especially those abroad, as they in most cases deal with commission agents, whose technical knowledge is meagre and their recommendations unreliable.

There are several oil-testing machines, but, so far as we know, the majority are not quite efficient in proving the actual lubricating value of the oils under test, especially in the important case of cylinder oils. A new oil-testing device, however, which has recently been brought out, appears to have been constructed to meet all the needs of the most widely varying plants, and to reproduce as nearly as possible the conditions obtained in actual practice.

The New Oil-Testing Machine.

This machine determines and automatically records the properties and consistencies of the lubricants on which their value depends when in actual use. With its help engineers can now accurately determine the practical value of all lubricants, and select with certainty the cheapest qualities which will give the highest degree of efficiency for any given purpose. The speed of the machine can be varied to produce the equivalent of from 50 to 3,000 revolutions per minute—*i.e.*, a speed of the friction at surfaces of about 5 in. to 25 ft. per second. The pressure can be varied from 1 lb. to 750 lbs. per square inch. The temperature can be raised from that of the frictional surfaces when at rest to about 500 deg. C. This is more than the equivalent of the heat of dry steam produced under the highest temperatures.

In the testing of lubricating oils for use in gas engines, Diesels, and other types of oil engines, petrol engines for motor cars, motor boats, etc., they are subjected to a temperature of 150 deg. C. to 250 deg. C. according to their normal working temperature, and the amount of friction is recorded at these temperatures. A definite quantity of oil is then submitted to a test to determine its lasting properties, and should any deposit result this is at once apparent.

A special feature of the apparatus is that, by means of a high-pressure steam boiler and superheater, cylinder oils can be tested under actual working conditions. By exposing the oil to the influence of superheated or saturated steam for any period, it determines to what extent, if any, disintegration of the oils and formation of sodium takes place.

How the Machine Works.

The machine consists essentially of steel frictional blocks placed one above the other and held together at a known pressure. A reciprocating or a rotary motion is given to these by means of a small electric motor, and they are placed in a receptacle which can be heated to, and maintained at, the required testing temperature. Before the test begins the surfaces receive a unit quantity of the lubricant, and they are then brought together and allowed to rub the one upon the other until the lubricating power of the oil is exhausted. That this point has been reached is shown by an automatic recorder, which, assuming the oil to be a good one which retains its lubricating power practically unimpaired until the end of the test, draws an abrupt line at right angles to the friction line as soon as the oil is used up. If, however, the oil is one that becomes "sticky" or unsuitable during use this fact is shown by the appearance of a gradual curve instead of a straight line, indicating that its lubricating properties are feeble.

PRIZE FOR A FIBRE MACHINE.

The Russian Ministry of Commerce and Industry has made an international offer of a prize of 5,000 roubles, or about £530, for an improved method of mechanically treating flax fibre without using the ratting and breaking process. Machines must be simply constructed, and the cost should not exceed the means of the average farmer. The original competition was to be kept open till March 1 of next year, but now that Russia is involved in war it is probable that the date will be extended. This is an excellent opportunity for inventors of fibre machines, for, apart from Russia, all the countries in the Near and Far East will be interested in such inventions, since the present method of treating flax fibre is so tedious and wearisome that Oriental farmers use the expression "*the troubles of flax*" when they want to describe a long and tiresome work.

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY NEWS.

Arrest of Constructional Work.

With the exception of the doubling of the Helwan Railway and the completion of the Zifta-Zagazig Railway, all construction work has been stopped on the Egyptian State Railways, says *The Egyptian Mail*. The works stopped include the construction of the projected line from Kafr-el-Zayat in the province of Gharbia to Tala in the Menufia, and the doubling of the rails from Mehallet-Rah to Mansura on the Tanta-Damietta line.

Zifta-Zagazig Railway.

The Zifta-Zagazig Railway, on which work is being continued, was due to be opened through on May 15 last, and although delays in delivery of material, and in the construction of the bridge which is to carry the rails across the canal at Zagazig into the station there, prevented this occurring, the work is almost completed now.

Effects of War.

As showing the great effect the present European situation is having upon Egypt, it may be mentioned that the total earnings of the whole of the State Railways for one day in August were, in round figures, £E5,000, in comparison with £E19,000 on the same date last year, in normal times. The fall is partly in passenger, but more largely in goods traffic.

The Helwan Railway.

The work of improving the Helwan Railway, one of the few State Railway works which have not been stopped, is progressing by degrees. The double line from Tura has now reached Helwan station, while, with one exception, all the bridges between those two stations have been altered accordingly. The exception is a bridge between Massara and Helwan on which work is now being carried out. A large new signal cabin is in course of construction at Tura, and an entirely new platform is being made at Massara. So far nothing appears to have been done between Tura and Bab-el-Luk, and there is no prospect of the entire work being finished before October 1, as was originally contemplated.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The express trains of the Egyptian State Railways are only stopped at stations where the annual passenger revenue is £E1,000 or more, where there are important junctions, or where coaling or watering is necessary.

It is forbidden to export any goods from any Egyptian port to any German port, or to transhipin an Egyptian port articles or goods destined for a German port, without obtaining a special licence.

Our Bucharest correspondent informs us (under date of August 20) that the Service Maritime between Constantza and Constantinople, suspended at the outbreak of war, has been resumed. Two steamers pass to and fro each week.

The *Jeune Turc* is now being sold at 20 paras, and half of the receipts are to go to the work of the Ottoman Red Crescent.

Oats, barley, and goats are now excepted from the list of prohibited exports from Cyprus.

M. Moroff has been appointed Director of the new Fisheries Section of the Bulgarian Department of Agriculture.

According to a message from Rome, under date of September 9, a telegram from Constantinople states that bubonic plague is causing ravages among the Turkish troops at Smyrna and elsewhere. Plague is also reported at Salonika.

A recent Reuter message to the East, quoted by the Egyptian Press, stated that:—The striking feature of the last Turkish opium crop season has been the steadily increasing demand for opium for smoking purposes. Notwithstanding legislation in all civilised portions of the globe to put a stop to this traffic, it is remarked, the consumption appears to be on the increase.

A committee has been appointed in Cairo (under the chairmanship of the Regent) to make a report on the cotton question. The members are Messrs. Carver, Lindemann, Delta, and Abdy.

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TURKISH MORATORIUM.

The following telegram was received from Constantinople on September 4 :—

The Turkish Moratorium has been extended to October 3. The following are the principal clauses :—

1. Payment of 5 per cent. must be made on or before September 13 for debts which fell due on September 2, and on the respective maturities for debts falling due between September 3 and October 3. Payments since August 3 to be deducted from the 5 per cent.

2. Regarding bank deposits, depositors who have received since August 3 5 per cent. or more of their deposit are still entitled to £10. Those who have received less than 5 per cent. are entitled to reclaim the complement with a maximum of £10.

3. Rates of interest fixed before August 3 will be maintained as long as the moratorium lasts. If the rate was not stipulated, it will be fixed at 4 per cent. for bank deposits and 7 per cent. for other debts.

4. Protests for the non-payment of 5 per cent. on bills and commerical papers must be made within a week of the date when the 5 per cent. was due.

5. These regulations do not apply to engagements contracted after September 3.

6. Contracts with the Government are not subject to these clauses.

The amount of gold imported into Egypt from January 1 to the end of July this year was £E1,099,910, as against £E624,785 during the corresponding period of last year. The exportation of gold during the seven months amounted to £E1,004,407, against £E8,123,045 during the corresponding period of last year.

GOLD FOR TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Bucharest, August 21.

Thirty millions of francs in gold for the Turkish Government from Berlin has arrived at Bucharest *en route* for Rustchuk and Constantinople in charge of some bank officials. A special wagon has been placed at the disposal of the banks sending this amount, and is being strictly guarded whilst in the station at Bucharest.

[The gold referred to above is most likely intended, not for the Turkish Government directly, but for the Deutsche Bank and its associate banks, such as the Deutsche Orient-bank, etc., at Constantinople. It is also possible that part of it is intended to relieve the pressure on the Wiener Bankverein, which had to close its doors in the last week of August. Evidently the Germans do not relish the fact that the Anglo-French banks in Constantinople can meet the demand for money whereas they cannot. On the other hand, we believe the remittance to have been only £120,000 and not £1,200,000.—Ed. "N.E."]

PERSIAN FINANCE.

Cabling on September 5, the Teheran correspondent of *The Times* states that the resignation of M. Mornard, the Treasurer-General, has been accepted. M. Henynssens, Director-General of Customs and Treasury, has been appointed acting director, though he is placed under orders of the Minister of Finance, which is an infraction of the financial law of 1911 giving the Treasurer-General "direct and effective control" over all matters of finance. This is likely to adversely affect the financial administration.

With regard to the British portion of the September 8, some difficulty is anticipated in quarterly loan, obligations falling due on the prompt payment (says the same despatch), owing to a serious contraction in Southern Customs receipts resulting from the present war.

BULGARIAN FINANCE.

Reuter reports as follows from Sofia (September 8) :—

The Administration of the Public Debt and of the debts guaranteed by the Bulgarian State begs to inform the public interested that, owing to he operation of the Sinking Fund for the last half of the current year of the 1902, 1904, and 1907 Bulgarian loans, the whole of the funds intended to cover the principal, interest, etc., of half-yearly liabilities due between August and November, 1914, was definitely paid in at the respective dates, viz., May 13 and June 22 and 30, 1914, at the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas in Paris.

If it happened that certain establishments abroad charged with the services of payment failed to cash coupons which had become due and redeemed bonds of the above-mentioned loans, this is attributable to the fact that the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, owing to the European War, was unable to transmit the necessary funds in due time to other establishments concerned abroad.

As similar incidents might occur, and in order that the service of Bulgarian loans should continue to operate in a regular manner and without hitch, the Administration of the Public Debt has taken steps at the said bank in order to obtain refund of the sums necessary for the payments falling due outside France. These sums will be transmitted, through the Administration, as they are required, to the establishments charged with the service.

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CAIRO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 25.

State Finances.

At this juncture it is, perhaps, interesting to note the figures of the State Accounts for the first quarter of the new financial year—April to June—that have just been published. The revenue amounted to £E.4,056,608 and the expenditure to £E.5,115,320, as against £E.3,733,424 and £E.5,113,004 respectively during the same period of 1913, that is to say, while the receipts have risen by £E.323,184, the expenditure has increased by £E.2,316 only; in other words there is a net improvement of £E.320,868 on the quarter's working.

Under receipts Land Tax fell off by £E.20,157, divers receipts by £E.21,864 and rent of Government land by £E.17,709, but Customs increased by £E.59,592, tobacco dues by £E.61,887, railway receipts by £E.24,176, Post Office by £E.8,393, Ports and Lights by £E.11,528, sale of land by £E.32,687, and extraordinary receipts by £E.143,770, whilst the Domains figure for £E.46,128.

On the expenditure side, whilst various departments attached to the Ministry of Finance, the Public Health Department, the Ministry of Public Works, all show substantial increases, there are under the new system no special credits, hence the net increase of only £E.2,316 on balance.

With external trade at a standstill, we must expect a substantial drop in railway and customs receipts starting from the beginning of this month. The Government foreseeing this has given orders to stop all new works and to reduce all expenditure to a bare minimum. At the same time it has ordered the dismissal of all the temporary employees whose services are not absolutely necessary for the conduct of State business. This measure has given rise to a lot of adverse comment, but under the circumstances, however hard individually it may be, it is fully justified, for the Government, which has stopped all its new works expenditure, cannot be expected to keep on the large body of temporary officials engaged on those works, especially as it is exceedingly doubtful when it will be possible to resume them. It is true that the deficit on the quarter's budget—there is always a deficit, which is recovered in the autumn from the land-tax—has been reduced by £E.320,868; that improvement cannot be expected to be maintained during the next few months, so a policy of strict retrenchment is amply justified, until normal conditions set in once more.

Price of Food-Stuffs.

Although there is absolutely no just reason for their attitude, local merchants are still charging high prices for ordinary commodities and necessaries of life. The better-class foreign dealers have returned to their old tariffs, but it is the lower order of native and foreign tradesman that is trying to squeeze the inhabitants. It is purely a matter of trying to make hay while the sun shines with them, as the stocks held in this country are ample for the time being and further supplies are coming in as in times of peace. With regard to cereals, there is plenty and the outlook is excellent. An exceeding large millet crop is now ready for harvesting, a similarly large maize crop has just been planted, and supplies of flour, wheat and livestock have been contracted for by Government.

As, however, notwithstanding all this, prices remain high, a decree has been promulgated instituting in each Governorat or Mudiria special commissions empowered to fix every week the maximum prices at which the majority of necessaries can be sold.

THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

The Committee now has a very fair idea of the position of its members. What the total liabilities of the Stock Exchange are no one knows and no one ever will know, because the Committee has not asked the members to state exactly how much each individual has borrowed from his fellow-broker or jobber. The general idea is that the Government should come in and help, but this is a most improbable event. No reasonable person outside the Stock Exchange expects the Government to contango the open account for an unlimited period. This would indeed be setting an official seal upon Stock Exchange gambling, and it would be deeply resented by the taxpayer, who in the end would have to pay the bill. It was bad enough to compel the taxpayer to come to the assistance of the bill brokers; it would be utterly unreasonable to ask him to support some of the wild gamblers who are now in such dire difficulties.

Another scheme for re-opening the House, and one which meets with a good deal of approval, is the formation of a trust to carry the open account. Many suggestions have been made as to who shall find the money for such a trust. It is quite clear that the Stock Exchange itself could not find the money, for it is quite unable for the present to meet its own liabilities. It is also certain that the few members of the House who have retained their wealth in a liquid form will certainly not utilise their resources in carrying an account of which at least 30 per cent. is definitely bad, and on which a huge loss must accrue.

These trusts are always a favourite method of getting people out of difficulties. But in almost every instance they are a failure. Everyone remembers how Central Mining was formed and what wonderful things were expected. Most of us remember that in the Baring crisis quotations were to have been supported by the help of the Bank of England and other financiers. Nevertheless, in spite of the strength at the back of the trust, prices steadily dwindled for years. As a matter of fact, these trusts have exactly the opposite effect to that which is intended; they keep vast loads of stock hanging over the market; no one will buy shares because they are perfectly confident that the price will fall; and as a result dealing in stocks and shares is made more difficult and business is atrophied.

Messrs. Goddard and Smith state that they propose holding auctions for the purpose of selling stocks and shares, and they claim that these auctions will be under the patronage of the Treasury. I do not see what the Treasury has to do with stocks and shares or why any auctioneer should require the permission of the Treasury to sell anything. All he needs is a licence. However, the experiment will be distinctly interesting, and will certainly do more to bring buyers and sellers together than muddling about in the street, as the brokers are doing at the moment.

I wonder why some enterprising person does not hire a hall in the City and start a Stock Exchange upon the lines that were so popular in Western Australia at the time of the Coolgardie gold boom. People who have shares to sell or shares to buy send in limits to the auctioneer, who gets up and announces that he has a thousand Consols to sell at 75. Naturally nobody takes any notice; then he gradually reduces the price until a buyer comes along. Supposing that he sells at 69: when he opens the auction the next morning he "calls the list"—that is to say, he tells his audience exactly what shares he sold the day before and the prices at which he did the business. If the market is rising he gets eager buyers at the list price, and they bid one against another, just as dealers do in the Stock Exchange. Naturally if it falls the exact opposite occurs. All the dealings are for cash on delivery, and it is a very simple matter either to buy or to sell shares.

But, as a matter of fact, the war seems to have completely knocked all enterprise on the head. No one is doing anything and no one wants to do anything. This is extremely foolish, for there are thousands of people who would be glad to exchange one class of security for another class.

The Steel Company of Scotland, one of the best managed concerns in Great Britain, was not able to maintain its profits, and the dividend has been cut from 10 to 5 per cent. Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company has had a good year under the enterprising management of Mr. Byrne, and maintains its 7½ per cent. distribution.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal on the 2nd inst. amounted to 11,000 frs., against 200,000 frs. last year.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the first ten days of August amounted to £4,860 (decrease £954); aggregate from April 1, £75,760 (decrease £753).

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—The receipts for the week ended September 5 amounted to £8,149, against £9,887 during the corresponding period of last year.

Anglo-Roumanian. — Production week ended August 15, 250 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week 1,067 tons (last week 1,017 tons), of which Hurgada 117 tons (last week 104 tons).

Egyptian Markets (week ended September 3).—Cattle markets closed, 54; dec., 22. Cattle markets, £307; inc., £215. General markets, £273; inc., £99. Total, £580; inc., £314. Total from commencement of year, £33,641; dec., £1,613.

Ionian Bank.—The directors have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, tax free, for the half-year ended July 13, payable on September 22.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Bulgarian Central Co-operative.

The position of the above Sofia bank on July 31 has just been published. The total amounted to 30,555,782.55 frs. and assets included a portefeuille of 48,502 frs. and current accounts amounting to 3,334,237.87 frs. Cash in hand was estimated at 54,559.28 frs. The capital of the bank is five million francs.

Ottoman Railway.

The accounts of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30, to be presented at the meeting to be held on September 29, show a balance applicable for dividend of £98,463, but, owing to the European war and the consequent unsettled position of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, the Council of Administration propose to carry forward the whole of this amount to the next account.

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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 176.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The events of the past week have been almost fatal to the pretensions of the Teutonic Allies to dominate Europe by force of arms. It is only left to them to do so by means of telegrams. Indeed, the latter seem to be the more efficacious weapons in their hands, for, such is the effect of reiterated, even if unfounded, assertion, that many neutral countries are by now fully convinced that the Powers of the Triple Entente have been shattered beyond hope of recognition. That both the Austrians and the Germans have suffered defeat, that the Fleets of the Entente have undisputed command of the seas, and that every diplomatic effort of Berlin to secure new allies has failed is not generally known. We can, however, assure our readers in the Near East that in the end the victories of fact which have been won by Great Britain and her gallant Allies will be of greater influence upon the ultimate terms of peace than the defeats in fiction which the Wolff Bureau inflicts daily upon the Triple Entente in the cities of the Levant. In view of this it is unwise for statesmen anywhere to behave towards the Powers of the Triple Entente as though they were broken and defeated States.

The progress of events in Western Europe makes it clear that the tide of Teutonic invasion has definitely turned in France, and is now fast ebbing away. The Germans were first checked in their attempt to isolate Paris and to break the Allied line. They were then held at Vitry-le-François, and after hard fighting were driven back all along the line. The Allies, far from being exhausted or disheartened by three weeks' retreat and constant rear-guard fighting, were in high spirits, and immediately pressed the retreating Germans. In some instances the retirement was so hurried as to become disorderly, but it cannot as yet be claimed that the failure in France has led to a complete rout. The Germans, after losing a great number of men, guns, and material—to say nothing of prestige—have turned to bay behind the Aisne. We learn, however, that their supplies of food and ammunition are inadequate, and that their men are weary and dispirited. Even a short delay at the Aisne will enable these deficiencies to be made good, and from the latest reports at the moment of writing it appears that the Allies are doing everything in their power to prevent the enemy from reorganising his shattered forces.

In Belgium the army of Antwerp has resumed a vigorous offensive which has so disturbed the invaders, already hard put to find reinforcements for France and fresh troops for the Russian frontier, that they have had to withdraw from several positions of importance. It is reported, but not as yet confirmed, that they have even evacuated Brussels—apparently the only city in Belgium which the invaders have entered without subjecting it to pillage, massacre, and destruction. The Belgians by their gallant action have once again gravely interfered with the German plans. Reinforcements actually on their way to strengthen General von Kluck's army on the Aisne have had to be hurriedly recalled, and in this way 60,000 German troops have been out of the fighting line for the best part of a week at a moment when every man was needed. King Albert's army constantly gives fresh proofs not only of valour but of the knowledge of its commanders when and where to strike at the enemy with the maximum of effect.

The victory, or, rather, series of victories, of our Russian Allies in Galicia over the united Austro-German armies has already resulted in the loss of almost the whole of that kingdom to the Dual Monarchy. According to official calculations which have taken some days to prepare, it appears that no less than 250,000 of the soldiers of the two Emperors have been killed or wounded by the Russians. The Tsar's troops have, besides inflicting these tremendous losses, also captured 100,000 prisoners, 400 Austrian and thirty-six German guns, as well as many pieces of siege artillery and quantities of stores. It is upon substantial, and substantiated, victories such as these that a victorious campaign is built, even if they fail to be reported adequately in the Press of neutral countries.

The action of the Porte in announcing the "abolition" of the Capitulations has been variously received in this country. Some people, blessed with a certain ignorance as to the exact nature of the Capitulations, have hailed it as a manifestation of praiseworthy spirit on the part of Prince Said Halim Pasha's Cabinet. Others, even less informed on the subject, have entirely ignored an event which, had it happened six months ago, would have profoundly affected the money markets of two continents and aroused the angriest of buzzings in innumerable diplomatic hives.

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Without doubt the move is one of internal politics, and the proclamation almost seems to be addressed more to the Ottoman "gallery" than to the various Foreign Offices. It may be assumed that there is more weight in the protest of the Ambassadors delivered at the Porte than in the incident which gave rise to it. The Ottoman Empire for some centuries past has been engaged in contracting international obligations of singularly far-reaching nature, and it is not creditable to the intelligence of the members of the present Cabinet to assume that they are seriously of the opinion that treaties are to be so lightly evaded. Indeed it is obvious to any person that a Great Power which goes to war with another Great Power because of the violation of a Treaty in one part of Europe is hardly likely nonchalantly to acquiesce in the wholesale abrogation of documents dating back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth and repeatedly confirmed since that date.

As an example of how Capitulations may be abolished, we may point out that Japan, Siam, and Zanzibar have been able to rid themselves by means of diplomatic negotiation, tedious no doubt, but in the end far more efficacious than the somewhat unusual methods apparently in favour for the moment in Constantinople. We are fully prepared to admit that in Turkey cases have arisen where the Capitulations have been onerous, where they have militated against the best interests of the country, and, in the case of the postal privileges so widely exercised by foreign States, actually harmful to the Ottoman Exchequer. But as it takes at least two to make a Treaty, so must it take two to break one satisfactorily.

The Consular representatives of the Teutonic Powers have withdrawn from Egypt at the invitation of the military authorities, and by their departure have put an end to an anomalous situation to which attention was drawn in THE NEAR EAST of last week. The curious activities of German diplomatists in foreign centres is now notorious, and to have continued to permit the presence of these intriguing gentry in Egypt any longer might well have been taken as a sign of weakness by the native population. In any case public opinion in Cairo has become more favourable to the cause of Great Britain and her Allies since the departure of the Germans. It may be that in Egypt also the proverb holds good, "The absent are always in the wrong."

Following upon the expulsion of German and Austro-Hungarian consular officials from Egypt comes news that in several quarters on the Continent Egyptians having failed to secure the assistance they required from Ottoman consuls successfully applied for help to British officials. It may be that such inaction on the part of the Ottoman representatives was due to lack of means or of initiative, but it is strangely consonant with the attitude both of certain Ministers at the Porte itself and of the Turkish Ambassador in Washington. While Turkey remains neutral her officials, even if of Austrian descent, should be instructed to behave as befits neutrals. They should not embark upon Press campaigns against a belligerent Power, nor should they refuse aid to those who by a legal fiction are still entitled to rely upon their assistance when in distress. It is foolish in a Turk to irritate Egyptian public opinion in order to show his dislike for Great Britain.

During the past week numerous reports have been current that a new Balkan combination has been formed consisting of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece. The suggestion is inspiring, but unless the Porte actually begins a war of aggression for the purpose of recovering Salonika and invades Bulgaria on the way it is highly improbable that the States will bind themselves on paper to take joint action. It is only the stress of necessity which could persuade the Bulgarians to enter into a definite alliance with their two dearest enemies, or could induce the Hellenes to stand side by side with the Bulgarians, who are chiefly associated in their Press with unedifying similes and distressing accusations. Still, the fear of the Turk overcame the hatreds of the Balkans long enough to ensure his ruin in 1912-13, and it is not impossible that the Porte may again succeed in uniting the most divergent interests against it. Cabinet changes are understood to be in progress in Bucharest, and it is highly probable that the formation of a Coalition Cabinet would enable Roumania to take a more definite line in foreign policy. At least, if she cannot secure an actual alliance with her southern neighbour, she can certainly leave her Danube and Dobruja frontiers undefended should she decide to strike for the liberation of the Roumans in Transylvania at the moment when Italy is ready to set free the Latins and the Littoral.

The retirement of Mr. Streit from the control of the Hellenic Foreign Office, although greatly to be regretted, was not unexpected. Mr. Streit, a Greek of Bavarian descent, has always preferred his duties as a diplomatist—for years he was Hellenic Minister in Vienna—to those attaching to Cabinet rank and membership of the Boule in Athens. He has been Foreign Minister during an extremely difficult period in the history of Hellas. The questions of Epirus, of the Islands, of the treatment of Greek rayahs in Turkey, of the part to be played by Greece in new Balkan combinations, of the line of policy to be followed amid the European conflagration, have all been crowded into his term of office. The friends of Greece will regret that so huge a burden will now be thrust upon Mr. Venizelos, who has taken charge of the Foreign Office, owing to Mr. Streit's retirement, but they will readily appreciate the late Minister's reasons for retiring.

As we anticipated last week, the Servians have decided to attack the heart of the Dual Monarchy instead of wasting their men on the fortifications of the Bosnian frontier. The capture of Semlin and the advance into Slavonia is a notable step towards dealing a heavy blow at the Kaiserlichs on their own soil, although that soil is inhabited by men of Serb race. It has been remarked with grim humour that the Servians have now started on a punitive expedition towards Budapest, although strategic necessities seem to prescribe a certain indirectness in the course of the expedition. We wish them well in their adventure, and recognize that they have at least put an end to the shameless and pitiless bombardment of Belgrade. The Montenegrins seem to be finding that their skill in mountain warfare and their remarkable mobility is of little avail against the fortresses of the Kaiserlichs. They have penetrated some distance into the Hertzegovina, the cradle of their Royal family, but will not be able to make good their footing until the frontier forts shall have been reduced—and for this great guns are required, pieces hard to move amid roadless mountains.

Time was when the conscience of the West was stirred by reports of abominable cruelties perpetrated in the name of religion or of nationality in the Balkans. Much outcry was raised and many sought to condone the atrocities in Macedonia on the ground that the offenders were but partially civilised and were still labouring under the blighting influence of centuries of slavery. If these arguments hold good it would appear that the upholders of the grim doctrine of *Blut und Eisen* do not enjoy even that measure of civilisation which has been achieved by the most recently liberated among the former rayahs of the Turk. Every day the indictment of the modern Huns grows more grave, and both hemispheres are aghast at the record of the Kaiser's army. The most terrible allegations collected in the Carnegie Report are equalled and even surpassed by the horrible things done by the invaders of Belgium and France. We trust that when in their turn the Allies become invaders they will not allow themselves to be misled by the dreadful doctrine of reprisals against the local population, but that every effort be made to deal faithfully with those in authority, no matter how exalted, who ordered or permitted the savagery which will for years to come render the German name synonymous in ignominy and public detestation with Hun or vandal.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, September 3.

Mobilization Troubles.

Even making all allowances for exaggeration on the part of the Agence Wolff the Germans would seem to have advanced sufficiently far into Northern France to make the writer somewhat doubtful whether this letter will reach The Near East within three weeks. This being so, it is my intention to confine the scope of this letter to the discussion, not of the fluctuating policy of the Porte and Enver Pasha, which may change two or three times before this reaches you, but to the situation created by a mobilization on a very large scale.

In the first place it is to noted that the mobilization has to all intents and purposes been general. Every one from 20 to 45 has been called out, and few indeed are the exceptions that have been made. A certain number of untrained men, elderly conscripts and Christians who have never handled a gun, have been sent home "on furlough" till they are required. The exemption tax, a minimum of £T43, has been levied freely, but its yield has thus far proved rather disappointing. The capital has produced £T300,000 only, and it is believed among the well-informed that the Government will be lucky if it makes £T1,500,000 out of the mobilization.

An Economic Error.

The calling up of every class and of all able-bodied men has been an economic error. The fact that a very large proportion of Government officials has been called out prevents the authorities from collecting revenues with anything like the success that they had in Anatolia at least during the Balkan War. The same applies to a considerable extent to the revenues of the Public Debt Administration. The shortage of supplies at the capital continues, and the railways are still largely encumbered by mobilization. This prevents corn coming down from up-country. The general refusal of credit by the banks, the increased tendency to hoard, and the calling out of a large number of able-bodied men from among the cultivators, who are mostly too poor to pay the exemption tax, have made it difficult to get the harvest in. The action of the banks has also affected the position of the tithe farmers, and it is doubtful whether the Government will be able to collect much tithe revenue before December. As for Customs revenues, the requisitions in which the military have indulged with such fervour at the expense of foreign and native traders have for the time being frightened away all foreign trade from Constantinople, and what with the general disturbance caused by the War, and the lack of confidence in the intentions of Enver Pasha and his group which every foreign merchant here must feel, there is no probability of an early return of trade.

Proposed Issue of Notes.

In these circumstances it is not surprising that the issue of paper is suggested by some authorities. The banks seem at present unwilling to adopt this measure, which is also regarded with disfavour by certain prominent Ottomans who remember the disrepute into which the "Kaimés" fell. Yet it is hard to see a way out of the present stagnation unless such a step is adopted.

Finally, one must remember that very large numbers of people, especially of non-Moslems whose value as soldiers is problematical—I refer to the Greek, Jewish and Armenian petty traders, gardeners, fishermen, sailors, etc.—have been taken away from productive work, and are likely to remain away for some time to come unless Djavid Bey succeeds in persuading Enver Pasha that they will be of more use to the country if they return to their homes. This has contributed to the general rise of prices. Finally, the crowding of often underfed men in large and indifferently drained camps is likely to cause outbreaks of epidemic disease and, indeed, seems to have done so in certain localities. Any serious epidemic at the present juncture would intensify the disastrous effects already brought about by the mobilization. There is a great deal of typhus in Thrace, while cholera or something very like it is reported from the Eski-Shehir district. Many of the reservists called out are still feeding themselves out of their own pockets, and bread and water is all the Government is in a position to give to some of the corps. Yesterday the military authorities commandeered all the animals at the slaughterhouses. A few days ago they requisitioned eight barrels of caviare—this doubtless for the German mission and the Ottoman General Staff. If the five or six hundred thousand men called out throughout the Empire remain much longer under arms, instead of shortage we shall have famine in every locality where the harvest has not been satisfactory, and the Constantinopolitan will have to tighten his belt.

The German Arrivals.

About 600 Germans, mostly technical troops disguised as workmen for the Baghdad Railway, have arrived here viâ Austria and Roumania. They were detrained at Makrikeui and San Stefano, and were afterwards sent to Chatalja and the Dardanelles. Some have remained, and "give the show away" by astonishing travellers in steamers and tram cars, who wonder to hear idiomatic German spoken by soldiers dressed in the fez and in Turkish khaki. The crews of the ex-"Goeben" and ex-"Breslau" remain on board. One begins to wonder whether they will ever leave the country.

VOLUNTEERS FROM CONSTANTINOPLE.

A Reuter's telegram from Constantinople states that a meeting held on Wednesday at the British Club in favour of a movement on the part of the colony for supplying volunteers to the British Army was characterized by much enthusiasm. Up to the present (the telegram continues) twenty-three young men have volunteered their services, and handsome donations have already been subscribed to the fund.

GERMAN RESERVISTS IN PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Haifa, August 26.

An order has been received here calling two more classes of German reservists to the colours, in addition to all their countrymen who have already left for the seat of war; and they have been notified that they must join with as little delay as possible. As most of them will have to leave their homes, property, and families quite unprotected here they seem, not unnaturally, somewhat depressed. Moreover, the hardship of the overland journey to Constantinople (and thence onward) is no light one, for most of the men must do nearly a hundred miles of it on foot, since the railway in the Taurus region is incomplete, and there are practically no riding animals available, owing to the Turkish mobilization.

In speaking to one of the Germans before he set out I expressed a hope that before he and his companions reached the *Vaterland* the war would be over, and they would therefore have no fighting. "No," said he, "no. You must not think that the Germans will ever stop fighting until they have swept out Russia, crushed France, and smashed Britain. Then we shall be at peace, and the whole world will have rest also."

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ALBANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Durazzo, September 3.

The Mpret's Departure.

This morning, at seven o'clock, the Mpret Wilhelm left Durazzo and bade farewell to Albania—for the time being, at any rate. The sight was a depressing one, and I would not wish any nation—even an enemy nation—to have to witness the departure of its sovereign even *en congé*. For it is a compulsory holiday that King William of Albania has granted himself. It would be impossible to describe the feelings of the King's adherents. His Majesty, in spite of his customary calm, was obviously affected, and the Mpreteresha, who has a very sympathetic disposition, was profoundly moved.

Why has the Mpret had to leave Albania, where he had been such a short time? In three months the insurrectionary movement has spread through the greater part of the country. A few days ago Valona had to yield to the rebels, and with Valona in their hands the insurgents are masters of every town of importance in Albania except Durazzo and Scutari. In a few days more they would have concentrated all their forces against the capital. Nevertheless, the capture of Durazzo would have been very difficult, if not impossible, thanks to its defences and the fidelity of its garrison. Its defenders, almost all men of Kossovo and of South Albania, had sworn to remain absolutely faithful in all circumstances. Durazzo would therefore have been able to defend itself for a long time yet; and it would have been legitimate to expect the revolutionaries to become weaker, and the storm to blow over. The King might, then, have felt safe in the capital at least.

Financial Difficulties.

For over a month Albania has been confronted by an insurmountable obstacle of quite a different nature—the lack of money. More than four months ago Austria and Italy jointly paid to Albania ten million francs, as a loan payable in instalments, and through the agency of the Bank of Milan and the Vienna Bankverein. The interest on this loan was nominally 5½ per cent., but in reality 12 per cent.

This sum, so necessary for the development of the country's resources, was already expended, thanks to the expeditions against the Greeks and the insurgents; large quantities of war material, such as cannon, rifles, ammunition, and uniforms, had also been purchased; and it must not be forgotten that the receipts from the tithes had been practically nil, the country being either in a state of revolt or overrun by the Greeks.

Such a large loan was a heavy burden on the country's resources, but that fact did not prevent Essad Pasha and his associates from spending it with the greatest freedom in drawing up the budget. As a result the International Commission of Control, which is especially charged with the control of the country's finances, found a month ago, when it was investigating the financial situation, that of the ten millions 6,700,000 were already spent, and 3,000,000 francs was due for the payment of certain accounts owing to Italian and Austrian companies. Thus the Albanian Treasury had only 300,000 francs available; and this sum was in the banks which had advanced the loan; and as the International Commission of Control could not leave Albania without funds, it had decided to arrange for a further advance of one million francs by the two banks already mentioned, at the same nominal rate of interest. But the general war was on the point of breaking out, and there were difficulties in the way of placing the Albanian Government in possession of the sum intended for its use. The Minister of Finance himself went to Rome to see what could be done, in company with the Albanian Minister in Rome. But all their efforts were useless. Italy opposed her veto and refused to hand over to her banks not only 500,000 francs, the half of the new loan, but also the half of the 300,000 francs! And thus Albania found herself left in the lurch, without money, without means of carrying on.

Italy's Hostility.

Italy has deliberately created all these difficulties. She has watched and waited for her right moment; and she has been rewarded. Austria-Hungary, desiring to humour an ally whose good faith seems rather doubtful, has not dared to cross her. Ever since Albania was made an autonomous State, Italy has shown but little sympathy towards her, and is quite unfavourable to national development, as witness her protection of Essad Pasha. This unfriendliness on the part of Italy was accentuated after the affair of Essad, which was regarded by the Italians as an attempt to undermine their prestige and to increase the influence of Austria-Hungary.

The Mpret's Manifesto.

On his departure from Durazzo the Mpret issued a proclamation announcing to the Albanians that in consequence of the difficulties created by certain short-sighted spirits, by passion, and by the general war, having complicated the situation, he found himself forced to leave for the West, but that his thoughts would always be with Albania, and that he would hand over the Government to the Commission of Control during his absence. What the Commission will do, and what the insurgents will do, too, we shall see in a few days.

Pessimists say that Prince William will never be able to return to Albania, and that he must regard the pleasant dream of his reign as finished and done with. His return, they say, is out of the question; for he enjoys the good wishes of only part of the population, and the remainder is hostile to him. The optimists, on their side, consider that his return is possible, since the revolt must soon die out, and a reaction in the Mpret's favour must take place. I shall not attempt to prophesy.

As to the past, however, the mystery of the Albanian revolt, it is possible now to speak with some certainty. There can be very little doubt that the insurrection was fomented by Greece and Servia, and supported by the Powers that protect those two countries. Greeks and Servians both made use of Young Turk emissaries to stir up the religious sentiments of the Moslems, and to play upon their reactionary tendencies; and, in this direction, the ground may be said to have been well prepared by Essad Pasha and his adherents, who never hesitated to appeal to the lower instincts of the mob in order to achieve their selfish objects.

When the Mpret arrived the country was in a quite abnormal condition. Essad and Ismail Kemal had let passions loose and stirred them up. Essad especially had been extraordinarily active in his endeavours to secure a Moslem Prince, and has roused fanaticism to a dangerous point. The treacherous policy of Greece and the crimes of the soi-disant Epirote Government further complicated the combined action of the Young Turks (real, or so-called, as the case may be), and of the reactionaries who represented the party of Essad. The Government found itself without any means of enforcing its authority—and without any real authority. On the other hand, Scutari, which had an international administration, was fertile soil for intrigues of all sorts.

At present the only districts openly loyal to the Mpret are the mountains of Hasi, Luma, Mat, and Dibra, all close to Servia. The danger across the border and the memory of recent foreign domination has taught them wisdom.

NOTICE.

The Sadr Anjuman-i-Ahmadiyya, Qadian, has the sole right to publish the English Translation of the Holy Quran with notes which have been prepared under its order by its employee, Moulvi Mohammed Ali, M.A., LL.B., Editor of the "Review of Religions," Qadian.

This Anjuman has already spent about Rs. 13 000 on this Translation, and now appeals to the generous lovers of Islam for subscriptions to publish it. It has been brought to our notice that attempts are being made elsewhere to raise money for the same purpose. It is therefore notified to the public that no other individual or association except the Sadr Anjuman-i-Ahmadiyya, Qadian, has the proprietary right to the said translation, and has therefore no right to raise money for publishing it. Gentlemen who are willing to render pecuniary assistance for this purpose are requested to make all remittances to the Financial Secretary, Sadr Anjuman-i-Ahmadiyya, Qadian, Punjab.

The Anjuman is a responsible body registered under Act No. XXI of 1860, so our friends may safely send in their money here, whereas those who will remit money elsewhere will place their quotas in unauthorised hands.

SHER ALI, B.A.,
Secretary.

Sadr Anjuman-i-Ahmadiyya,
Qadian, Punjab, India.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 31.

Egypt's Peaceful Condition.

The month of Ramadan and the succeeding Feast of Bairam are now things of the past, and Egypt will henceforward assume her normal mode of life in so far as the war will permit her. The outbreak of the European war in the midst of the great Moslem fast gave the local authorities cause for anxious thought, and this the four-day feast, with which the month of penitential abstinence ends, did not tend to diminish. Dwellers in the East are aware that the month of Ramadan has at the best of times an irritating effect on the tempers of the Faithful, and when it falls during the height of the summer, when the period between dawn and sunset is at its longest and the privations are consequently hardest, that effect becomes still more acute. Whilst it would be absurd to say that any serious trouble was, or is, expected, yet the fact that the low-class Europeans are not unnaturally in a somewhat excitable state led the authorities to fear, and prepare for, collisions between the native and foreign elements. When such collisions have taken place in the past the low-class foreign elements have always been responsible, but the physical privations which the natives were undergoing might, not unnaturally, have been expected to contribute to the risk on this occasion. Nothing of the kind has come to pass, however; the thirty-four days of fast and feast have come and gone without any untoward incident. Indeed, I am informed that the crime statistics for the period show a marked diminution. The Egyptian population, Moslem and Christian, native and European, is to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which it has conducted itself since the outbreak of the European war, despite the very trying, and at times irritating and unpleasant, experiences it has gone through; and one is encouraged to hope that it will continue to show the same restraint, patience, and dignity during the no less trying months that lie ahead.

Local Interest in the War.

The progress of the war is watched with the keenest interest by all sections of the population, and the special editions of the newspapers are bought up as soon as they appear, both in the cities and in the provinces. Every effort is made to give us a true and early version of what is happening. The censors work hard to eliminate from the cabled messages received all obviously inaccurate news and details liable to excite public opinion, and the British and French Agencies issue daily through the Press Bureau official communiqués giving the latest information received from London and Paris. Perhaps the most enterprising of our local papers have been, and still are, *The Egyptian Mail* and *Al Mokattam*, both of which have a special service of telegrams, and repeatedly out-distance Reuter and the diplomatic Agencies. *Al Mokattam* distinguished itself during the Tripoli and the Balkan Wars by its wonderful cable service, which from start to finish proved most accurate, and to-day once more it is far ahead of any of its native contemporaries.

Return of Stranded Residents and Egyptians.

By every boat Egyptians and residents are flocking back to Egypt. Steamers from London have been landing whole shiploads of officers and officials, who, in order to get back, have had to sleep in the holds, living-rooms, etc., but who, it appears, have, with but few exceptions, paid no fares as yet. Various and amazing are the tales of experiences related by those who were unfortunate enough to be caught on the Continent when hostilities broke out. All are agreed, however, that they received most generous and considerate treatment at the hands of the French, Swiss, and Italians, especially the last-named, and that, if the circumstances under which they travelled and lived were at times painful and distressing, the peoples of those three countries did their utmost to alleviate the discomfort.

The Health of the Khedive.

H.H. the Khedive, who was supposed to leave Constantinople on August 25, is still in the Turkish capital, and it is unknown when he will be able to return to Egypt. Various rumours as to the true state of his health are floating about. It is impossible to prove or disprove their accuracy. The Egyptian Government still declares that he is improving in health, but the fact that three weeks ago he was stated officially to be practically cured gives a certain colour of truth to the above-mentioned rumours.

Position of German and Austrian Consulates.

The German and Austrian Consuls are straining every nerve to get the remaining reservists away, but they are finding it exceedingly difficult, as neutral ships decline to run the risk of being seized on the high seas and taken off to Malta. The plan was to ship them off to Patras, whence they were to find their way home as best they could, but it fell through, as the Greek vessels refused to take the men at the last moment. Some German reservists, it is understood, got away by an Italian steamer last week. One cannot help feeling sorry for these brave and patriotic fellows. They have been treated like dogs by the German Consular officials; those who tried to leave the country in obedience to instructions have had to pay all their expenses to and from the ports, and those who may succeed in reaching Brindisi or Patras will have to find their way home at their own expense. Yet, despite the lack of consideration, nay, the brutality shown them by their country's representatives, they are still ready to respond to the call to duty; though one hears them repeatedly compare in bitter terms their treatment with that meted out to the French and Russian reservists by their respective Consulates.

It is a pity that some steps cannot be taken to shut up the Austrian and German Consulates once and for all. As yet it is not clear, however, whether Germans and Austrians are to be treated as local subjects, or how they are to be dealt with. Egypt's peculiar political position makes the question a somewhat complex one. In the meantime, however, the Russian Consulate has issued a notice to the effect that all German and Austro-Hungarian subjects of Slav origin residing in Egypt will receive Russian protection during the war. Similarly Slavs of Servian and Montenegrin origin resident in Egypt may claim Russian protection during the war without prejudice to their rights as subjects of their respective countries at the end of the war.

The Question of Foodstuffs.

The Superior Foodstuff Commission which has been appointed consists of Said Pasha Zulficar, ex-Finance Minister (Chairman); Ali Pasha Zulficar, Governor of Cairo; Chafik Pasha, Under-Secretary for Wakfs; Lewa Blunt Pasha, and Messrs. Monteith-Smith, Craig, McKillop, and Hornblower. Its functions will be to deal with the general supply of foodstuffs and necessaries for the country. The tariffs set up by the various local commissions in conformity with the recent decree have in the main been accepted by the merchants and the general public. Certain trades, such as the butchers and bakers, have petitioned against the prices fixed for divers reasons, but, on the whole, the authorities are experiencing little difficulty in enforcing the tariffs.

Reduction in Expenditure.

Another Commission that is now sitting is the Budget or Expenditure Commission, whose task is to examine the State accounts and report on the best means for reducing

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the expenditure. As already reported, the Government anticipates a considerable falling off in Customs and railway receipts, and quite possibly a diminution in the land tax collections, and consequently, as the Budget was very closely framed—in fact, a draft of £E574,000 on the reserve was provided for—the expenditure must be cut down fairly substantially. A large item has already been eliminated by the stoppage of all new works. Large numbers of temporary officials have been dismissed, and others are to be dispensed with. The dismissal of temporary officials employed on work that has been stopped is quite justifiable; but the cases of ordinary temporary officials merit a great deal of consideration, in the interests of the State alone, before any decisive step is taken, and, no doubt, the Government is giving this question its most careful attention.

Government Official's Salaries.

It is stated that the Government will probably, if the war lasts, have to reduce temporarily the pay of its staff, and various projects in this connection have been bruited about. I understand that this step is not likely to be taken for two or three months, but that it will have to be contemplated if the revenue falls off as much as is feared. The sums deducted from the salaries will be refunded by instalments after the war is concluded and normal conditions exist once more. Whatever decision is taken, it is obvious that a very extended sliding scale must be adopted, so as to proportion the deduction as fairly as possible and make the burden fall equally on the higher and lower paid officials, as well as making allowance for those who are married or have families dependent on them.

Telegraph Rates Raised.

In its endeavours to create sources of revenue the Government has decided, starting from to-morrow, to double the telegraph rates. This is an excellent step, and one that should result in an increase in receipts, though, of course, not an enormous one. (The receipts last year were about £E130,000.) It is not likely that the traffic will diminish much, for the Egyptians are what one might call "devotees of the wire," and make almost as much use of the telegraph as they do of the Post Office. One has only to notice the sheaves of telegrams that rain on an official who has been promoted, who has had a son born to him, or who has returned from a voyage abroad, to realise what a boon the telegraph has become; and in this respect the extra expense is not likely to daunt the senders.

The Local Position.

The local position has improved very much. Confidence has returned, as is evidenced in the falling off of withdrawals from the savings banks and the increase in deposits at the ordinary banks; and if only some means of financing part of the cotton crop can be found, we shall have little to complain of in comparison with some other countries. One fact appears certain, and that is that next year Egypt's cotton production must be restricted and the available area devoted to cereals.

GREAT BRITAIN IN EGYPT.

In a message dated September 12 Reuter's Naples correspondent reports that General Thurneyssen Pasha, before his departure for Alexandria, paid a very high tribute to Great Britain's rule in Egypt. In an interview, Thurneyssen Pasha, who is first Aide-de-Camp to the Khedive, declared that although he was himself an Austrian he could assert on his word of honour that no anti-English revolt could occur in Egypt, where English rule was solidly and unshakably rooted.

The Egyptian Gazette (of August 31) states that the Servian Government has instructed its representative in Egypt to engage a certain number of surgeons and physicians from that country, offering surgeons a salary of from 500 to 600 francs, and physicians from 400 to 500 francs per month. In addition to the salary the Servian Government offers the doctors three francs per day for food.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

A PLEA FOR SERVIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It is to the credit of the Near East that its voice has already been raised in recognition of the heroic part played by the little Servian nation in this great struggle. Servia has, it must be admitted, often been singularly unfortunate in her rulers, and her reputation has cruelly suffered for the dark pages which they have written in her annals. But, as a nation, she has the right, nevertheless, to be proud of the part she has constantly played in the emancipation of the Balkan Peninsula. More than 100 years ago she was the first to rise against Turkish oppression, and it was the plucky, if losing, fight she put up in 1876 against the Turks which prepared the way for the intervention of Russia and the liberation of Bulgaria. After that it was no longer Turkey who chiefly threatened her independence. There has been no more discreditable chapter in the history even of Austria than that of her relations with the small Servian neighbour, whom she alternately exploited and bullied. The ultimatum which she flung at Servia on July 23 has, Sir Edward Grey said on the following day, no parallel amongst the communications ever addressed by one independent State to another. Yet, on the advice of Russia, Servia was prepared to drain almost to the dregs the bitter cup forced upon her by Austria, and if the sacrifice she was willing to make in the cause of peace did not avail to avert war, it served, at any rate, to show that what Austria wanted was not surrender, but a pretext for war.

As for what she has done since Austria embarked upon her punitive expedition, may I quote the words of *The Times*:—

> The Servians numbered only four and a-half millions, and their resources are scanty, yet they have put nearly half a million men in the field and have driven superior Austrian armies headlong. Without doctors and nurses, without any help from the wealthy Powers for their sorely-tried women and children, they have boldly faced Goliath and put him to shame.

That is indeed a well-deserved tribute, but is it not time that the British people should give Servia some more substantial recognition of what she has done in the common cause? Many appeals have already been made to the generosity of the British public, but I believe that its generosity will keep pace with all legitimate appeals made to it. There is one direction in which Servia stands bitterly in need of help. On all previous occasions Servia has been able to rely very largely for the care of her sick and wounded on the sympathy of her fellow-Slavs in Russia and in the Dual Monarchy. Russian and Czech doctors and nurses invariably came forward in great numbers to relieve the strain placed upon the slender resources of the Servian Red Cross. In the present case Russia can spare nothing from her own resources, which are, it may be feared, scarcely adequate for the immense forces she is placing in the field, whilst obviously the Slavs of the Dual Monarchy, however warm their secret sympathies, can do nothing for Servia now. No figures have yet been published as to the losses incurred by Servia during the present war, but when one remembers that, in a battle of many days' duration, she has smashed up an Austrian Army of 300,000 men that has left behind it in its retreat thousands of wounded prisoners, one can readily imagine how heavy must have been the casualties on the Servian side, which was, moreover, constantly on the offensive. Some help, however small, from our Red Cross societies would bring to the people of Servia a message of sympathy and goodwill which the gallantry of her small Army assuredly deserves.

Yours obediently,

September 15. VALENTINE CHIROL.

FOREIGN INTERESTS IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Affairs in Turkey are going from bad to worse. The Turks have gone quite crazy, and from the time war broke out have been treating British subjects most unmeritedly, violating domicile, and even threatening their lives. Now that they think that they have abrogated the Capitulations the condition of foreigners under the ban of the Young Turk military regime is indeed parlous. One of the worst features is that the local authorities pay no attention to the instructions received from the Ministry in Constantinople, and continue plundering under the guise of military requisition. Foreign interests and property are gravely menaced, and, notwithstanding the splendid efforts the Consuls are making, their intervention does not lead to any amelioration of the situation.

The abolition of the Capitulations is undoubtedly only the initiation of a plan, which the Young Turks have had at heart since they gained power, whereby the influence of foreigners in the country will be destroyed and their industries paralyzed.

What they will gain is not obvious to Western eyes, but they are pursuing that policy with a pertinacity which can only end in the economic ruin of the country and intervention of the Powers for the protection of their nationals.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

"ANATOLIAN."

September 15, 1914.

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THE MOBILIZATION OF ADANA VILAYET.

We are indebted to a correspondent for permission to reproduce the following extracts from a letter received from Adana, and written on August 14. They give a convincing view of the state of uncertainty into which the population of Asia Minor was thrown by the orders regarding mobilization:—

The past two weeks have been teaching all peoples in this land the meaning of a general mobilization. Adana is now the military centre of this part of Turkey. Some few months ago the new barracks and quarters were made ready near the river adjoining the city. From a trustworthy source we learn that Cilicia is to provide 80,000 men. Of this number 35,000 are ready to start. Numbers more are to come to the ranks when called for. Everywhere the ages for the conscripts are from 22-45 for Moslems, and up to 32 for non-Moslems, as the latter have not been in training like the Moslems. Now a fresh order comes. All men are to present themselves up to 45, whatever their calling, station or ability. This includes students, teachers, pastors, who previously have been exempt. Of course, money is greatly needed by the Government, therefore those who can pay a ransom of from 40 to 60 liras will be exempt.

Can you realise what this means to the families dependent on the men? This is the most important time of the year, when the winter food stores are prepared, and next month the cotton picking season starts, when great numbers take up this work to gain money for their rents and for the winter, just as is done by our hop pickers. Now the men are taken from the fields and shops, and all business is at a standstill. Factories and shops are closed; so are the banks; and the flour and large food stores are shut by order of the Government, in order to keep their stocks for the army. Food prices have advanced about sixty per cent., and may soon be double. The women cannot do the work in the fields, etc., as the Bulgarian women did in the late wars, for they have never been used to such labour. They cannot go for the cotton picking in the villages without the men or without animals. If the Government does not do something to disband the army there must be famine.

Mrs. —— writes that the conditions in Tarsus are distressing in the extreme. She went one day to Mersina and found the shops shut, no vessels in the harbour as usual, no business, the women crying. She bought a few things at a well-known shop and stayed a long while, but nobody else came in. The owner of the shop had been forced to give a lot of strong calico to make shirts for soldiers. From another merchant 50 liaras' worth of oil was taken, needed for the railway, which is now in the hands of the Turkish Government, as the German officials and workers have been recalled to the Fatherland. Here, I may add, even the French Jesuit priests have been recalled to stand by their country.

Tarsus region was to supply 600 horses, but so many have not yet been found although Arab horses, draft horses, and all horses able to work (as far as found) have been taken. This again deprives I know not how many of a livelihood. Mrs. —— says one sees only lame horses and donkeys going about. A good many families, especially Moslems from Yeila, have had to return to the city, not knowing how to live alone. It is, however, a great blessing for all who are out of the heat in summering places, and much wiser for all who can do so to remain quietly, especially the foreigners, who by going down might unsettle the natives and cause panic.

Again, we do not know the real reason for the country's mobilization, although I wrote you reports we heard. The soldiers themselves do not know. And now, why this added call for men without any forward movement is a mystery, unless it be that the older men and untrained are to be left in charge of the towns, etc., when the army leaves the vilayet.

Yesterday, when I was in Namraum—I went down for two days—I heard of this added call for more men, and told M—— of it on my return. He did not fully believe (he has always been of the exempt class in the past), but this morning the report was confirmed, and, after hastily preparing, he has gone down to Namraum to understand the order, and may have to proceed to Tarsus to show up. Prison or death is the penalty for those who do not appear and present themselves at this time. I do not think there is any fear of his going to the front, but he may have to remain in Tarsus. Whether his medical note testifying to his inability to endure strain will be heeded or not remains to be proved. His brother has been taken, leaving his wife and mother. I could tell you of many others, but you do not know them.

Think not we are unmindful of the movements, fighting and suffering in other countries. All news from any source is quickly passed around, but as yet we have not had one foreign paper or even letter mentioning the war or conditions in any of the countries. Only "strained conditions between Austria and Servia." However, telegrams, if not altered before reaching, have told much in few words. A great battle; Liège taken by the Germans! Against whom? Belgians, French or English? A great sea-battle between English and Germans, and many vessels sunk. Russia moving towards Vienna, and Germany towards Russian soil!

August 15.

I told you M—— started prepared to proceed to Tarsus. He found friends in Namraum doing likewise. Just at that time fresh word came from Tarsus that the Government has postponed calling out the older men for a few days, giving date. Therefore, M—— was about to return when the Government doctor of Namraum came riding up with telegraphic news just received that the army was going to be disbanded or demobilized. We have scant parliamentary news, but enough to understand that there has not been union in maintaining this warlike defensive attitude. It was also added that the Dardanelles would be opened. This is the last word I have to give to-day.

LATER.

News of last evening not confirmed, though it may come to pass. Therefore, M—— goes down to Namraum to-morrow, to start for Tarsus early in the morning. I expect many others will also be going down, if the Government order is not clear enough for people to understand whether they are to appear or not.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egyptian Prize Courts. Sept. 10.

The Prize Courts (Egypt, Zanzibar, and Cyprus) Bill came up for second reading. This Bill, which is a Government measure, provides for the establishment of prize courts in these three places. The existing courts will have the same jurisdiction as a Vice-Admiralty Prize Court.

In Committee, Mr. Booth complained that other British settlements were omitted from the Bill.

In reply, Sir J. Simon (Attorney-General) said the three places mentioned in the Bill were places which, for administrative convenience, were found to require, or were likely to require, prize courts, although he did not know that they would need to use all three as such. The Government did not wish to multiply the number of prize courts unnecessarily.

The Bill passed through Committee, and was subsequently read a third time and passed.

Civil Servants in Egypt. Sept. 14.

Explaining a new Bill introduced by the Government for amending the Superannuation Acts, Mr. Montagu (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) quoted as an example of the need for such an Act the case of some Civil servants in Egypt. "I have in my mind," he said, "a case where an English Civil servant was lent to the Egyptian Government. He has reached the age of sixty-two, and he cannot get the pension earned in this country because he was lent to the Egyptian Government." This will be remedied under the new Bill, which will enable gratuities or pensions to be paid to English Civil servants lent to a foreign or colonial Government, even though the time for retirement arrive while he is still employed abroad.

The Bill was introduced and formally read a first time.

Dardanelles Mines. Sept. 15.

Mr. Hunt asked the Prime Minister whether his Majesty's Government had received information that automatic contact mines have been laid down by German agents in the Eastern Mediterranean in the track of neutral shipping; and, if so, whether he would propose to neutral Powers that they should, in the interest of common humanity, assist in ridding that sea from these engines of destruction laid in neutral waters.

Dr. Macnamara replied: A report to the effect stated was received shortly after the outbreak of the war, and immediate steps were then taken to counteract the supposed danger to shipping, but so far as I am aware no mines have actually been found. Drifting mines have been reported as being set adrift from the Dardanelles.

Armenian Reforms.

Mr. Aneurin Williams asked if the Foreign Secretary could state what was the present position of the proposals for the reforms in Armenia and of the two European Inspectors-General intended to be employed by the Porte in connection therewith.

Sir Edward Grey: I understand that the two European Inspectors have now proceeded to the scene of their duties. I have no further information.

Civil Servants in Egypt.

The Superannuation Bill (referred to above) was read a second and third time, and formally passed.

BULGARIAN LEGATION FOR U.S.A.

In a letter dated July 26, which only reached us on Monday, our Sofia Correspondent writes:—

Owing to the great number of Bulgarian emigrants to the United States, the Bulgarian Government has decided to establish a Legation in Washington. It will thus be in a position adequately to look after the interests of the Bulgarian subjects who are scattered all over the States.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SUDAN.

It is gratifying to learn from *The Sudan Times* that Omar Effendi, the eldest son of the Khalifa Abdallah-el-Taayishi, who led the Dervish hordes against the British, has offered his services as a volunteer in the British Army, saying that his example will no doubt be followed by many others of his countrymen.

The Sudan Times understands also that many Syrian officials and others offered their services. They were thanked for their loyalty to the Government, and were informed that their applications had been sent to the proper quarters.

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THE CAPITULATIONS IN HISTORY.

In July of last year the Cairo Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST, writing of the Capitulations in force in Egypt, made use of a phrase which adequately and briefly describes the value of those which during more than five centuries have existed in the Ottoman Empire. He says that Capitulations

> confer exemption from certain forms of taxation, protection from arbitrary arrest, liberty of religion, inviolability of domicile, immunity from the jurisdiction of the local courts in criminal matters, and subjection to special courts in all civil cases in which the other party is of different nationality, on all foreigners who, as a natural consequence of the condition of extra territoriality set up, can be dealt with by their particular Consuls in whatever manner the latter choose.

A curious belief has grown up that the extensive rights of extra-territoriality and the numerous privileges enjoyed by certain foreigners under the Capitulations in Turkey exist only because the Ottoman Empire is a Moslem State. It has even been asserted that the Capitulations are a stigma deliberately put upon Turkey by Christian Powers in order to emphasize their "contempt" for Islam, and many persons are inclined to look upon them as a species of religious injustice. The facts of History do not warrant such an opinion. The theory of Law, which has crystallized into the mass of Treaty-right and privilege which has gradually been formed under the Capitulatory régime, dates back many centuries. Time was when merchants and travellers were supposed to carry the law of their native land vested in their persons during their wanderings abroad. Law was held to be equally an affair of the individual as is religion, and arrangements were made accordingly. The Latin States in the Levant granted a formidable array of important privileges to the trading Republics of Italy, Venice, Genoa, Pisa, and Amalfi, and the powers of the Venetian Baile in Acre, even when it was capital of the kingdom of Jerusalem, were in many ways superior to those of the King himself. In many of the cities of the Levant a whole quarter was set aside under the Capitulations of those days for the use of Italian commercial communities and their consular rulers. Even in Constantinople itself the Byzantine Government accorded all Galata to the Genoese, while the trading privileges of the Republics of St. Mark and of St. George were so considerable as to impair seriously the actual sovereignty of the Greek successors of the Cæsars. Yet it must not hastily be assumed that the existence of Capitulations was an indication that more vigorous States were preying on a failing polity. Certainly the Byzantine Empire was in its decline when they were first established, but Capitulations were granted to the Italian Republics in the very hour of victory by more than one crusading Prince in Syria, and one of the earliest grants was confirmed to Genoa by Sultan Mohammed the Conqueror a few days after he had taken Constantinople by storm and assumed the proud title of Padishah as befitted the absolute Sovereign of the Imperial City. In most cases both parties to a Capitulation were glad to establish it, sometimes from a real fear that injustice might be done by subjecting a foreigner to the native Courts, and sometimes in order to avoid the opportunity for complaint which might arise therefrom. The Ottomans, true to their habit of ruling their rayahs through the religious heads of the various subject races, were glad to have some definite official made responsible for the control of his nationals. Other, and weaker, States were doubtless glad of any arrangement which ensured justice being done by his own consul upon an offending alien, the subject of a powerful and aggressive State. In times past the Capitulations were, as they still are, a most manifest convenience throughout the Levant. That they are not peculiar to Turkey or even to Moslem States is apparent to those who remember the Capitulatory régime in China, Japan, Siam, Zanzibar, and Morocco, from some of which it has not yet disappeared. That the Capitulations are not the fruit of Ottoman weakness is obvious from the fact that Mohammed el Fatih and Suleiman el Kanouni, the greatest of the successors of Osman, granted Capitulations in the plentitude of their power.

The Growth of the System.

The Porte has very readily in the past contracted Treaties establishing Capitulations in favour of the subjects of foreign countries, and has frequently and repeatedly entered into fresh Treaties binding itself either to renew, confirm, or extend the privileges already accorded. It appears that the very first Capitulation to be granted was in 1365 to the little Serb Republic of Ragusa, which survived the vicissitudes of more than four centuries of Balkan history to perish at the hand of Napoleon and become the Duchy of Marshal Marmont, and indirectly give a verb *raguser* to the French language. Next (June 8, 1387) came the great Republic of St. George, which already enjoyed immense privileges in the Byzantine dominions. The following is a chronological list of the Treaties, Protocols, and Conventions, and other diplomatic documents by which the various Ottoman Sultans have granted Capitulations or solemnly bound themselves to confirm and respect or enlarge those granted by their predecessors:—

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Ragusa	Grant	1365
Genoa	Grant	June 8, 1387
Wallachia	Grant	1393
Ragusa	Confirmation	1414
Genoa	Confirmation	1416
Knights of Rhodes	Grant	1425
Ragusa	Confirmation	1445
Genoa	Confirmation	1451
Ragusa	Confirmation	1451
Genoa	Confirmation	1453
Pisa	Grant	1460
Florence	Grant	1460
Venice	Grant	Jan. 25, 1478
Venice	Confirmation	1481
Ragusa	Confirmation	1481
Venice	Confirmation	Jan. 16, 1482
Ragusa	Confirmation	1512
Moldavia	Grant	1513
Ancona	Grant	1514
Venice	Confirmation	April, 1516

On the conquest of Egypt in 1517 by Sultan Yawuz Selim Khan the Porte undertook to recognize the Capitulations already existing in that country in favour of France and Arragon.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Ancona	Confirmation	1520
Venice	Confirmation	Dec. 11, 1521
Ragusa	Confirmation	1521
France	Do. (for Egypt)	Sept. 20, 1528
Aragon	Do. (for Egypt)	Sept. 20, 1528
Tuscany	Grant	1528
Venice	Confirmation	1534
France	Grant	Feb., 1535

This grant is the earliest of those held by extant States, although in many ways Italy considers herself to be the heir of Ancona, Tuscany, Venice, and Genoa, just as Tuscany inherited the privileges accorded to Pisa and Florence. One of the most important clauses in this celebrated document runs:—

> Item, toutes fois que le Roi mandera à Constantinople ou à Pera ou autres lieux de cet empire un baïle, comme de présent il tient un consul à Alexandrie, que lesdits baïle et consul soient acceptés et entretenus en autorité convenante, de manière que chacun d'eux en son lieu, et selon leur foi et loi, sans qu'aucun juge, *cadi, soubachi* ou autre en empêche,—doive et puisse ouïr, juger et terminer, tant au civil qu'au criminel, toutes les causes, les procès différends qui naîtront entre marchands et autres sujets du Roi . . .

These Capitulations go on to stipulate that Ottoman officials are to give every assistance, using force if necessary to give effect to that assistance, to the French Baile and Consul, and expressly state:—

> non que les *cadi* ou autres officiers du Grand Seigneur puissent juger aucun different desdits marchands et sujets du Roi, encore que les dits marchands le requissent; et si d'aventure lesdits *cadi* jugeaient, que leur sentence soit de nul effet.

Nor in criminal cases are French subjects to be called upon to give evidence before Ottoman Courts, except under prescribed conditions. Nor in any circumstances is a Frenchman, his agent, or his servant to be molested or judged by any official other than the Grand Vizier himself on matters of religion.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Poland	Grant	1553
Tuscany	Confirmation	1563
Venice	Confirmation	June 24 1567
France	Confirmation	Oct. 18 1569
Venice	Confirmation	Aug. 10 1575
Tuscany	Confirmation	1578
England	Grant	1580

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A curious comment on Ottoman practice in the administration of justice is found in Article 11 of these English Capitulations:—

> If an Englishman, guilty of some crime, escapes, no other Englishman, who has not gone bail for him, shall be imprisoned or molested instead of him.

Otherwise the grant was largely based on the French Capitulations, which, as is shown by the wording of the Treaty of Confirmation of 1604, were supposed to protect all "Franks" from the West. In 1593, the date of the first Confirmation, the English Capitulations were made similar to those enjoyed by France.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
France	Confirmation	July 6, 1581
Venice	Confirmation	1589
England	Confirmation	1593
Venice	Confirmation	Nov. 3, 1595
France	Confirmation	Feb. 25, 1597
United Provinces	Grant	April, 1598
England	Confirmation	1603
France	Confirmation	May 20, 1604

This Capitulation allows that all nations, particularly the Venetians, English, Spaniards, Portuguese, Catalans, Ragusans, Genoese, Anconitans, and Florentines,

> puissent librement venir trafiquer par nos pays sous l'aveu et surêté de la bannière de France, laquelle ils porteront comme leur sauvegarde. . . . et qu'ils obéissent aux consuls français. . . .

In this Treaty the King of France, Henry IV., is specifically styled Emperor (Padishah) of France, a title which was only most grudgingly accorded to the Sovereigns of Russia after long negotiation late in the eighteenth century.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Venice	Confirmation	Dec. 23, 1604
Venice	Confirmation	Mar. 9, 1605
England	Confirmation	1606
France	Confirmation	Apr. 20, 1607
France	Confirmation	1609
Genoa	Confirmation	1612
Transylvania	Grant	1614
Venice	Confirmation	May, 1615
Venice	Confirmation	1618
France	Confirmation	*1618
Venice	Confirmation	1619
England	Confirmation	1622
Venice	Confirmation	1624
Poland	Confirmation	1624
France	Confirmation	1624
England	Confirmation	1624
Transylvania	Confirmation	1624
United Provinces	Confirmation	1624
United Provinces	Confirmation	Feb. 20, 1634
France	Confirmation	1640
Venice	Confirmation	1640
England	Confirmation	Oct. 28, 1641
France	Confirmation	1649
England	Confirmation	1662
Genoa	Confirmation	1665
Poland	Confirmation	Aug., 1667
United Provinces	Confirmation	1668
Venice	Confirmation	1670
France	Confirmation	June 5, 1673
England	Confirmation	Sept., 1675
Poland	Confirmation	Mar. 6, 1678
United Provinces	Confirmation	Sept. 15, 1680
France	Confirmation	1689
Venice	Confirmation	Apr. 15, 1701
United Provinces	Confirmation	1712
Austria	Confirmation	July 21, 1718
Venice	Confirmation	1734
Austria	Confirmation	Sept. 18, 1739
France	Confirmation	May 28, 1740
Denmark	Grant	Oct. 14, 1756
Prussia	Grant	Mar. 22, 1761
Russia	Confirmation	July 2. 1774
Russia	Confirmation	Jan. 2, 1781
Spain	Capitulations	Sept. 14, 1782

During a considerable period no new Treaties granting or confirming Capitulations were contracted, probably owing to the disturbed state of Europe and the fact that Turkey was frequently involved in war.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Sardinia	Grant	Oct. 25, 1823
United States	Grant	May 7, 1830
Tuscany	Regrant	Feb. 12, 1833
Belgium	Grant	Aug. 3, 1838

According to Article 8 of this Treaty

> Les Belges, vaquant honnêtement et paisiblement à leurs occupations ou à leur commerce, ne pourront jamais être arrêtés ou molestés par les autorités locales. Mais, en cas de crime ou de délit, l'affaire sera remise à leur Ministre, Chargé d'Affaires, Consul ou Vice Consul; les accusés seront jugés par lui, et punis selon l'usage établi à l'égard des Francs.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Great Britain	Confirmation	Aug. 17, 1838
France	Confirmation	Nov. 26, 1838
Sardinia	Confirmation	Sept. 2, 1839
Sweden and Norway	Confirmation	Jan. 31, 1840
Spain	Confirmation	Mar. 2, 1840
Netherlands	Confirmation	Mar. 14, 1840
Belgium	Confirmation	Apr. 30, 1840
Prussia and Other States of the Zollverein	Confirmation	Oct. 22, 1840
Denmark	Confirmation	May 1, 1841
Tuscany	Confirmation	June 7, 1841
Hanseatic Towns	Confirmation	Sept. 7, 1841
Portugal	Confirmation	Mar. 20, 1843
The Two Sicilies	Confirmation	Mar. 5, 1851
Sardinia	Confirmation	July 31, 1854
Greece	Grant	May 23, 1855
Netherlands	Confirmation	Oct. 24, 1856
Brazil	Grant	Feb. 5, 1858

During the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz Khan there was a long series of Confirmations, due doubtless to the increasing interest which foreign nations began to take in the trade of Turkey.

State.	Treaty.	Date.
Italy	Confirmation	July 10, 1861
Belgium	Confirmation	Oct. 10, 1861
United States	Confirmation	Feb. 25. 1862
Netherlands	Confirmation	Feb. 25, 1862
Sweden and Norway	Confirmation	Mar. 5, 1862
Denmark	Confirmation	Mar. 13, 1862
Russia	Confirmation	Feb. 3, 1862
Spain	Confirmation	Mar. 13, 1862
Prussia	Confirmation	Mar. 20, 1862
Austria	Confirmation	May 22, 1862
Hanseatic Towns	Confirmation	Sept. 27, 1862
Mexico	Grant	Sept. 4, 1864
Mexico	Confirmation	May 6, 1866
Portugal	Confirmation	Feb. 23, 1868
Mecklenburg Duchies	Grant	Nov. 5, 1868
Bavaria	Grant	Aug. 25, 1870

In support of the contention which has been advanced that the whole of the States enjoying the advantages of the Capitulations in Turkey are jointly interested in their maintenance it is interesting to find that Article 5 of this Convention runs as follows:—

> Dans le cas où la Sublime Porte viendrait à s'entendre avec le autres Puissances pour modifier, dans l'un ou l'autre sens, la juridiction qu'exercent en Turquie les Consuls étrangers en vertu des Traités et Capitulations, le Gouvernement de Bavière ne revendiquera rien au delà des privilèges et immunités qui seraient maintenus en faveur des Consuls des autres Puissances, auxquelles d'ailleurs les Consuls Bavarois continueront à être assimilés sous tous les rapports.

Germany	Confirmation	Aug. 26, 1890
Greece	Confirmation	April 1, 1900

The Greek privileges were not restored in their entirety as they had been before the war of 1897.

The Law of 7 Safar, 1284.

Apart from these grants and confirmations, there exists a whole series of Protocols and Conventions defining the rights of foreign subjects, so far as land tenure is concerned. On June 9, 1868 an important Protocol was signed with France guaranteeing rights of domicile to foreigners and defining them with some minuteness. This was a necessary preliminary to the acceptance of the Law of 7 Safar on property.

> La demeure de toute personne habitant le sol Ottoman étant inviolable . . . la demeure du sujet étranger est inviolable au même titre, conformément aux traités, et les agents de la force publique ne peuvent y pénétrer sans l'assistance du Consul ou du délégué du Consul dont relève cet étranger.

According to the terms of the Protocol the word "house" is to be understood in its widest sense. The Consul is to appear if required so that the delay in effecting an arrest should not be greater than twenty-four hours. If a house be more than nine hours' journey from a Consul the Ottoman police may in certain circumstances enter a foreigner's house—and only in case of murder, arson, highway robbery with violence, burglary, armed rebellion, or coining.

Law of 7 Safar, 1284 (June 9, 1867):—

> Art. 1.—Les étrangers sont admis, au même titre que les sujets Ottomans et sans autre condition à jouir du droit de propriété des immeubles urbains ou ruraux dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire, à l'exception de la province de l'Hedjaz.

. . . Subject to all laws and regulations affecting Ottoman proprietors.

> Mais sous la réserve des immunités attachées à leur personne et à leurs biens meubles aux termes des traités.

Various States concluded Protocols with the Porte, accepting the Protocol and the Law of 7 Safar, 1284, in the following order:—

Norway and Sweden	June 13, 1868
Belgium	July 14, 1868
Great Britain	July 28, 1868
Austria-Hungary	Nov. 5, 1868
Denmark	May 10, 1869
Prussia and States of the North German Confederation	June 7, 1869

* After the French Ambassador, Baron De la Mole, had been illtreated and insulted.

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Spain	Oct. 5, 1870
Greece	Feb. 24, 1873
Russia	March 20, 1873
Italy	March 23, 1873
Netherlands	Aug. 6, 1873
United States	Aug. 11, 1874
Portugal	Jan. 29, 1883
Persia	June 30, 1883

In addition to these various diplomatic documents and international agreements defining the status of foreign subjects in the Ottoman dominions, there have, since 1881, been numerous financial agreements, the most important being the Decree of Muharrem, which is dealt with elsewhere. In conclusion, it is not inappropriate to quote one final document bearing upon the validity of the very considerable volume of Treaties referred to above. According to the first Protocol of the Conference of London, January 17, 1871, Earl Granville, President of the Conference, in addressing the assembled members, said:—

> Cette unanimité fournit une preuve éclatante que les Puissances reconnaissent que c'est un principe essentiel du droit des gens qu'aucune d'elles ne peut se délier des engagements d'un traité, ni en modifier les stipulations, qu'à la suite de l'assentiment des Parties Contractantes au moyen d'une entente amicale.
>
> Ce principe important me parait recevoir une adhésion generale et j'ai l'honneur de vous proposer, MM. les Plénipotentiaires de signer un Protocole *ad hoc*.

And the Protocol *ad hoc* was duly signed by the representatives of the North German Confederation (Germany), Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, and Turkey.

[NOTE.—The writer is greatly indebted for much of the information in the above article to the monumental work of H.E. Gabriel Nuradunghian Effendi, at one time Ottoman Foreign Minister, *Recueil d'Actes Internationaux de l'Empire Ottoman.*]

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The impossible has been achieved. The Porte, by a mere stroke of the pen, has revived, in Constantinople at least, no less an entity than the Concert of Europe, which was generally supposed to have died six weeks ago! As long ago the Turks contrived to unite the secular enemies of the Balkans against them, so now by a *coup de théâtre* they have drawn down upon themselves a series of Identic Notes. How great must be the magic of these blessed words. The mere mention of the mystic phrase aroused the slumbering Concert from the lethargy of war. Shoulder to shoulder did the ambassadors press upon the Porte at the word of command "Present Notes," momentarily forgetful of the fact that their respective Imperial, Royal, and Presidential superiors were mostly at one another's throats in Europe. Really the whole affair has a touch of comedy.

***

I must confess that the departure from Albania of its Mpret and Mpreteresha, as recorded by our Durazzo Correspondent, leaves me unmoved. Making every allowance for Prince Wilhelm, it still seems to me that he failed utterly to rise to the occasion. His position was, admittedly, an extremely difficult one, but I cannot help thinking that a man with real character, who knew when to lay caution aside for a while and risk a real throw of the dice, might have been much more successful than Prince Wilhelm of Wied. And I am sorry for the sake of Albania. For I fear that unless the Shkypetars very quickly lay aside their differences and show a united front to Europe and the world at large, we may—to put the matter quite plainly—soon have no Albania with us.

***

The Captain of the Port at Smyrna may be a very estimable person indeed, but I am tolerably certain that he is not deeply versed in Natural History. As I write there lies before me the translation of a circular issued by the worthy captain to the much-tried shipowners and agents of Smyrna, in which it is stated that in case any rats should be discovered in the baggage or on the person of any passengers on board any vessel, the said vessel will be subject to five days' quarantine. My acquaintance with passengers—deck passengers—on some of the Levant steamers inclines me to think that a close search of their persons might yield some surprising results, but—rats? I am inclined to think that even the deckiest of deck passengers would detect the presence of even a single rat on his person quite soon. Nevertheless, it must be quite an inspiring sight to see the myrmidons of the Captain of the Port examining the passengers and their baggage in the hopes of finding a stray rodent or two, and thus providing a few fees. Presumably the question on landing in Smyrna is: "Any rats to declare?"

It is reported from Colombo that Ceylon has offered to provide a contingent for war service, and that, Lord Kitchener having given his consent, it will be employed in Egypt. Ceylon, it is stated, will pay the cost of transport. Other visitors to Egypt shortly will be the 200 Maoris who have been accepted for service in that country. All who know the Maoris like them, and there is no doubt that if the 200 have their chance they will prove themselves worthy of their warlike sires. It is a far cry from the Antipodes to Cairo, but so much that is strange swims into the ken of THE NEAR EAST just now.

***

In spite of the present war, Western Europe is not likely to give up its habit of lecturing Turkey and the Balkans just yet—if ever. Nevertheless, I cannot help thinking that certain good people in this country who have in the past given much gratuitous advice to the Sultan and his subjects, to say nothing of the Bulgars and the Serbs, and now and then the Montenegrins and the Greeks, would do well to lie low for quite a long time. On the other hand, it is quite evident that Turkey and the Balkan States are now entitled to take their turn at offering advice, unasked. I am, therefore, not in the least surprised to find the *Hablul Matin* suggesting that the Sultan of Turkey's "attitude of strict neutrality in this great European struggle. . . . may possibly enable him to mediate between the belligerents and render a valuable service to civilization and humanity." And when I find the suggestion accompanied by the assurance that "Turkey does not seek an extension of territory in Europe," the phraseology strikes me as strangely reminiscent. We may yet live to see a "British Committee" in Turkey, a "French Committee" in Bulgaria, and so on; and philanthropic pashas may organize meetings in Stamboul to "protest" against all sorts of things in this country.

***

German veracity, like the "good German conscience," is peculiar. One of the most amazing fabrications of the "news for neutrals" factory—the story that the British Navy, in desperate straits for men, was offering £40 a week to German sailors for their services—bears upon it all the marks of the Teutonic genius. One assumes that these statements are intended to deceive, but they insult the intelligence of some of the people, at any rate, amongst whom they have been circulated. Yet this particular story seems to be a favourite. A correspondent, writing from Bucharest, informs me that Dr. Waldthausen, the German Minister there, has given it his official *imprimatur*. "Such statements," writes my correspondent, "can only be described as childish, and do not add to the dignity of the diplomat who unblushingly publishes them." From what my correspondent says, I gather that the "official" contradictions of reports that German arms have not been everywhere triumphant, and fantastic statements as to the weakness and wickedness of the Allies emanating from the German Legation are discredited. But the Teuton official is unable to understand a public which does not open its mouth and shut its eyes and accept gratefully whatever he deigns to stuff down its throat.

***

I have from the same source an interesting story of a Roumanian frontier guard's devotion to duty under trying circumstances. Whilst an engagement was proceeding between Servian and Austrian troops posted on their respective sides of the Danube near Orsova, the rifle bullets began to fall thickly on Roumanian territory, and onlookers scattered right and left in fear of their lives. On the top of a hill across which runs the frontier of Roumania and Hungary stood a Roumanian frontier guard. Bullets whistled round him, but he did not move. "Come away," people shouted from positions of safety. "I have no orders," was the reply, and the brave sentry remained at his post. After a quarter of an hour the fire slackened, but the earth around the frontier guard was ploughed up by bullets, though fortunately he didn't stop any of them. My correspondent states that the authorities intend to discover the identity of the man and decorate him as not unworthy to rank with the devoted Roman soldier of Pompeii.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Bravo Servia!

The following is an extract from *The Times* of September 15, under the heading "Help for Servia":—

While our attention is concentrated upon the vast conflicts in the western and the eastern theatres of war, we are too apt to overlook the splendid heroism of the Servian people and the sacrifices they have incurred. Their whole able-bodied male population is under arms. Every peasant has left his home and his fields to join the fighting line, and many thousands of them have already given their lives in the common cause. Tens of thousands have been wounded. When we read with legitimate pride of the arrangements made for the comfort of our own brave troops we may fail to realize the hardships to which the Servian soldiers have been and are exposed. Their supply of surgeons, hospitals, and Red Cross appliances is utterly inadequate. Hardy and self-reliant though they be, they need help. It should be given without delay or stint. Among the Servians pecuniary and medical aid goes much farther than it would with more sophisticated races. And Servia has amply deserved support. By retaining powerful Austro-Hungarian armies in the south, and by shattering them in battle, she has appreciably lessened the military pressure that Austria could put upon Russia and the assistance Austria could lend to Germany against Belgium, France, and England. Nor ought we to forget that this war of European liberation was precipitated by Austro-German aggression upon Servia.

German Ambitions and the Balkan War.

We quote, as of special interest to our readers, the following passage from Mr. Frederic Harrison's prophetic article which originally appeared in *The English Review*, January, 1913, and part of which has been reprinted in the September issue of the *Review*, under the heading "Frederic Harrison's Warning":—

This collapse of Turkey, this aggrandisement of the Balkan kingdoms, is a rude disillusion and a fatal setback to Pan-German ideals, whether in Austria or in the Reich. Nothing outside Europe is now open to them. Asia, India, China, Australasia, Africa, America—North and South, all are closed—practically inaccessible and impregnable. And now the Bosphorus, the Ægean, and Asia Minor are equally closed. But, alas! Europe is open—and within touch—and, even if occupied, offers magnificent fields for enterprise of all kinds. It is therefore inevitable that the mighty German Empire, swollen perhaps by the German part of Austria, will seek "compensation" for its exclusion from places "in the sun"—within Europe itself. It has won "compensations" and accessions thrice before—in 1864, in 1866, in 1870; and four or five times since by demanding fresh "compensations," it has brought Europe to the brink of war. We are to see what are the compensations it demands in 1913.

From Constantinople.

A paragraph in *The Orient* of August 19 (received this week) is interesting as showing that the "Goeben" and "Breslau" suffered even more severely than was at first supposed:—

The long-expected ex-"Goeben" and the smaller "Breslau," now the "Yavouz Sultan Selim" and "Midilli," which were looked for in the Bosphorus last Wednesday, had to go into the Gulf of Nicomedia for a few necessary repairs for a few days, and on Saturday steamed up opposite Moda and Haidar Pasha for a few hours' stay, going back again to a point back of the Islands, and have not yet come into the harbour. After their long run in the Mediterranean, their boilers required considerable attention, and they were otherwise somewhat battered.

In the same number *The Orient* says regarding the conflicting reports about the war:—"The results seem to depend on which agency you choose to believe, for every victory claimed by one side is denied by the other." And after announcing that "Montenegro has declared war on Germany," our contemporary comments:—"We have not yet learned when the first engagement will be."

A Doubtful Bargain.

An interesting note under the heading of "Turkey's White Elephant" appears in *Page's Weekly* for September 11. After a reference to our Constantinople Correspondent's report that the Turkish Government had purchased the "Goeben" and "Breslau," the article continues:—

If the reported price of £4,000,000 has been paid the Kaiser has driven, as he usually does, an unconscionable bargain for ships which his gallant sailors showed much more inclination to bring into market rather than into the line of battle. Whatever price they may have paid for them, it is evident to all that the possession of so huge and complicated a vessel as the "Goeben" can never prove anything but an embarrassment to her new owners. The guns and torpedoes carried by the "Goeben" were, needless to say, "made in Germany," and the Turks will experience considerable difficulty, should the occasion ever arise to do so, in replenishing the magazines and torpedo rooms of the ship. Perhaps if it ever comes to the test of war, Turkey will emulate the German example and sell the ship to some friendly power rather than run the risk of having her sunk or seized. One or two capital ships such as these can be of no conceivable use to the Turkish navy without a suitable fleet to back them; indeed, it was only want of adequate support that compelled the "Goeben" and her satellite to seek refuge in Turkish waters after a pretty considerable mauling at the hands of one of our county-class cruisers.

The Greek Press on Germany.

The following extract from *Le Messager d'Athènes* of August 29 shows that the attempt made by Germany to influence Greek public opinion and to check its free expression in the Press has only succeeded in provoking a spirited opposition:—

Dès la première heure l'opinion grecque s'est manifestée; unanimement, fortement, fermement. Les liens d'affection et de reconnaissance, les affinités de race et de génie ne sont pas seulement de beaux mots sonores chez le peuple grec. Laissant à ses chefs le soin de régler l'attitude politique de la Grèce, le peuple grec a suivi les conseils de son cœur. Il l'a fait avec le tact et la mésure qui sont une des preuves les plus sûres de son illustre origine. Mais il l'a fait aussi avec l'esprit d'indépendance qui caractérise les nations jalouses de leur liberté parce qu'elles respectent d'abord la liberté des autres. Qu'ont-ils vu dans la noble et digne attitude du peuple grec ceux qui prétendent dicter leur loi au monde? Une volonté qu'il faut abattre? Une insolence qu'il faut châtier? Ou bien le souci d'éviter des formes blessantes à l'endroit de peuples avec lesquels la Grèce n'est pas en état de guerre a-t-il semblé un signe de faiblesse, d'une faiblesse propre à favoriser les arguments que Basile appelait irrésistibles? Tout cela peut-être, à juger par les moyens innombrables déployés depuis quatre semaines pour amener, de force, le peuple grec dans la voie où l'on souhaitait le voir. On se flattait évidemment de connaître les peuples d'Orient par avoir beaucoup fréquenté les Turcs. A Constantinople, c'est incontestable, la méthode a merveilleusement réussi. Qu'on ouvre un journal turc de n'importe quelle langue! A Athénes on répond simplement: Vive la France!

Articles to Note.

"L'Europa e la Questione d'Oriente," by Dr. Aldo Tiepolo, in *L'Esplorazione Commerciale*, Milan (August 29).

Letter on "Southern Slav Patriotism," by R. W. Seton-Watson, in *The Times* (September 16).

"Servia's Place in the Sun," by Lieutenant-Colonel Roustam Bek, in *The Daily Express* (September 17).

MAORI VOLUNTEERS FOR EGYPT.

In the White Paper issued on Monday night, containing correspondence regarding the naval and military assistance afforded to the Government by the oversea dominions, there is included a telegram sent by the Governor of New Zealand to the Secretary of State on September 3, which stated that the Maoris in New Zealand were eager to volunteer for war service. The Prime Minister of the Dominion expressed the hope that his Majesty's Government would agree to their doing so. If they would, he would place the matter before the Cabinet with a view of settling the numbers and the training necessary. In reply, Mr. Harcourt stated that the Army Council would gladly accept a contingent, not exceeding 200, for service in Egypt.

At the Central Criminal Court on Monday, before Judge Atherley Jones, the trial was resumed of Seham Yousry (25), who was charged with unlawfully and maliciously publishing a defamatory libel concerning Major W. E. Gunnell Connolly. Defendant, who claims to be an Egyptian princess, addressed letters to Major Connolly and his relatives, in which she claimed that she was the wife of Major Connolly, and that he was the father of her two children. It was alleged by her that she went through a form of marriage with Major Connolly at Cairo, where he was stationed with the British Army in Egypt. Major Connolly denied the allegations, while admitting that the defendant had been his mistress for some time during the period he was stationed at Cairo. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the judge sentenced her to six months' imprisonment in the second division, and said that he should recommend her for deportation.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Sept.	1914. Sept.		1332. Shawal.	5674. Ellul.
18	5	Friday	27	27
19	6	Saturday.....	28	28
20	7	Sunday	29	29
			Julkada.	Tisseri 5675.
21	8	Monday	1	1
22	9	Tuesday	2	2
23	10	Wednesday	3	3
24	11	Thursday	4	4

To-day is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduchess Maria Theresa of Austria, wife of the Archduke Karl Stephan, daughter of the late Grand Duke Leopold II. of Tuscany and aunt to his Catholic Majesty the King of Spain.

To-day, 27 Shawal, is the birthday of H.H. Sidi Mohammed en Nasser, Bey of Tunis, who was born July 13, 1855.

Sunday is the birthday of H.I.H. the German Crown Princess, niece of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes.

Sunday is the birthday of H.H. Princess Josephine of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, grand-niece of H.M. the Tsar of the Bulgarians.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, son and heir of the late King of Hanover and father of the reigning Duke of Brunswick.

Thursday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduchess Hedwiga, grand-daughter of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

Thursday is the first anniversary of H.H. the Imam of Muskat, Sultan of Oman.

Monday is the Jewish New Year's Day.

According to a Reuter's message from Amsterdam, dated September 15, unofficial reports have been received in Vienna from Nish that the King of Servia is again ill, and is keeping to his bed. His Majesty is said to be suffering from painful attacks of gout.

The death of H.R.H. Prince Adalbert of Prussia is reported from Brussels. He was a nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes.

H.R.H. Prince Joachim of Prussia, another nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, has been wounded while invading France.

The Bulgarian Government deserves hearty congratulations on having secured the best man for the delicate task of inaugurating diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and the United States. Professor S. Panaretoff, who has just been appointed to the newly created post of Bulgarian Minister in Washington, belongs to a *milieu* in which the great Republic is fond of recruiting its diplomatists. All through his life he has been intimately associated with Robert College of Constantinople, an institution which for fifty years has represented American culture in South-Eastern Europe and rendered inestimable services to the intellectual uplifting of the Christian races in Turkey. Mr. Panaretoff is a sound scholar, equally versed in things European and American; an authority on Slav languages, history, and literature. He has paid frequent and prolonged visits to the States, and has numerous friends all over the country. Mme. Panaretoff is American by birth, and her social gifts are a further guarantee for the future success of the new Bulgarian Minister.

The King received H.H. the Agha Khan on Tuesday morning.

Nasr-ul-Mulk, the former Regent of Persia, arrived in Christiania on Saturday and left again the same day for Bergen on his way to England.

Crawford Pasha, acting on behalf of Sir Reginald Wingate, held the usual Bairam review at Khartoum on August 22. In the honours list appeared the names of Kaimakam W. D. Kenny Bey, who received the Fourth Class Osmanieh, and Kaimakam (temporary) Drew Bey, who received the Fourth Class Mejidieh.

The many friends, in Albania and elsewhere in the Near East, of the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., who was reported "missing," will be glad to learn that though wounded he is alive and going on well. He joined the Special Reserve Corps as an interpreter at the outset of the war and was afterwards attached as Second Lieutenant to the Irish Guards, serving in the 4th Guards Brigade. It is now known that he was discovered, alive but wounded, during the advance of the Allies. He arrived in London about noon on Tuesday from Southampton and is staying with his sister, Lady Victoria Herbert, at 5, Stratford Place. Though fatigued by his long journey he was going on well.

News was received in Rome last week from Munich that Captain Duncan Heaton-Armstrong, Secretary to Prince William of Wied, had been arrested and detained there as a military prisoner. Captain Armstrong had, it is added, accompanied Prince William's children to Vienna. Captain Heaton-Armstrong belongs to the 3rd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. He entered the service of the Albanian Government and became secretary and aide-de-camp to Prince William last January. At the time of the attack on Durazzo he took an active part in the defence, and after the death of Colonel Thomson he took control of the artillery.

Our readers will remember that as soon as war broke out the Bulgarian Minister in St. Petersburg, General Radko Dimitrieff, hastened to offer his military services to the Tsar. Since then he has been on active service with the Russian Army, and has acquitted himself brilliantly. A Reuter's message from Petrograd, under date of September 15, states that the Tsar has conferred the Fourth Class of the Order of St. George upon Lieutenant-General Radko Dimitrieff in recognition of his services in the field.

Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, has returned from leave and taken up his work. He reached Egypt on a Japanese liner.

Amongst the passengers to Egypt by the P. and O. s.s. "Caledonia," which left London last Saturday, are the following:—Judge Dilberoglue, Mr. H. Mun-Gavin, Judge H. W. Halton, LL.D., Miss Haselden, Mrs. A. S. Merton, Sir Reginald and Lady Oakes, the Ven. Archdeacon Ward and Mrs. Ward.

Sidky Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture, has returned to Cairo from Europe.

Sixteen members of the Imperial Ottoman Bank's London staff are serving with his Majesty's forces.

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Major-General Snow, commanding the 4th Division since 1911, served in the Sudan Expedition (1884-85), being severely wounded in the action at El Gubat; and the Sudan Campaign of 1898, when he was present at Atbara and Khartoum, and was twice mentioned in despatches.

Brigadier-General De Lisle, commanding the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, saw his first war service in Egypt, 1885-86, and was decorated with the D.S.O. for special service connected with the attack by Arabs on the fort at Ambigole Wells.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Bulkeley-Johnson, commanding the Royal Scots Greys, was employed with the Egyptian Army from January, 1899, to January, 1903, and took part in the operations which led to the final defeat of the Khalifa, receiving the Egyptian medal with two clasps and the 4th Class of the Order of the Mejidieh. He was promoted to command the regiment in August, 1911.

Colonel Sir Horace Beauchamp, who recently met with a motor accident near Brentwood, has been employed as a district remount officer, West Norfolk Regiment. He saw service in Egypt and the Sudan, as well as South Africa, and has served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the 20th Hussars.

The Egyptian Gazette reports that Maître Carton de Wiart, his wife and family, are held up in Austria at Milstat, not far from Trieste, and that there appears to be no present possibility of their getting away. They have their children with them.

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A Reuter's message from Petrograd, under date September 16, states that H.I.M. the Tsar has made H.R.H. Crown Prince Alexander of Servia a Knight of the Military Order of Saint George.

The Hellenic Minister to Albania has left Durazzo in consequence of the departure of the Mpret.

According to a Reuter's message, Mr. Isbrati, of the University of Bucharest, and Mr. Diamanti, the brother of the Roumanian Minister in Rome, have arrived in Rome on a political mission. It is stated that the visit, which will last a week, is not official.

It is stated in the Egyptian Press that Monsignor W. L. Keatinge, who has been Roman Catholic Chaplain to the British troops in Egypt for some time past, has been recalled from leave (which he was spending in England) and is now with the British Expeditionary Force in France. Monsignor Keatinge, it may be mentioned, served throughout the South African War and for his services there received a double step in rank.

Mr. H. E. Poynter and Mrs. Poynter are returning to Constantinople via Port Said and Alexandria, and leave England to-morrow on board the P. and O. s.s. "Medina." Mr. F. Cowdray accompanies them.

Bimbashi F. Fergusson, the director of music to the Egyptian Army, has arrived in Cairo from England.

Mr. Rowland Snelling, editor of *The Egyptian Gazette*, left London yesterday on his return to Alexandria.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the former Servian Chargé d'Affaires in London, and her Ambulance Corps have arrived at Nish.

General Stepanovitch has been promoted to the rank of Voyvoda in the Servian Army.

M. Albert Eid, son of the Belgian Consul in Cairo, has joined the Belgian army as a volunteer. His father, M. George Eid, is still detained in Brussels.

The name of Lieutenant-Colonel G. Cuninghame Knight, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, appears in the list of officers who died of their wounds which was forwarded by the General Headquarters of the Expeditionary Force, dated September 11 and 12. He was born in 1866 and got his first commission in the Loyal North Lancashires in 1887. He was employed in 1898 with the Colonial forces in New South Wales, and in the South African War raised and commanded the 1st New South Wales Mounted Infantry Regiment. He took part in the actions at Poplar Grove, Driefontein, Vet River, Zand River, and Wittebergen and Bothaville, and was slightly wounded in the operations in Cape Colony in 1900. He was mentioned in dispatches and gained his brevet as major and the Queen's medal with five clasps. He subsequently served on the Staff in Malta and Egypt, and was D.A.A.G. in South Africa in 1909.

In the list of fallen officers we regret to notice the name of Captain Douglas Clinton Leslie Stephen, who was employed with the Macedonian Gendarmerie from 1906 to March, 1909. He was thirty-seven years of age. During 1899-1902 he served in South Africa, including the action at Wittebergen, and won the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. From December, 1909, until last January he was A.D.C. to the General Officer Commanding, London district.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. C. W. N. Garstin, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, the only son of Sir William Garstin, G.C.M.G. Lieutenant Garstin was killed in action near Mons on August 24. He was only twenty years of age.

Mr. H. R. Pape, the racehorse trainer, has joined the Westminster Dragoons and left for Egypt.

The Mayor of Stoke Newington forwarded to the Servian Minister a letter conveying to the gallant Servian nation the greetings of the borough and congratulations upon its brilliant success. M. Boshkovitch has replied: "Many thanks to you and inhabitants of the borough for kind congratulations about Servian success. Servia is happy to fight jointly with great England the same foes, and delighted to congratulate the British people about the heroic conduct of the British Army and brilliant success."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

It is reported from Athens that the resignation of Mr. Streit being now definite, the portfolio of the Foreign Minister will be provisionally held by Mr. Venezelos.

Mr. Stephan Panaretoff has been appointed to the newly-created post of Bulgarian Minister in Washington.

Mr. Typaldos Forestis, Consul-General of Greece at Constantinople, has been nominated Governor-General of Epirus.

Azim Bey, formerly Chief of Police in Constantinople, has been appointed Vali of Konia, and has left Constantinople to take up his appointment.

The Orient announces that Marshal Tatar Osman Pasha, President of the Ottoman War Council, has been made a Senator.

OBITUARY.

MUSTAPHA PASHA FEHMY.

A Cairo telegram to *The Times* announces the death, on the 13th instant, of Mustapha Pasha Fehmy, the veteran Egyptian statesman. Fehmy Pasha, who was of Turkish extraction, figured as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Ministry formed by the Chamber of Notables in the spring of 1882 and after the formulation of the Joint Note of the British and French Governments, Mahmoud Pasha Sami being nominated President and Arabi Pasha Minister of War. A few months later, and on the rupture between the Khedive (Tewfik) and his Ministers, it was proposed by the British and French Consuls-General that Fehmy should form his own Cabinet, but this offer was declined by him. In May, 1891, he, however, succeeded Riaz Pasha as Prime Minister, retaining his office for two years, until the death of Tewfik and during the early months of the reign of Abbas Hilmy. In the autumn of 1895, and in consequence of the resignation from office of Nubar Pasha from ill-health, he again took on the duties of Prime Minister, and held office till the fall of the Ministry in 1908, when he was succeeded by the ill-fated Butros Pasha Ghali. Subsequently he retired into private life, until the Ministerial crisis of last March, when he was again asked to form a Ministry in succession to Mohammed Pasha Said. He at first expressed unwillingness to re-enter the arena of Egyptian politics, but subsequently gave way and agreed to entertain the request, provided certain conditions laid down by him were accepted, and provided his doctors assured him his health would stand the strain. A deadlock ensued, however, in the course of the negotiations as to the constitution of the Cabinet, and finally Fehmy Pasha withdrew his acceptance of office.

During his long tenure of office Mustapha Pasha Fehmy distinguished himself by his loyalty to British policy, from the execution of which he never shrank, although he was often brought into conflict with the Khedive. In his book, "Modern Egypt," Lord Cromer paid the following tribute to the deceased statesman:—"Loyal, thoroughly honest, truthful, and courteous, he possesses all the qualities which Englishmen usually associate with the word gentleman. He has been statesmanlike enough to see that the interests of his country would best be served by working loyally with the British officials instead of opposing them. During his tenure of office Egypt has made greater progress, both moral and material, than at any previous period."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BRAY.—On September 12, at the Vicarage, Fordingbridge, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Bray, R.A.M.C., attached Egyptian Army, of a daughter.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO.
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

UPPER EGYPT.

Luxor.
The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

MENA HOUSE HOTEL.
At foot of the Great Pyramids.

GRAND HOTEL, HELOUAN.
Excellent Family Hotel, adjoining Golf Links.

HOTEL DES BAINS, HELOUAN.
Opposite Sulphur Baths Establishment.

HOTEL CASINO, SAN STEFANO.
Near Alexandria. Favourite Bathing Resort.

CAIRO.

HELIOPOLIS PALACE HOTEL.
The most luxurious and comfortable Hotel in the world.
Connected with the centre of Cairo by the Electric Metropolitan (10 minutes' journey).
Altitude, 40 metres above the Nile valley.
Splendid view over Cairo.
GOLF, POLO, CRICKET. HIPPODROME in vicinity of Hotel.
Under the same management—
HELIOPOLIS HOUSE,
A first-class Family Hotel, with moderate terms.

Alexandria.

WINDSOR HOTEL (*Facing the Sea on the New Quay*).
Most delightful and healthy situation of any Hotel in Alexandria. Electric Light throughout. Daily Concerts on Verandah. Meals served *al fresco*. French Cuisine and English Management.
Inclusive Terms from P.T. 80 (10s.) per day.
Special Terms to Government Officials, Commercial Travellers, and for long stays.
Proprietor and Manager—AUG. van MILLINGEN.

Alexandria.

CARLTON HOTEL, Bulkeley.
Just outside Alexandria. Half-way to San Stefano.
Ramleh's Fashionable Hotel.
Patronised by the Elite.
Open all the year round. Visitors from Cairo alight at Sidi Gaber Station and thence drive to Bulkeley in five minutes. Full Pension P.T. 80 per day.
G. AQUILINA, *Proprietor.*
(Late of Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son.)

Alexandria.

MAJESTIC HOTEL.
Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
150 ROOMS AND SALOONS.
Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah.
Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1914.

"SCRAPS OF PAPER."

The powers that be in Constantinople are agitated. Amid the clash of arms which is now shaking Europe to its foundations it is too much to expect of the warrior Turk that he should accept readily the rôle of a passive spectator. But apart from a natural propensity for fighting he is convinced at the present moment that he has an excellent object for which to fight. Two unsuccessful campaigns have left him with certain clearly defined grievances; they have also given the military authorities valuable experience, and these have satisfied themselves that, if not hopelessly outnumbered by a confederation of enemies, the Turkish Army is now in a position to render a good account of itself. Thus it comes to pass that there is a very bellicose spirit in the Ottoman capital, a spirit reminiscent of the Potsdam atmosphere which a number of the higher commands in the Turkish Army have so freely breathed. With Germany light-heartedly engaging in a conflict in which she seems to have taken special pains to swell the ranks of her enemies, an excellent opportunity appeared to be offered Turkey for settling her own scores. As a mere camp-follower of invincible German and Austro-Hungarian armies she could count upon picking up quite a number of acceptable trifles; but if she were to strike on her own behalf under the German aegis, the prospect of far more valuable spoils loomed before her. Unfortunately for such a programme, before Turkey had drawn her sword at Germany's bidding, the latter was shown to have made serious miscalculations, while Austro-Hungarian armies had failed miserably against both Servia and Russia. At the same time the Porte's political strategy met with no success, for it found that any attempt to provoke hostilities would involve the Ottoman Empire in a struggle against a confederation even more powerful than the one which had worked Turkey's humiliation in the first Balkan War. As a result of this discovery military ardour in Constantinople has given place to military exasperation. A partial mobilisation had been effected, and it was felt that Turkey, having rattled the sword in the scabbard, must do something. If the Treaty of London could not be torn up, a substitute must be found for an exhibition of martial spirit. What could be better than the Capitulations? They concern mainly the Great Powers, and the Great Powers being at war among themselves would not be likely to make common cause against Turkey. Accordingly the Capitulations are declared to be abolished as from October 1, and the Ottoman Empire is invited to celebrate the proclamation of national independence.

For the Powers which have Turkey's interests at heart and were fearing lest she should embark on a war that could only have ended in the expulsion of the Turks from Europe it comes as a relief to find that the Porte's military activities have led, for the moment, to nothing worse than a flamboyant tilting at a windmill. The difficulties of the Turkish Government are realised. It is not altogether master in its own house; the military element is strong and has to be humoured. The proposed abrogation is less serious in its effects than the course to which the extremists were committed, and offers what a declaration of war would not have offered—a basis for negotiation. Young Turkey, however, has much to learn in the school of international diplomacy. Some idea of the crudeness of her present venture will have been gathered from the fact that the proposed abrogation of the Capitulations has met with a simple *non possumus* from the Powers concerned. Not only does Italy associate herself with the Powers of the Triple Entente in an Identic Note to the Porte on the subject, but even Germany and Austria-Hungary, who are making such bids for Turkish help in the war of the nations which they have so rashly provoked, show no readiness to give way to Turkish susceptibilities on this point. The Capitulations, as diplomatic phraseology expresses it, do not represent a unilateral convention, to be repudiated at the mere wish of the Porte, they are a binding contract which can only be determined by mutual agreement of the contracting parties. It is true that in a case of war between the parties the Capitulations ought to lapse automatically, and the anomaly, to which reference was made in these columns last week, of allowing the German and Austro-Hungarian Consuls to continue their functions in Egypt has been stopped at the instance of Great Britain. But in the case of Turkey the Capitulations must hold good until they are abolished by the consent of all concerned. Hitherto Ottoman respect for the pledged word has been one of the most valuable assets of the Empire. It would be an ill omen for the new régime if it sought to introduce into Turkey's foreign relations the Potsdam doctrine that treaties are merely scraps of paper, to be kept or torn up as self-interest dictates. Before such a step is taken it might be well to see what measure of success attends the German exemplar.

Elsewhere in this issue we deal with the origin and full significance of the Capitulations which Turkey wishes to annul. They cover a wide area in their operations, and it cannot be denied that they constitute a very definite limitation of Ottoman sovereignty. On the other hand, they are a distinct safeguard for the country. By far the most important aspect of the Capitulations is the judiciary privileges reserved for foreign States. If these were removed there can be little doubt that Turkey would quickly find herself in serious conflict with various countries. Ottoman conceptions of justice are still where they were in the Middle Ages, if we may judge from incidents as recent as the experiences of El Masri. If such treatment can be meted out in Constantinople to a highly placed Turkish officer it is not difficult to imagine what might be the fate of a hapless foreigner left to the tender mercies of the local authorities in distant parts of the Empire. Even the Capitulations have not been sufficient always to secure respect for international comity in Turkey. Until, therefore, the Porte can show that Ottoman conceptions of justice and the liberty of the subject have more closely approximated to Western standards there can be no question of the abolition of the Capitulations. On the other hand, as proof that the Powers insist upon the Porte's observance of its pledged word solely from a sense of necessity, and not from any desire to impose upon Turkey, it should be possible to modify the Capitulations as the general progress of the country admits. The efficiency of the Turkish Post Office has come to be recognised, and if a few safeguards could be provided, it might be allowed to supersede the foreign post offices, which in some instances must be hard put to it to justify their existence. Here at least is a basis for negotiation beween the Porte and the Powers as soon as the ill-advised announcement regarding the Capitulations has been withdrawn. Much of the progress that Turkey has made in details of administration is apt to be counteracted by the *faux pas* of its Government. So long as the sober judgment of the majority of the Cabinet has to be subordinated to the ambitions of a few extremists, it is difficult for foreign Governments to give the Porte credit for what has been achieved under the new regime; for the ordered course of events is liable to be disturbed at any time by a military *pronunciamiento*. To seek to abolish the Capitulations before the question of domestic reform has been seriously dealt with can only expose the Porte to loss of face at home and abroad. The foreigner is not likely to show much appreciation for a system of administration which fails to satisfy Armenian, Arab, or even Turk.

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THE CAPTURE OF SEMLIN.

The capture by the Servians of the Hungarian fortress of Semlin (Zemlin, or Zimony) is an achievement in its way as far-reaching as that of Lemberg by the Russians. It is difficult to predict what immediate bearing this new Servian victory will have on the future of the campaign, but nevertheless it must be admitted that the Serbs have acquired a strategic key of the greatest value in their operations, and one that will have considerable influence on the future of Slavonia and Bosnia, even of Hungary proper.

Situated on a hill on the left bank of the Save at its junction with the Danube, Semlin, with its powerful modern batteries, commands both rivers, and has ever been a menace to Belgrade on the opposite bank of the river. In a way the garrison town was Austria's "open eye" on the doings of the Serbs, and also the headquarters for an army of spies and provocateurs who were free to ferry backwards and forwards across the Save and ply their questionable trade.

To Austria the loss of this fortress-town is a severe blow. The bombardment of Belgrade is no longer possible, the command of the Lower Danube has fallen into the hands of the twin fortresses Semlin-Belgrade, now united, and the same fate awaits the Save, an important waterway forming the natural boundary between Hungary and Bosnia on the one hand and Hungary and Servia on the other. Even the control of the Drina has fallen into the hands of the Serbs, and thus the whole position in Bosnia has become imperilled, whilst simultaneously King Peter's valiant army has acquired a powerful *point d'appui*, whence it can advance into the heart of Slavonia.

From the Servian point of view—and taking it for granted that in view of Russian pressure in Galicia, Austria will not be able to retake her lost stronghold—the capture of Semlin is more important than the destruction of a whole Austrian army corps. Belgrade and its Save harbour are freed from a continual menace, the northern frontier is saved from further attack, hostile operations in the west are rendered practically impossible for fear of an attack on the flank, and the Austrian river gunboats on the Save, having no outlet to the Danube, will either be destroyed, captured, or bottled up to the west of Racha, thus enabling the Serbs to push unhindered across the river. For the fall of Semlin implies of a necessity the withdrawal of the Austrian army from its base on the Save northwards in the direction of Peterwardein (or Petervarad).

Taking Semlin as their base of operations, the Servian General Staff will in all probability attempt to push an army as rapidly as possible northwards to Peterwardein, the formidable fortress on the Danube commanding an important railway bridge and the town of Ujvidek (Neusatz), the centre of Hungarian Serbdom and the intellectual centre of Slavonia. Another army is likely to push northwards from Mitrowitz, with the result that, unless the Austrians retreat to the Danube, a battle will in all probability take place shortly somewhere near Rima, a junction station on two strategic railway lines to the north-west of Semlin. Much will depend on the outcome of the encounter. If the Serbs are successful, not only will the advance on Peterwardein be assured, but, on the other hand, all danger will have been removed of an Austrian flank attack from the north on a Servian army operating in Bosnia to the south of the Save. Progress here, then, ought to be rapid, as neither Montenegrins nor Serbs will have to fear threatening flank attacks. The fall of Serajevo—and with it the whole of Bosnia—ought, therefore, to be only a matter of weeks, according to the measure of opposition put up by the enemy. As for a serious offensive Austrian movement across the Drina, there does not seem to be much likelihood of one being undertaken, except perhaps as a "blind" to divert Servia's attention from what must be her real objective. Should it take place, however, it is likely to prove disastrous to the Austrians, owing to the fact that they must expose themselves to an attack on their left flank. Penetration into Servia has been tried, and has failed, at four points—namely, on the north from Semlin and Mitrowitz, and in the west from Vishegrad and Losnitza. At all four points the Austrians have been thoroughly defeated. They can hardly expect to be more successful now that they have lost their base on the Save. The Serbs, on the other hand, can hold the above-mentioned "gateways" into their country with reduced forces, thus enabling the bulk of their armies to take the offensive and to push forward in a westerly and northerly direction towards Serajevo and Neusatz.

[From accounts, both official and private, to hand at the moment of going to press, it would appear that, instead of retiring to a new base, the Austrians have again taken the offensive on the lower Drina, with the results anticipated by the writer. The news that the Servian troops north of the Save have, instead of pursuing their objective, been "recalled for strong strategic reasons," need cause no surprise, as it is likely that in view of the Austrian offensive on the Drina the Servian General Staff will attempt a flank attack from the north on the Austrian left. The fall of Vishegrad, reported to-day, should greatly help this manœuvre, as it will serve to incommode the right of the Austrian Army painfully attempting to cross the Drina.—ED.]

GREAT BRITAIN AND BULGARIA.

Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and Mr. Charles R. Buxton are at present on a visit to Bulgaria. In a telegram, dated September 15, Reuter's Sofia correspondent reports that since their arrival they have had conversations with numerous politicians belonging to all political parties. The cordiality of the welcome which the visitors have everywhere received indicates (the correspondent adds) that it is not merely a mark of gratitude on the part of Bulgaria for the services of Messrs. Buxton and the Balkan Committee in the cause of Bulgaria during the last few years, but is also a sign that Bulgarian politicians greatly appreciate the benevolent attitude which Great Britain has always shown towards the pacific and cultural development of the small nations, and that they are disposed to follow the advice which friends of Bulgaria in England are now giving in order to harmonize Bulgarian policy with that of England and with this intention to enter into pourparlers with English politicians. It is hoped that a political entente with England will ensure the realisation of Bulgarian national aspirations.

MR. ASQUITH'S GUILDHALL SPEECH.

Bulgarian Appreciation.

In a message dated September 16, Reuter's Sofia correspondent reports:—In reply to a telegram despatched to Mr. Asquith by the Slav Society of Sofia congratulating the Prime Minister on his recent speech at the Guildhall, the British Minister (Sir H. G. O. Bax-Ironside) here has sent the following letter to the vice-president of the society:—

"Sir,—I am desired by the Prime Minister of Great Britain to express to you and to the members of the Slav Benevolent Society his thanks for the telegram of congratulation which your society has been good enough to send him and for your expression of the sympathy and esteem which you entertain towards Great Britain and British policy. Mr. Asquith is much touched by the flattering words which have been conveyed to him concerning his speech."

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to
H.M. KING GEORGE. H.M. KING OF SPAIN.
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THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Financial Straits of Germany.

The German Imperial Government is making desperate efforts to raise the wind. The Copenhagen correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Press urgently appeals to the public in the following terms:—

We stand alone against a world in arms. No financial assistance worth mentioning is to be expected from neutral countries, and we are thrown upon our own resources for procuring money. These resources exist and will manifest themselves both abroad in the presence of the enemy and at home within the limits of the German Fatherland when it is a question of providing it with the means which it needs for the fight for its existence and its position in the world.

The victories which our glorious army has already won in the west and east justify the hope that just as in 1870-71 the expenses and burdens of the war will again finally fall upon those who have disturbed the peace of the German Empire.

After earnestly calling on German capitalists, Germans who have saved money, German corporations, companies, banks, etc., to show their patriotism by contributing to the success of the loan, the appeal continues:—

It is no sacrifice that is asked of you, for you are offered at a cheap price investments of the foremost security with an excellent rate of interest! Let no one say that he has no liquid assets! Steps of the widest extent have been taken by the war loan banks to render liquid the necessary cash. Every patriotic German must to-day unhesitatingly endure a temporary slight loss of interest due to this liquidation. The German savings banks will abandon as far as possible in the most liberal spirit the obstacle of notice of withdrawal.

French Newspapers and the War.

The straits to which newspapers are reduced in France owing to the scarcity of news are described by the Bordeaux correspondent of *The Times* in its issue of September 15. He says:—

Civilian France is in a darkened room, and with great appropriateness the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs has been temporarily lodged in the local Deaf and Dumb Institute.

The newspapers live by taking in each other's washing. Items of news which filter through to Bordeaux forms the only source of information—the English papers do duty among the many newspapers of Bordeaux for many days. In sheer despair before their empty columns editors reprint their rivals' leading articles. English newspapers are loaned to the various Embassies and Government Departments. A banker of Bordeaux, who asked me for *The Times*, told me that in 1870 Paris was almost entirely dependent upon England for her news of events outside. His sister, who was shut up in the besieged city, found in the agony columns of *The Times*, which reached Paris by balloon, news of her relatives in the provinces.

The Humbugging of Mr. Straus.

Many of our readers will be interested in the story about Mr. Straus, which comes from Washington, owing to his former connection with Near Eastern affairs. The following is the version sent by the Washington correspondent of *The Morning Post*, under date of September 13:—

Further details in regard to the recent abortive peace movement show, as I have already indicated, that it originated with the German Ambassador, who used Mr. Straus, the former American Ambassador to Turkey, as his catspaw, and by keeping in the background was able to deny that he was acting officially if the effort failed or to claim the credit for successful diplomacy if the Allies should show any desire to end the war. Mr. Straus acted in entire good faith, and believed the Ambassador to be sincere. Count Bernstorff persuaded Mr. Straus that Germany was willing to listen to peace proposals, and Mr. Straus, prompted by motives of humanity, at once went to Washington and informed Mr. Bryan, by whom he was instructed to sound the British and French Ambassadors. Both were somewhat surprised at the form and manner in which the suggestion was made, and returned the answer that might naturally have been expected. Their Governments, they said, endeavoured to preserve peace and had not provoked the war, and they would, of course, be glad to transmit any offer that was officially made. Mr. Straus had not been empowered to make an offer of any kind, and Mr. Bryan sent for Count Bernstorff, who was in New York, and asked him what terms Germany proposed. Count Bernstorff admitted that he had not been authorised by his Government to propose terms, and that he had merely expressed his personal views, which, of course, ended the matter.

Austria-Hungary "in Extremis."

An article in *The Globe* (September 14) gives a truly terrible picture of the internal condition of Austria-Hungary. The title of the article is "The Terror in Austria," and its anonymous author describes himself as "A Serbian Refugee." The following is an extract:—

The Southern Slavs of the Dual Monarchy believe that their last days have come. As no information reaches them from without, and as Austria controls the entire Press and abuses its power in the most scandalous manner, the people in Bosnia, Croatia, and Dalmatia, who are Serbs by race, do not know at this day that a great European war has broken out. They know only that there is war between Austria-Hungary and Servia, and thousands of gendarmes frighten the women and children with fantastic lies of Austrian victories over the Serbs and Montenegrins. The people, in their simplicity and ignorance, believe that the end of the Serbian race has come, and that the kingdom of Serbia has ceased to exist. Over the whole territory inhabited by the Southern Slavs of Austria lies the fear of death. The people believe that Antichrist has arrived, that Slavism and Orthodox Christianity are doomed to destruction. The misery prevailing in Herzegovina and Dalmatia is heartrending. Numerous mothers have killed themselves in order not to see their children murdered. Whole families have committed suicide. At Mostar, the capital of Herzegovina, hundreds have drowned themselves in the River Neretva.

The state of things is no better in the north. The article continues:—

A reign of terror prevails not only among the Southern Slavs of Austria-Hungary, but also among the Northern Slavs, the Czechs. During two days Prague was in revolution. Battles took place between German and Slavonic regiments. The reign of terror in Bohemia is probably as fearful as it is in Bosnia, Dalmatia, and Croatia. The leading Czech politicians, University professors, authors, artists, merchants, etc., have either been executed or been taken as hostages, and in Austria hostages are held responsible for the good behaviour of the civil population. A riot, or merely a panic among the soldiers, leads to the execution of hundreds of hostages. According to reports received, the eminent Professor Massaryk and the celebrated politician, Dr. Kramarz, have been shot, although both have always been known as loyal Austrians. Their eminence was their only crime.

Bargaining under Difficulties.

The fixing of prices of food and necessaries in Egypt has upset the time-honoured business customs of the native merchant. On this point the following extract from *The Egyptian Gazette* of August 26 is interesting:—

Most of the little squabbles yesterday were due to the merchants commencing by asking a price above the tariff. This they did not do because they had any intention of defying the law by insisting upon such a figure, but merely because they cannot help bargaining; and unless the joy of argument was to be entirely lost it was necessary to start with a price well above the legal maximum. Now and then, however, an impatient customer, instead of settling down to the old, familiar discussion, would reply by calling the nearest shawish and threatening to give the merchant in charge. This coarse interruption of the time-honoured ritual associated for centuries with every bargain struck in Egypt would produce a terrible hullabaloo. The native does not object to the tariff on economic grounds, but it cuts him to the heart to have lost the power of bargaining. Is it possible that he will now at last come to see that it pays him better to do a lot of trade at a reasonable profit rather than to waste half the morning trying to swindle one customer out of a few piastres? If he *does* come to understand this, we may yet see native trading establishments springing up in Rue Sherif Pasha and Shareh Kasr-el-Nil, and the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce will at last have something to do. But traditions die hard.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Harrap have published "Augustus," by Mr. René Francis, in the "Heroes of All Time" Series. The book is a study of the career and policy of Augustus.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have just published the second series of Lord Cromer's "Political and Literary Essays." Amongst the subjects of the essays are "The Old Prussian Army," "Imperial Germany," and "The Hun Policy of Germany."

We have received a copy of a handbook on "Buxton and Environs," published by Messrs. Darlington and Co., of Llangollen, which, besides being admirably printed and illustrated from photographs, gives the right kind of information succinctly and explicitly. Visitors to Buxton could have no more convenient guide.

W. N. WILLIS'S GREAT BOOK.

ANTI-CHRIST IN EGYPT

It is a vehement appeal to Christian England to save the children of Egypt from the open vortex of degradation and shame permitted—indeed, encouraged—by the Capitulation Laws which govern that country.

The chapter descriptive of Lord Kitchener as a civil administrator will be a revelation to even the most enthusiastic of that great General's friends and admirers.

Every voice that denounces the rampant riot of vice in Egypt will assist **LORD KITCHENER** in his GREAT IMPERIAL EFFORTS.

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THE ANGLO-EASTERN PUBLISHING Co., 42-36, Waterloo Rd., London.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The reported abolition of the Capitulations by the Ottoman Government, to which reference has been made elsewhere, has left the City rather cold. The impression is that no step will have been taken by the Government towards the abolition by October 1, and that, as a result, the threat will die its natural death. On the other hand, it is admitted in authoritative circles that the Capitulations are a thorn in Turkey's side, and that their abolition is bound to come—not hastily, as was intended by the Ottoman Government, but duly and in good form as soon as the European war is over. For the time being, therefore, the Young Turks will be well advised to let the matter drop. They have shot their bolt, and it will find its mark—after the war.

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The Decree of the Muharrem and its Annex are not, it is argued, affected either one way or the other by Turkey's threat. Consequently, the status of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration is not, and cannot be, altered in any way until the Decree itself has been modified, and this cannot be done by Turkey without consulting the Powers, as otherwise her credit in Europe would be destroyed. Reuter's message from Constantinople to the effect that it was intended to modify the Decree is therefore taken with a grain of salt, and from inside information I gather that the various Foreign Offices are inclined to regard the report in the same light.

***

The Turkish Consul-General notifies the public that the Ottoman Finance Ministry has advised him that in consequence of the troubled state of Europe, Coupon No. 4 of the Six Per Cent. Ottoman Treasury Bonds, due on September 14, will only be paid at Constantinople. The bonds referred to were issued in 1912 and are repayable by six equal payments of interest and principal. Regarding the Turkish Unified Debt, the interest upon which also falls due on September 14, our Constantinople Financial Correspondent, writing on September 2, states that the Public Debt Administration has made arrangements in Paris and London for payment on the coupon falling due. The September coupon of the Turkish Lottery Bonds will likewise be duly met in Paris. Regarding payment on the Unified Debt coupon in London, I may state that some discrimination is likely to be shown this year in the case of alien holders. At least, I imagine that German and Austrian holders will not receive payment through any British or French bank.

***

The Financial Times, referring to the payment of the Treasury Bond coupons in Constantinople only, criticises this arrangement and says that: "As the issue is probably domiciled either at the Imperial Ottoman Bank or the National Bank of Turkey, it should not have been very difficult to have arranged for payment in London as usual to British holders." I think the writer, if he had read my Notes last week, would have understood why such a course is impossible. There is no shifting of gold under present circumstances, and consequently banks must endeavour to keep a normal balance both here and in their branches abroad. The Ottoman Government can, of course, pay the necessary sums into a local branch in Constantinople, but if the London bank has to pay out those sums without obtaining corresponding sums at this end in return, its stock in gold will dwindle. However, if a British bondholder went to the bank—whichever it may be—and expressed a wish to be paid here instead of at Stamboul, the bank might be able so to arrange matters that his demand could be set off against the payment into the bank by a third person of a remittance to Constantinople. In order that this scheme, to which I referred last week, be practically realised it is necessary that people desiring to remit money abroad and those desiring to receive money from abroad should either get in touch with a bank or communicate their wishes to some organ of publicity (THE NEAR EAST, for instance, for the ground it covers) which, privately and unostentatiously, is in a position to further their request.

***

An Exchange wire from Rome, published yesterday, reported that a message from Bucharest stated that "the Cabinet had decided to float a loan of £8,000,000 through the National Bank of Roumania." I have been unable to have the report confirmed, but in competent City circles the opinion obtains that there may be some truth in it. The Roumanian Government is doubtless in present need of money. The Army has been actually mobilised, if not nominally, and expenses are accruing; loans abroad are quite out of the question, and therefore it is not surprising that the Government should approach the National Bank. The loan will, of course, have to be an internal one. If the popular enthusiasm for the Entente Powers, about which we have had several accounts, be true, there is no reason why the Government should not raise 200,000,000 lei at home on reasonable terms. In ordinary circumstances it is doubtful whether more than 25,000,000 lei could be raised. If the operation is to be carried out it will, therefore, be interesting to watch results. It will not be less interesting to see to what uses the money obtained will be put. There are rumours that Roumania will shortly be on our side against the Teuton aggressor of Transylvania.

***

"One fact," writes our Cairo correspondent, who is in a position to be exceptionally well informed, "appears certain, and that is that next year Egypt's cotton production must be restricted, and the available area devoted to cereals." Before committing myself to a criticism of the measure, I should like to point out that it only bears out what has been known and predicted for years, namely, that, in case of a general European war, Egypt would have to cease being, for the time at any rate, a one-crop country, and would have to plant food-stuffs in order to be more or less self-supporting. What effect the resolution if adopted will have on the country and whether it will remain in force after the war is over, are questions too speculative to be answered offhand, but this much, I think, will be readily admitted, namely, that cereals will never bring to the country the same measure of economic prosperity as was brought to it by cotton; further, that in case of a permanent shortage in the supply, either the demand will decrease or means will be found to increase that supply, either artificially or from another source; and, finally, that the reduction in the Egyptian crop does not of a necessity imply better prices. These are facts which will have to be borne in mind.

***

It must frankly be admitted that the whole question is one of exceeding gravity, as will be gathered from the series of articles which we have been publishing from our Cairo correspondent. The Cotton Commission, composed of Messrs. Higgs, Dickson, and Critchley, to which we referred last week, is doing good work on this side, principally devoting itself to inquiries concerning Lancashire demands. Regarding the gold necessary to move this year's crop, none, I am afraid, need be expected from the Bank of England. The result will be that, as I predicted, the crop will have to be moved with paper money. Perhaps next year's crop will have to be moved by the same means, and it is just possible that having once got used to paper instead of gold, the fellaheen can be induced to keep on taking notes for his crops, thus relieving the City of its annual autumn bugbear. As for the scarcity of gold in Egypt, local means will have to be devised to get over it, but it is too premature to suggest, as was done by a writer in *The Egyptian Gazette*, that the Government should mint its own gold coins.

***

I think it is time that level-minded patriots should no longer be led into condemning trading firms of British capital and interests because of a foreign-sounding name. Many such firms, of long-standing in this country and administered by a board of British directors, are every whit as "national" as others whose name may be Saxon, but whose directors are anything but Anglo-Saxon. I do not wish to go into particulars here, but when the sensational campaign is carried so far as to throw aspersions on thoroughly British firms for the sake of "copy," I think it is time to cry halt. Nothing is more prejudicial to our own interests than "overdoing it."

***

The case of Shannon, Ltd., illustrates what I mean. Certain insinuations were made as to the origin of the company and the nationality of its principals, which has brought forth from the chairman and managing director a spirited reply, in the course of which he points out that the Shannon, Ltd., is a British company, the whole of the capital of which has been subscribed and is held by British subjects; there never have been and there are not now any but British-born on their staff, either clerical or in their three factories; as for the directors, they are all London-born. Though I regret that such a statement was deemed necessary, I hope that it will have the result of silencing envious trade rivals.

COMMENTATOR.

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War on German Trade.

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS

C—PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS.

Germany exported in 1912 photographic goods to the value of £1,843,600, of which £369,350 represents the value of chemicals for photographic purposes. Of the latter, Egypt imported to the value of £1,200, Turkey £1,500, Roumania £1,250, and Bulgaria £450. Germany's exports of photographic paper, plates, and films amounted in the same year to £376,600, of which £2,300 went to Egypt, £2,700 to Turkey, £4,100 to Roumania, and £1,100 to Bulgaria. The export of lenses and photographic apparatus of all kinds amounted to £375,150, of which £1,850 went to Egypt, £2,100 to Turkey, £5,800 to Roumania, and £2,000 to Bulgaria.

Austria's total exports only amount to £26,500.

Particulars of photographic chemicals, materials, and apparatus exported are not separately recorded in the trade returns of the United Kingdom, so that it is not possible to compare the exports of the three countries to Colonial and neutral markets.

The Bulletin estimates the total volume of the trade in photographic goods which might conceivably be diverted to British manufacturers at £1,582,360, and publishes the following particulars concerning New Eastern centres:—

Greece.

The Austrian Consul-General at Salonika, in his report for 1912, states that photographic goods were obtained from Germany and England. Plates and films came from France and England, and a very few from Germany. Papers were mostly from Germany, though France, England and Austria supplied some. The cheaper sorts of matt papers were sold, such as silver chloride and gaslight papers, and bromide in rolls for enlarging; the more expensive kinds, such as platinotype, were only used in a few of the better studios, which ordered direct. Imports consisted entirely of whole sheets, cut pieces were not required. Photographic chemicals in bottles, cartridges and tablets came from Germany and England.

An American Consular report for 1912 states that optical goods are chiefly imported from France and Germany. There is no establishment equipped with apparatus for the examination of the eyes or machinery for grinding lenses, and none which is devoted exclusively to the sale of optical goods. Prescriptions of the local oculists are sent to opticians in France and Germany to be filled. The eye-glasses mostly in demand are nickel-plated pince-nez, which sell for 2s. 6d. a pair, and gold-plated pince-nez, which sell for 4s. 2d. a pair. When special lenses are prescribed by an oculist which have to be ground abroad, the eye-glasses retail at 11s. 8d. to 12s. 6d. a pair.

Egypt.

The following were the values of photographic apparatus and accessories imported into Egypt from the undermentioned countries in 1912 and 1913:—

	1912. £E.		1913. £E.
United Kingdom	6,993	..	8,466
Germany	2,491	..	2,338
Austria-Hungary	312	..	229
All countries	13,771	..	15,530

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A recent issue of the Monthly Journal of the French Chamber of Commerce in Alexandria states:—

"Egypt is now a very promising field for the sale of photographic apparatus and accessories. The most saleable apparatus is German, American and British, especially the former. The large sales of the latter are due to extensive advertising and long terms of credit usually allowed to buyers. In papers, plates, etc., France has held the trade since 1911, though Germany has made considerable strides, again due to long credits in conjunction with low prices. The climate of the country being exceedingly favourable for photography, the prospects of the trade are good; but it must be noted that cameras for Egypt should be light and handy, and that the largest demand will not be for the cheapest article, but for a camera of moderate price and good workmanship."

In an article on the photographic trade, *The Egyptian Mail* says there is already in Egypt a distinct shortage in certain lines, such as plates, printing papers, and chemicals. The German supply has ceased, as has the French to a very large extent, because most of the French factories have had to close down due to their male employees having been summoned to the war. England manufactures the finest photographic materials in the world, and the great firms are exceptionally favourably situated for securing the entire Egyptian business. Italy has little interest in the trade. The United States, which produces great quantities of excellent photographic materials, are further away from Egypt than Great Britain is. It seems practically certain therefore that importers will have to turn to the latter country, though at the same time British manufacturers will have to pay attention to the business to secure it and hold it.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETINS.

The following bulletins were published during the past week:—Anchors, grapnels, and chains; cycles and parts thereof; buttons, studs, etc.; engine and boiler packing; hollow glassware and glass bottles; iron and steel plates and sheets; painters' colours and materials (including varnish); road locomotives (including steam rollers); screws, nails, bolts and nuts of iron and steel; and tubes, pipes and fittings of iron and steel; motor cars and parts thereof; and motor cycles; saddlery and harness and miscellaneous leather wares; sewing and knitting machines; and lubricating oils and greases.

SEWING MACHINES.

One of the most remarkable developments in connection with German industrial progress during the last forty years, says *The Morning Post*, has been the virtual capture by German sewing-machine manfacturers of the British trade. "Out of ten sewing-machines which we sell," the head of a large firm of importers told a representative of the paper mentioned, "at least nine come from German factories. We sell a German machine for £2 15s. net cash, and it is quite as good as, or perhaps better than, a similar article of English manufacture, which we cannot afford to sell for less than £4 9s. I could mention about a dozen English firms of sewing-machine manufacturers, the names of which were once well known, but which have now ceased to exist. Whether some of them will be revived under existing circumstances it is impossible to say, but it is certain that large profits are to be made just now in the trade, as with the cessation of German supplies there is sure to be a rise in prices."

Roumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey are big importers of sewing-machines, the American and German articles easily heading the list.

The exports of cotton yarn to the countries of the Near East during August this year, as compared with the corresponding month of 1912 and 1913, were as follows:—

	1912. Lb.		1913. Lb.		1914. Lb.
Bulgaria	1,072,500	..	—	..	237,900
Roumania	769,300	..	256,100	..	318,60
Turkey	1,331,100	..	842,400	..	219,700
Egypt.....	246,000	..	147,900	..	83,000

GERMAN TRADE METHODS.

Some of the trade secured by the Germans has been got by dubious methods. They are probably unrivalled in the art of making nothing look like something. They have taken customers away from us in some countries by giving dangerously long credit, for which, under present circumstances, they will doubtless suffer.

But we can learn much that is good from them. First and foremost are their general intelligence of methods and their application of science to industry They have covered the world with enterprising travellers, who study the requirements and speak the languages of the countries they visit. In the organisation of industries requiring delicate apparatus and a high degree of scientific attainment they put us to shame. In the manufacture of colours and drugs from coal tar they lead and, indeed, in some respects monopolise, the world. While the war lasts we may do something to catch up to them, but we are at present a generation in arrear.—Theodore C. Taylor, in the September *Contemporary Review*.

CUTLERY IN SYRIA.

In connection with our remarks last week on the opportunities for doing business in cutlery in Syria, a Consular report on the trade in the Aleppo Vilayet says that cheap German cutlery continues to find a good market. The natives, and particularly the Moslems, appreciate appearance rather than quality, and cheapness rather than durability. Lamps, perfumery, sweetmeats, and miscellaneous wares are imported largely from Austria-Hungary. Continental firms facilitate trade operations with Syria at ordinary times by taking bills payable at from one to eight months after the date of the original invoice. British firms usually demand payment on shipment or delivery of goods.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION FOR TRADERS.

With reference to the "Official Information for Traders," together with a complete list of memoranda published up to date and mentioned in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, we understand that memoranda on a number of other trades, among which may be mentioned certain further classes of machinery, of iron and steel manufactures, and of railway material, painters' colours and varnishes, cycles and parts, buttons and studs, hollow glassware, jewellery, stationery, photographic goods, saddlery and harness, portmanteaux, pianos, medicines and drugs, and chemicals will be issued in rapid succession.

The issue of the memoranda is only the first step. The Commercial Intelligence Branch is prepared to receive and answer personal and written inquiries for further information with regard to particular trades and markets.

Any British manufacturer or merchant who desires to be furnished with more detailed information as to openings affecting his particular business should address the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Firms in the United Kingdom desirous of receiving confidential information as to opportunities for the extension abroad of those branches of trade in which they are specially interested, and as to other connected matters, may, upon application, have their names placed on a special Register at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The confidential information communicated to firms so registered relates mainly to openings for British trade abroad, and is received from H.M. Consular Officers in Foreign Countries, from H.M. Trade Commissioners and the Imperial Trade Correspondents, and from the Board of Trade Correspondents in the Crown Colonies, supplemented by information from other sources available to the Commercial Intelligence Branch.

Firms inscribed on the register may indicate the particular lines of trade to which the information to be sent to them should relate, and a classified list of subjects is sent to all applicants for registration with this object.

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EGYPTIAN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

"During 1913," says *The Egyptian Mail* in a spirited article "the total value of goods of all classes of German manufacture imported into Egypt was £E1,608,881, and of goods of Austrian manufacture £E1,940,512. In other words, one-eighth of the whole of the Egyptian import trade came from these two countries combined. The source of what is in normal times approximately £E2,600,000 of trade has been effectually closed for some time to come, and the volume is quite sufficiently big to attract the earnest attention of British manufacturers."

The article in question then points out certain kinds of goods where we can compete with the Austro-German. We quote:—

Matches.

A small box of matches is an insignificant-looking item, but the value of matches imported into Egypt last year (1913) was £E61,508, an increase of nearly £E10,000 over the previous year. To the former sum Austrian imports contributed £E23,727, an increase of nearly £E6,000 over the figures for the previous year; Britain contributed £E185 only, though there was a slight increase of £E50 in comparison with 1912. The moment appears more than ripe for British match manufacturers to recover the ground they have lost in Egypt, and to achieve a stronger position than ever before. Italy, as matters stand at the moment, is the only serious competitor. She imported matches into Egypt to the value of £E12,141 in 1913, as compared with £E10,052 in 1912.

Medicines.

The total value of these sent to Egypt during 1913 was £E120,549. France was the highest contributor with goods to the value of £E44,394, Great Britain next with £E26,972, then Germany with £E22,159, Italy with £E9,539, and Austria with £E8,155. There is then £E30,000 worth of chemical business, open to absorption elsewhere.

Perfumery.

The value of the perfumery and perfumed soap imported into Egypt during 1913 was £E67,425, one-fifth, or £E12,051, coming from England, which was £E600 less than in 1912. Germany sent articles to the value of £E10,235, and Austria £E7,795. Between them the two latter countries hold more than one-quarter of the whole trade.

Hats.

During 1913 hats to the value of £E248,906 came into Egypt. Germany had far and away the most of the business, as she sent £E76,435 worth, being an increase of over £E22,000 on the corresponding figures for 1912. Austria sent hats to the value of £E20,203, an increase of over £E8,000 as compared with 1912. The British imports were valued at £E23,733. Germany and Austria between them share nearly one-third of the whole import business.

A "British Resident in Cairo," writing in *The Times*, refers to the great and "unique opportunity presented by the present war to British trade for recovering its former position and prestige here and throughout the Near East," and then continues:—

"As an example, I will take the supply of books and stationery in Cairo. Of the books sold, one-third are English, one-third French, and the remainder in the Italian, Arabic, and other languages; yet the sale has been, up to now, almost entirely in German hands. Any British venture at the present juncture would meet with very general support and the hearty backing of the Press. All that would be required would be that the undertaking should be on a scale commensurate with the position of Great Britain in this country, and an able agent sent out by one of the great publishing or book-selling firms would receive every assistance from the authorities. Even if business on a large scale were impracticable for the present, it is surely possible to make preparations so as to be ready to prepare the ground for the conclusion of the war.

"I have mentioned the book trade, which even in times of peace should be in British hands, but I would add a list of the following commodities to which, in our present practical monopoly of sea traffic, the above remarks may apply:—Hosiery, lisle and cotton, men's ready-made clothing, girls' pinafores and dresses, cotton and lisle gloves, printed flannelette, lace (Nottingham), mosquito netting, fezes, delaine muslin, fancy mixtures of wool and silk, heavy wool material, hardware, including agricultural implements, screws, locks, nails, and bolts, Government Railway contracts.

FLOUR AND BREAD SUPPLY OF EGYPT.

The following statement as to the Egyptian flour and bread supply is extracted from *The Egyptian Mail* (August 29):—The stock of flour in the bonded stores at Alexandria up to the 26th instant was 7,239 sacks, to which must be added 5,800 sacks that arrived yesterday morning from the United States on a Greek boat, which gives a total of 13,039 sacks. The stock in trade is from 10,000 to 12,000 sacks, and to the lot can be added several hundred sacks of fine flour, for European bread, from Russia, Roumania and Bulgaria. Australian and Indian flour can only be used for native bread, so that, as already foreseen, the supply of European bread is liable shortly to give out. It is even possible that part of our stock may be required to meet demands up country which will leave no other than native, Australian and Indian flour, provided these countries continue to export. It is stated that a few sacks were sent in July from the United States and Canada, but nobody knows when these may arrive or whether they will do so at all, as ships on this route touch Hamburg or Trieste. The Greek Government commandeered all ships on its own account at the beginning of the war to get wheat and flour from America to be sold to tradesmen at reasonable prices. At the present moment, America and Roumania can alone supply good flour, all other countries having stopped exports.

ROUMANIAN AND EGYPTIAN TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 27.

The export and import trade of Roumania with Egypt has grown in importance during recent years, and was being steadily maintained until the present standstill of all commerce. For the first half-year of 1914 the figures show a marked increase in imports from Egypt, though there has been a falling off of exports to that country.

The actual figures are:—

Imports from Egypt, January 1 to June 30.

1914	362,062,094	Lei (Frs.)
1913	333,464,014	,,
1912	303,541,574	,,

In spite of political events last year the increase, as compared with 1912, is considerable.

Exports to Egypt, January 1 to June 30.

1914	13,389,857 Lei
1913	15,301,172 ,,
1912	7,639,012 ,,

The articles principally exported are given below:—

	1914.	1913.
Flour	3,928,216	5,142,159
Petroleum	5,414,869	5,428,708
Timber	3,485,388	3,657,242
Residues of Petroleum	487,010	801,876
Cheese	321,070	195,669

There was a severe drop in the export figures for June, especially for timber exports. In June, 1913, timber to the value of 1,343,640 lei was exported, the figures for the corresponding month of 1914 being only 105,758 lei, a drop of considerably over a million lei.

ROUMANIAN SITUATION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 21.

The political situation is keenly felt in commercial circles, and many factories here, on account of the total lack of communication with abroad, are closing their doors. Among these the factory "Lemaitre," of Liége, have closed down, dismissing all hands, and other firms are following their example. The important firm Bukarester Elektrizitätsgesellschaft is also forced to suspend operations and numbers of employés are being dismissed.

Principal sufferers are agency and commission houses. All transactions with firms abroad have ceased, and consequently local importers are reducing their staffs. A meeting of over 3,000 agents and commissioners has been called for next Sunday to discuss their difficult situation.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East :—

Homs. June 30.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for June :—The harvest has begun, and the crops appear satisfactory. It is estimated that the yield of the barley crop will be 10 per cent. above last year's, and the yield of the wheat crop about equal to last year's. There has been no plague of rats and other rodents, but the reason why the crop is not greatly superior to last year's is because the area sown was reduced.

In view of the promising result of the harvest, business is satisfactory. Owing to the low prices a small part of the stock of cereals is still unsold, but it will doubtless be disposed of shortly. Considerable quantities of native tissues have been despatched to Egypt and Turkey. The movement of imports is rather slack, the prices of the principal articles of import (manufactured goods, Colonial produce) being high.

Aleppo. August 17.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for July :—Harvest operations are actively carried on in spite of the great heat. Threshing is not being delayed.

Business in our market has been restricted. Prices offered by buyers of wool and butter are lower than those which holders demand. Moreover, the news from Europe has affected injuriously business activity here. Wholesale buyers of articles for sale in the interior have hesitated to launch out. For these reasons the orders for tissues are limited, and the production here consequently restricted.

CROP PROSPECTS.

Palestine.

The U.S. Vice-Consul at Jerusalem refers to "the favourable prospects of a good harvest, the early advent of the rainy season, and the consequently anticipated good harvest." It is expected that a lively export business in barley with England will result. The early arrival of the rainy season is also highly favourable for the sesame and corn crops.

Sugar Industry.

In connection with the sugar industry, referred to in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, the following figures concerning the European sugar output, as drawn up by Messrs. Willett and Gray, are of interest. In France the production in 1913-14 was 800,000 tons sugar, and the sowings for the coming crop 205,000 hectares (one hectare is 2.47 acres). In Belgium the production in 1913-14 was 230,000 tons sugar. In Holland the production for last crop was 230,000 tons sugar. The sowings for next crop were 60,000 hectares. The production of Germany in 1913-14 was 2,738,000 tons sugar, the sowings for 1914-15 550,000 hectares. Russia produced in 1913-14 1,750,000 tons sugar. The sowings for 1914-15 were 840,000 hectares. The sowings in Poland constitute about a tenth of these, those in Podolia and Volhynie, on the Galician (Austrian) border, about a fourth, and Kief, adjoining these latter inland, another fourth. In Austria the production last crop was 1,710,000 tons sugar. The sowings for 1914-15 were 440,000 hectares. Little sugar is produced near the Russian border. Galicia contains two factories and Bukowina three. Hungary, further south, contains thirty-two factories. Bosnia and Slavonia each contain one factory. The production of Italy in 1913-14 was 327,800 tons sugar. Sowings for 1914-15, 38,600 hectares. Servia produced in 1913-14 6,500 tons sugar. The sowings for 1914-15 were 9,000 hectares. Servia has only two beet factories. The production of Roumania in 1913-14 was 32,000 tons sugar, and the sowings 1914-15 20,000 hectares. Roumania has five factories. In Bulgaria the production was 7,800 tons sugar in 1913-14. The sowings 1914-15, 10,000 hectares. Bulgaria has two beet factories

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, September 17.

Sugar.

The market has shown a continuous activity during the week, although supplies are limited. English refined has more inquiry, Tate's quoting only pieces at 23s. to 27s.; other kinds not offered. Lyle's granulated, in limited quantities, is offered at 30s. and 30s. 6d.; No. 3, crystals, 30s.; and yellow, 27s. 6d. Foreign granulated remains quiet but steady, with little business passing. Cane sorts met a good demand at auction at firm rates, crystallised Demerara sold at 28s. 6d., and Demerara syrups at 22s. 6d. Trinidad crystallised changed hands at 28s. to 28s. 6d.

Coffee.

The spot market remains quiet, but nominally steady. No decision has as yet been come to as to the date of reopening public sales, but the fact that the Customs Board has under its consideration the reopening of exports to Denmark and Holland is responsible for the apparent steady tone of the market.

Currants.

The market is quiet. New fruit is expected to arrive on or about the 25th inst. It is reported from Greece that a trust has been formed by the shipping agents at Patras with a view to increase the freight for shipments to English ports. This has caused great annoyance amongst the currant growers and merchants, who have made a strong appeal to the Government against such a trust at a time when, owing to the war, only the English markets are open to them.

Sultanas.

Rather quiet. Rain-damaged fruit sold at 26s., and common to fine sound at 28s. to 40s.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet this week, but more or less steady. London spot Calcutta offered at 47s., and Sept.-Oct. 49s. Hull spot Bombay 48s. Rapeseed, Firozpur, London spot, 50s. 6d. is asked, and bold 52s. Cottonseed is easier, London spot Egyptian £7 15s. is accepted, loading, £8; Hull spot, £8 5s.; and spot Bombay, £6 3s. 6d. asked. Canary seed is scarce, Turkish f.a.q. 125s. per 464 lbs. ex store.

Oils.

Linseed oil is slow at 26s. spot pipes, and 26s. 6d. spot barrels. Rape oil is firm, refined spot in barrels, 36s. Cotton oil is dull, crude Egyptian spot pipes, 31s. 6d.; refined pale pipes, 30s.; and sweet, barrels, 36s. 6d. Olive oil is scarce on spot and held at £55 per ton for Spanish ex store, and £54 10s. for Levant.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cakes have rather more inquiry for autumn and winter delivery. Values, however, are stationary both as regards English and Colonial descriptions. Best London made sell quietly at £8 15s. to £8 17s. 6d. ex mill. Cotton cakes, Egyptian, are offered sparingly in warehouse, and £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d. is freely paid by needy buyers, while there are sellers of a steamer parcel, shortly due, at £5 5s. ex ship terms. Decorticated cotton cake and meal are not offered on spot, and quotations are more or less nominal.

Corn.

Wheat.—Owing to the sharp decline in America, and the favourable political situation, the cargo market is weaker, and values are fully 1s. lower to-day. Choice white Karrachi afloat is offered 46s. 6d.; and Oct.-Nov. 45s. 6d. Maize continues weak, consumers still fearing the condition of La Plata qualities. For Galatz-Foxanian, arrived at Falmouth, 31s. 6d. is wanted, and 32s. for afloat and loading. Barley is quiet at about late rates. A part cargo of Black Sea, on the way, is obtainable at 26s., and parcels Sept.-Oct. at 25s. 3d. Oats are very dull and weaker.

In the Nuba Mountains Province the crop prospects are excellent. The early sown dura (a variety known as "Nagad" which takes sixty days to mature) was expected to be harvested for the "Id."

SUDAN MARKET REPORT.

The following are extracts from the July report of the Central Economic Board, Sudan Government :—

GUM.—During July 923,179 kilos of gum, valued at £26,450, were exported viâ Port Sudan. During the period Jan.-June, 1914, 9,598 tons of gum were carried on the Kosti-El-Obeid Railway, against 8,008 tons during the corresponding six months of last year. A Kordofan Province report states that the amount of gum brought into El Obeid gum market in July was 1,782 kantars of 120 rottles (54 kilos). This compares with 7,504 kantars in July, 1913, and 2,953 kantars in July, 1912.

COTTON.—According to a Berber Province report for July, the American cotton on the Sakias in Berber and Damer districts is doing well. Cotton at Zeidab is also doing well. There are over 4,000 feddans, the bulk of which is Ashmuni. It was planted earlier than last year, and at present is looking very promising. The natives to whom the Zeidab Company supply water had planted about 200 feddans of cotton up to the end of July, and were busy planting more. This cotton is all American cotton of the Zeidab variety.

GRAIN.—According to a Kordofan Province report for July, grain has been very scarce in all centres, and practically unobtainable in the villages. Loans of grain for seed have been issued in El Obeid and Bara districts to the extent of 400 ardebs. There is an increasing demand both in El Obeid Town and from the villages and even from the nomad tribes for any quantity of Indian grain which Government can put on the market. Practically nothing now remains of the first consignment of 1,000 ardebs experimentally brought up by Government, and a further consignment of 700 ardebs is expected in August, and will be readily absorbed. There has been considerable shortage in the villages of the food desirable to keep the cultivators going through the comparatively exacting labour of the weeding of the new crops. Another month, however, should see them already commencing to eat from the new crops in many places.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, September 16.

Some traders in the market during the past week have been a little encouraged by the more favourable news from the front, but so far as actual business is concerned no improvement whatever can be recorded. The feeling is growing that things will not be better until hostilities in Europe are at an end. All kinds of difficulties are met with, and there is a general disposition to straighten off old contracts before fresh commitments are arranged. Artificial prices in the raw material continue to prevail in Liverpool, and there is no probability of fresh buying in yarn and cloth until values are on a more reasonable level and more in accordance with the facts of the situation. Fair shipments in cloth continue to take place in Egypt, but advices from the other side are worse than a week ago. It is said that some civil disturbances have taken place in Cairo. Dealers abroad are not meeting with such good clearances. Money is coming in badly. There are no indications of fresh orders being placed with manufacturers. The outlets of the Levant remain dull and unsatisfactory. Deliveries for India keep up fairly well, and exports this month will probably be fairly large. In the India bazaars, however, dealers are suffering owing to the depreciation in values. To-day there has been some alarm owing to reports of boats being lost in the Indian Ocean. Complaints are met with as to China, and deliveries are still being held back. Occasional instances have been mentioned of a few more looms being at work in certain districts, chiefly on special contracts. Burnley manufacturers are in a bad way, and do not know which way to turn to keep machinery running. No fresh feature of any moment has shown itself in yarns. Rather fuller deliveries are now being met with in American twists, but fresh business seems to be quite out of the question. There is practically nothing going on at the moment in shipping bundles. Bolton spinnings remain uncertain.

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Egyptian Cotton Question.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 31.

Egypt is these days living in an atmosphere of commissions. The latest to be constituted are the Cotton Crop Commission and the Superior Food-Stuffs Commission. The former consists of Mr. W. Higgs, C.B., Inspector-General of Finance; Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Sub-Governor in Alexandria of the National Bank of Egypt; and Mr. T. Critchley, the manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Alexandria. Messrs. Higgs and Critchley are at present in England, and Mr. Dickson left on Tuesday last to join them, travelling viâ Marseilles or by long sea, if the overland route should prove impracticable.

The London Commission.

This commission has been formed and sent to London with the object, firstly, of obtaining definite information as to the position of the Lancashire and American spinners, and, secondly, of enlisting their assistance, as also that of the British Government, in regard to the financing of the cotton crop. In the first place the possible requirements of the spinners in the immediate future must necessarily have an influence on any scheme that is proposed; and then, again, it must not be forgotten that a certain portion of the crop has already been sold for forward delivery by the local ginners. How much has been thus disposed of it is not possible to say, for the simple reason that, at present, no one can tell what the Allies, other than England, will be able to take.

The appended list gives details of the manner in which the Egyptian cotton crop was disposed of in 1913, and may safely be taken as a guide:—

	Cantars.
Germany	665,000
Austria	432,000
Russia	600,000
France	656,000
British Empire	3,000,000
United States	674,000
Italy	266,000
Other Countries	684,000

From this it can be seen that two-thirds of our crop was taken by the British Empire and non-belligerent countries of the world, whilst the balance is almost equally divided between the Franco-Russian Allies and the combatant members of the Triplice. The Commission's work is, therefore, fairly clear. It must ascertain what stocks the British and American spinners possess—Italy and the other countries will possibly not fluctuate much, and so can be left out of the inquiry—and what their requirements in the immediate and near future will be. Once those factors are established it will be possible to ascertain the maximum quantity that will have to be carried over.

Forward Sales.

The question of forward sales appears to be one that will give rise to no little trouble. Transactions completed with countries other than France, Russia, Germany, and Austria will, there is no doubt, go through, and it is highly probable that no, or, at any rate, very little difficulty will be experienced with the two first-named of the excepted countries. At any rate, the sellers have no right to think to the contrary, and can doubtless obtain guarantees. But what of Germany and Austria? Are those ginners who have sold to those countries entitled to consider the transactions null and void? Most of them have sold for delivery in January, February, and March. If war is over by then, it is to be presumed their contracts will hold. It is a pure gamble for them. Of course, the importance of this point is dependent entirely on the amount sold forward, and that is a fact that the Commission will have to ascertain by some means or other.

The present situation has been caused by the disappearance of the blank credits which the ginners and dealers had at their disposal at the Egyptian banks for the purchase of cotton inland, and their drawings against which they covered by drafts on their foreign agents or buyers for the value of the shipments made to them. Some means must be found to replace these blank credits, since it appears impossible for the crop to be financed directly by the National Bank of Egypt to the cultivators, and in the circumstances there seems no reason why, since it is to the Government's interest that the crop should be liquidated, the National Bank of Egypt should not be guaranteed against any possible losses it may incur through the granting of advances, under conditions to be laid down to ginners and dealers of good repute and of certain stipulated standing. Of course, for this the "spot" market must be reopened, otherwise we shall be in the same position as before—i.e., we shall have to carry the crop—but with the help of the British and American spinners, who between them take nearly half the whole crop, and of the British financial authorities some satisfactory agreement should be arrived at by the very able trio of specialists to whom the task has been entrusted.

THE LIQUIDATION OF COTTON CONTRACTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 31.

The liquidation of cotton contracts has raised quite a hornets' nest about the head of the Alexandria Mercantile Bourse Committee. The latter decided that all contracts still open should be at once closed at 15⅜ talaris per cantar for November, 15 9-16 talaris for January, and 15 13-16 talaris for March. That is to say, a speculator who purchased at a fixed price for delivery in November would have to sell at once at 15⅜ talaris per cantar, and a seller under similar circumstances would have to buy at that price, instead of, as is usual, closing their transactions at their own leisure in or before November. Objections were raised to this decision, which some considered unjust, since no compensation transactions are possible in other markets. On his return from Europe Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser, took up the matter, and requested the Bourse Committee to make some other arrangement. Negotiations ensued between him and the President of the Bourse, but no definite decision has been arrived at yet, although it is understood that a scheme acceptable to all parties has been proposed.

GOVERNMENT'S DRASTIC STEP.

Since the above was written a Khedivial Decree has been issued (dated September 3), in virtue of which the Commission de la Bourse des Marchandises is suspended until further notice. In addition to this, the decision arrived at by the Commission on August 6 is declared to be null and void, and, in consequence, and until further notice, contracts will hold at their respective amounts at the date of the decision that has been annulled, although friendly arrangements are not forbidden. In future all measures which may be considered necessary in connection with the Bourse des Marchandises will be provisionally taken by the Minister of Finance, after the approval of the Council of Ministers has been obtained.

An Advisory Committee has been formed provisionally to give the Minister of Finance, on request, the benefit of its opinion on all subjects formerly dealt with by the Bourse des Marchandises. This Committee will consist of:—Mr. A. King Lewis, Director-General of Customs, President; Mr. P. Augustino, Mr. W. R. Carruthers, Mr. S. R. P. Carver, Mr. E. Delta, Mr. A. M. Gandur, Mr. B. Hornsby, Mr. H. Masson, Mr. Costi Pilavachi, Mr. Michel Sinadino, Mahmoud El Dib Bey, members.

An official communiqué gives the following explanation of the Government's action:—

"The Decree of September 3, 1914, dealing with the Alexandria Bourse des Marchandises, is based upon the conviction that the temporary dislocation of the cotton market resulting from the outbreak of war is too great, and that the interests involved are too widespread, to be left to the Committee of the Bourse as hitherto constituted.

"At the date of the Committee's decision, recited in the Decree, no general moratorium had been proclaimed. From the outset of the crisis it was obvious that when the bourses of the world were closing that of Alexandria would have to adopt the same course, and there was every reason to anticipate that the banks would be enabled to furnish the financial assistance necessary for the pending settlement. In these circumstances the Committee, in the light of such information as was then in its possession, came to the conclusion that a forced liquidation of all cotton contracts at the price of 15⅜ talaris offered the best chance of avoiding a catastrophe, with due regard to the interests of all parties.

"Since that date the proclamation of a general moratorium and the other measures taken by the Government have relieved the financial strain and have permitted a further study of the situation. It has become clear that the decision in question is of a nature to hamper the negotiations which are being carried on with representatives of other cotton markets, and also that many interests are involved other than those of the members of the Bourse des Marchandises. There are, at least, grave doubts whether the Committee was legally competent to deal with these wider interests.

"In these circumstances it has appeared to the Government that a satisfactory solution would most easily be found by calling in the aid of an advisory committee of bankers, brokers, and cotton merchants, who should be asked to examine the situation anew, without being bound by any decision already taken."

CONDITION OF THE CROP.

The Alexandria General Produce Association in its monthly crop report, dated September 4, says:—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during August has been favourable to the crop. Plants have progressed normally and are in satisfactory condition. Boll worm appeared to small extent in all districts and caused some damage. Slight fogs are reported from all districts, but the amount of damage done is insignificant. Water has been sufficient and the fields have been given a normal amount. First picking should be general the first fortnight in September, that is to say as early as last year, except in certain districts where the crop is eight to fifteen days late. It is very probable that the present abnormal situation will retard picking. Prospects of the crop are slightly better than they were at the same time last year.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature has been favourable. Boll worm has been reported in certain provinces without causing any appreciable damage. During the first fortnight of the month humidity was rather excessive, but there were no fogs. Water has been sufficient. First picking should commence during the first days of September; the condition of the plants is satisfactory.

COTTON CROP FINANCE.

On August 29 *The Egyptian Gazette* published an interesting letter by M. Costi Pilavachi, making drastic suggestions in reference to the financing of this year's Egyptian cotton crop and the steps to be taken next season, in view of the possibility of the war continuing and also bearing in mind the industrial disturbance which in any case will go on for a time after it is over. All the banks of the country, he says, ought to agree to advance collectively to would-be borrowers a minimum of ten dollars a cantar not under fully good fair brown value. Assuming the crop to be 7½ millions, the maximum total sum involved would be £15,000,000. The loan should be liable to be called up in a year or renewed for a certain period, after that under certain conditions to be determined and at the discretion of the Government; the interest on the loan to be a maximum of 6 per cent. The Government should guarantee unconditionally the principal of these advances up to ten dollars a cantar. Legislation must also be passed for the drastic curtailment of the area to be planted in cotton next season, and, in the case of war continuing after the end of the year, the Government must be prepared for a total prohibition of cotton cultivation. Foodstuffs should replace it, which, with the present prospect of enhanced prices, would advantageously replace depreciated cotton.

COTTON BOURSE RE-OPENED.

Under date of September 10, the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports:—According to present arrangements the Minet el Bassel Bourse re-opens on the 14th inst. for spot cotton and cereals. This should assist the situation considerably.

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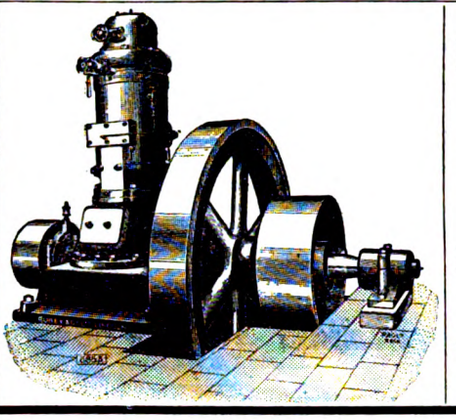

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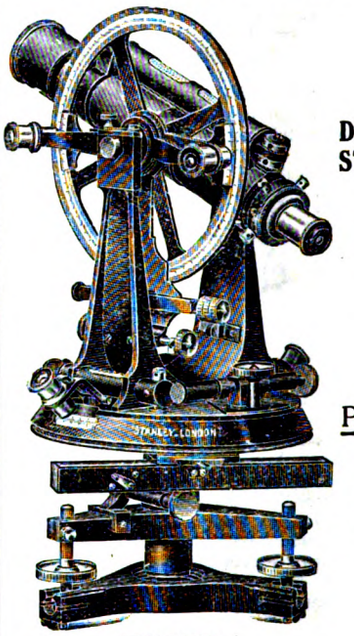

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Engineering Notes.

Suspension of Sudan Irrigation Scheme.

In consequence of the present condition of affairs and of the impossibility of obtaining the necessary sums to finance so large an undertaking, says *The Engineer*, the whole of the work in connection with the Gezira irrigation project in the Sudan—the estimated cost of which is some £2,000,000 sterling—has, we understand, been postponed—temporarily, it is believed. Moreover, we hear that the carrying out of the Delta scheme, which was recently sanctioned by the Egyptian Government, and which involved an expenditure of £800,000 sterling, has also been delayed. On Wednesday last a large contract for plant and machinery representing £150,000 and another for constructional iron-work of the value of £30,000, both in connection with the Senna Dam and White Nile Barrage undertakings, were dropped. At the same time several minor appointments of engineers and fitters were either cancelled or indefinitely suspended.

Wireless Telegraphy.

It is not generally realised how important is the part that wireless telegraphy plays in the present war. Orders are sent considerable distances, and the movements of troops are controlled and directed by this means with amazing rapidity and certainty. Yet when wireless telegraphy was first introduced only a few years ago to an astonished world the layman was at a loss to understand it. It seemed to him to be something mysterious, uncanny. Even now the principle of wireless telegraphy is not generally grasped; and moreover to many wireless suggests fixed installations of cumbersome electric plant in high buildings, on the top of which are erected lofty permanent masts, and they cannot understand how this modern invention can be adapted to the exigencies of the battlefield. A few notes, therefore, on the subject, and on the new portable installations that are now being used in the war, may be of interest.

The Principle.

Signor Marconi has been recognised as the man who perceived the practical application of already known electrical laws, laws discovered in 1888 by Hertz, a great research worker. And what Hertz discovered was this (to put it simply), that when a charge of electricity is suddenly discharged it does not immediately settle down, but like a released pendulum, it vibrates to and fro; but with this difference, that whereas the pendulum wags, perhaps, only once in a second, in the same time an electrical charge will have oscillated an inconceivable number of times. These vibrations initiate waves in what pervades all space—the æther; waves similar to those formed on a pond when a stone is thrown in. These waves, travelling great distances, make themselves manifest by setting up oscillations in a suitable receiver. Thus a message can be transmitted from one point to another with no apparent intermediary.

Portable Wireless Telegraph.

For the utilisation of wireless telegraphy in the present war motor cars are used, fitted with transmitting and receiving apparatus. Towed behind them are small trailers, carrying articulated sections of the antennæ masts. The current is provided by a dynamo driven by the engine, and this is transformed to the necessary voltage for the transmission of messages. A full transmitting and receiving plant of small size is fitted, and the operator sits in the back part of the car. The method adopted in erecting the masts from which the antennæ are supported is of interest. The various sections are joined together, a small derrick is first erected, and the main mast is fixed at right angles to this derrick, lying on the ground. By heaving on the end of the derrick the mast is raised. The whole operation is carried out in a remarkably small space of time.

The French Army use a different method: the various sections are telescopic, and the mast is erected by forcing up air by means of an ordinary type of air-compressor, somewhat similar to a tyre pump. The actual operation of putting the outfit into working order is very simple, and thus this field portable station may be hurried from point to point with ease and dispatch.

A New Triple-screw Installation.

There is an interesting novelty in the design of a triple-screw installation which is being constructed by a London engineering firm. It comprises three sets of petrol-paraffin engines, which will be installed in a boat of 75 ft. length and 15 ft. beam, for sea and river work. She will be propelled by triple screws, but the chief interest of the installation is in the arrangement of the machinery. The wing shafts are each driven by a 35-h.p. motor, and the central shaft is coupled up to a 16-h.p. set. All three motors have four cylinders each, and are designed to start on petrol and run on paraffin. The 16-h.p. central installation is arranged so that it can be coupled to either of the wing shafts to start up the larger engines, and the central propeller is of the two-bladed type, apparently with the object of severing the blades when not in use, for it is anticipated that not only will a certain amount of sailing be performed, but, under normal conditions, the starboard and port shafts will be used together to drive the boat, the central engine only being brought into play when a burst of speed is required, or, on the other hand, when the speed required is too low to warrant starting up the larger engines.

The Value of Water Power.

It must be admitted that Italy owes her present position as a great European Power to the remarkable development and progress of her agricultural and industrial resources. The rapidity with which this progress has been achieved may be attributed to a great extent to the judicious utilisation of the natural wealth of the country. Thus, water, with which Italy has been endowed by Nature in such ways as to be conveniently utilized for irrigation or power in falling, has greatly contributed to the economic prosperity of that country. Its use for agricultural and industrial purposes is continuously increasing, in the case of the former for the more intensive cultivation of the soil, and in the case of the latter to relieve the manufacturers of the expense entailed by importing foreign coal. It is now reported that the Italian Government recently presented to Parliament a Bill to provide for the construction of dams and artificial lakes in Calabria and Sardinia, in the former case chiefly for the development and distribution of motive power, and in the latter, chiefly for irrigation purposes. It is estimated that in Calabria 170,000 horse-power will be made available, whilst in Sardinia 20,000 hectares of land can be watered and power developed to the extent of 11,000 horse-power, which in part can be utilized for pumping the water into the irrigation channels. Let us hope that Italy's example will be followed by the countries in the Near East, all of which possess numerous rivers, lakes, and waterfalls that can, with a comparatively moderate expenditure, be utilized for irrigation purposes or development of power, and turn vast, but barren at present, and neglected, land into very fertile and prosperous districts.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Uniforms.—Tenders will be received at the offices of the Egyptian Customs Administration for the supply of uniforms necessary for the Service. November 7.

Safes.—Tenders will be received at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Finance for the supply of 150 safes. October 15.

Thymol.—Tenders will be received at the Central Administration, Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of 100 kilogrammes of thymol, for delivery during the month of November, 1914. October 12.

Water Supply Installation.—The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of August 19 notifies that tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the installation of a drinking water system at Mattaria-Manzala. Copies of the plans, cahier des charges, etc., may be obtained, on payment of 250 piastres (£2 11s.), from the "Section des Municipalités et Commissions Locales, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Cairo, by whom also tenders will be received at a date which will be announced later. The original date for the receipt of tenders was October 10, but it has now been postponed.

The congress of the International Petroleum Commission, which was to have taken place in Bucharest this month, is postponed *sine die*. The same fate has befallen the congress of the International Association of Drilling Engineers and Technologists, which was also to have assembled at Bucharest.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

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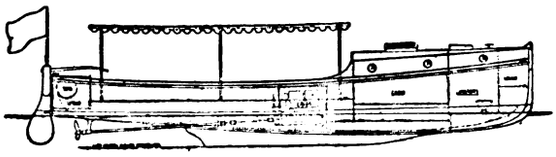
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SHIPPING NOTES.

PRIZE COURTS ACT, 1914.

The following Act to provide for the exercise of prize jurisdiction by certain British Courts in Egypt, Zanzibar, and Cyprus, in respect of the present War, was brought on Monday before the Commons:—

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and wtih the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—If His Majesty is pleased to confer jurisdiction in matters of prize on any of the following courts, that is to say:—(a) His Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court for the Dominions of the Sublime Ottoman Porte in Egypt; (b) His Britannic Majesty's Court for Zanzibar in Zanzibar; (c) The Supreme Court of Cyprus in Cyprus; the Court shall, in respect of the present war, have under the Naval Prize Courts Acts, 1864 to 1914, the jurisdiction thereby conferred on a Vice-Admiralty Prize Court, and those Acts and any Order in Council made thereunder shall apply accordingly, subject to such modifications (if any) as to His Majesty in Council may appear expedient or necessary. This Act may be cited as the Prize Courts (Egypt, Zanzibar, and Cyprus) Act, 1914.

MANCHESTER SHIPPING TRADE.

The shipping trade of Manchester is gradually resuming normal proportions again, and the prospects are improving daily. Already several lines have announced a reduction of the heavy surcharge on freights which has hindered the shipping industry. The surcharge of 50 per cent. on freights which has been in operation between this port and Malta, Egypt, and Syria has now been reduced to 25 per cent.

WAR RISKS.

Messrs. Joseph Crosfield and Sons, Ltd., Widnes, have issued the following notice under date September 14, viz.:—

Dear Sirs,—In the present unexampled difficulties, arising from the war, we wish to assist our customers as far as possible to continue their business. The fluctuations in freight charges and war risk premiums are doubtless proving an obstacle to business resuming a more or less normal course. With the object of assisting our friends, we have decided from this date to provide cover for war risk insurance, and, in addition, to credit you with the surcharge on shipments made to the following markets:—India, Middle East, West Coast of Africa, Mediterranean.

Buyers' interests will be protected as fully as possible.

You will, of course, understand that this is a voluntary action on our part, and consequently we shall retain the right to withdraw the offer at any time, otherwise our sale conditions will remain as heretofore.

MEDITERRANEAN FREIGHTS.

The shipping trade of Manchester is gradually resuming normal proportions again, says *The Engineer* (September 11), and the prospects are improving daily. Already several lines have announced a reduction of the heavy surcharge on freights which has hindered the shipping industry. The surcharge of 50 per cent. on freights which has been in operation between this port and Malta, Egypt, and Syria has now been reduced to 25 per cent.

SHIPPING NOTICE.

Permission for neutral vessels to take cargo from Russian ports to the United Kingdom must be obtained from the Russian Government by the diplomatic representative at Petrograd of the country whose flag the vessel flies. If previous notification is made to the Foreign Office, his Majesty's Ambassador at Petrograd will be instructed to support the application.

According to *The Egyptian Gazette* of August 31, a shipment of flour amounting to about 4,500 sacks was expected in a few days' time to reach Alexandria from the United States of America, the goods having been shipped to certain clients there before the outbreak of war.

COAL FOR EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 26.

(Delayed in Transmission.)

The decision of the British Government to make an exception as regards Egypt and allow the export to this country of all coal, except Cardiff, has given much satisfaction, and is very wise. It will enable all local industrial enterprises and all irrigation works to continue operations, and especially will it facilitate the working of the sugar factories and ginneries. The latter were in a very bad way, for the cotton-ginning season was at hand, and in many instances the coal contractors were unable or refused to fulfil their contracts, either because the colliers were not arriving or because they wanted to profit by the rise in prices locally. Of course, it might have been possible to obtain fuel from America, India, and South Africa, but, apart from the question of price and quality, the shipments, if they could be obtained, would have taken a very considerable time to come. Now that the embargo has been removed the local price will have to drop, and the contractors will no longer have any excuse for non-fulfilment of their engagements.

On August 31 in Alexandria the Governorate issued the following announcement:—

As a result of representations made by the Egyptian Government with a view to ensure the importation of coal for the needs of Egyptian agriculture and the industries thereto attached, such as irrigation pumps, ginning factories, flour mills, transport, etc., the British Government has stated that, as a special concession it is disposed to remove, in favour of Egypt, the interdiction placed on the exportation of coal which may be needed for agriculture and industries thereto attached, with the exception of Cardiff coal, which is reserved for the Fleet.

American Coal.

As Egypt depends entirely on imported supplies of coal there was a possibility of a shortage owing to the war. In view of this the proposal to send coal to Egypt from America and ship Egyptian cotton for the return voyage is interesting. It will be remembered that during the last coal strike in England Egypt was able to obtain coal from the other side of the Atlantic, and now we read in a telegram from the U.S. Agent and Consul-General in Cairo that the Ministry of Finance offers as feasible the suggestion that coal be shipped to Egypt and cotton carried in return, and wishes to know the probable demand for Egyptian cotton. When the cotton demand is known arrangements will be made for coal orders. An American coal company is to deliver to the Egyptian Railway Administration before September 30, 1914, 30,000 tons of coal. An additional order is contemplated.

Cardiff Coal.

It appears, however, that the difficulties that were apprehended have not materialised. The Cardiff correspondent of *The Financial Times* reported in the issue of that journal of September 14, that we may expect a steadily increasing flow of business to all the neutral countries, though the volume will necessarily be restricted while the war lasts. This, he adds, is the period of the year when, as a rule, big buyers come forward for requirements over the ensuing six or twelve months. The first large inquiry is that of the Egyptian State Railways for 360,000 tons of second-class Welsh coal, and 40,000 tons of North-country coal. There is always much speculation as to the price at which this contract will go, as it serves to govern many others. The general feeling in regard to the future of the market is one of optimism.

State Railways Supplies.

Naturally when the war first broke out some anxiety was felt on this score, and all possible economies were effected. The Egyptian correspondent of *The Railway News* says: When the news that a general conflagration had actually broken out was received in Cairo, the various administrations first of all examined their stocks of coal. It is stated that the result was very satisfactory so far as the stocks at depôts were concerned, but the future was, and is, unknown. In view of this, all transport concerns very wisely began to reduce their services. The Egyptian State Railways led the way with a diminished time-table which came into effect on August 7. Four of the Cairo—Alexandria expresses—two each way—have been withdrawn, also the night service in each direction between those places, and six of the main line trains on the Upper Egypt section. Thirty trains a day on the Cairo (Port Limoun)—Mataria suburban line have been taken off, thereby reducing that service by one-third. In order further to save the coal bill, all lights at the Cairo main station are being put out at 8 p.m., while many stations are not being lit at all.

EGYPT'S COAL IMPORTS.

The following are, according to Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., of Alexandria, Egypt's imports of coal from January 1 to August 27, 1914:—

	Tons.
Welsh	417,395
Newcastle	178,003
Scotch	114,446
Yorkshire	89,896
Other qualities	180,326
Total	980,066

as against 955,514 tons for the same period last year.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A Reuter's telegram from Constantinople, under date of September 16, stated that the export of corn from Roumania is permitted for the time being.

The High Commissioner of Cyprus has sent to the Lord Mayor a gift of 20,000 cigarettes from Messrs. Dianellos and Vergopoulos, of Nicosia, for the wounded inmates of military and naval hospitals.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of telegraphic information from H.M. Minister at Bucharest to the effect that the exportation of beans, sulphuric acid, and all pharmaceutical products from Roumania is prohibited.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information to the effect that the Imperial Ottoman Government has prohibited the importation into and sale in Turkey of cigarette papers bearing obscene pictures and harmful to public morality.

Mr. Charles Macara's able and useful article on "The War: Its Effects upon Industry," which was published in *The Financial Review of Reviews* for September, has been reprinted as a pamphlet. All business men and intelligent citizens will find that it repays careful study.

The Egyptian postal authorities have announced that the despatch of registered correspondence to Austria and Germany is suspended until further notice. Registered correspondence for other countries is only accepted at the risk of the sender and the Post Office declines any responsibility in case of loss arising from the present international situation.

M. Jacobson, director of the Astra Romana, who was detained in Rotterdam owing to the war, is returning to Roumania viâ Alexandria-Constantza.

The Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain states that it is inaccurate that the Roumanian Government has prohibited the exports of oil. The only prohibition issued applies to oil residues.

Germany imported from Roumania in the first six months of 1914 18,468 tons of kerosene (13,430 tons in 1913), 39,536 tons of benzine (24,107 tons), and 8,774 tons of lubricants (5,115 tons).

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The Capitulations and Ottoman Finances.

The proposed abolition by the Ottoman Government of the time-worn Capitulations on (or after?) October 1 was the sensation of the week, and has made as deep an impression on financial circles as it has on those devoted more exclusively to diplomacy and politics.

"Scraps of Paper."

It must be admitted, before discussing the effects of the abolition on Turkish finances, that the measure so unexpectedly announced by the Ottoman Government has not been introduced as yet, and, moreover, that there is very little likelihood that the Powers will be a party to it being carried out. After all, the Capitulations are not a unilateral collection of treaties and stipulations to be broken at random. They are bilateral, that is to say, drawn up by two contracting parties, and it is only the very strong Power that can regard, or can assume to regard, such bilateral treaties as mere "scraps of paper." Turkey is not in such a position, and we therefore think that unless the Government is being malevolently pushed to its doom by an enemy to her and to us, the protest which we have lodged at Constantinople will have the desired result. Needless to say, that protest must be pushed with energy if the Capitulations are to remain in vigour. To abolish them now would be disastrous to Turkey: it would ruin her credit abroad—if nothing else—and she cannot afford to let it drop below its present level. Should the Government, however, unhappily continue in its present attitude, the finances of the Ottoman Empire will be crippled for years to come. Admittedly, the Capitulations, as such, do not directly affect the Decree of Moharrem and the annex decree, but if a country gets rid of its treaties with other countries in the Germanic way indicated above, it will doubtless get rid of its treaties with bondholders in the same way. This must be guarded against, and we trust that the Allied and Neutral Governments, whose citizens are bondholders or otherwise financially interested in the Ottoman Empire, will see that the latter's privileges are completely safeguarded.

Bondholders' Rights.

The Ottoman Public Debt, as the most powerful organisation in which foreign investors are concerned, must needs have priority of consideration, but apart from this organisation, there are thousands of bankers, investors, and industrial concerns whose rights will have to be protected, should occasion arise, and thousands of merchants and tradesmen whose interests in the Ottoman Empire will have to be studied and guaranteed in some form or another if the abolition of the Capitulations is carried out.

As regards the Ottoman Debt administration, attempts have already been made by the Young Turks if not to abolish, at least to modify its terms, and the nature of its operations. The following appreciation by "A Bondholder" shows the tendency of the desired reforms in the past, and can be taken as a fair indication of what the Ottoman Government might propose in connection with the financial aspect of the announced, though by no means executed, abolition of the Capitulations.

Public Debt Administration.

"A Bondholder" writes:—

The Capitulations must be abolished for the welfare of the "Ottoman Fatherland." This phrase has the stamp of "made in Germany" about it, but for the past few years—ever since the Revolution, in fact—there has been a growing feeling in Turkey that this thorn in the flesh should be removed.

Let us set aside such aspects of the question as the trial of foreigners in Turkish courts, the abolition of the foreign Post Offices, etc., and see how the disappearance of the Capitulations would affect Turkey economically and how it would influence the foreign creditors of that State.

Should the Ottoman Empire gain her financial freedom she would be able to impose any Customs tariff that would suit her, irrespective of the wishes of the Great Powers, and she could create monopolies and levy new taxes, all of which would be applicable to foreigners resident in the Ottoman Empire. Without entering into the merits of the case, it is evident that the proposed abolition of the Capitulations is a move which the Turkish Government would at any other time have hesitated to make, and is one which, were not Europe otherwise engaged, would create a much deeper impression than has so far been the case. From the point of view of European and American residents and business men in Turkey, however, and of the holders of Turkish stock, it is a move of the first importance.

Until the exact scope of the proposed modifications are known it is not very easy to say how the Ottoman Public Debt Administration will be affected. Whilst during the past years the Turkish Government have scrupulously respected the rights of the bondholders under the Decree of Muharrem and Decret-Annexe, even under the most trying circumstances, the tendency of late has been to get hold—legitimately, of course—of as much of the Debt's money as possible. There can be no doubt that should this new *coup diplomatique* succeed it will affect the Debt administration in many ways, but it is not at all probable that the bondholders themselves will suffer directly. Turkey has shown that she cares for the goodwill of her bondholders, and knows that all hope of foreign financial aid would be lost should she entirely disregard their interests; she feels, however, that this international administration, this *imperium in imperio*, is an anomaly, and that the large sums devoted to sinking fund purposes, and in the reserve could be more usefully employed were they under her immediate control.

In the case of a change in the financial *modus vivendi* the bondholders may find that, apart from changes in the administration of the Debt itself, such as the possible gradual reduction of the number of foreigners employed, a reduction may be made in the amount set aside annually for sinking fund purposes (thereby lengthening the life of the Debt and not materially affecting the holders of Turkish stock); also a reduction of the amount held in the reserve fund, the sum of two millions being considered by some Turkish financiers as too high.

But, as was stated at the beginning of this article, the Powers and the bondholders have yet to have their say; a bilateral engagement cannot be dissolved by one party by a stroke of the pen, and unless the present situation has completely paralysed all political and financial authority the other parties interested in the Capitulations and the financial agreements entered into by the Ottoman Government will still have a good deal to say in the matter.

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK, London Agency, are requested to PUBLISH the following TELEGRAM, dated Constantinople, 9th Sept., 1914:—

MINISTERE DES FINANCES OTTOMAN.

Le Ministère Impérial des Finances informe porteurs Bons Trésor 6% garantis par impôt de guerre qu'en raison de guerre générale qui a interrompu relations postales et rendu impossible toute opération internationale le coupon numéro quatre à échéance 1/14 Septembre, 1914, sera remboursé à partir cette date chaque jour sauf vendredi et dimanche à la Caisse Centrale du Trésor. Des formules de bordereaux numériques seront tenues à disposition des porteurs au guichets de la même Caisse à partir 28/10 Septembre courant.

FOREIGN MORATORIA.

Egypt.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, under date of September 14, telegraphs:—A decree will be issued to-night extending to October 1 the general moratorium on commercial affairs which was declared on August 9 and expires to-morrow, without prejudice to the decree of August 4, delaying the enforcement of payment of negotiable instruments until November 1 next. Depositors will be allowed to increase their withdrawals from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. up to a maximum of £E9,000; deposits under £E200 will receive a maximum of £E30; and charitable institutions will be allowed to withdraw a maximum of 30 per cent. Fifteen per cent. of the amount of commercial debts and negotiable instruments which matured before August 4, the recovery whereof was delayed by the decree of August 9, will be payable to-morrow, "set-offs" between deposits and debts on bills held by the same bank will be permissible, whilst all drafts in favour of State municipal bodies for the settlement of taxes will be fully payable. This, combined with the opening of the spot market at the Minet Bassel to-day, indicates a vast improvement in the economic situation.

Cyprus.

We extract the following from *The Board of Trade Journal*:—

Cyprus.—*The Cyprus Gazette* (Extraordinary) of August 10 publishes a Proclamation by the High Commissioner notifying a general moratorium in Cyprus from August 10 until September 13 inclusive. During this period the execution of all judicial decisions is suspended, excepting with regard to wages, salaries, rates or taxes. Similarly all petitions in bankruptcy are stayed. Withdrawals may not be made from the Government Savings Bank or any demands for money made on any banks in the island until after September 13. No payments can be demanded during this period on any bills of exchange, cheques, banknotes, or other negotiable instruments, or on money orders or postal orders; neither can any protests of bills of exchange or any other instrument of commerce be noted until after September 13.

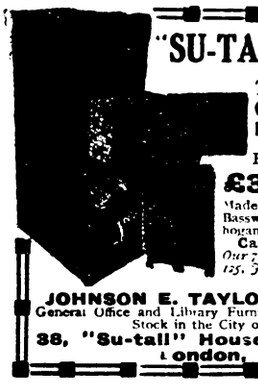
Greece.

The British Minister at Athens has forwarded a translation of a Greek Royal Decree of July 26-August 8 re-imposing certain provisions of the Moratorium Law of 1912. With certain exceptions the decree suspends until August 31 to September 13 the compulsory execution of civil decisions and any other executive deeds. All cases concerning declarations of bankruptcy are also suspended during the same period. Conventional terms of delay referring to the carrying out of personal obligations, the expiry of which falls within the above period, are suspended, their expiration being deferred until August 31 to September 13, provided only that penal clauses and forfeiture of rights depend upon the lapse of the time limit.

INSURANCE COMPANIES IN EGYPT.

Though the tenets of the Mohammedan faith prohibit insurance, says *The Egyptian Mail*, there is nevertheless a considerable amount of insurance business done in Egypt among all classes of the community. Much of this—fire, life, motor, etc.—has, in the past, been in the hands of foreign companies, particularly German and Austrian. The present situation affords an unprecedented opportunity for British concerns to snap up business which has hitherto, for one reason or another, gone past them to their foreign rivals. Local British representatives, however, are quite awake to the position. The war cloud had scarcely descended upon Egypt when one of them at least became busy, and a policy that has come his way as a result of his energy is one valued at £E8,000 on a big cigarette factory, the insurance of which was previously placed with an Austrian company. This is not the only instance of this nature.

A scarcity of banknotes is being experienced in Egypt. The National Bank are having fresh supplies printed as speedily as possible.



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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

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GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

There is a much better tone throughout the City. This is due, of course, to the victories of the Allies. The brokers and dealers who congregate in the Street report that on some days they have done a reasonable business; one broker declared that he had made over £300 commission on the week. There are a few bargain-hunters about, and not many sellers at present levels. But it must be admitted that the bulk of the public keeps resolutely away from the City. Naturally the only business done is for cash.

That the amount of trade in stocks and shares is ridiculously small is shown by the advertisement column of *The Daily Mail* exchange. If there were any real demand buyers would willingly take advantage of this paper. Other attempts to supplant the Stock Exchange have failed *in toto*.

The Committee have issued a list of gilt-edged stocks with prices attached, and they have forbidden members to deal under the prices fixed in the list. The edict has met with some criticism. It has not helped business, and it seems most unlikely that such a restriction on dealing can be continued. The sole *raison d'être* of the Stock Exchange is a free market—or, at any rate, as free a market as can be secured. Under the present ruling no one can buy even the largest blocks of securities under scale rates, and however pressed for money a man may be he cannot arrange business through the Stock Exchange, but he can go to a banker or outside dealer. No doubt the new rule was well meant. But it has not proved effective, and has only protected the dealers in the gilt-edged market who had stock either on their books or as cover on a loan with their banks.

Re-opening of the "House."

The question of re-opening the House continues to be discussed, and the members are hopeful that the Government will give its aid. It is clear that the Treasury could not possibly guarantee the open account, as this would make the taxpayer of England a bull of the stocks—a preposterous position. The idea of a trust which shall take over the whole position has been elaborately set forth, many members consider the scheme feasible. But if any Trust took over the account it would have to carry the stocks for a long time, and buyers would be chary of dealing for the rise when they knew of the huge blocks that had to be liquidated. Bulls of securities will naturally be in favour of such a Trust, and as the taxpayer would not be called upon to shouder the burden the scheme has this at any rate in its favour. No money would have to be found as the rich people would put up the capital and the banks would presumably continue the loans. If they refused the Trust could not be carried through successfully.

The really sound method of opening the Stock Exchange would be for the banks to continue their loans upon all good sound stocks, and for the insolvent firms to be hammered. This would produce a disagreeable panic for a few weeks, but matters would soon settle down. It is always useless to prop up hopelessly insolvent firms, and only increases the ultimate loss.

Issue of Treasury Bills.

The Government has again been in the market borrowing upon Treasury Bills. Thus it has issued £45,000,000 since August 19. Presumably it finds short term borrowing more profitable than a loan, and with trade dull and the banks full of money it can get what it wants at a shade over £3 8s. per cent.

Holders of English railway stocks will be glad to read that the Government will guarantee that the traffics of the roads shall be equal to 1913, supposing that the first half of 1914 shows no reduction on 1913. If it does then the Government will reduce their payment in proportion. There is little doubt that the first half of the present year was slightly less favourable than 1913. But the dividends on the whole year will be very satisfactory, and with L.N.W.R. quoted 116, Great Western 106, and North-Eastern 114, buyers should come along.

There has been a steady demand for Spies, which are now quoted 16s. as against 15s. on July 30, before the war broke out. Buyers may be bears anxious to buy back. But the dealers think that the buying is from insiders who are pleased with the way the new plots are developing.

The Bolckow Vaughan report was reasonably good. The profits have fallen £270,000, but the dividend is only down from 10s. to 6s. The Staveley Company has had a good year, but as a good deal of money is owing from abroad the dividend is cut in half. The balance-sheet has greatly improved during the past few years, and the position is now strong. The Gramophone Company has made a larger gross profit, but here also the company cannot collect its foreign debts, and nearly £50,000 is placed to suspense. But a dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid to shareholders.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE FACILITIES.

Official Announcement.

The following are extracts from an official statement issued by the Treasury :—

The breakdown of the foreign exchanges has caused, and is still causing, very great inconvenience to traders throughout the country. The dislocation of exchange is exercising an extremely prejudicial influence upon trade generally and especially upon the foreign trade. To ascertain the causes and to find a remedy for the difficulties in obtaining international exchange, the Chancellor of the Exchequer consulted a large number of leading traders, members of accepting houses and bankers, and now wishes to announce that an arrangement has been arrived at which is designed to remove the difficulties. The main features of the arrangement may be summarised as follows :

1. The Bank of England will provide, where required, acceptors with the funds necessary to pay all approved pre-moratorium bills at maturity. This course will release the drawers and endorsers of such bills from their liabilities as parties to these bills, but their liability under any agreement with the acceptors for payment or cover will be retained.

2. The acceptors will be under obligation to collect from their clients all the funds due to them as soon as possible, and to apply those funds to repayment of the advances made by the Bank of England. Interest will be charged upon these advances at 2 per cent. above the ruling bank rate.

3. The Bank of England undertakes not to claim repayment of any amounts not recovered by the acceptors from their clients for a period of one year after the close of the war. Until the end of this period the Bank of England's claim will rank after claims in respect of post-moratorium transactions.

4. In order to facilitate fresh business and the movement of produce and merchandise from and to all parts of the world, the joint-stock banks have arranged, with the co-operation, if necessary, of the Bank of England and the Government, to advance to clients the amounts necessary to pay their acceptances at maturity where the funds have not been provided in due time by the clients of the acceptors. The acceptor would have to satisfy the joint-stock banks or the Bank of England both as to the nature of the transaction and as to the reason why the money is not forthcoming from the client.

COMPANY REPORT.

Prince Line.

The report for the year ended June 30 shows net profits amounting to £280,413 as compared with £425,827 for 1912-13. With the addition of the sum of £18,147 brought forward, there is a total of £298,900 at credit of profit and loss account, and with this it is proposed to deal as follows:—Depreciation, £165,000; insurance reserve fund, £50,000; reserve fund for the protection of the company's trades, £25,000; interim dividend of 2½ per cent., paid in February last, £15,037; further dividend of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, £15,037; carry forward, £28,826.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields. — Telegram from Gemsah:—"Well No. 10 struck oil 1,369, produced 9 hours 95 tons, estimated about 250 tons daily, under complete control, producing pure oil, specific gravity .820.

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts on Friday 11th inst., amounted to 290,000 frs.; Saturday, 12th inst., 200,000 frs.; against 550,000 frs. and 320,000 frs. last year.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended August 20 amount to £E4,220, against £E5,693 for the corresponding period of last year.

Societe Anonyme Agricole et Industrielle d'Egypte.—The annual general meeting is to be held in Cairo on October 15.

Egyptian Markets.—Receipts for the week ended September 10 amount to £603, an increase of £34 compared with the corresponding period of last year. The aggregate total is £34,244, showing a decrease of £1,579.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—Receipts for the week ending September 12 amount to £8,763, against £10,993 for the corresponding period of last year.

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway.—The numbers are announced of the Four and a-Half per Cent. bonds drawn for repayment at par on October 15.

CYPRUS LOCAL ACCOUNTS.

The following statements of receipts and expenditure for the half-year ended June 30, 1914, have been published in *The Cyprus Gazette* :—

	Receipts. £ s. d.	Balance. £ s. d.
Lapethos Municipality	43 3 8½ ..	0 5 7½
Karavos Municipality	37 14 8 ..	10 1 1½
Levka Municipality..	50 6 2½ ..	2 2 0½
Kyrenia Municipality	209 14 7½ ..	—
Pappos Municipality	703 17 6 ..	20 3 4½
Polis Municipality ..	236 19 0½ ..	—
Kyrenia Hospital....	187 15 6½ ..	93 16 4½
Paphos Hospital	113 17 0½ ..	11 16 0½

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, AUGUST 22, 1914.

Assets.

Metallic reserve: Gold ..... 151,110,784; Foreign bills payable in gold..... 56,625,777		207,736,561
Silver and other coins		770,895
Roumanian and foreign bills		252,768,216
Advances against Government securities ..... 33,636,000; On current account 81,982,900; Unused balance .. 27,654,560	54,328,340	87,964,340
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,999,357
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,762,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,036,281
Premises		6,730,213
Furniture and printing machinery		1,086,151
General expenses		314,031
Government and other securities deposited		136,966,592
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		205,668,022
Current accounts		31,428,999
Security accounts		23,295,719
Sundry accounts		6,432,066
Total Lei		1,005,234,278

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,179,870
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	510,844,260
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	1,631,390
Current accounts and drafts at sight	31,380,090
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	342,634,614
Sundry accounts	60,227,268
Total Lei	1,005,234,278

Bank Rate, 7 per cent.

The report of the Egyptian Post Office Savings Bank for the half-year ending June, 1914, has just been issued. The total number of accounts opened during that period was 9,811, of which 1,161 were opened in June. The deposits amounted to £E274,889 and the withdrawals to £E220,511.

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Janina
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Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Xanthie

ASIA.

Adalia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

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Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah
Zahlé

EGYPT.

Alexandria
Beni Mazar
Cairo
Mellawi
Mansourah
Minieh
Port Said

CYPRUS.

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Limassol
Nicosia

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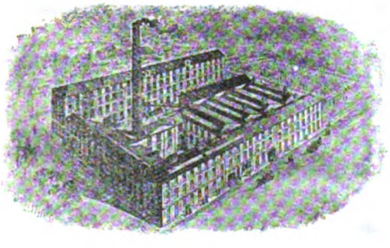
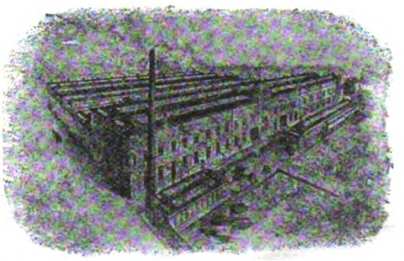
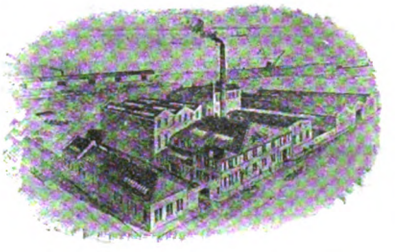

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 177.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The tide of invasion in France has ebbed during the past week. True, the distance is not great, but still the retrograde movement is apparent. We call the fighting of the last ten days the Battle of the Aisne, but, in truth, the public is permitted to know very little about it. The names of many of the chief commanders, the numbers engaged, the losses suffered, the actual progress of the fighting line—all are concealed. Information is, however, available to show that the fortune of war inclines against the invaders, and it is considered probable that a definite result will be known within a few days. Under such conditions twentieth century war tends to become amazingly long-drawn when a single battle rivals in length whole campaigns which have made history in the past.

While the advance of the Allies in the West has been delayed by the stubborn resistance of the Germans along the Aisne, the Austrians in the east have been unable to resist the onset of the Russians along the San. Their line has been broken at Jaroslav, and the Russians have forced the passage of the San. The great fortress of Przemysl appears to be in danger of being isolated as the Russians have also penetrated far to the south and are reported to have reached the confines of Hungary, and the advance of the Muscovite forces is from all accounts so steady and sustained that we must expect their arrival before the gates of Cracow within a few days.

For the moment the Russians seem to be making every effort to put an end to Austrian resistance, at any rate so far as the provinces north of the Carpathians are concerned, and for this purpose have massed their troops in Galicia. Warsaw, however, is occupied by a vast and ever growing force, and it is to be expected that the capture of Przemysl and Cracow will be the signal for a revival of interest in the East Prussian theatre of war. As far as it is possible to ascertain, the Germans have very largely reinforced their armies in that direction, but it must be extremely distasteful to them to find that the Russians are playing the game which they had planned for themselves. The accepted theory was that the Germans were to have profited by their supposed superior rapidity of mobilization to crush first the French and then the Russians. The apparent fact is that the Russians are destroying the Austrians piecemeal preparatory to turning upon the Prussians with undivided strength. It is annoying to have one's thunder stolen in this way.

On sea there have been a number of incidents. Great Britain has lost three cruisers in the Narrow Seas, and a fourth, and much smaller, unit off Zanzibar. She has also learned of the loss of certain merchantmen in the Indian Ocean and of a curiously futile bombardment of Madras. The circumstances in which the warships were destroyed are particularly distressing, as our men had to suffer disaster without the possibility of striking an effective blow at the enemy. Such losses must be considered as part of the "price of Admiralty," but the lot of the seamen of old was happier in that they might at least see their adversary and have at him with carronade and cutlass. Still, many men were saved, and we may find comfort in the capture of an armed merchantman by our own Navy and in the gallant achievements of our Russian allies in the Baltic. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that with every passing day our command of the sea becomes more and more impressive, and the number of hostile units at large grows beautifully less.

Such being the case it is not surprising that the efforts of Berlin to raise up to itself new allies in place of those who have declined to serve its aggressive ends or have fallen by the way in so doing, have not as yet achieved success. In spite of a behaviour not entirely consonant with its official protestations of neutrality, and an obvious bias in favour of the Teutonic allies on the part of certain influential men in the Committee, the Porte is still at peace, and, according to some reports, has even begun a partial demobilization. In Italy public meetings in Rome advocate a warlike policy against the Austrian, the secular enemy of the Royal House and the traditional oppressor of the Italian people. In Roumania steps have been taken to acquaint the civil authorities with the new duties which will be thrust upon them in the event of a mobilization, and it is a *secret de Polichinelle* that, as in Italy, the order for mobilization will go further to regularize an existing situation than to bring a new one into being. The aspirations of the Roumanian Irridentists appear to be on the point of materialization so far as Transylvania is concerned. There is a persistent rumour that although King Carol may find it impossible to sink his family feelings, Prince Ferdinand may not prove averse to fighting in order to add another territorial quartering to his royal shield. The Prince can at least reflect that history affords ample precedent to a Hohenzollern anxious to draw the sword against the Hapsburg, and that if he fights he will be doing all in his power to retain at least one crown in the family.

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Now that news may be expected almost any day of the participation of the Indian Expeditionary Force in actual fighting, it is interesting to note the further offers of men, money, and service which have been pouring in from India. The action of H.H. the Aga Khan in offering his own personal service in addition to what he has already done as the spiritual head of a multitudinous Moslem community must come as a serious blow to those who had assured themselves of the support of Islam against Great Britain. Other chiefs and princes have placed themselves and their resources unreservedly at the disposal of the Kaisar-i-Hind in a manner deserving of the highest commendation. In the possession of the Suez Canal Great Britain holds the key to the vast storehouse of Indian loyalty, and the foresight of the great statesman who acquired that key is abundantly justified.

From information received it appears that the confidence reposed by Pan-German students of Islam in the armed assistance of the Sheikh es Senussi has been misplaced. It is understood that the leader of that powerful religious organisation, which has its headquarters in North-Eastern Africa, is not disposed to consider that the German Emperor has any claims upon him or his people. The abstention of the Senussi would deprive the *jihad* in which Berlin hopes to array the fighting men of all the Dar-ul-Islam against the enemies of Germany of much of its effect.

Our German adversaries are certainly whole-hearted enemies who leave no stone unturned to cause Great Britain or her Allies annoyance and inconvenience. Even when in neutral countries the Teutonic resident endeavours to stir up local animosity against the foes of his country. In Persia, for example, the industrious German Consul at Tabriz must needs invent news offensive to our Russian allies; in this task he was assisted by his nationals, and to such a pitch of fury did this action rouse his victims that the worthy man saw fit to take *bast* in the American Hospital and advise his Germans to leave the town. Persian neutrality, particularly in Azerbaijan, may not be quite so favourable to Germans as is that practised in Turkey, and these gentry will be well advised not to emphasize their nationality or exercise their inventive genius for the purpose of irritating Russians in the dominions of Sultan Ahmed Shah.

A good deal of criticism is being levelled against the Turks because of their somewhat ambiguous attitude at the present moment, and we are convinced that they would be consulting their best interests were they to take their neutrality more seriously and interpret it more strictly. In fairness to them we must remember that many of the men who bear rule among them have pleasant memories of their military training in the German army and that they are exposed to the blandishments and persuasions of assiduous German agents. The patriotic efforts of the egregious Wolff Bureau to dazzle the Turks with a fictitious glory of ungained victories are to a certain extent neutralized by the steps which have very properly been taken in this country to secure a supply of more authentic information for the public in Constantinople. The remarkable forbearance of the British Press to respond to undoubted instances of provocation is less open to misconstruction now that it is apparent that it is not the result of pusillanimity. The true Turk is still an Oriental and is quite ready to recognise that loquacity is not necessarily an indication of power. The tradition which led the inhabitants of Lystra to consider St. Barnabas to be greater than St. Paul because he preserved silence on an historic occasion is not dead in Asia Minor even at the present day.

In such circumstances we may remark that one of the accusations brought against the Porte, that of commandeering British engines on the Smyrna-Aidin railway for service on the Anatolian lines, is beside the mark. It is true that the engines have been requisitioned, and doubtless considerable loss and inconvenience has been caused thereby to the company, but we must remember that the Ottoman Government reserved the right to take over engines and rolling-stock when required—*contre remboursement*—when granting the original charter, and has, in consequence, only exercised an acknowledged right. In this particular case of requisitioning, as in multitudinous others of less intrinsic importance, the duty of British diplomacy is limited to the exaction of suitable compensation at the proper time.

During the past few days it has been more than usually difficult to follow the fortunes of war in the Serbian campaign. The Serbs claim another victory over the Kaiserlichs, who in their turn assert that they have successfully invaded Serbia. It is reported that the Montenegrins have been engaged a few miles from Serajevo, but it is difficult to believe that this can be more than a daring raid. In any case, even if the force be as considerable as it appears to be from Roman reports, it is doubtful whether it can effect much against the fortifications of that city until they have been at least partially reduced by artillery fire. The policy of the Kaiserlichs in studiously suppressing all news with the exception of announcements of their own "victories," and in arresting all prominent men in areas likely to be disaffected, has hitherto prevented any important rising of the Bosnian Serbs on behalf of King Peter's troops, and it is to be feared that where the passage of Montenegrin scouting parties has led to demonstrations of sympathy for the Liberators, the Kaiserlichs have subsequently reminded the misguided population in no uncertain manner that they are still Austrian subjects and liable to be treated as such.

In the Balkans it is still difficult seemingly for the Press of any one country to practise the maxim, "Live and let live," and certain journals alternate between asserting that a new Balkan *bloc*, comprising Bulgaria, has been formed against Turkey, and stating that it is now a universally accepted fact that Sofia and Constantinople are closely linked by a secret agreement aimed at Greece. It is not very unlikely that some sort of understanding was reached between the Porte and its only Balkan neighbour in the days of Bulgaria's political isolation in the earlier part of this year, but it is even more certain that no such agreement will persuade Bulgaria to take arms against the Powers of the Triple Entente or their friends. It may indeed be accepted as a fact that the neutrality at present professed by Bulgaria is entirely in accordance with the wishes of those Powers, who fully realize that in the best interests of the country Bulgaria must not unnecessarily be put to the expense of another war. It is equally apparent, moreover, that if Roumania abandons her neutrality to take part in the conflict her duties as gendarme of Europe will devolve upon Bulgaria, who will then mount guard along the Thracian march both in her own interests and on behalf of the Triple Entente. In such circumstances it is idle to suppose that Bulgaria will make common cause at this hour with the Turk to come to the aid of collapsing Teutonism, and it is unfair to her to suggest it.

The Khalif Omar, when ordering the destruction of the library at Alexandria which contained much of the accumulated wisdom and wantonness of the ancient world, is recorded to have said: "If this knowledge be not in the Quran it is dangerous; if it be it is superfluous." The Germans appear to have burned the library at Louvain without even that justification. When the Moslems first took Damascus they paused even in the fury of a sack and respected that half of the city which had surrendered and that half of the cathedral which was in the respected area. They even permitted the Christians for centuries to share the great building—half church half mosque. The Germans did not see fit to spare the Cathedral of Rheims, although consecrated to the uses of a Faith which many of them profess. In days past the Turk was regarded as the Great Destroyer, and the generations who learned to fear the legions of Sultan Mohammed el Fatih, or Yawuz Sultan Selim, or Sultan Suleyman el Kanouni, built up a tradition of blind destructiveness and, somewhat unjustly, fathered it upon the Ottoman. It now appears that the Turk must yield this doubtful pride of place and recognize his successor in the Prussian.

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THE SITUATION IN SMYRNA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Smyrna, September 8.

Anti-Foreign Feeling.

At no time during the Italian or Balkan Wars has the anti-foreign feeling prevailing amongst the Turks been so pronounced as at present. This feeling has been caused primarily by the seizure of the Turkish Dreadnoughts "Reshadieh" and "Sultan Osman Evvel" by the British Government, and has been aggravated by the situation arising out of the German action concerning the warships "Goeben" and "Breslau." The German subsidised newspaper *Osmanischer Lloyd*, appearing daily at Constantinople, has been publishing regularly inflammatory articles against England, and the Turkish papers throughout the country have reproduced them. The clever wording of these articles has fully convinced the Turks that Germany is their best friend, and that England is waiting her opportunity to break up the Ottoman Empire.

Alarming Reports.

Nothing is definitely known of the ultimatum said to have been presented by the Triple Entente Powers to the Sublime Porte, but rumour had it that Turkey had been asked to give an immediate explanation of her intentions, and this served to further the bad feeling against the British living in this country. At one time the situation became very serious, and all the British merchant ships lying in the harbour received orders to leave immediately. This action had a very alarming effect on the colony; and the advice of the British Consulate, given as quietly as possible, so as to cause the minimum of alarm, that anyone wishing to leave Smyrna should do so as quickly as possible, as it was feared the port might be closed at any moment, was acted on by many families. For the most part those who left went only as far as Mytilene, and some have already returned; but whether any danger really existed or no, the panic that took place was certainly unnecessary, and the reputation formerly enjoyed by the British for coolness has suffered considerably. Several incidents, nevertheless, contributed towards the belief that the Turks were contemplating an attack on Europeans and Christians in general. The now notorious Governor of Smyrna, apparently determined not to allow his present charge to become such an easy victim to any foe attacking it as his last place of residence (Salonika), has given orders to commandeer large quantities of petroleum to be stored in the police stations and guard-houses in the various quarters of the city. It was given out that he had openly avowed his intention to burn the whole of Smyrna rather than let it fall into the hands of an enemy. Such a threat was too serious to be allowed to pass unnoticed, and several of the Consuls interviewed the Governor on the subject, and the threat is said to have been repeated by Rahmy Bey. It is probably beyond the powers of even our energetic Governor to burn the whole of Smyrna before the arrival of foreign warships, but his extraordinary frame of mind is clearly evidenced in his determination to wreak his vengeance on the Christians in some way or other. His German friend and military adviser, Colonel Trommler, has happily taken his departure for the seat of war, but he has apparently inculcated his Turkish military colleagues with German methods, and several severe measures in force against Rayahs may be traced directly to his influence.

Mobilization in Asia Minor.

Few countries have suffered so much as this during the last three years from the effects of mobilization of troops. The agricultural development of the country seems fated to be thrown back; for no sooner have the men returned from the colours than they are once more called up. The measures taken during the two recent wars were mild compared with those in force at the present time. Then recruiting was carried out in a haphazard manner, and the men called up were often able to escape service on payment of a bribe; but this time few men have escaped the call, and a time limit has been given to them to present themselves at the nearest station, failing which extreme measures will be taken. The results of the general mobilization have been ruin for many districts and for thousands of people. All able-bodied men from eighteen to forty-two have been taken just at the time when they were most needed for the crops, for the drying of the sultana grapes, and for the working of the figs. At this time of the year Smyrna harbour is usually full of steamers. To-day only one German steamer is in port, and it, of course, is unable to leave. A Norwegian cargo boat is lying alongside the Aidin railway jetty, and is expected to leave soon with a cargo for London. This is the only ship to leave Smyrna so far with Smyrna summer produce. A notice has been posted up at the British Consulate stating that British ships may once more resume calling at Smyrna. This is a good sign of the relaxation of the tension between England and Turkey, and grain exporters may soon be able to ship any grain left them.

THE MOBILIZATION IN PALESTINE.

A correspondent writes from Jerusalem, under date of September 1:—

September 1 will be a long-remembered day among the European community of Jerusalem, and especially among the British community; for after threatening for three weeks to seize all horses belonging to British subjects, the Turks have at last gone so far as to take the animals, against the protests of the British Consul, backed by the Embassy in Constantinople, who without doubt are backed by the Foreign Office in London. This action on the part of the Turkish Government drags British prestige in the dust.

It must be understood that not only British animals were seized, but all horses belonging to European subjects resident in Jerusalem, with the result that the officials have larger heads than ever, the natives a greater idea of the power of their Government, and an anti-British feeling is fostered throughout the land. If Turkey respects treaties and agreements no more than her friend Germany, the sooner it is understood the better for those called upon to live in her empire.

Over against this high-handed action we have repeated assurances through Reuter's telegraphic agency, and papers of high standing, that "The Ottoman Empire wishes Great Britain to understand that she will preserve entire neutrality during this war"; and yet British property is seized and our rights and privileges endangered for all future time. Some try to excuse Turkey for such an action by saying that in time of war such doings are justifiable; but Turkey is not at war, and therefore cannot take refuge under that excuse.

Those on the spot are not slow to realise that this action of the Turk is only the thin end of the wedge for further aggressions along the same line, and nothing will now be free from demand. It would be interesting to know from headquarters what protection the British residents in Turkey may expect from their own Government, so that they may be prepared to defend their own without the disappointment of finding out that the British representative is helpless under such circumstances as we find ourselves in to-day.

I have lived for twenty-four years in this empire, but have never known a time like the present for arrogance on the part of the Turk. And we are at a loss to know what this elaborate mobilization means; for it is going on at a most costly rate, and must surely be for some definite purpose. The anti-British feeling is strong, and Germany is in the ascendant—so much so that the Turkish conscripts are encouraged to cheer for the Germans whenever they meet any of that nation on the road.

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NOTES FROM JAFFA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jaffa, September 7.

Since the outbreak of war between Germany and Russia, the Ottoman Government has been mobilizing its forces, and all available soldiers—reserves, redifs, and territorial reserves—between the ages of twenty and forty have been called up to the colours. It is said that nearly 30,000 men have been called up for service from Jaffa and district. Exemption fees up to fifty Turkish liras are demanded from all Ottoman Christians and Jews who do not wish to serve; and this has made matters even worse than they would otherwise have been for the country, the greater part of the gold having been drawn off from Jaffa by the Government, with the result that there are fears of a famine.

The reason given for this mobilization is that though Turkey desires to remain neutral she cannot be sure of the perfect peace which she desires unless she is prepared for war. She must therefore have plenty of efficient and well-armed troops distributed on her borders and at various points in the interior. At the first blush this seems plausible enough, but on second thoughts it does not appear quite so satisfying. If Turkey is really bent on peace there is surely no need for mobilization on such a large scale. It is reported that in a fortnight there will be four million men under arms. That, of course, is exaggerated; but it serves to show how things are going. Then again, whereas at other times all Ottomans alike have to serve, Christians and Jews are now offered exemption for fees, while Moslems are not, which shows clearly that the Government wants a "Moslem" army.

The Exchequer can ill stand the strain of such a mobilization—if, in fact, it can stand it at all—but Enver Pasha still calls for more soldiers, egged on by his German advisers. The German generals and officers also continue to instruct the army and to drill the soldiers on the German system.

Fortifications of one kind or another are reported to be under construction at quite a number of places here, such as Nablus, Acre, Jerusalem, es Salt, etc. Large supplies of ammunition and guns are being sent to these places. And it is commonly reported that 40,000 troops are to be sent in a couple of days to the Egyptian frontier, probably near Rafa.

The natives here who are friendly to the Triple Entente cannot understand why Great Britain and her Allies shut their eyes to what is going on. The talk here is that Turkey intends to send part of her troops to regain Egypt, Tripoli, and Morocco, and then to make war on Russia. An ambitious programme.

Meanwhile the mobilization has at least caused some very serious effects in this unhappy country. Money, as I have said above, is not to be had; famine seems likely to make itself felt very shortly; robbery is already very prevalent; many families whose young men have been called up are left without any means of support; and to make matters worse the Government has commandeered large quantities of provisions and clothing without payment.

The Christians here sympathize with England and her Allies. The Jews are neutral. Most of the Moslems appear to have been won over to the German side. They speak of them as "True Believers," and pray for their triumph.

MONTENEGRIN VICTORIES.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General of Montenegro, has received the following telegram from the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Cettinje:—

"Our troops operating in Bosnia, after the brilliant capture of the fortress of Fotcha, the key of Serajevo, and after taking the entrenched camp of Gorazhda, marche dvictoriously northwest on the left bank of the river Drina, en route for Serajevo.

"On September 17 the entrenched position of Jabuska was captured, and on September 18 the town of Rogatitza fell.

"The *moral* of our troops is excellent, while the Austrian army appears demoralised and hurriedly retreats before our soldiers, abandoning cannon, quick-firing guns, ammunition, and stores of all descriptions, and our army is now some fifteen kilometres from the capital of Bosnia."

THE TROUBLES OF DIARBEKIR.

(From a Correspondent.)

Diarbekir Amida, The Black City, a place of 45,000 to 50,000 inhabitants, a city of no mean dimensions, and a great emporium for trade, had a call from the fire fiend on the 19th and 20th of the present month. There is a great deal of wood used in the construction of the buildings, and hence the great conflagration. On the date referred to above fire started in two or three places simultaneously, resulting in the destruction of 1,186 shops, four large khans, five bakeries, and a few dwelling houses. The shops were occupied mostly by Christians, but belonged mostly to Moslems. The losses are estimated to be very high, but the exact amount cannot be given. But in this as in everything the officials behaved in a truly Turkish way. They placed zaptiehs at the doors of the shops to prevent (?) looting, allowing not even the owners to remove anything from the shops, and meanwhile the backs of the shops were being broken through, and looting was carried on with a high hand, the city at the time being full of raw recruits gathered from all parts of the country, who improved their opportunities as the fire burned. There were quite a number of those men from a neighbouring city who are noted for that kind of work, and they made hay while the sun was shining. They are reported as having returned home already, bringing their booty with them, so that they are enacting the rôle not only of looters, but of deserters also. Some of them may crawl back without letting it be known that they have taken leave; for big threats have been made against those who do not report themselves in the course of the next ten days. Then if they have not reported they will when found have to wear a collar of hemp. A great many such threats have been made before, but none have been carried out so far, so that people begin to doubt whether they are meant at all. But should one be called upon to swing that would be all that would be needed.

It has been reported from the central office that the Baghdad Railway was to be finished as far as Ras-el-Ain and to be opened officially in the very near future. This must be intended as a "blind" for foreign eyes, for the work has been brought to a complete standstill because of the war, and when it will be resumed again remains to be seen. We had been hoping it would be completed to that point soon, but our hopes are now off to the war, and whoever goes to war we have no certainty of their returning.

Mobilization is being carried on here with a high hand; men from twenty to forty-five are being rushed to the colours, and the Government is using every means possible to bleed the country of all its resources, men, money, and animals. It is filling its coffers with the exemption fees of the people, as no one who can possibly raise the money (£43) will leave their homes. The time of payment is limited to eight or ten days; if in that time it is not paid the fee will be raised to £86, but as the time expires another ten days is added; and it has been thus extended four or five times until no money is left. While the Government is taking everything and giving no money in return business has come to a standstill.

The building of the new hospital at Omdurman, with funds chiefly given in memory of Dr. A. Chorley Hall, marks an important stage in the development of the C.M.S. Mission in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, says the parish magazine of All Saints', Cairo. This hospital forms a most appropriate memorial, not only of Dr. Hall, who founded this medical mission, but to General Gordon, whose monument is situated across the river at Khartoum. Nothing could have been more in keeping with the wishes of the great Christian soldier than the maintenance of a medical mission destined to help the bodies and souls of the people for whom he gave his life.

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LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 8.

War-Born Rumours.

It is daily becoming more difficult to find topics of interest to the average reader upon which one may write. Even the promising subject of naval and military movements in this part of the world is now barred; for the Regent has signed a decree forbidding newspapers published in Egypt to give any news relating to the movements of troops or of warships and military transports, and it has been intimated to correspondents of foreign papers that this prohibition must be taken as applying to them also. No one can complain with any justice at this; for Egypt is such an important point in the Imperial chain, and the country is plagued by so many spies in the pay of the Teuton, that the utmost secrecy as to movements and intentions is imperative. And right well the secret is being kept. No one knows where the much-talked-of Indian troops are, nor is any one certain from one day to another exactly where the different units of the Army of Occupation are stationed. As a natural result the most varied and most extraordinary theories and rumours are current in both European and native circles; but it would serve no useful purpose, even if one were allowed so to do, to narrate any of these stories, for by the time this letter appears in print events will have proved their falsity.

Return of More High Officials.

The last P. and O. steamer brought back all those high officials who are not required in London for the transaction of work necessitated by the present situation. Amongst those who have been retained are Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, in connection with the Educational Mission; Mr. Henry Higgs, who, as already announced, is a member of the Commission that is seeking some means of financing the cotton crop; and Mr. Hopkins, who has been arranging for the return of officials on leave; whilst amongst those who have just returned are Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, the Judicial Adviser; Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary for Public Works; and M. Roussin, of the Ministry of Finance, all of whom have found waiting for them many delicate problems that have been created by Egypt's present political and economic condition.

Feeling in Egypt.

Mr. Ronald Graham, Adviser to the Interior, has been making a tour of Lower Egypt in order to obtain a first-hand information regarding the situation of the fellaheen, and to explain to them, where necessary, what the Government is doing to help them and to alleviate any hardships that they may be suffering. He has, so far, visited Damanhur, Mansura, and Tanta, and from what can be gathered the peasants are quite satisfied and have complete confidence in the Government. It is interesting to note that at the meeting of notables at Damanhur, Abdel Latif Bel El Sufani, who is a well-known Nationalist, made a speech assuring the Adviser that the Egyptians were animated by the most friendly sentiments towards England, and that all that had been said to the contrary was a calumny. As a matter of fact, as I have said in previous letters, the masses, especially those in the provinces, are quite contented in their present political position, the only thing that worries them being what is to happen to their cotton crop. It is the town element that has displayed Germanophile proclivities. Since the curbing of the vernacular Press and the removal of the "agents provocateurs" the pendulum has shown a welcome tendency to swing the other way, and if only the Government would go one step further and prohibit all discussion of a polemical nature in the local press—especially any articles like those published recently in some of the vernacular organs—we should return to a fairly normal state of affairs.

Temporary Government Servants.

Much heavy weather has been made over the intention imputed to the Government to dismiss all temporary officials, which intention obtained a great deal of credence owing to the numerous dismissals that had already taken place. I have been at some pains to ascertain exactly what the Government's line of policy is, and I find that matters are not nearly so bad as the general public appears to believe. In the first place, no temporary officials who are doing necessary work will be dismissed. The heads of departments are taking the opportunity of weeding out the wasters, and of putting on pension those officials who have earned a pension by good work in the past, but whose services are to-day not indispensable. None of these will be replaced. Then, whilst new works, *quâ* new works, will not be undertaken, existing contracts will be proceeded with, and where, in order that the country may benefit by the works just completed, fresh work must be started, such work will certainly be carried out. In these cases, as also in the case of part of the Sudan enterprises, no effort will be made to hasten completion. There is, unhappily, no longer the same need to hurry, and the main idea is so to arrange the work that employment shall be given to the maximum number for as long a period as possible. In short, no wholesale dismissal of employees, such as was feared, is contemplated. Each case will be treated on its own merits. and in no circumstances will any step be taken that will inflict individual hardship. I have received these assurances from an authoritative quarter, and am glad to be able to correct the false impression that got abroad.

The "Out-of-Works" Problem.

With so many private enterprises either shutting down or curtailing their personnel, there is naturally a large number of men out of work. For a proportion of these work has been found by the municipalities. The remainder have made representations to the authorities, and steps are being taken to assist them in one way or another. A series of demonstrations were made in Cairo last week, and one or two shops in the Muski and other native quarters were pillaged. Inquiry has elicited the fact that the demonstrators were not bonâ-fide unemployed, but were hooligans and roughs, who took advantage of the present condition of affairs to add to the difficulties with which the Government is confronted. A large number of arrests were made, and steps have been taken administratively to deal with these vagabonds in a manner that will act as a salutary deterrent to them and their comrades. The authorities have also taken action in regard to the Berbereen, who are always a turbulent element, and all who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of permanent employment are being sent back to their villages in Upper Egypt.

Egypt and the War.

Another batch of French reservists left Cairo on Saturday for the front. They were accorded a most enthusiastic send-off, and although the scene at the station was not as wonderful as that which was witnessed on August 14, when the first contingent left, it was very inspiriting. According to correspondence received from France and Syria, a great many Lebanese have volunteered for service with the French colours. This is not surprising, for the inhabitants of The Mountain have never forgotten the debt they owe to France. German reservists still continue to leave, though it is daily becoming more difficult for them to obtain passages. They are, perhaps, after all better out of the country than in. By every mail we hear of more Anglo-Egyptians who have gone to the front—several reservists and Territorials have been summoned home by cable—and we out here have now an additional interest in the progress of the Allied armies.

Cairo, September 10.

The German and Austro-Hungarian Agencies.

It has been a matter of no little surprise to most people that, albeit Egypt had declared herself to be in a state of war with Germany and Austria-Hungary, the diplomatic and consular representatives of those countries still remained at their posts; in fact, continued to carry on their duties. The truth was that these persistent officials declined to recognise the validity of the decrees containing the declaration of war, and the Egyptian Government did not feel justified in taking further action immediately. It was an absurd position, born of Egypt's peculiar political situation: the German

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and Austro-Hungarian agents persisting in dealing with their nationals just as if they were still their countries' accredited and accepted representatives, and the Egyptian authorities looking calmly on, but refusing to maintain official relations. To-day, however, this anomaly comes to an end, for the entire diplomatic and consular staff of these two countries is leaving this afternoon by the Italian steamer. The American Agency has undertaken to look after German interests, and—strange as it may seem in the light of what was thought might happen at any moment—the Italian Agency will take charge of Austro-Hungarian interests.

No official statement as to what has prompted this change of attitude on the part of the German and Austro-Hungarian Agencies has been vouchsafed, but the following is the generally accepted version. Last Wednesday a British officer called on the German Chargé d'Affaires and the Austro-Hungarian Agent, and informed them that the General Commanding the Army of Occupation would be glad if they would arrange to leave Egypt with their staff within a period that will expire to-day. Both officials declined to recognise the authority of the British Government in such a matter and to accept the letter containing confirmation of the General's message which the officer tendered, and both applied to the Egyptian Government for protection. The Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that this was not a matter which concerned his Government, as it could not prevent the British military authorities from carrying out their decision. The German Chargé d'Affaires and the Austrian Agent thereupon announced their intention to leave to-day with their staff and their consular officials.

As for the British military authorities' reasons for intervention, there appears to be little doubt that they had come to the conclusion that the presence of these representatives of hostile Powers was conducive neither to the maintenance of order nor to that complete control of information regarding British naval and military movements in and around Egypt which is considered so necessary nowadays. Ever since war broke out in Europe there have been signs that information was being received from and sent out abroad through channels that were not known to and, consequently, not under the control of the Anglo-Egyptian authorities. In addition, the general feeling of the people, as I recorded at the time, underwent a change, the suddenness of which aroused suspicion. The substitution of Germanophile for Anglophile tendencies was undoubtedly due to intrigue by Turkish and German emissaries, who took their orders and drew their inspiration from the German and Austro-Hungarian Agencies—though in the case of the latter there is reason to believe that the complicity was by no means so flagrant; whilst it is pretty certain that the same Agencies were not foreign to the leakages of information that were taking place. The British military authorities, therefore, took the decision referred to, and subsequent events have justified them; for the active search they have made during the last week in the houses and shops of various German and Austrian residents has brought to light much useful and interesting information, and has, it is understood, shown that the arrangements made had been both extensive and complete. Several Germans and Austrians are under close supervision, and some of the former nationality are under arrest, one prominent tradesman having been caught under suspicious circumstances quite close to Mustapha Pasha Barracks at Alexandria.

Egyptian Opinion and the War.

Already, as reported in one of my earlier letters, another decided volte-face has taken place in the general feeling, and during the past week various expressions of goodwill towards Great Britain have been voiced. In the first place, six Moslem physicians have offered their services to the British forces in whatever place it may be decided to send them. Next, a large meeting of Egyptian officers and of officials of the War Office and of the Sudan Government was held with the object of devising some means whereby they could show their devotion to and respect for England and those Anglo-Egyptian officers who are now at the front. It was decided to open a fund in aid of the wounded, towards which the officers and officials would contribute a certain percentage of their salaries.

It should be mentioned that various rumours, put about by the interested agents referred to above, have been circulated of late as to the disaffection of the Egyptian Army. They were, of course, gross fabrications. Before his departure from the Sudan, a deputation of Egyptian officers waited upon the Sirdar to assure him of the loyalty of the Army and to express regret for the false information that had been circulated in that respect.

Several articles have also appeared in the local Press demonstrating that Germanophile tendencies no longer predominate. *Al Moayad* has protested in most vehement terms against the allegation made in a contemporary that nine-tenths of the Egyptians sympathised with Germany. *Al Mahroussa* has produced a most humorous and sarcastic article having for its theme the German Emperor and his oft-asserted belief in his divine right. And *Al Mokattam* has printed—and the majority of its contemporaries have copied—an open letter addressed by Colonel Ali Sami Bey, a former aide-de-camp to the Sultan Abdul Hamid, to the Kaiser, to whose suite he was attached when he paid his memorable visit to Stamboul and Syria. In this letter, which has been circulated throughout the Moslem world, Sami Bey recapitulates all the promises made to Turkey by the Kaiser, whom he calls "an Emperor without a conscience," taxes him with insincerity and with abuse of the confidence that the Turks blindly reposed in him, and warns his fellow-Moslems no longer to put their faith in a perfidious nation like the Germans!

The Mahmal.

After much discussion and wavering it has practically been decided that the Mahmal and Holy Carpet shall be sent to the Hejaz this year. Instead, however, of proceeding via Haifa and Medina to Mecca, the caravan will follow the old route via Jeddah and will not visit Medina. The reason for this change is the unsettled state of affairs and the fact that it has not been possible to pay the usual cereal tribute to the Bedouins who live on the route. Even now it is not certain that the caravan will be immune from attack.

EGYPTIAN OFFICERS AND THE WAR.

Apropos of our correspondent's reference to the meeting of sympathy held by Egyptian officers, the following translation of a circular issued to members of the Egyptian Army will be of interest. We are indebted for it to *The Egyptian Gazette*:—

"A large number of the Egyptian Officers on the Active List of the Egyptian Army, of the Officials of the War Office, and of the Sudan Government, and Egyptian Officers on the Pension List, have considered it their duty to express their sympathy and feeling towards their brother British Officers, a good many of whom served in the Egyptian Army and fought with them side by side in the Sudan Campaigns, and who furthermore contributed freely towards the Red Crescent Society in the Balkan Wars. They have, therefore, met and decided to share in the contributions for the assistance of the British sufferers in the present war. For this purpose they have appointed a Committee composed as follows:—

"President, Lewa Mohammed Pasha Zuhri, Under Secretary of State for War; Secretary, Miralai Ibrahim Bey Rafat; Treasurer, Marc Bey Bialobos; Members, Miralai Musa Bey Fuad, Miralai Mahmoud Bey Fuad, and Yuzbashi Mustafa Eff. Hilmi Ayb. (Representing the Egyptian Officers on the Active List).

"Marc Bey Bialobos and Mahmud Bey Abbasi (Representing the Civilian Officials of the War Office).

"Said Pasha Shoucair and Naum Bey Shoucair (Representing the Civilian Officials of the Sudan Government).

"The above Committee has begun its work by laying down a sort of scale for the contributions by which it is intended to express our sympathies and feelings towards old brethren, as a token of gratitude for the good they have done previously for us."

The *Gazette* adds that according to the native Press the officers intend to give 5 per cent. of their pay.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 9.

Turkey's Intentions.

The Russian victories in Galicia have had a cooling effect upon Turkey's warlike disposition and on similar tendencies on the part of Bulgaria, and they have therefore served to some extent to calm Greek public opinion. But in spite of Turkey's declaration of her peaceable intentions and of her assurance of strict neutrality, which were renewed the other day by Ghalib Bey, and in spite of similar assurances offered by the Bulgarian Minister immediately after the Austrian defeat, people here are by no means quite at ease, especially while the Bucharest negotiations are pending. Nobody can believe that Turkey will continue to remain in a state of mobilization and yet do nothing. It is believed that in the long run she will yield to German pressure and attack Russia, but it is thought rather unlikely that she will attack Greece, by land, at any rate. For if the assurances given by Bulgaria to Russia as well as to Greece are to be trusted it would be sheer madness for Turkey to attempt an attack on Greece by way of Bulgarian Thrace against the will of Bulgaria, since in falling out with the latter country she would risk losing Adrianople and very likely a great deal more besides. But, on the other hand, it is feared that in case of any hitch in the negotiations regarding the islands, Turkey, with her fleet reinforced, may attack Greece by sea. In this state of uncertainty people here look on Roumania as the only country capable of imposing a policy of inaction upon Bulgaria and thus preventing Turkey from taking action against Russia or Greece. In this way, it is pointed out, Roumania could assure the peace of the Balkans, and all that would be required of her would be diplomatic action, not any employment of force; and in view of these facts Roumania's failure to take action is regarded as highly selfish, since it will leave her friends and co-signatories of the Treaty of Bucharest at the mercy of Bulgaria. Such being the case, military preparations are being pressed forward with redoubled energy, so that in case of need mobilization may be effected rapidly.

Anti-German Feeling.

Greek feeling towards Germany has been greatly exacerbated by the German strengthening of the Turkish fleet by means of the two cruisers, their crews and officers, and by the forwarding of considerable sums of money. There is a tendency to make this a peg on which to hang complaints against the timid policy of the Triple Entente, which, acting against its own interests, gave Turkey time to make preparations, instead of at once making a *casus belli* of the incident, as she will almost certainly have to do later on, when it will be much more difficult.

German Propaganda.

In order to counteract the instinctive dislike of the Germans which has always existed in Greece, and to counteract and undermine the sympathies of the Greek people for the Triple Entente, the Germans here, their Legation, and more particularly a certain Baron von Schenk, who represents Krupp, and has lately become the correspondent of the Wolff Agency, have organised a systematic propaganda, and have succeeded in winning to their side two or three journals. These are organs of former political parties, of which some, such as the Theotokists, are supporters of the Triplice; and they have not scrupled to declare themselves friendly to Germany chiefly in order to be "agin the Government," which is well-disposed to the Triple Entente. The aforementioned Baron, having organised a German Press Bureau here, sends out daily communiqués in which, as M. Deville, the French Minister, has well said in one of his *démentis*, the Germans treat the truth as ill as they treated the Treaties of neutrality and those Russian ladies who were unfortunate enough to pass through Berlin. And the Germanophile journals, acting under the influence of these suggestions, sacrifice everything in order to upset public feeling in favour of the Triple Entente. They represent that they have it from official sources that the latter wishes to win over Turkey and Bulgaria at the expense of Greece, that Great Britain has pressed Greece to give way in regard to the Islands, and that Russia is urging her to surrender Kavalla to Bulgaria. Finally, they represent that it is Germany that is preventing Turkey from attacking Greece, and conclude that Greece ought to maintain strict neutrality throughout the war, even if Serbia should be attacked by Bulgaria. All these assertions have been denied in an official communiqué, and the Ministerial journals declare that it is absolutely false that the Triple Entente has given Turkey or Bulgaria any promises of compensation at the cost of Greece in order to keep them neutral, and that if Germany is in fact restraining Turkey from attacking Greece, it is only in order to keep its army intact for use against Russia. The same journals declare that Bulgaria is still under the influence of Austria-Hungary, who seeks to embroil her with Serbia, and they urge that in the event of these efforts proving successful Greece must take part in the fighting in order to protect Serbia. The Government communiqué adds that Greece decided of her own accord to make concessions to Turkey in regard to the Islands, and that Great Britain only declared that if she thought such concessions would serve her interests she was free to make them. As for the maintenance of absolute neutrality by Greece, which the Opposition journals lay down as the best policy for this country to follow during the crisis, the Ministerial *Patris* states openly that if Turkey should declare war on Russia and Bulgaria should either attack Serbia or remain neutral, Greece, if asked to take action by the Triple Entente, certainly could not refuse in order to oblige Germany, who would not be in a position to compensate her for her neutrality. Moreover, such an attitude would expose her to great risks during and after the war, since it would involve the hostility of the Triple Entente, and Turkey and Bulgaria would both demand all sorts of compensation. Another Ministerial journal, the *Nea Himera*, recalls that Germany has always shown herself unfriendly to Greece; that it was she who imposed financial control upon Greece; and that she has consistently favoured Turkey at the expense of Greece. To report the reply of the pro-German papers would be profitless; for these arguments have, after all, only an academic interest. It would be very hard to root out from the Greek people their traditional sympathy with the Powers of the Triple Entente, who have been this country's protectors.

A Reuter's telegram from Constantinople states that two employees of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs were on Monday publicly hanged in the square in front of the Ministry on account of their alleged complicity in the conspiracy which led to the murder of Mahmud Shevket Pasha in 1912.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SERBIAN FOLK-LORE. (1)

One of the many pretty pictures seen by the writer in the valley of the Morava to the north of Nish (where also, by the way, unless memory fails him, he saw the first minaret east of Buda), has been vividly recalled by a passage in Mr. Petrovitch's intensely human and most commendable work on the folk-lore of his country and countrymen. Referring to Peroon, the Russian God of Thunder, he states that the name is preserved in the name of a plant, *peroonika* (iris), which is dedicated to the god. "There is hardly a cottage garden (he writes) in the Serbian villages where one does not see the iris growing." It was this reference that recalled the marshes of the Morava last May in a mass of golden bloom, the while in cottage gardens beside the loitering train variegated armies of iris stood in rank and file. Truly the iris seemed to be as much the national flower of Serbia as the narcissus is that of the Jura, the red carnation that of Spain, and the Kazanlik rose the most famous flower of Bulgaria.

But it is not merely to the flowers and lyrics of Serbia that Mr. Petrovitch introduces us in the unique volume under review. There are other themes, more stirring to the warlike Southern Slavs, and it is mainly to these that the author would wish us turn. They are, in a word, Serbia's most noted contributions to the literature of the world—deeds of valour sung by bards in the olden days and handed down orally to our own times by countless generations of rustic minstrels; national epics of cyclopean magnitude that have kept alive the soul of a people and enabled it to stand up against the foe to-day with the fearless ardour of Belgians defending their own homes; heroic ballads that celebrate the prowess and virtues of knights whose names, but for popular lore, would long since have been forgotten. To these must be added folk tales properly speaking, the wonderful tales that children learn and never forget, and that form such an important feature in the life of every nation. It is to the epics, however, that we shall, together with the author, devote most of the space at our disposal.

Serbia's national hero, and the central figure of the country's greatest epic, is Prince Marko—a Cid Campeador, a Roland, a Bruce, a King Arthur. He and his piebald charger, Sharatz, are as familiar to the Serbians as are Tell and the cross-bow to the Swiss. Historically speaking, he is a lesser personage than either Stephan Nemanya, founder of a dynasty in 1169, or Doushan the Powerful, whose son, Tsar Ourosh, was Prince Marko's contemporary. But popular legends are woven around heroes without regard either to facts or chronology, and thus it comes as no surprise that we should be shown a princely knight *sans peur et sans réproche*, after the manner of our brave Launcelot or the goodly Bayard. Why precisely Marko should be the national hero none can say, though Mr. Miyatovich in his preface to the volume under review puts forward some interesting theories. He lived in the tragic days of Kossovo (1389) and the great advance of the Turks. Someone doubtless had to personify that dark period of Serbian history, and Marko, for reasons beyond us, though perhaps they may be found in the superior genius of the first troubadour who sang his fame, was the hero chosen. Beside his, the other epics, as set forth by Mr. Petrovitch, dwindle to a secondary magnitude, though they do not lose in interest therefore. Their perusal is to be recommended to all who take an interest in folk-lore and in the national strivings of a people fighting on the side we are fighting on in the great European war.

There is one aspect of the development of Serbian epic poetry that is deserving of quite special mention, and that is that whereas in most modern countries there is a marked tendency for the heroic art in question to die a lingering death, in Serbia it seems to be as much alive to-day as it was in the Middle Ages. This is proven in the first place by the great vitality of the old epic songs, and in the second by the creation of new epics to commemorate the Serbian victories during the late wars. For, as Mr. Petrovitch tells us, "the untiring Serbian bards have now turned their attention to the exploits of modern heroes at Monastir, Koumanovo (why does the author spell words having the broad *u* according to French orthography with *ou*?), Perlep, Scutari, etc., and they will thus immortalise for the delight of future generations the final triumph of the Serb over the oppressor of his race." Regarding the vitality of the old epics, it is undeniable. The history of Serbia is the chanted history in decasyllables of Prince Marko and the knights of yore; where history books would have failed to keep the national spirit alive in times of oppression, these songs succeeded in doing so, and thus right nobly did they fulfil their mission, and further criticism, especially by a foreigner, is of little avail. Proofs, moreover, of their vitality are not lacking. "In the Balkans-Turkish War, 1912-13, a *gouslar*, when not fighting, would take his *gousle* (a musical instrument) and recite to his comrades heroic poems of which the greater number related to Marko." It is extremely doubtful whether the *Chanson de Roland* or tales from the Knights of the Round Table are being recited in the Allies' camps in the Champagne to-day. But more extraordinary still during the late war was the attack by the Serbs on a hill near Prilep, where used to stand Prince Marko's castle, now in ruins. The men, narrates Mr. Petrovitch, were ordered to wait until the artillery should have prepared the way. But suddenly, unexpectedly, the men made a rush *en masse* for the hill, and could not be stopped. Soon they were storming it at the point of the bayonet, and the artillery had to stop firing lest they should kill their own comrades. A few minutes later the Serbian national colours were fluttering on the donjon of Kralyevitch Marko's castle. When asked after the engagement why they had broken loose and refused to listen to their officers' orders, the men replied, unflinchingly: "Kralyevitch Marko commanded us all the time: 'Forward!' Did you not see him on his Sharatz?" Call it auto-suggestion if you wish, but if those rough men had not been nurtured on their epics of the Kossovo period as a child is fed by its mother, the hill would never have been stormed against superior orders.

In conclusion, I should like to state that both Serbia and English-speaking races owe Mr. Petrovitch a deep debt of gratitude for having brought these heroic poems and folk-tales to the notice of the British public. Admittedly, there is no finality in the work thus ably undertaken, but it opens new vistas for the novelist, poet, artist, and musician, which it is to be hoped will be taken advantage of when peace has been once again restored on the Continent. The illustrations which are included in the present volume are good, but would it not have been possible to have procured the services of a Serbian artist, in collaboration with Mr. William Sewell and Mr. Gilbert James?

(1) "Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians." By Woislav Petrovitch. Attaché to the Serbian Royal Legation to the Court of St. James; with a Preface by Chedo Miyatovich, formerly Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, and 32 Illustrations in colour by William Sewell and Gilbert James. London: George G. Harrap and Co.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Report of the International Commission to Inquire into the Causes and Conduct of the Balkan Wars. (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.)

With Poor Immigrants to America. By Stephen Graham. (Macmillan and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

In a speech which he made at the German Sportsverein before leaving Cairo, Herr von Pannwitz, the acting German Chargé d'Affaires, quoted a remark made to him by the British Commissioner of the Caisse de la Dette Publique: "Our two countries are at war, but that does not prevent us from remaining friends as before." But I am afraid that the war has broken up not a few friendships in Egypt, as in other countries. For instance, at a well-known club in Alexandria, quite a lively "scene" was brought about by a member speaking not quite respectfully of the French Army. Asked to retract his words, he refused. Thereupon he received a blow on the nose, and a quarter of an hour's free fight followed. How many members actually took part I cannot say, but I gather that the proportion of "casualties" was distinctly high. An amusing feature of the business was that neither of the principals could claim nationality of any of the European belligerents. And, incidentally, I notice that the police could not interfere because the club is an international one, and, thanks to the Capitulations, some fifteen Consuls, or their representatives, would have had to be present!

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Mr. Lloyd George's tribute to the Serbian nation was timely. It will, I have no doubt, effectually dispel much popular ignorance and misunderstanding of Serbia in these islands; for Mr. Lloyd George always appeals to a vast audience. Sir Valentine Chirol will have the gratification of knowing that his "Plea for Serbia," published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, has not fallen on deaf ears. I hope that this sympathy will bear fruit in an organised effort to afford Serbia that practical help of which she stands in so great need, to alleviate the sufferings of her soldiers in the field and their women and children.

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Apropos of Mr. Lloyd George's speech, I cannot refrain from mentioning some curious slips which appear in the report. The Chancellor is reported as having spoken of the "Grand Duke," whereas Archduke is the proper title of the heir to the Austrian Crown. In another place I read that it was Frederick the Great who formed regiments of gigantic soldiers. It was Frederick's father, Frederick William I. who had a mania for tall soldiers. His agents scoured the Continent for specimens and trepanned any unfortunate man whose inches were likely to gladden the royal eye and unloose the royal purse-strings. It is curious how closely the Kaiser resembles his namesake and ancestor. There is the same love of domineering over subordinates, the same susceptibility to the influence of favourites, the same peculiar piety, the same eccentricity and megalomania. Compare for instance, the craze for tall soldiers with the Kaiser's weakness for innumerable uniforms and residences.

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The Censorship continues to afford amusement—one cannot be cross with so fatuous an institution, patriotism and one's sense of humour alike forbid. The latest revelation as to its efficiency comes from one of His Majesty's oversea possessions. It appears that the authorities very wisely decided that no messages were to be cabled unless passed by the Censor. Orders were at once issued to that effect, and everyone trembled and obeyed. The authorities then went to lunch, for no man should embark upon a war unfed. Presently messages began to accumulate, all manner of cables, from the most harmless statements as to personal health or price of commodities to the Empire-shaking revelations of unprincipled journalists. This went on for two days, until one, greatly daring, ventured to remind the authorities that they had imposed a censorship without appointing a Censor! It appears that the authorities were not best pleased—being authorities—at having what ill-mannered folk would call a shortcoming pointed out to them. They adjourned to lunch once more, cogitated deeply, and then appointed as Censor a gentleman whose place of residence was three days' journey from the scene where he was destined to exercise his inexorable functions. Great men the authorities.

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Another Censor story—by the way, some one ought to collect Censor stories against the winter evenings—is to the effect that in another portion of his Majesty's dominions the officials of one Government department sat up all night for quite a long time working out a scheme for getting some German schoolgirls back to the Fatherland. Every detail was settled, and the young women were instructed to apply to their parents by means of the post through a neutral country for the wherewithal to buy their fares. They did so, and the Censor, after sitting up all night in his turn to cope with the matter, decided that it would be safest to put the letters asking for money in the waste-paper basket. Yet I know a Censor, in fact, more than one, and in private life they are eminently reasonable men, and they all say that all the other Censors are also, privately, eminently reasonable men!

CORSAIR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

"BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN SALONIKA."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I am a constant reader of your valuable paper, and am very much interested in the letters sent by your correspondent at Salonika. Permit me, however, to remark that he shows a *mentalité spéciale* whenever he is describing anything that has been done after the capture of Salonika by my countrymen. I take, as an example, his letter dated July 25. He condemns the steps taken by the syndicate of the insurance companies in Athens, although he himself states that "Salonika has long been notorious by reason of its fires; but since the Greek occupation these have been much less frequent," fearing to say, instead of "much less frequent," "very rare."

His second point, entitled "The Fire Brigade," is also pitiful, and does show complete ignorance on the part of your correspondent. He must be aware that similar duties and taxes are imposed by every European town or country, either directly or indirectly.

His second and third subjects are entitled "Banking Hours" and "Transit Trammels." As to this, I would inform your correspondent that war has broken out between several countries, divided in two "camps," that most of the "desirable" people of this Greek town are on the side of the Entente, and that very soon Salonika will recover "the good old prehistoric days" and the "Transit Trammels" will soon be dispersed when our good friends the Serbs are victorious. As to his last paragraph, I beg, as I feel my duty, respectfully to inform "Your Own Correspondent" that Salonika is, and shall always remain, a Grecian town, and has no need of using any Latin characters at all.—Yours, etc.,

GEO. N. LIONDA.

31, Passage Benroubi, Salonika.

CONDITIONS IN THE HOLY LAND.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—In your issue of August 7 "An Occasional Correspondent" endeavoured to describe the present conditions in Jerusalem. His letter, indeed, gives in miniature a picture of the state of things in the whole of Palestine, but as it is so scanty and brief I would take the opportunity, if space will allow, to make some further observations on the same subject for the benefit of those interested in the Holy Land and concerned for the welfare of British interests there.

The country ever since the outbreak of war has suffered acutely, both morally and financially. All the banks have "taken holiday"—a disaster more felt here than anywhere else owing to the natural poverty of the land and people. Business of every kind is at a standstill. Missionary work either has ceased or is about to do so, which implies, of course, the closing of schools, hospitals, and all other vital institutions.

The country, moreover, is threatened with serious internal disorder. A general mobilization from the age of 20 to 45 has been ordered. All the men of the country are thus "filtered" out, no excuses being accepted—not even physical deformities. The soldiers thus collected are quartered in camps here and there. The invalid, deformed, and healthy are huddled together in squalid tents, and as the Government is unable to support them merchants' shops are plundered, cattle and beasts of burden stolen, and the country is thus on the verge of anarchy. Most of the soldiers are clothed in their native peasant dress, the Government having no uniforms to supply to them. They have to buy their own food, and the poor Christian soldier at Nablous is left to the mercy of his convent for food and shelter.

In your issue of April 3 there appeared an interesting letter by a lady correspondent testifying to the great influence of Germany at the Porte. I quite agree with her opinion that the Turks have been disappointed and have lost faith in Great Britain owing to the blundering of diplomatists. May I say, too, that this German influence has taken root in the country and is also bearing fruit? Public sentiment here is "pro-German" and "anti-British." German officers are training the armies. The simple, uneducated Moslem peasant is much impressed by the sounding bells of a German church or the towering height of a German church steeple. A local paper of some note has ventured to say, "If Germany wins, we win; and we are vanquished if she loses."

On the other hand, the great majority of the people, both Moslems and Christians, with the exception of a few fanatics, condemn the policy of the Government and cherish a kind of hate towards the Government itself. It is to be feared this intense dissatisfaction will in due time ripen into open revolt or, perhaps, into disloyalty to the Government at the critical moment. I have often heard it repeated by many, some of whom are enlightened Moslems, that they would gladly welcome the acquisition of the country by a European Power. The eyes of many are looking towards Great Britain. In the meanwhile, *spero meliora*.—Yours, etc.,

ECHO.

Jerusalem, September 5.

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THE BRITISH CLUB AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Constantinople, September 16.—A meeting held to-day at the British Club in favour of a movement on the part of the Colony for supplying volunteers to the British Army was characterised by much enthusiasm. Up to the present twenty-three young men have volunteered their services, and handsome donations have already been subscribed to the fund.—Reuter.

The British Club at Constantinople, an unpretentious building, a little lower down than the more "aristocratic" Club de Constantinople, and on the opposite side of the street as you go from the British Embassy at Pera in the direction of the bridge at Galata, has been, ever since its inception, a temporary home and meeting-place in a strange country for hundreds of British people, men some of them who have become famous in various paths of life, including dragomans and consuls and consuls-general who have looked after British interests on the Bosphorus and in territories subject to the jurisdiction of our industrious Levant Service. At times, doubtless, the club, proudly flying the Union Jack from its prominent staff, rose to heights of patriotic fervour forgotten by most of us who were not there at the moment. Such acts, and they must have been many, belong to the past and will have been recorded elsewhere. Reuter's message last Thursday throws a sidelight on a topical subject, and therefore it is only fitting that it should be duly commemorated as chronicling a patriotic act worthy to rank with the generous offers which have, ever since the war began, crowded into London from our Dominions and Colonies "over the seas." Thus will not only British men and women feel proud of their fellow-subjects in Constantinople, but members, both past and present, will feel proud of their club.

The British colony in Constantinople is not a very large one, but, nevertheless, twenty-three young men have volunteered for service in the Empire's cause (nineteen of them I see by a later dispatch have already left for home), and donations have been subscribed to a fund. I would be willing to hazard a guess as to the names of some of the volunteers and of some of the generous subscribers, but prefer to leave them unwritten until the full report of the meeting has been sent home. The enthusiasm at that meeting must have been great; the gentleman presiding would not have been obliged to use words of eloquence to fire the patriotic spirit of his audience. Events have been following each other rapidly at the Golden Horn: the spreading of false news about British and French defeats and German victories which have poisoned the minds of many sane Turks; the return of the "Goeben" and "Breslau" of ignominious notoriety, the arrival of German sailors to man all Turkish boats, the relegation of the British Naval Mission to office work (and tardily to be recalled by the British Government), the threat concerning the Capitulations, and a hundred other minor incidents which will have convinced the young men that the Empire had need of soldiers and more soldiers, and that their time in Turkey was hopelessly wasted. So, from Pera and Galata, from Scutari and Moda and the shores of the Gulf of Ismid, from up the Bosphorus, and from offices down at the Golden Horn the British colony will have travelled to the British Club on Wednesday of last week, and there the resolutions, the bare facts of which have been cabled out to us, will have been passed unanimously. They will be carried out efficiently. For the majority of King George's subjects in Constantinople are shrewd organisers whose position and well-being is largely due to their particular genius. Moreover, and supposing that prior to the war they were split up into factions, as so frequently happens among British people abroad—I do not say they were, though I may have my opinion on the matter—present circumstances will have effaced all such puny differences, and the colony will show a united front against the common enemy, the intriguing Austrian and the unabashed Teuton, who are doing their best to poison the mind of the Turk against their only true friends, the British. Yes, the enthusiasm at the meeting must have been great, and the walls of the British Club—doubtless the members and their friends were all gathered in the reading room on the second floor where London papers spread out on tables have often been the solace of the exile from home—will have resounded to the cheers with which volunteers and donators responded to the appeal from the chair. Passers-by in the street will have paused; among them there will have been many who sympathised with the patriotic fervour of our Colony. For not for one moment must it be imagined that Constantinople is anti-British, or that the Turks hate us as the Germans would have us believe. No; there are some who, for motives not to be analysed, have been induced to side with our enemies; unfortunately they are in power, and so they lead the man who must always be led in the opposite direction to where he ought to go and where instinct tells him he ought not to go. This man will have hailed the meeting at the club with frank delight, just as there are others, even in the Ministries on the height of Stamboul, near St. Sophia and near the palace of the Grand Vizier, whose sympathies were and are with the British and their righteous cause.

British events have always been made the most of in the British Club at Constantinople. There was the visit last June of H.M.S "Inflexible," anchored in the roadstead off Seraglio Point. Such a happening, extraordinary within recent years, was not to pass unnoticed by the committee, and to celebrate it it was decided to organise a field day for the crew. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed throughout the day: there were prizes and joviality galore, and the British Colony made holiday. I happened later into the club when the accounts were being audited; judging by the consumption of lemonade, sandwiches, and beverages of a robust nature, Jack Tar and his friends must have been right royally entertained, and the reputation of the club for generous hospitality kept up to its traditional level.

The Club de Constantinople, a little higher up the street, is, as I said, more "aristocratic." Its leather chairs and lounges are softer and more commodious, its table more recherché, and its silence more diplomatic. It is the symbol of cosmopolitanism, whereas in the British Club the national, Imperial spirit predominates. However, the majority of the British members of the former are members likewise of the latter, from patriotic motives, and on occasions like Wednesday's meeting they are bound to have turned up in force—a goodly array, including perhaps members of our Naval Mission, to be released on the following day from their official posts at the Golden Horn, and those other naval officers who took service with the Ottoman Government in a confiding moment and whose position, if they are still at Constantinople, is a most anomalous one.

As for the members of the British Club and their friends, who does not know them? Their paths in life are varied, from the old-timer whose career in the Balkan provinces of Abdul Hamid was chequered and adventurous to the new man whose first experience of Turkey was an unhappy one; from the careful resident whose shekels have multiplied to the less fortunate but no less patriotic individual whose yacht on the Sea of Marmora remains a dream; from the business man who has kept alive the best traditions of British trade in a community that has been largely influenced by questionable Teuton methods, to the sturdy workman but recently arrived at the Golden Horn from England in order to build an arsenal for Turkey's fleet. English, Irish, Scots, and Welsh—with the Scots, perhaps, in the ascendancy—they will all have forgotten parish politics in the broader issues of the Empire and flocked to the memorable meeting of the British Colony at the British Club in Constantinople on Wednesday last.

C. R.

***In view of the national sentiment in Servia against the use of the letter "v" in the English rendering of the name of that country, the words Servia and Servian will in future be printed in THE NEAR EAST as Serbia and Serbian in conformity with the general European usage.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Serbian National Ideals.

Mr. G. M. Trevelyan, the well-known historian, in a letter to *The Times* of September 18, writes of the Serbians "as one who last year travelled in their country as a guest of their State and armies." The following is an extract:—

A race of peasant proprietors, they have no feudalism like that of Hungary, no military caste like that of Germany, no despotism like that of Russia. In actual personal intercourse they are kind, self-respecting, cheerful, attractive. Only, like all the other races struggling for power in the Balkan Peninsula, including the Austrians, they have sometimes been cruelly severe on members of other races whom they have conquered. But in this war they are going out, not to conquer Bulgarian or Albanian, but to free their brothers of the south Slav race from the tyrannous dominion of Austria-Hungary. Last year, when I was among them, they looked forward to this as the grand national object, and they regarded the then impending war with Bulgaria as an unfortunate but necessary prelude to the war of liberation against Austria. They complained with justice that Austria compelled them to fight Bulgaria in the south because she denied them their legitimate racial boundaries to north and west. The young men in Serbia, many of them, spoke of themselves as belonging to the "Piedmontese party," and books about Piedmont's part in the Italian *risorgimento* were the commonest "serious literature" in the Belgrade shops, and lay on the table in the waiting-room of their Foreign Office. Serbia is indeed now engaged in a war of liberation similar to that undertaken by Piedmont for the other Italian provinces. And Russia is playing the part of Napoleon III.

The Porte and Berlin.

The United Service Gazette (September 17) has an interesting article on "The Position of Turkey." We quote below:—

British sympathy has always been on the side of Turkey, as she well knows, and as she now has an opportunity of more firmly cementing that friendship to her own advantage, we hope she will realize the importance of having the Mistress of the Seas on her side rather than against her. She can secure this desirable consummation by resisting the cajoling of Germany and deciding to strictly observe all the conditions of neutrality. So long as the "Goeben" and the "Breslau" are retained in Turkish waters and are not allowed to emerge, Turkey has a weapon in her grasp which will stand her in good stead later, and secure for her in years to come against any possibility of an attack from her powerful neighbour in the Black Sea. The lying reports as to the battles said to have been gained by Germany in her war with England, France, and Russia have been disseminated in Constantinople with one object only—to embroil the Porte in the failure of the Kaiser to dominate Europe. Turkey's Ambassadors in London and Petrograd can supply their Government with correct details as to how the war is going, and it is to be hoped that the Sultan's advisers will avail themselves of such accurate information before they accept the shadowy protection of Berlin and Vienna. If Turkey wants a guide as to the path she should take, she cannot do better than follow the attitude adopted by Italy—another country which has cause to appreciate the friendship of England, and whose neutrality we are pleased to find is being strictly maintained. Turkey's abrogation of the Capitulations is a step which affects the rights of all the Powers, but we have yet to learn at whose instigation this move was taken. It is one that might have been better postponed until the war was over.

Parties in Constantinople.

A writer in *The Liverpool Daily Post* makes the following observations on "German Influence in Turkey":—

I am assured by a correspondent at Constantinople that there is discord among the pro-Germans, despite their successes in securing the withdrawal of the British Naval Mission. This arises from the attitude of the Young Egyptians, whose Mahommedan leaders have now made Constantinople their headquarters. They assert that while they have been made a cat's paw by Enver Bey there is no intention on the part of Germany to release Egyptian autonomy and freedom from what is described as "the British yoke." As a fact, Enver Bey himself is supremely indifferent to the Egyptian ideal, his sole desire being that Egypt should make for a great Turkey. The Young Egyptians are at a discount in Constantinople—a curious fact, in view of the popularity of Englishmen and, in particular, of English subjects of the Porte with the general body of Turks. I am quoting a letter from an English official of the Porte when I say that "the responsible Turkish mind of Constantinople has not yet been won to the German purpose."

The Baghdad Railway.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, writing in *The Daily Chronicle* of September 18, under the heading of "The Devil's Doctrine," says:—

Where were the sane Germans? Why was there no protest from them? Perhaps there was, but we never heard of it amid the beating of those great Pan-German drums. Did the whole nation, for example, really agree in so hare-brained a scheme as the Baghdad Railway? Think of the insanity of such a project as that. Here is a railway representing very many millions of German capital which is built in the heart of Asia Minor, as far removed from any sort of German protection or effective control as if it were in the moon. The next step, vaguely thought out, was that German settlers were to be planted along the line of the railroad, but upon that being advanced the Turks, who had smiled most amiably at the actual railway construction, put down their slippers in the most emphatic manner. The net result, therefore, would seem to be that Turkey holds a hostage of a great many millions of German capital which, so long as Germany behaves herself, may or may not return some interest; but if Germany goes against Turkish wishes could at once be confiscated. Apart from Turkey, Russia in the Caucasus and England in North-West India regard with a good deal of interested attention this singular and helpless German railway which projects out into space.

German and Austrian Officials in Egypt.

In the course of an article, under the heading "Situation ridicule et dangereuse," which appears in *The Bourse Egyptienne* (August 26), after reference to the position of the "Germanic" consulates in Egypt (which have now been satisfactorily dealt with), the writer, Dr. Ed. Vignon, draws attention to the retention of the services of German and Austrian subjects in the Administration. We quote below:—

Mieux encore, par suite de la stagnation des affaires, de l'arrêt des travaux administratifs, l'Etat a licencié, licencie ou licenciera les employés non cadrés. Ces derniers sont pour la plupart anglais. Il résultera donc du fait, que les administrations de l'Etat où figurent quantité d'Allemands et d'Autrichiens cadrés, classés, seront entre les mains, sous la direction, à la merci de fonctionnaires allemands ou autrichiens, ennemis actuels de l'Angleterre, et par conséquent de l'Egypte, et qui tiendront en leur pouvoir des services de l'Etat contre lequel leurs pays sont en guerre ou en hostilité.

Attitude of Roumania.

The following is an extract from a message of the Bucharest correspondent of *The Times*, under date of September 17:—

At the beginning of the great war King Charles, whose sympathies are strongly German, was disposed to second the Central Powers, to whom Roumania was bound by definite engagements. In view, however, of the attitude of several political leaders, especially M. Take Jonescu and M. Filipescu, as well as that of the Government, which is bound to take into account popular feeling, his Majesty agreed to the policy of neutrality. It now seems doubtful whether this decision can be maintained, especially should the successes of the Entente Powers be continued, and military measures are generally regarded as impending. In these circumstances great importance is attached to the prospective policy of Bulgaria. It is generally recognized here that a complete rearrangement of frontiers in the Balkans more in accordance with the principle of nationalities must follow as the result of the European conflict, and that the Treaty of Bucharest is already obsolete. It is understood that concessions to Bulgaria, especially in the direction of Macedonia, must form part of any arrangement possessing the elements of stability, and a desire to cultivate friendly relations with the neighbouring State is generally expressed.

GERMANS IN TABRIZ.

A Reuter's message from Petrograd, dated September 21, states:—"The *Südslavische Korrespondenz*, an Austrian organ, having circulated the report that Russian troops in Tabriz were resolved to lynch the German colony, numbering some sixty people, and the German Consul in that town, it is semi-officially explained that since the beginning of the war the Germans in Tabriz, as well as the German Consul, Herr Litten, adopted a provocative attitude and invented news offensive to Russia. This fact, in conjunction with the German brutalities towards peaceful Russians, and German atrocities in the theatre of war, created great indignation in the Russian colony and Russian troops. The Russian Consul took steps to prevent effect being given to this feeling. An armed Persian guard was placed round the German Consulate, but an unknown man succeeded in entering the building and threatened Herr Litten with a revolver. The Consul thereupon betook himself to the American hospital. The feeling against the Germans being still very strong, the Consul-General has recommended the Germans to leave Tabriz. It is, however, completely untrue to say that Russian troops even threatened the Germans."

THE BALKAN MAP.

Reuter's Sofia correspondent reports that at the invitation of the Bulgarian English-Speaking League, Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., chairman of the Balkan Committee, delivered a political address in one of the public halls of the capital on Sunday evening, in the course of which he said that he had come to Sofia at the request of highly-placed personages in England who wished to be accurately informed on the situation in Bulgaria and on Bulgarian public opinion. The British, he said, were anxious that each Balkan nation should find its natural position. Bulgaria, Mr. Buxton said, who had legitimate national aspirations, must also benefit within the measure of her rights in the redrafting of the Balkan map. If Bulgaria should lean in favour of Great Britain and her allies her rights would not be ignored.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Sept.	1914. Sept.		1332. Julkada.	5675. Tisseri
25	12	Friday	5	5
26	13	Saturday.....	6	6
27	14	Sunday	7	7
28	15	Monday	8	8
29	16	Tuesday	9	9
30	17	Wednesday	10	10
Oct.				
1	18	Thursday	11	11

Saturday is the birthday of H.H. Princess Sybil of Reuss, niece of her Majesty the Queen of the Bulgarians.

Sunday, Julkada 7, is the birthday of H.H. Kameran Mirza, the Amir Kebir, great uncle of his Majesty the Shah of Persia, and son of the late Nasr-ed-Din Shah.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Felix of Bourbon-Parma, half-uncle of H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

Monday, Julkada 8, is the birthday of H.I.H. Refia Sultana, daughter of the ex-Sultan, who married Damad Ali Fuad Bey.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Duchess of Cumberland, sister of her Majesty the Queen-Mother. Tuesday is also the birthday of her second daughter, H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and of the Grand Duchess's younger son, Duke Christian Ludwig.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Hubert of Prussia, grand nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes.

It is announced from Nish that H.R.H. Prince George of Serbia, elder brother to the Crown Prince, has been wounded. According to a later report good progress had been made towards recovery.

H.H. Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse, brother-in-law of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, has been severely wounded.

It is reported from Berlin that H.R.H. Prince August Wilhelm of Prussia, nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, has been wounded.

The death in battle is reported of H.H. the Prince of Schönburg-Waldenburg, the elder brother of Princess William of Wied, the former Mpreteresha of Albania.

It is reported from Copenhagen that H.R.H. Prince Adalbert of Prussia, nephew of the Queen of the Hellenes, has died of wounds while in hospital. The report has not been confirmed.

Last Sunday Lord Kitchener paid a visit to Shorncliffe Camp, where 17,000 recruits are receiving training.

The appointment of Mr. Madjaroff to Petrograd will remove from London one of the few diplomatists to cultivate the traditional appearance of members of his profession. He is to be congratulated upon the good fortune which calls him to his new post, undoubtedly the most important in the Diplomatic Service of his country. The Minister and Madame Madjaroff were never conspicuous figures in society, and it must be remembered that they were plunged in mourning by the loss of their son in the Second Balkan War.

H.H. the Agha Khan is staying at Claridge's Hotel.

Prince Emanuel Bibescu has arrived in London from Paris.

Major-General Sir John Maxwell, K.C.B., D.S.O., etc., has taken over the command of the Army of Occupation in Egypt, not Major-General H. B. Watkis, C.B., as previously announced.

Lady Maxwell, having turned her house, No. 7, Grosvenor Place, into a hospital for wounded officers, would be glad of any gifts of fruit or game which friends would care to send them.

Mr. Olney Arnold, American Diplomatic Agent to Egypt, has returned to his duties from Munich, where his anxieties were considerably augmented by the dangerous illness of his son. Luckily the latter is now on a fair way to recovery, and is expected to follow his father within a few weeks.

Sir William Willcocks leaves this week in the P. and O. s.s. "India" for Egypt.

The marriage of Mr. Genadieff, formerly Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, took place in Sofia on September 1. Dr. Radoslavoff and his wife were the witnesses of the marriage. Mr. and Mme. Genadieff left for Constantinople on their wedding tour.

Great sympathy is felt for Lord Edward Cecil, whose official duties as Adviser to the Ministry of Finance necessitate his presence in Egypt, during this very anxious time, when the name of his young and only son has been posted as among the missing.

Judge Tuck and his wife, who hope to sail for Alexandria on October 3, have been spending the greater part of their summer at Oxford, to which University their younger son has been attached. Thoroughly in sympathy with English life and traditions, both Judge and Mrs. Tuck and their family have been very closely in touch with the anxieties of the last few weeks, and Miss Carola Tuck has thrown herself heart and soul into the work of the local relief committee, to which she has been acting as hon. secretary.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Louis Hall Rickards, of Alexandria, to Winifred Picard, youngest daughter of the late Mr. John Picard and of Mrs. Picard, 9, Vicarage Gate, Kensington. The marriage will take place quietly on Tuesday, October 6, at half-past two o'clock.

According to a Vienna report, General Radko Dimitrieff, the former Bulgarian Minister in Petrograd, who volunteered for the Russian Army and was given a command, has been seriously wounded at the battle of Tomaszow. This has happily not yet been confirmed from Russian sources.

It is reported from Nish that Lieut.-Colonel Plunkett, the British Military Attaché in Serbia, was slightly wounded in the left leg while watching the battle at Leshnitza.

Mrs. Llewellyn Phillips, of Cairo, whose nursing qualifications make her services of exceptional value, has joined the Red Cross Society and been nominated matron to the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital. Mrs. Phillips has already left to take up her duties with this hospital.

Mr. Owen Richards, one of the best known surgeons of Cairo, has also left for the front, accompanied by his wife, who for some little time previous to her marriage was head of the nursing staff of the Anglo-American Hospital.

The death is announced of Colonel Abel Straghan, C.B., late Highland Light Infantry, at Norwood, in his eightieth year. Colonel Straghan served during the Indian Mutiny and in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, including the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. For his services he was mentioned in despatches and received the medal with clasp, the bronze star, the Third Class of the Order of the Mejidieh, and was made a Companion of the Bath.

Amongst the list of officers killed we regret to notice the names of Major the Hon. A. H. Maitland and Captain A. Horne, both of the Cameron Highlanders. Major Maitland, who was the third son of the thirteenth Earl of Lauderdale, served with the Nile Expedition, 1898, and was present at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, receiving the Egyptian medal with two clasps and the Khedive's Star. He also took part in the South African War from 1900-1, and received the Queen's medal with five clasps. Captain Alexander Horne also saw service in the Nile Expedition, 1898, and served throughout the South African War of 1900-2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir E. R. Bradford, Bart., Seaforth Highlanders, whose name is in the official list of killed issued by the Press Bureau, had a very distinguished career. He was with the Seaforths as a captain when Earl Kitchener moved by way of the Atbara River to Khartoum, and in South Africa, where his staff services were so valuable that he won six clasps.

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Major Hugh Moore Hutchinson, D.S.O., Connaught Rangers, who is amongst the wounded, saw active service in Sierra Leone and South Africa. In 1904-5 he was attached to the Egyptian Army and commanded a battalion in the Sudan, receiving the Third-Class of the Order of the Osmanieh and the Fourth Class of the Mejidieh.

We regret to announce the death of Major-General William Tweedie, C.S.I., which took place last Friday, at Dunbar Terrace, Dumfries. He was for many years H.M. Consul-General at Baghdad and Political Resident for the Government of India in Turkish Arabia. His military and administrative career, which was long and distinguished, began in 1857, when he entered the H.E.I. Company's Army. He served during the Indian Mutiny, from 1857 to 1859, being severely wounded at Benares; in the Abyssinian Expedition of 1868; and in the Afghan War of 1879-80. In 1881 he was made a C.S.I. In 1885 he was appointed Resident (June 5) and Consul-General (August 27) at Baghdad, and left Baghdad November 4, 1891.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Mavromichali Biddulph, of the Rifle Brigade, whose name is in the list of wounded, went to Egypt in 1898 and took part in the battle of Khartoum, receiving the medal with clasp. He also served in the South African War.

Major-General James Woodward Scott, C.B., late R.M.L.I., who died suddenly at Chudleigh, Devon, on Wednesday of last week, served in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and commanded the Royal Marines at the occupation of Port Said. He fought at Tel-el-Kebir, Kassassin, and other actions, being mentioned in dispatches, and receiving his brevet of lieutenant-colonel, bronze star and medal with clasp, and the Fourth Class of the Order of the Osmanieh.

Miss Nellie Hadden, the well-known animal-painter, who spends so many months every year in Helouan, is holding an exhibition of sketches, etc., at the Dudley Galleries, 169, Piccadilly, from October 1. With her is associated Miss Alice Fowler, whose drawings will be shown under the title of "In the Dear Homeland," while Miss Hadden's will be chiefly confined to subjects connected with the annual pilgrimage of the Bedouins to the Mosque of the Sheikh Abou Serea, in the desert lying between Helouan and the Red Sea. The two artists hope to give half the proceeds of their exhibition to the National War Fund.

The P. and O. s.s. "Medina," which left London last Saturday for Australia, took a large number of passengers for Port Said, amongst whom were the following:—Judge Amos, Dr. D. M. Beddoe, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. R. Bird, Dr. and Mrs. Cuffey, Mr. C. G. Crawley, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Ireland, and Mr. E. Moss.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

It is announced that Mr. Madjaroff, the Bulgarian Minister at the Court of St. James's, has been appointed to succeed General Radko Dimitrieff as Bulgarian Minister in Petrograd.

Colonel the Hon. W. Lambton, C.M.G., M.V.O., D.S.O., military secretary to Sir John French, has been granted the temporary rank of brigadier-general.

Mr. Kymbritis, Hellenic Consul-General at Genoa, has been transferred to Trieste vice Mr. Mavroudis, who has received an appointment in the Foreign Office in Athens.

Mr. Dendramis, Hellenic Vice-Consul at Bourgas, has been appointed Secretary of Legation in Bucharest.

Mr. George W. Young, Deputy American Consul-General and Interpreter at Constantinople, has been appointed American Vice-Consul at Harput.

Mr. Nedkoff, who has recently been appointed Bulgarian Consul-General at Salonika, has now taken up his duties.

Mr. Frederick Ogden de Billier, of Washington, D.C., has been appointed Secretary of the American Legation in Athens.

Mr. S. Pinkney Tuck has been appointed American Vice and Deputy Consul at Alexandria.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

LEIGH-CANNEY.—On September 20, at 33, Buckland Crescent, Hampstead, N.W., the wife of Dr. H. E. Leigh-Canney, of a daughter.

MOLESWORTH.—On September 20, at The Hermitage, Stockton-on-Forest, York, the wife of the Rev. John Hilton Molesworth, British Chaplain in Cairo, of a daughter.

DEATH.

LIDDELL.—On September 18, at 2, Hungershall Park, Tunbridge Wells, Anna Gertrude, wife of Major J. S. Liddell, of Cairo.

VICE-ADMIRAL A. H. LIMPUS, C.B.

The Gazette announced on Tuesday that Rear-Admiral A. H. Limpus, C.B., till recently Naval Adviser to the Ottoman Government, has been promoted to be Vice-Admiral and absorbed in the Establishment.

Vice-Admiral A. H. Limpus, C.B., born in 1863, joined H.M. "Britannia" training ship in 1876, and served as cadet and midshipman in H.M.S. "Euryalus," "Alexandra," and "Bacchante." He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1885, and to Commander in 1898. Previously, in 1884-85, he served at Suakin and received the Egyptian medals and the Khedive's Bronze Star. As Commander he went through the South African War, was specially mentioned in dispatches, and promoted to Captain. In 1900 he commanded H.M.S. "Terrible" in China (China Medal, 1900), and ten years later he hoisted his flag in H.M.S. "Jupiter" as Rear-Admiral in the Home Fleet, Portsmouth Sub-Division, and later in H.M.S. "Prince George" and "New Zealand." In 1911 he was created C.B. and awarded the Coronation Medal at the review of the Fleet at Spithead. In 1912 he was appointed Naval Adviser to the Turkish Government, and was recalled by the British Government on the 14th inst.

Perhaps the most interesting, as certainly the most conspicuous, episode in Admiral Limpus's career was his stay in Constantinople as head of the British Naval Mission. Until quite recently his personal popularity among the Young Turks was great, and the relations between the Mission and Djelal Bey, Minister of Marine, such as to guarantee Governmental support for the naval reforms which it was proposed to carry out under Admiral Limpus's initiative and instructions. As soon as the present war broke out, however, a gradual and most disappointing change took place in the attitude of the Young Turks towards our Mission, until latterly, under the evil influence of Liman von Sanders, and as a result of the Goeben and Breslau incidents, the position of the members became unsupportable. The tardy recall of the Mission puts an end to a most unfortunate incident in Anglo-Turkish relations, and one that will be keenly felt by all the more enlightened Turks, who feel that their Empire is being rushed to its doom by a "more German than the German" clique at the Ottoman Ministry of War.

The departure of Admiral Limpus and the British naval officers under his orders will be keenly felt by the British colony at Constantinople, where they were all well known and exceedingly popular. But, at the same time, and in view of the unworthy behaviour of the Young Turks towards the mentors whom they had themselves asked the British Government to provide, there is not a member of our colony who will not have been glad to see the undignified situation brought to an end, and who will not have sympathised with our officers' eagerness to be somewhere in the fighting line instead of submitting to German intrigues at the Golden Horn.

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EGYPT AND THE WAR.

The art of waging war as it is understood to-day in Germany is not restricted to field operations. Just as non-combatants in the military zone receive the attention of bomb-throwing airmen in order that they may be impressed by German prowess, so it seems to be hoped in Berlin that the alienation of the sympathy of neutral States will add to the embarrassment of the Triple Entente and its Allies in this war. Hence the systematized efforts to prejudice public opinion all over the world in favour of Germany. In such a comprehensive scheme it was unlikely that Egypt would be overlooked. Its peculiar relationship to Great Britain, the traditional difficulties of the administration, and, above all, the Emperor William's weakness for posing as the champion of Moslem communities, opened up possibilities which German diplomacy could not afford to ignore. The ground might not be as favourable as Turkey, where Government sympathies could be relied upon to second German efforts in a Press campaign and the dissemination of German war news, but Egypt could be worked in conjunction with the Ottoman Empire, and Turkish emissaries might possibly be obtained to second the efforts of German agents. Within the limitations imposed upon them, the representatives of Germany and Austria-Hungary appear to have done their best in Egypt. Attempts to poison the minds of the Egyptians against the British were supplemented by fictitious or biassed war news, while any opportunities that the country afforded of adding to the knowledge of the German General Staff regarding British naval and military movements are supposed to have been taken advantage of to the utmost. Thanks to the anomalous position in Egypt the German and Austro-Hungarian representatives were able for a time to defy the Egyptian Government, and no doubt they imagined that they were on the way to reaping a satisfactory harvest. Their activities, however, were summarily terminated by the British military authorities, against whose action the Egyptian Government expressed itself unable to offer the two agencies any protection. With the removal of the two diplomatic and consular staffs, German machinations, it is hoped, have been deprived of official encouragement and a *pied à terre*. That the step was not taken too soon is proved by the fact that it has since been found necessary to place certain German residents under arrest, while others, together with some Austrians, are under close supervision. It is characteristic of spy work as practised by Germans in countries removed from the theatre of military operations, that it appears to offer no practical advantage to off-set the universal exasperation caused by the practice. But inasmuch as the German authorities set store upon their spies' activities, it becomes incumbent upon the Governments concerned to defeat their intentions.

In the case of Egypt it is by no means apparent that the success achieved by the German and Austro-Hungarian representatives was commensurate with their efforts. Stories of disaffection in the Egyptian Army received a good start before any contradiction overtook them, but the Emperor William's troops and German diplomacy are welcome to any encouragement they derived from these manifestly false reports. Against such stories may be set the rebuff which German emissaries are said to have met with in their attempt to persuade the Senussi to create a diversion in Germany's favour by raising the standard of war. The tenor of the message may well be imagined, for William II. would not miss the opportunity of professing in suitable phraseology his Imperial solicitude and disinterested endeavours for the welfare of Islam. If report may be believed, the Senussi were equal to the occasion. They are understood to have replied that they could not recognize that the German Emperor had any part or lot in Islam, and they saw no reason for taking up arms against the British. The decision of the Senussi corresponds with the general attitude of the Egyptians. In spite of the efforts of the German and Austro-Hungarian staffs, public opinion in Egypt is on the side of Great Britain. If under the stimulus of false news certain Germanophil tendencies developed, they have since given place to openly expressed sympathy with the cause of British arms. German professions, it has to be remembered, which appeared to receive strong support from the opening phases of the great struggle, have lost much of their virtue with the ill success of Germany's troops. The course of the war, indeed, has been singularly unpropitious to German intrigue abroad, for just at the time when even the moral support of other countries would have provided a useful stimulus at home, German agents are found to have overreached themselves, leaving their intended dupes wholly unconvinced. If any doubt existed regarding the attitude of Egypt, it would be dispelled by the columns of the native Press, to which reference is made in our Cairo Letter this week, above all by the significant open letter to the German Emperor written by Colonel Ali Sami Bey, a former aide-de-camp to Sultan Abdul Hamid, and a member of the Emperor's suite on the occasion of his Eastern tour.

The truth is that Egypt has left behind her for at least two years the time when German intrigues would have had a chance of achieving any conspicuous success. Nevertheless, as the universal financial stringency is being felt on the banks of the Nile, it is well that steps should be taken to explain the situation to the fellaheen. If messages have been conveyed to the Senussi it is probable that German activities will not have been confined to the town element. The tour undertaken by the Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior will enable many misconceptions to be removed and at the same time will afford proof of the Government's desire to alleviate any hardships from which the people may be suffering. Rumour is a many-headed monster which assumes the most fantastic shapes in times of war. The fact that reorganization is taking place in Government departments and that the programme for public works may be subjected to modifications is in itself sufficient to give rise to many reports; coupled with retrenchment in business and private circles it may present itself to the mind of the fellaheen as a very ominous portent. Egypt has now an opportunity of testing the stability of the progress it has made during Lord Kitchener's régime. At the same time, some indication will be given of the degree to which the Administration as a whole has been able to absorb and apply the spirit which he introduced into the machinery of Government. The country, however, as we have had occasion before to point out, cannot be said to have lost Lord Kitchener entirely as its British Agent. He remains for the present in Great Britain, and we may well imagine that his duties as Secretary of State for War leave him, even with his well-known capacity for work, little time for other matters. But Lord Kitchener is a member of the British Government which exercises supervision over Egyptian affairs, and we may feel confident that with the prospect of returning to his former post he contrives to keep an eye on what is taking place in Egypt. For the moment military matters there are an important consideration, and fall wholly within Lord Kitchener's province. Indeed, it is possible that with his present powers he may be able to round off the policy which he was engaged in carrying into effect as British Agent. The Egyptians are not the only people liable to be misled by a display of weakness where a strong line of action is intended, and possibly if we take more pains to show our strength in Egypt we shall save the natives from the temptations of uncertainty and ourselves from the effects of the encouragement we have hitherto given our enemies to interfere in a sphere which is our own.

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CONSULAR POST OFFICES IN TURKEY.

Last week in discussing the incidence of the Capitulations in Turkey it was pointed out in THE NEAR EAST that in the case of the consular post offices, at least some concessions might be made to Turkish *amour propre* without at the same time damaging the interests of all concerned. Indeed, it has been part of the policy of THE NEAR EAST to advocate the suppression of the consular post offices ever since the Ottoman Postal Administration was so greatly improved under Oskan Effendi. It is undeniable that many consular post offices were first established and have since been maintained from reasons of international rivalry and a desire to gain prestige in the eyes of the native population. In certain parts of the Ottoman Empire before the recent wars this policy was carried to excess, particularly by the Italians, who sought to make of their postal privileges an engine of political propaganda, especially in Albania. Coupled with the political aspirations which originally prompted the opening of the offices in remote and unfrequented centres was a desire to make them, if possible, self-supporting. In many cases the amount of postal business transacted locally was wholly inadequate to justify the existence of the office on purely financial grounds, consequently recourse was had to the ever-open purse of the stamp collector. New issues of stamps were put on the market, and varieties deliberately, and, except from a philatelic point of view, needlessly multiplied. For example, the Italians found that stamps overprinted "Albania" were inadequate, and four separate sets were issued for Janina, Durazzo, Valona and Scutari, each comprising stamps from 5 centesimi up to 10 lira! In this way a certain revenue was coaxed from the pockets of the stamp collector, the whole of which was pure gain to the consular postal administration, and enabled it to maintain its prestige-hunting campaign without loss to its revenue. Both the Russians and, in a minor degree, the French, yielded to this insidious temptation. The Russians issued separately overprinted stamps for no less than twelve different post offices in Turkey, and in one case, the Mount Athos office, actually had two sets simultaneously in use—one overprinted in Latin, and the other in Cyrillic characters. France at one time had five separate issues for use in Turkey besides special stamps for Crete, Port Said and Alexandria. The Austrians and the Germans both have two issues in use, one with the value in Turkish currency and the other with the value in French money. The latter appears to be an extension of the issues otherwise peculiar to Crete to the Syrian ports and Jerusalem for the benefit of the Western pilgrim and tourist traffic. Of all the Powers maintaining consular post offices in Turkey, Great Britain is the only one to limit their number strictly to commercial needs.

The consular post offices, like the Capitulations under which they grew up, are of ancient standing. The Venetians and the Neapolitans had services of their own working from Constantinople, while the Austrians and the Russians began a postal service of regular couriers to and from Constantinople as early as 1721. Postal arrangements were made by France in 1812, Great Britain in 1832, Greece in 1834, Germany in 1870, Egypt in 1870, and Italy in 1873, and again in 1908. Roumania failed to establish a consular post office in 1896, although stamps overprinted in Turkish currency were actually prepared and were on sale on board a Roumanian ship moored alongside the quay at Galata from the middle of March until the end of May in that year. The Porte has on several occasions, notably in 1874, 1880, 1888, 1901, and 1908-9, made determined efforts to rid itself of the incubus of the consular post offices, and in 1881 succeeded in persuading the Egyptians and the Greeks to suspend their services, while the Italians followed suit in 1883. The other Powers have, however, hitherto steadily declined to forego their lucrative postal privileges, although the efficiency of the Ottoman Administration of Posts and Telegraphs is greatly superior to that of several countries which are not cursed by the competition of foreign post offices operating within their own territory. It is a curious commentary upon the political nature of most of these establishments that the Austrian Government in May, 1909, agreed to suppress five of its offices which existed in Ottoman towns, where no other foreign post office was in operation. Had the existence of consular offices been justified by the inefficiency of the Ottoman Postal Administration it would have been precisely in such towns that the presence of a foreign agency would have been most needed. In point of fact, however, these particular offices, having no foreign competition to meet were willingly closed by the Austrians as there was no question of a loss of prestige involved, as would have been the case in a town where another Power still kept its office open.

Austria.

The Austrian Post Office was transferred from the Embassy in Constantinople to a separate building in 1748, and the other offices were opened and closed or maintained as follows, up to July 31, 1914:—

	Opened.	Closed.	If now in Turkey or not.
Craiova	1732	1857	Roumania
Jassy	1785	1869	Roumania
Salonika	1788	Open	Greece
Serres ca	1813	Open	Greece
Smyrna ca	1813	Open	—
Bucharest ca	1822	1869	Roumania
Botushany ca	1838	1869	Roumania
Galatz ca	1838	1869	Roumania
Belgrade	1841	1869	Serbia
Braila	1845	1869	Roumania
Larnaca	1845	1879	Cyprus
Alexandria	1845	1888	Egypt
Tulcea	1845	1879	Roumania
Varna	1845	1884	Bulgaria
Beyrout	1845	Open	—
Dardanelles	1845	Open	—
Gallipoli	1845	1909	—
Rhodes	1845	Open	—
Samsun	1845	Open	—
Trebizonde	1845	Open	—
Canea	1845	Open	Greece
Sofia	1851	1880	Bulgaria
Mytilene	1851	Open	Greece
Chios	1851	Open	Greece
Sulina	1852	1879	Roumania
Jerusalem	1852	Open	—
Rustchuk	1853	1884	Bulgaria
Burgas	1854	1880	Bulgaria
Antivari	1854	1878	Montenegro
Volo	1854	1881	Greece
Alexandretta	1854	Open	—
Haifa	1854	Open	—
Durazzo	1854	Open	Albania
Ineboli	1854	Open	—
Jaffa	1854	Open	—
Latakia	1854	1906	—
Mersina	1854	Open	—
Preveza	1854	Open	Greece
Sinope	1854	1868	—
Valona	1854	Open	Albania
Giurgievo	1855	1869	Roumania
Shkodra	1855	Open	Albania
Janina	1857	Open	Greece
Adrianople ca	1858	1909	—
Bakeu	1858	1869	Roumania
Berlad	1858	1869	Roumania
Fokshani	1858	1869	Roumania
Ploeshti	1858	1869	Roumania
Roman	1858	1869	Roumania
Kavala	1858	Open	Greece
Tripolis	1858	Open	—
Candia	1858	Open	Greece
Rethymo	1858	Open	Greece

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Post Office.	Opened.	Closed.	If now in Turkey or not.
Philippopolis	1859	1889	Bulgaria
Constanza	1862	1879	Roumania
Czernawoda	1862	1879	Roumania
Porto Lagos	1864	1909	Greece
Widin	1868	1880	Bulgaria
Port Said	1869	—	Egypt
Santi Quaranta	1870	Open	Albania
Kerassunde	1872	Open	—
Dedeagatch	1873	Open	Bulgaria
Leros	1879	1880	—
Dulcigno	1879	—	Montenegro
Vathy	1881	Open	Greece
Rodosto	1898	1909	—
Chesme	1898	1909	—

From this it will be seen that Austria, on July 31 of this year, maintained 15 post offices in the Ottoman Empire and an equal number in the provinces lost to Turkey as a result of the Balkan War. Of the latter 10 will probably be suppressed, as Austria-Hungary has now recognised the annexation by Greece of her new provinces. It is, however, obvious from a perusal of this list how in the past Austrian post offices have supported Austrian policy in the dominions of the Porte. It is only fair to Austria, however, to acknowledge that her consular post offices have enjoyed a high reputation for efficiency and trustworthiness.

Russia.

The Russians opened a public post office in Constantinople as long ago as 1748, and in 1799 manifested their political interest in what were then known as "the Principalities" by establishing offices in Jassy and Bucharest. Later, in 1856, the Russian company of Navigation and Trade was made responsible for the Russian postal service throughout the Levant, and opened numerous agencies which are largely patronised by the Russian pilgrims on their way to and from Mount Athos and the Holy Places in Palestine. On July 31, 1914, Russian post offices were working at the following places (those marked with an asterisk being provided with special issues of stamps):—Constantinople*, Alexandretta, Beyrout*, Chios, Dardanelles*, Ineboli, Jaffa*, Jerusalem*, Kerassunde*, Latakia, Mount Athos*, Mytilene*, Ordou, Rizeh*, Salonika*, Samsun, Sinope, Smyrna*, Tireboli, Trebizonde* and Tripolis. Of these, Salonika is now in Greece, and will probably shortly be suppressed together with the Russian Capitulations in Crete and Macedonia.

France.

Originally started in 1812, the French Consular Post in Turkey was suspended between 1827 and 1835, after which it was considerably extended. At one time or another it has maintained the following offices (those with special issues of stamps being marked with an asterisk):—

Post Office.	Opened.	Closed.	If now in Turkey or not.
Constantinople	1812	—	—
Alexandretta	1856	—	—
Beyrut	1855	—	—
Dardanelles	1855	—	—
Gallipoli	1855	1872	—
Jaffa	1855	—	—
Latakia	1855	—	—
Mersina	1856	—	—
Mytilene	1855	1872	Greece
Rhodes	1855	1887	—
Smyrna	1855	—	—
Tripolis	1855	—	—
Braila	1857	1875	Roumania
Galatz	1857	1875	Roumania
Meboli	1857	1876	—
Kerassunde	1857	—	—
Salonika	1857	—	Greece
Samsun	1857	—	—
Sinope	1857	1869	—
Sulina	1857	1879	Roumania
Trebizonde	1857	—	—
Tulcea	1857	1879	Roumania
Varna	1857	1876	Bulgaria
Volo	1857	1883	Greece
Ordon	1867	1876	—
Constanza	1872	1879	Roumania
Rodosto	1872	1876	—
Dedeagatch*	1874	—	Bulgaria
Enos	1874	1876	—
Kavala*	1874	—	Greece
Porto Lagos*	1874	1900	Bulgaria
Galata	1879	—	—
Stamboul	1867	—	—
Vathy*	1893	—	Greece
Jerusalem	1900	—	—

In addition to these the French maintain Consular Post Offices in Crete*, Alexandria* and Port Said*.

Germany.

The Germans only began to turn their attention postally to the Levant in 1870, and did not overprint their stamps until 1884, when it became necessary to do so to prevent the difference in exchange from being exploited to the detriment of the postal service. At first they were content with two offices—Galata and Pera, but in 1898 one was opened at Jaffa in honour of the German Emperor's pilgrimage to Palestine, and in 1900 further offices were opened in Stamboul, Jerusalem, Beyrout, and Smyrna. Stamps overprinted with French currency were issued in 1908, in imitation of the Austrian issue for Crete, and are on sale in Jerusalem.

Italy.

The Italians, who had the longest tradition of all in favour of a postal service of their own in the Ottoman dominions as being the heirs of Venice and of Naples, did not open an office in Constantinople until 1873. The following is a list of the Italian offices, the asterisk showing those for which separate sets of stamps are issued:—

	Opened.	Closed.	Reopened.	If now in Turkey or not.
Constantinople*	1873	1883	1908	—
Beyrout	1873	1883	—	—
Smyrna*	1873	1883	1908	—
Canea*	1900	—	—	Greece
Tripoli-in-Barbary*	1901	—	—	Libya
Scutari*	1901	—	—	Albania
Durazzo*	1902	—	—	Albania
Janina*	1902	—	—	Albania
Jerusalem*	1908	—	—	—
Valona*	1908	—	—	Albania
Salonika*	1908	—	—	Greece
Pera	1908	—	—	—
Stamboul	1908	—	—	—

All the Italian offices were closed during the Turco-Italian War 1911-12, but, with the exception of that at Beyrout, which had been closed since 1883, and that in Tripoli-in-Barbary, which had been annexed by Italy, they were all re-opened on December 1, 1912.

Great Britain.

Great Britain instituted a consular postal service in 1832, but it was not until 1854 that it was used for public correspondence. In 1885 overprinted stamps were issued in consequence of difficulties with the exchange.

	Opened.	Closed.	Reopened.
Galata	1832	—	—
Scutari-in-Asia	1854	1857	—
Smyrna	1872	—	—
Beyrout	1883	—	—
Stamboul	1884	1895	1908
Salonika	1900	—	—

Of all the consular post offices conducted by the Powers in Turkey the British seems to be the most closely connected with business requirements, and less of a political advertisement than most of its rivals. As Great Britain has now recognised the annexation of Salonika by Greece it is probable that the post office in that city will now be closed.

Greece.

Among other countries which established consular post offices strictly for business purposes were Greece and Egypt. The former had a number of offices:—

Constantinople	1834	Jassy	1857
Smyrna	1834	Galatz	1860
Salonika	1835	Larissa	1860
Dardanelles	1835	Sulina	—
Arta	1852	Samos	—
Janina	1852	Canea	—
Prevesa	1853	Candia	—
Bucharest	1857	Mytilene	—
Braila	1857	Volo	—

All these offices were closed in April, 1881, and no less than ten of them are now to be found in Hellenic territory, only three remaining in Turkey.

Egypt.

The Egyptian Government, in spite of its political subordination to the Porte, maintained a number of post offices in Turkey. These were opened in 1866 in Constantinople and at Beyrout, Chios, Jaffa, Mersina, Mytilene, Salonika, Smyrna, Tripolis, and Volo. In 1870 others were established at the Dardanelles and Gallipoli, but all were closed by agreement in August, 1881.

[The writer has been greatly assisted in the preparation of this article by Mr. Armstrong's book, "Stamps of the Levant Post Offices." Bright and Son, 164, Strand.]

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THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Serbian Valour—Mr. Lloyd George's Tribute.

Speaking at the great meeting held in the Queen's Hall last Saturday afternoon, Mr. Lloyd George paid an eloquent tribute to Serbia. It came after his denunciation of the attack on innocent Belgium. We quote part of it below:—

But Belgium was not the only little nation that has been attacked in this war, and I make no excuse for referring to the case of the other little nation—the case of Serbia. The history of Serbia is not unblotted. What history in the category of nations is unblotted? The first nation that is without sin, let her cast a stone at Serbia—a nation trained in a horrible school. But she won her freedom with her tenacious valour, and she has maintained it by the same courage. If any Serbians were mixed up in the assassination of the Grand Duke, they ought to be punished. Serbia admits that. The Serbian Government had nothing to do with it. Not even Austria claimed that. The Serbian Prime Minister is one of the most capable and honoured men in Europe. Serbia was willing to punish any one of her subjects who had been proved to have any complicity in that assassination. What more could you expect?

What were the Austrian demands? She sympathised with her fellow-countrymen in Bosnia. That was one of her crimes. She must do so no more. Her newspapers were saying nasty things about Austria. They must do so no longer. That is the Austrian spirit. You had it in Zabern. Serbian newspapers must not criticise Austria. Serbia said: "Very well, we will give orders to the newspapers that they must not criticise Austria in future, neither Austria, nor Hungary, nor anything that is theirs." She promised not to sympathise with Bosnia, promised to write no critical articles about Austria. She would have no public meeting at which anything unkind was said about Austria. That was not enough. She must dismiss from her Army officers whom Austria should subsequently name. But these officers had just emerged from a war where they were adding lustre to the Serbian arms—gallant, brave, efficient. I wonder whether it was their guilt or their efficiency that prompted Austria's action. Serbia was to undertake in advance to dismiss them from the Army—the names to be sent on subsequently. Can you name a country in the world that would have stood that?

It was a difficult situation for a small country. Here was a demand made upon her by a great military Power who could put five or six men in the field for every one she could; and that Power supported by the greatest military Power in the world. How did Serbia behave? It is not what happens to you in life that matters; it is the way in which you face it. And Serbia faced the situation with dignity. She said to Austria: "If any officers of mine have been guilty and are proved to be guilty I will dismiss them." Austria said: "That is not good enough for me." It was not guilt she was after, but capacity.

Then came Russia's turn. Russia has a special regard for Serbia. She has a special interest in Serbia. Russians have shed their blood for Serbian independence many a time. Serbia is a member of her family, and she cannot see Serbia maltreated. Austria knew that. Germany knew that, and Germany turned round to Russia and said: "I insist that you shall stand by with your arms folded whilst Austria is strangling your little brother to death." What answer did the Russian Slav give? He gave the only answer that becomes a man. He turned to Austria and said: "You lay hands on that little fellow and I will tear your ramshackle empire limb from limb." And he is doing it.

"Slav *v.* Teuton."

In the September number of *The United Empire* Mr. Ellis M. Cook writes on "Slav *v.* Teuton." He distinguishes between Teutonic and Germanic as follows:—

The Teutones were a Germanic tribe which at one time had devastated Gaul and were defeated by Marius in 102 B.C. In later times we find a tribe of this name dwelling between the Elbe and the Baltic—that is, in what is now Mecklenburg Schwerin, but the protagonists of Teutonism were the Knights of the Teutonic Order, a sort of organisation of robber chiefs who were powerful in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and who conquered territory stretching from Pomerania to Memel, on the Baltic—the nucleus of the region which was later on to become Prussia. It is not fanciful, therefore, to say that while the word Germanic comprises a number of peoples, for instance the Dutch, and even the British (with a strong admixture of Celtic and Scandinavian), the word Teutonic is more correctly applied to the Prussianised Germany of modern times.

Referring to the Teutonising of Germany and the incompatibility of the Teutonic and Slav ideals, he writes:—

The really strange feature of the Teutonising of Germany is that the fundamental, permanent and priceless features of German life and character seem to have been so easily and so rapidly subordinated to the harsher Teutonic aims and ideals. Old Germany gave us Goethe, Schiller, Lessing, Hegel, Kant, Fichte, Wagner, Mozart—poets, musicians, philosophers. Modern Germany is not behindhand in practical science, but the outstanding names are Bismarck, Moltke, Treitschke, and the Emperor William. This has been accomplished chiefly through the characteristic Prussian method of thorough organisation. Education on a uniform basis, with military training as a part, has been spread all over the country, and the army of teachers, organised also on strict lines, has been the channel for the new doctrines. Europe and America have gasped with admiration before the symmetry and system of German organisation. Only those who place liberty of thought, a generous atmosphere and a love of abstract truth before mechanical perfection have wondered—and are still wondering—if Germany may not have to be freed from Teutonism before she can resume her place in the world as a leader of thought. However that may be, this military Teutonising element is essentially antipathetic to the Slav—dreamer and democrat. He can fight for an ideal; he will die for a dream. He will not submit to being thrust wholesale into a sausage machine, to come out the other end neatly measured, labelled, and looking like every other sausage. The Slav and the Teuton are hereditary foes, on racial grounds, but that racial animosity is founded on a real difference of ideals, on a mutual incompatibility. German and Slav might settle down side by side—they have mingled much and have much in common, but the Teuton comes with his brutal drill-sergeant methods and the inmost soul of the Slav revolts.

Chivalrous Maoris.

The British Australasian (September 17), in a note under the heading of "Maoris for Egypt," says:—

Whatever may be said of the employment of coloured troops against Europeans, the Maoris, if they are in active service, will be found to be chivalrous as well as formidable foes. Is there any white army whose traditions include the supplying of food to a besieged enemy, as the Maoris did to the English forces in the New Zealand wars, in order that the latter might be in better trim for fighting? The Maori warriors' idea of conquering an enemy was to conquer by hard fighting; to overcome him by starvation was regarded with scorn.

Indian Border Tribes' Loyalty.

The following is extracted from the Editorial Notes of *The Mail* (August 23), published in Bombay:—

. . . . The loyalty of the semi-savage borderers has often been a subject of doubt and sometimes has been upset by unruly tribes, yet if truth is to be told they are as firm and loyal as the inhabitants of any other province. . . . The writer has many friends among the Border Chieftains, particularly the Nawabs of Landi and Usman Zai, and found them all, without exception, loyal and devoted to the Government. Of course, they do not hold the polished views of Colonel Sir Aslam Khan, but in their own way they are second to none in their loyalty to Government. We only hope that the Government would be pleased to accept their offer and let the world see that the Mohammedans are bound in life and in death with the "greatest Mohammedan Government in the world."

Indian Moslems and Turkey.

The following are extracts from *The Hablul Matin* (August 26):—

. . . . Should it please the Sultan to declare war against Britain or by his support of Germany force Britain to draw the sword against him, the eighty millions of Indian Moslems will assist England to the best of their power. That would be their plain duty. . . .

Such is the crisis with which we are brought to face at the present moment. The anxiety which is felt in London regarding the attitude of Turkey is shared by the Moslems of India. They should make clear their position. Public meeting should be held to make an open declaration of the duties of the Indian Moslems, in case such an emergency should arise. The Indian Moslems ought to assure Government of their unflinching loyalty. And at the same time, the Turkish Government should be informed that an unfriendly attitude on their part towards England would cause pain to the Islamic community in India. The Indian Moslems feel a real interest in their brethren in faith in Turkey. They honour the Sultan as the Calipha. But their paramount duty is to their Gracious King-Emperor, George V., under whose benign protection they live.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egyptian Prize Courts. September 18.

The Deputy-Speaker announced that the Royal Assent had been given to the Bill for establishing Prize Courts in Egypt, Cyprus, and Zanzibar.

Egyptian Civil Servants.

The Royal Assent was also announced to the new Superannuation Act, which—as explained in THE NEAR EAST last week—provides for the superannuation of Civil servants lent to Egypt and such places by the Home Government.

The House was subsequently prorogued.

"Kitchener of Khartoum" will be published next Monday by Nisbets in association with *The Daily Express*. It is a new biography by the author of "King Edward the Seventh."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I referred recently to the Ottoman Government's intention of issuing a series of £T1 notes. These have now been printed—that is to say, all save the Turkish script—and have been forwarded to Constantinople. I saw one of them yesterday, and must compliment the engravers and printers, Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, of London, on the excellence of the work they have turned out. The obverse of the notes shows a background of brown with subdued green and red markings, in the form of rays, emanating as it were from the Sultan's *toughra* which crowns the design; the reverse is of a simpler composition. The whole has a very pleasing effect, and the notes will easily stand comparison with the current Turkish £T5 notes, which are well known for their artistic execution.

***

The Egyptian Government's decision to reduce next year the acreage under cotton, and to induce the fellaheen to plant cereals in its stead, will be welcomed by all who understand the real nature of the present war. Whether, once peace has been restored, the natives will return to their national "one-crop" remains to be seen; cereals admittedly will never be so lucrative as cotton, but perhaps after all the Government will facilitate the cultivation of other crops, such as tobacco. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that rotation of crops improves the latter; so much so that the enforced restriction of the cotton acreage will not affect, for later cotton crops, the land to be sown in the meantime with other crops.

***

In the meantime, authorities on cotton questions are writing letters, more or less interesting, to the daily Press. Foremost among these is a strong plea by Sir Charles W. Macara, in *The Times*, for the creation of a cotton reserve. Sir Charles has been advocating this step for years, and had it been carried out sooner, it would have been instrumental to a certain extent in guarding against a further dislocation of the cotton trade next year. Another interesting article is one which appeared recently in *The Egyptian Gazette*, from the pen of Mansur Shakour Pasha, whose view is that comparatively little assistance from the Egyptian Government would relieve the situation. The question is a moot one. It is based on the assumption that the manufacturing communities of the world will not feel the effects of the war—an assumption to which I can hardly agree. But, nevertheless, people interested in the cotton question should read the article.

***

The following cable from the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, reproduced in the "Daily Trade and Consular Reports" (Washington) needs no further comments. It is addressed to "American cotton producers," but doubtless spinners will not be slow to take advantage of Germany's crippled industry. The cable states:—

"German textile production reduced 60 per cent. Immediate further reduction probable. Local orders during last few weeks at standstill. A few foreign orders filled. Import of Russian raw material stopped. Only large sales made for military purposes. Much labour withdrawn from mills. No transport facilities now available. Warehouses at ports overloaded with goods. Impossible to export."

***

Is oil going to play an important rôle in the European war? Considering that Germany's imports at the present moment are nil, whereas her annual consumption is not far short of 2,000,000 tons, of which about 1,500,000 tons are imported, it is likely that she will feel the pinch of shortage before long, and, as a belligerent specialising in all branches of the motor industry as applied to militarism, will labour under a decided disadvantage. The Allies need have no such fears as concerns their supplies—that is, as long as we command the seas. Austria, on the other hand, is hardly better off than Germany now that the Galician fields, together with huge stores, have fallen into the hands of Russia, already a big producer. In the circumstances, and in view of the almost universal use of oil and its derivatives in a modern military State, I should be inclined to hesitate before denying the influence of the oil supply question on the outcome of the war.

***

Roumania's position as regards oil supplies is an interesting one, as so many of her fields are controlled by foreign capital. Our capital invested in them is small, but not so that of Germany, which controls the Steaua, one of the three large producers which together produce about two-thirds of Roumania's total output. According to the *Moniteur*, work on the Steaua's fields is proceeding normally in spite of mobilization, etc., but this is, I am inclined to believe, an innocent exaggeration. There is no doubt that Roumania's output has been considerably curtailed, as is shown by the Government's decision to prohibit the exports of residues, and it stands to reason that it should be so. Transport facilities in the country were never too good, and must be much worse now that the Army has been partially mobilized. Exports are well-nigh impossible, either through the Bosphorus or up the Danube, and as for storage tanks, they are only able to hold a minimum output. Of course, it is possible that Germany has during the past few weeks been secretly importing oil from Roumania by rail across Austria in great quantities, which would account for the Steaua's "normal" working. But if Russia's advance in the direction of Serbia continues much longer the rail journey will be as precarious as the Danube waterway, and Germany's supplies will automatically cease. Similarly, it is quite on the cards that the Roumanian people will realise before it is too late that their only enemies are the Teutons—more particularly the Austrians—and that their only policy is to join hands with the Entente Powers and free themselves from the economic thraldom to which they have been subjected by Berlin and Vienna.

***

The "economic thraldom" above mentioned does not apply to Roumania alone, but to all Near Eastern States, including Turkey, in a minor degree. May it perish! Bulgaria, by having her loan scheme thwarted in the eleventh hour, is freer than any of the other States—a circumstance for which she may be thankful. Serbia will soon be able to snap her fingers at Austria, and will be in a position to regain her economic freedom. Turkey, on the other hand, will doubtless emancipate herself—as soon as the Hohenzollern Power has been smashed—from a tutelage which was none of her seeking, but which was imposed upon her in a dark hour. As for Roumania, she may be relied upon to play her own trump card at the right moment, to the discomfort of the numerous Bleichroeders and Bankvereins, who will withdraw into their shells and leave Roumania free to work out her own salvation.

***

The economic hold which the Teutons acquired over Near Eastern countries is the real secret of their commercial successes to the south and east of Semlin. "Trade follows the bank," as I have frequently asserted, and nowhere has the truth of this usage been more noticeable than in the Near East, where Teuton banks have made a point of interesting themselves in trade, industries, tenders, engineering constructions, etc., rather than in what, for lack of a more comprehensive title, we can call *la haute finance*. True, they dabbled now and again in speculative undertakings, but as a rule they were decidedly *ventre à terre*, unimaginative, inclined to usury on long-term operations, and shunning everything that involved risk. Nevertheless, their dividends were good, the Fatherland's trade was furthered by their methods and, thanks to their system and to the official support they received from home, they were gradually able to weave a solid net around the country where they were established. That is the *ante bellum* state of affairs; what will it be like when the war is over? There is no saying. This much is true, however, that if we wish to compete successfully with German trade in the Near East, it does not suffice to organise a campaign here at home as is being done in a most laudable way by the Board of Trade at the present moment. We must have—and I cannot insist on this too frequently—an organised British banking system in the Near East which will devote itself primarily and principally to backing up British commercial and industrial interests in a way suited to local requirements.

COMMENTATOR.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

British Firms interested in carrying into the Near Eastern market the war against German trade, and desirous of specific information concerning the prospects there, are invited to communicate with the Commercial Editor, "THE NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, E.C.

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War on German Trade.

BOARD OF TRADE EXHIBITION.

TOYS AND GAMES.

The first of the useful series of sample exhibitions organised by the Board of Trade was inaugurated yesterday at 32, Cheapside, E.C., and will close this evening. It was devoted exclusively to toys, and the samples were of German and Austrian make, ticketed according to wholesale prices.

In some respects the exhibition was a revelation to the man-in-the-street (we need not insist on the origin of toys sold by hawkers in the streets and other toys which we have been in the habit of buying for our children under the impression that they were British-made), but its great usefulness will be more apparent to the British manufacturer. Not only will he be able to pass in review the class of goods (and prices) manufactured by Germany, but he will be able to get in touch with the firms who, previous to the war, were big importers of German toys, and who now will be obliged to look to other sources for their stock-in-trade.

Regarding more particularly the Near Eastern market, the cheap (bad, but attractive) samples on view were of the greatest interest to our representative. These (small dolls in gaudy attire, painted tin mechanisms, celluloid articles, and dolls' kitchens, etc.) are the articles that are wanted in the Near East, and a good trade can be done in them if we are able to place on the market an article competing in price and gaudiness with the vile German stuff exhibited.

The second exhibition, to be opened in a few days, will be devoted to earthenware and china.

The Board of Trade bulletin in toys and games recently published gives the following particulars with reference to the Near Eastern market. The following countries imported from Germany (1912) and Austria (1913) toys to the amount of :—

	From Germany. £	From Austria. £
Greece	1,800	400
Bulgaria	2,800	100
Serbia	1,600	300
Roumania	18,400	1,600
Turkey	23,000	2,200
Egypt	13,300	3,200

or approximately £70,000 worth of toys per year, the greater portion of which can be supplied by Great Britain.

Egypt.

The following table shows the value of the imports of toys and games from the undermentioned countries during 1912 and 1913 :—

	1912. £E	1913. £E
United Kingdom	9,207	10,744
Germany	16,327	15,598
France	13,107	12,338
Austria-Hungary	2,744	3,601
Total from all Countries	44,114	44,099

It will be seen that during the two years under review the combined contributions of Germany and Austria-Hungary amounted to nearly double that of the United Kingdom. While the total exports remained stationary, Austria-Hungary's share of the exports showed an increase of 30 per cent. in 1913, as compared with 1912.

A report by the Austrian Consul at Cairo for 1912 states that the cheapest kinds of toys find a ready sale in his district. Attempts which have been made during the last few years by some of the larger retail stores in Cairo to push the sale of better class goods have met with some success. As Nuremberg goods are the most popular in the Egyptian market, other kinds of toys for which it is desired to find a sale should resemble them as much as possible; cheapness is, however, the deciding factor.

According to a French Consular Report on Egypt for 1912, there should be a good sale for cheap mechanical toys and for games, such as chess, draughts, dominoes, etc. In a country like Egypt, where there are numerous races and religions, each celebrates with much enthusiasm its respective feasts, such as New Year's Day, and it is not unusual for large stores to keep open their toys and games department all the year round.

Turkey.

A German Consular Report on the trade of Trebizond states that in that district Germany and Austria-Hungary supply 80 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively of the imports of toys from abroad.

A French Consular Report on the trade of the vilayet of Trebizond states that 32,910 kilog. of toys, valued at 30,194 frs., were imported into that district in 1910, being a slight increase on the figure for the preceding year. The greater part of these were of German origin (Sonneberg and Nuremberg).

CO-OPERATION AMONG FIRMS.

A correspondent writes suggesting that in order to make the campaign against German trade a success it will be necessary for firms to send out representatives to the various markets where it is intended to carry on the war. He suggests that four or five firms should, together, send out one man who would act in their interests. By sharing expenses a remunerative business would result. The correspondent, who knows Persia well, offers his services for that country. Firms interested in the proposal can obtain further particulars from the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, E.C.

THE WAR AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIES.

Enquiries addressed by the Board of Trade to nearly all the principal manufacturers show that employers covering 75 per cent. of the workpeople included in the returns received have not been specially affected by the war; these employers report since the middle of July a total reduction of staff of only 1.3 per cent. Employers of the remaining 25 per cent. covered by the returns report that they have been affected by the war, and have reduced their staffs since the middle of July by 27 per cent.

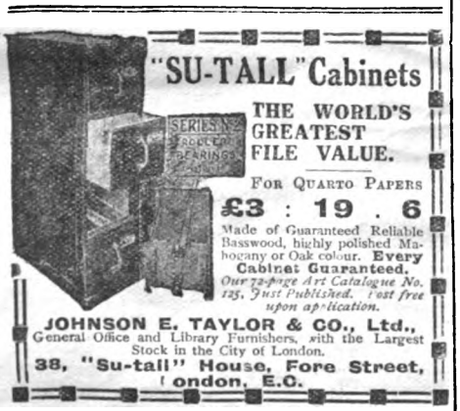
The two industries most affected are the cotton industry and the construction of vehicles, each of which as compared with July 17, show a contraction of about 19 per cent. in the numbers employed. In the cotton industry another 40 per cent. are working short time.

Other industries showing more than an average reduction of staff are furniture, engineering and tin plates. In the latter, however, though the percentage reduction is still above the average, there has been a very marked improvement of employment since the middle of August.

While coal mines working for export have been affected, the great majority of the coal mines report themselves as unaffected by the war, and at the same time report that they are working reduced hours, which is, of course, the common summer practice. So, too, the short time in the cotton trade can only in part be attributed to the war.

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS.

The following bulletins were published during the past week:—Iron or steel bars, rods, angles, shapes, or sections; jewellery and trinkets; artificial flowers; baskets and basket wares; rubber tyres for motor-cars and motor-cycles; umbrellas and sunshades; boot polishes. Applications for copies of any of the above or of those published in our previous lists should be addressed to the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, September 7.

Now that Germany and Austria are at war, and the British Government is endeavouring to acquire for home manufacturers as much as possible of the trade done by those two countries, their attention might well be drawn to the drug imports into Egypt. Hitherto Germany has enjoyed almost the lion's share in this line, and there is no reason why British manufacturers should not step into the shoes of their Teutonic competitors. At present, owing to the war, there is a distinct shortage in supplies, and there is a fear that Italy may seize this opportunity for extending her trade in this branch as, thanks to her neutrality, she is doing in other lines. The obstacle in the way of the British manufacturers appears to be the prohibition that has been placed by the Home Government on the exportation of drugs of every description.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information to the effect that a law was published in the Greek Official Gazette of July 30/August 12, which prohibits the importation into and manufacture and sale in Greece of stilettos, daggers, knives wholly or partly double-edged, closed knives of which the blades are supported by a spring or any other contrivance, and weapons of the nature of swords of any size contained in sticks or clubs. Holders of stocks of such weapons are allowed a period of two months within which to export them. The law also prohibits the manufacture for commercial purposes, and importation and sale of firearms of all kinds, and of all kinds of swords, bayonets, lances, and pointed knives, without Government permission.

Cyprus.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of a copy of a Proclamation dated August 17, which amends a Proclamation of August 6, whereby the exportation of goats, barley and oats from Cyprus is now permitted. The original Proclamation of August 6 (as above amended) provides for the prohibition of the exportation of the following :—Wheat, rye, vetches and other grain, lucerne, chopped or long straw and grasses, cattle, sheep, pigs, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, and poultry and other animals or birds used for food, and, without express permission, horses, mules and asses.

COMMERCE AND CABLING.

It is announced that, with the view of reducing the cost of cable telegrams during the present censorship, the Postmaster-General has arranged with the Eastern and Associated Telegraph Companies that, as a temporary measure, the text of full-rate extra-European plain-language messages (including signatures), written in English and exchanged between Great Britain, the Oversea Dominions, and Colonies served by their system, and Egypt, will be counted and charged as if written in groups of ten letters to a word.

Figures and commercial expressions, such as "c.i.f.," "f.o.b.," etc., will continue to be counted separately as at present. Any surplus group of letters immediately before a group of figures or commercial expression or at the end of the text will be counted as one word.

Telegrams will continue to be written and signalled as at present, but senders will assist the telegraph service and avoid delay to their telegrams by marking every tenth letter in their outward telegrams before handing them in for transmission.

The following is an example of a telegram as handed in with every tenth letter marked by sender :—

PARKER, BOMBAY. 17/23 words.*

Capetown te/legraphs ad/vise Smith d/raw Newyork/ advance Mau/retania rem/itting/ 3500/ for you and S/mith next mo/nth offer/ 4000/ FOB/ Bombay. Atki/nson.

*Chargeable number of words 17
Actual number of words 23

It is proposed to extend this arrangement to other Colonies and extra-European countries.

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The Finances of Turkey.

Alarming Outlook.

Probable Budgetary Deficit of £T16,000,000.

(BY OUR FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 4

Turkey, while declaring her neutrality, has mobilized every available man under the age of 45, and, although the mobilization seems to be slacking off and the older men are being sent back, Turkey is paying a heavy price for thus playing with fire.

Trade Stagnant.

Everything that may or may not be useful to a field force—horses, carriages, carts, harness, foodstuffs, wool, leather, indeed, every available commodity—is being requisitioned, to be paid for nobody knows when. Even the cargoes of foreign ships in transit or in port, and, in some cases, the property of foreign shopkeepers, are not spared. No trade exists, imports and exports having ceased, and the post and telegraph services with Europe have been almost entirely interrupted. Trade in Constantinople itself is almost stagnant, and there have been meetings of commission agents and shop owners who are without the means of paying the salaries of their employees and have not the heart to dismiss them.

In an ordinary year the revenue of the Turkish Empire amounts to, roughly, 32 million pounds. The war in Europe, the mobilization in Turkey, the monetary crisis, the impossibility of lifting the crops owing to the want of men, transport and credit, and, lastly, the prohibition of the export of cereals, which, in many cases, have been seized by the military authorities, have all had such an unfavourable effect that it may be estimated that, adding the deficit of two millions already allowed in this year's budget, the total deficit at the end of the year will be £T10,000,000.

Military Exemption Tax.

The mobilization can, on the other hand, be credited with having produced an additional revenue in the form of the military exemption tax extracted from those unwilling to serve in the army. It is stated that by this means the Government have been able to raise one and a-half million pounds, and, while this figure cannot be vouched for, it is apparent that the Government have been able to profit considerably from this source. The authorities have, time after time, prolonged the delay in which those wishing to buy themselves off are allowed to do so. The expedients by which the sum is raised are many and wonderful. The money may be borrowed from local money-lenders at the interest of 20 per cent. for six months, or, if one is lucky enough to have money in the savings banks (which it is now impossible to touch), the Government will take a voucher from the bank for the necessary amount. A batch of Government officials sent in a petition asking that the money should be deducted from the salaries never paid to them, but this proposition was summarily rejected. One cannot help thinking that if one and a-half million pounds have been collected from those unwilling to serve there must be a great number of people in that frame of mind, and one must also reflect that those who, by hook or by crook, were able to pay the money must find themselves in very hard circumstances after having paid it, and that they will not be a source of very great economical strength to the country.

The supplementary War Credit is three and a-half millions, and the price for the "Goeben" and "Breslau" (worth when new £2,600,000) is to be £4,000,000, should the sale ever be concluded. Adding these sums to the above ten millions, and deducting the one and a-half millions produced by the military exemption tax, we get a total deficit of, say, £T16,000,000.

Rush on Banks.

At the first suspicion of war there was a rush on the foreign savings banks, who closed their doors when they had paid out most of the small gold reserve which they keep at Constantinople to meet their liabilities. These banks now open for about two hours a day, and their depositors are able, after a terrific struggle in a crowd, to withdraw a tiny percentage of the money due to them. Any money thus withdrawn is undoubtedly being hoarded, and this has had the natural effect of creating a shortage of cash in circulation.

In order to lessen the tension a forced paper currency is decreed, and the Ottoman Bank is withdrawing £T100 and £T50 notes, and is issuing an equal value of pound and half-a-pound notes. This measure will not much alleviate the monetary crisis. In addition to this, the Mint is turning out a large number of nickel coins, and this money may now be obtained in great abundance, whereas a month ago it stood at a premium. The banks are all in need of gold, and depositors only receive a very small percentage of their deposits.

It must be remembered that in the autumn of this year the second half of the 1914 loan was to have arrived. The Ottoman Bank group was to supply, roughly, £T12,000,000. This assistance, of which the Government are in sore need, cannot now be expected, and borrowing on the money markets of Europe is not to be contemplated for years to come.

Military Adventures.

From the above considerations it seems apparent that unless all ideas of war and mobilization are abandoned without loss of time the Ottoman Empire may find itself at no distant date in serious financial straits. At a moment when the Turks should be strengthening their internal situation in order to be able to resist foreign "spheres of economical influence" they are draining the strength of the country in pursuit of military adventures, heedless of the fresh debt mounting quickly day by day.

It is to be hoped that the prudent and better informed members of the Cabinet and Turkish statesmen will succeed in maintaining Turkish neutrality, and will induce the military party to "put some water in their wine." The sad thing is that had Turkey remained quiet in the general clash of arms and applied itself to making the most of its unusually magnificent harvest, and to carry out its reforms which were seriously projected and commenced, the nation would have emerged from the crisis with renewed strength.

GREEK INSURANCE.

Our Athens correspondent writes that permission has been granted by Royal Decree to the National Bank of Greece to insure all merchandise exported from Greece against war risks at the rate of 5 per cent.; the policies to be guaranteed by the State.

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Near East Markets.

EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, August 21.

Egyptian cigarettes are famous throughout the world, and yet the leaf used in their manufacture is not grown in Egypt, where, indeed, the cultivation of tobacco is prohibited. The "Egyptian" cigarette is made from a mixture of tobacco coming from Macedonia, Asia Minor, Bulgaria, Greece, Russia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the art of selecting and blending the various leaves from all these regions so as to obtain the perfect production that the Egyptian cigarette is universally admitted to be is peculiar to the Nile Valley. Hence there has grown up here an important industry in the manufacture of cigarettes for export.

Unfortunately, the outbreak of the European war has completely paralyzed this export business, and its prospects at the conclusion of the war do not look at all promising. Germany has decided to establish a monopoly in the manufacture of cigarettes, and factories for the making of "Egyptian" cigarettes have been established all over America, and in Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and other countries.

In face of such competition, and of the heavy taxation imposed by the Government, it looks as if the Egyptian cigarette industry is destined to extinction. Could not the Government afford some protection to the industry instead of crushing it under revenue charges? It would also be advisable to introduce the cultivation of tobacco into Egypt, which at present relies upon a single product—cotton.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for week ending September 4, 1914:—

Our opium market is at a standstill, nevertheless some efforts have been made by buyers to try and secure goods, by means of payment after the moratorium, or by cheque on London, but all efforts have proved fruitless. With cash in hand one can buy the article at 200 ps. to 230 ps. per oke as to quality, but with payment under any other condition we doubt whether 300 ps. will tempt sellers to part with the little existing stock out of the bank's hands. The probable position is therefore as follows:—14s. to 16s. for 10 per cent. to 11½ per cent. goods cash payment, or 19s. to 21s. for payment by cheque in London, or after the banks open and the exchange on London advances again to normal conditions. The arrivals from the interior are 1,162 cases, against 2,760 at same date last year.

HERACLEA COAL.

The British Consul at Constantinople (says *Syren and Shipping*) reports that the Société Ottomane d'Héraclée sold in 1913 425,903 tons of coal, screened and washed, the average price f.o.b. at Zoungouldak being £1, an advance of 4s. on the 1912 price; 166,570 tons were supplied as bunker coal at Zoungouldak and Constantinople, and the rest was distributed amongst various customers as follows: — Constantinople, 160,585 tons; Smyrna, 56,720 tons; Beyrout, 4,463 tons; Salonika, 2,311 tons; Panderma, 2,186 tons; Karabournou (Derkos), 4,841 tons; Daridja, 13,384 tons; Roumania, 14,843 tons. The other mines on the Heraclea coalfield produced about 400,000 tons—viz., at Zoungouldak, 43,000 tons; Cozlou, 177,000 tons; Kilimli, 98,000 tons; Aladja Aghzi, 7,000 tons; Candilli and Tchamli, 68,000 tons; Amasra, 6,000 tons; Tchatal Aghzi, 1,000 tons. The average price of this coal was about 15s. 6d. f.o.b., an advance of 3s. 6d. on the 1912 price. The steady rise in price should be noted. In 1911 the company's coal fetched 12s. 6d., and the other 6s. to 7s.

The Syrian apricot crop is roughly estimated at about one-half that of last year, but no reliable estimate is to hand, says a French Consular report. Last year's exports (from Beyrout) amounted to 800-1,000 tons of apricot fruit and 350-450 tons of dried apricots and apricot jam.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, September 24.

Sugar.

The market generally has been steady this week, although supplies were limited. The report that the Italian Government authorised the exportation of 100,000 tons of sugar per month to England, and that a hundred thousand quintals has already been shipped at Genoa, had not any noticeable effect on prices. English refined is in steady demand at late rates. Foreign granulated continues quiet but steady, and first marks, on the spot, have changed hands at 32s. 6d. Cane sugar has a fairly good demand at steady rates. Crystalised Trinidad was sold at from 28s. to 29s., and Demerara syrups at 16s. 3d. to 18s.

Coffee.

The spot market is inactive, although the withdrawal of the embargo on exports to Holland was expected to create more animation. Prices, however, are steady, common grades being fully up to the level of values ruling at the close of the public sales. In the terminal market there has been some settling of existing contracts on the lines of the plan issued last Monday by the London Produce Clearing House and on the basis of those prices.

Dried Fruit.

Sultanas are again lower; rain-damaged fruit sold at 23s. to 24s., and ordinary to fine sound at 26s. to 40s.

Valencias, new crop, arrived on Monday, and a good business was done in quarter-boxes at 36s. to 48s., common to fine.

Seeds.

Linseed has been quiet during the week and in buyers' favour, but to-day met with rather more attention. London, spot, Bombay, offered 47s.; Calcutta, spot, afloat, Sept.-Oct. and Oct.-Nov., 46s. 6d. asked. Rapeseed, Ferozepore spot, 50s. 5d., and bold Ferozepore ditto 52s. Cottonseed is dull; London, spot, Egyptian, nominally £7 15s.; loading (new crop), £8, sellers; Hull, spot, Egyptian, £8; Bombay, spot, £5 19s. 6d., sellers. Canary seed: Turkish, spot, scarce and firm at 125s. per 464 lbs., ex store Liverpool.

Oils.

Linseed oil quiet; spot pipes 26s., and spot barrels and month 26s. 6d. Rape oil quiet and unchanged; refined spot in barrels 36s. Cotton oil is weaker. Crude Egyptian spot pipes, 30s.; refined pale pipes 28s. 6d., and sweet barrels 35s. 6d. Olive oil is scarce, and held for £55 10s. for Levant and £55 for Spanish per ton, ex store.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed cakes, exceedingly quiet, and, with the exception of a small retail consumptive demand, there is little or no business passing. Best London made, however, maintain their price of £8 15s. to £9. Cotton cakes.—Only a limited quantity of Egyptian remains in store, for which holders ask £5 7s. 6d. to £5 8s. 9d., while steamer parcel, just arrived, offers at £5 5s., ex ship, with English makes again the turn easier at £5 7s. 6d. to £5 10s., and Bombay £4 15s. Decorticated cotton cakes.—No offer on spot, but there are sellers of new crop's prime meal for Oct.-Dec. monthly shipments at £7 10s. per ton.

Corn.

Wheat.—The market is very dull, and prices are tending in a downward direction. Choice white Karachi afloat, loading and Sept.-Oct., is held for 47s. Maize.—For combined Danube-Bulgarian, loading, 31s. is required, and a composite cargo of Danube-Bulgarian maize and Danube barley, loading, offer at 31s. and 26s. respectively. Barley is quiet and unchanged, with a part cargo of Black Sea, afloat, offering at 25s. 9d. Novo Russisk, arrived ex store, is quoted 26s., and a parcel of Novo Russisk arrived, ex store, sold at 25s. 6d. and 25s. 3d. Oats are quiet, with values nominal.

The districts of Karlovo and Kazanbik exported during the month of July 226 kilos of attar of roses, valued at 434,265 frs.

SHIPPING NEWS.

MINING THE DARDANELLES.

On September 18, in the House, Sir J. D. Rees asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Ottoman Government had given any explanation of the alleged setting adrift of mines from the Dardanelles. Mr. Acland, in reply, said the Ottoman Government informed his Majesty's Ambassador in August that the reason for the detention of certain ships in the Dardanelles was that some mines had been detached from their moorings, and the vessels had been prevented from continuing their voyage until the mines had been picked up.

GREECE AND BRITISH SHIPPING.

It is understood that the Greek shipping companies are now inquiring in the United Kingdom with a view to the purchase of secondhand tonnage on a fairly large scale. As a matter of fact, it is considered not at all improbable that they will come into the market as likely buyers of many of the German and Austrian ships now lying at British, French, Russian, and Belgian ports.

ACCIDENT IN THE BLACK SEA.

A Lloyd's telegram from Trebizond states that the British steamer "Belgian King," after leaving Trebizond on Monday for Constantinople, sank near Cape Kureli. There were 120 passengers and crew, of whom 98 were saved by the Russian steamer "Princess Eugenie." The vessel was also carrying 3,000 sheep and 400 oxen.

The "Belgian King" is ex the "Connemara," ex the "Château Leoville," and was built at Sunderland in 1881. She is owned by G. B. Hunter, and is valued at £15,000.

A GREEK DENIAL.

Mr. W. E. Fordham, writing for Messrs. A. A. Embiricos and Co., of 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C., sends the following letter respecting the coaling of the German cruiser "Emden":—

"A rumour having come to our knowledge that it has been circulated that we are interested or concerned in the coaling of the German Fleet in Indian waters, we will thank you to note, and to give publicity to the statement, that there is not the slightest vestige of truth in any such suggestion or rumour, and further, that we are not, directly or indirectly, interested or concerned in any arrangement whatever for the supplying of coal or anything else to the German Fleet, in Indian waters or in any other part of the world.

"The rumour has caused us the greatest pain and indignation, and anyone making such a statement is guilty of a gross libel, and we shall feel deeply indebted to anyone who will give us such information as shall lead to our finding out the source from which this rumour emanated.

"The report that the 'Emden' had taken charge of the 'Pontoporos,' belonging to the National Steam Navigation Company (Limited), of Greece, in which we are interested, and which steamer has on board a cargo of coal shipped at Calcutta for Karachi, may possibly have led people to credit the rumour referred to above.

"It is hardly necessary for us to state, in view of the disclaimer we make in this communication, that the 'Pontoporos' did not, of her own choice, seek the company of the 'Emden' or is acting otherwise than under compulsion."

The Greek currant crop (writes our Athens correspondent is estimated this year at 335,000,000 lbs.

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Egyptian Cotton Question.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 7.

The regrettable situation created by the Committee of the Alexandria Merchandise Bourse, to which I referred last week, has been happily ended by the intervention of the Government on the advice of Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser. The latter, since his return from leave a short time ago, has been endeavouring to persuade the Committee to reserve its decision closing all cotton contracts outstanding on August 6 at $15\frac{3}{8}$, and on Thursday last a decree was promulgated suspending the Committee, cancelling its decision, maintaining all contracts open on August 6, subject to any private liquidation that the parties concerned may arrange, and empowering the Ministry of Finance, subject to the previous approval of the Council of Ministers, to take whatever steps might be necessary in regard to the Merchandise Bourse of Alexandria.

Ministerial Commission.

At the same time a Ministerial Arrêté was issued creating a Commission, which will give its advice on matters concerning the Bourse, whenever the Minister of Finance requires it. The Commission consists of the following eleven members:—Mr. A. King Lewis, Director-General of Customs (President), Messrs. W. R. Carruthers (manager in Alexandria of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank), B. Hornsby (acting sub-governor in Alexandria of the National Bank of Egypt), S. R. P. Carver (of Messrs. Carver Bros. and Co.), E. Delta (of Messrs. Choremi, Benachi and Co.), H. Masson (manager in Egypt of the Credit Lyonnais), Costi Pilavachi (of Messrs. Pilavachi and Co.), P. Augustino, A. M. Gandur, Michel Sinadino, and Mahmoud Bey El Dib.

In a communiqué the Government explains the reasons for the step it has taken. It based its decision on the conviction that the temporary dislocation of the cotton market resulting from the outbreak of war was too great, and the interests involved too widespread to be left to the Committee of the Bourse, as hitherto constituted. According to it the Committee, whose decision was taken before the general moratorium was declared, at a time when it was obvious that Alexandria would have to close like the other Bourses had done, and there was every reason to anticipate that the banks would lend financial assistance for the settlement of August 10, came to the conclusion, that the best way of avoiding a catstrophe was to impose a forced liquidation of all cotton contracts at the price of $15\frac{3}{8}$ per cantar.

Status Quo Ante.

Since August 6, the general moratorium has been proclaimed, and the other measures taken by the Government have relieved the financial strain. A further study of the situation made it clear that the Committee's decision was of a nature to hamper the negotiations, which were being carried on with representatives of other cotton markets and that many interests other than those of the members of the Alexandria Bourse were involved, with which interests it was exceedingly doubtful whether the Committee could legally deal. The Government, therefore, considered it wisest to restore the *status quo ante* August 6, to consider the Alexandria Bourse as purely and simply closed, and to seek a solution with the aid of an Advisory Committee of local business men, who, without being bound by any decision taken, would study the situation afresh. Thus, an end has been put to a situation which threatened to give rise to no end of liquidation, which had aroused the greatest indignation locally and at home, and which certainly would not have encouraged people in England to give the assistance which this country is now seeking. The Government is to be congratulated on its intervention, and on the very strong representative Advisory Commission that it has appointed.

The production of gold (says the *Statist*) may be said to be almost confined to the British and Russian Empires amongst the belligerents, and to the American Continent amongst neutrals.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, September 23.

Traders in our market during the past week have had most undesirable conditions to put up with. Spinners and manufacturers, however, are beginning to get accustomed to the continued idleness experienced on 'Change. There is plenty of matter to occupy the thoughts of business men, and the subject of the war has been much discussed in all its phases as a secondary to trade affairs. Still, this prolonged period of waiting is by no means a light matter to those in an awkward position, and many people are passing through a harassing time, unrelieved by any semblance of fresh activities. One factor in the discouraging situation is with regard to the raw material rates at Liverpool, which have persistently kept up to a level that hampers progress and makes buyers mark time. Trade in cloth for Egypt is in a bad way, and from day to day the absence of favourable advices from the other side has been marked. Remittances from that part of the world are coming in worse than ever. Manufacturers have been waiting in vain for fresh business. As to the Levant there is nothing of a healthy nature to report and business has been most unsatisfactory. Deliveries against old contracts have continued to be taken freely for India, although various rumours have been spread about at different times which have made shippers concerned about the dangers met with in Indian waters. China trade has been blocked all along the line and no signs of improvement have shown themselves. Curtailment of production, especially in Burnley, has continued on an increasing scale, and producers are at their wits' end to keep machinery running. There is practically nothing to choose in yarns between American and Egyptian qualities as to which have been in most demand. Business as a whole in both home and export sections may be described as dull and featureless.

COTTON GROWING RESTRICTION.

Reuter's correspondent, cabling from Cairo on Tuesday, said that at a meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture the previous evening the Minister explained that, as probably only four million cantars of the present cotton crop was likely to be sold, in order to avoid depreciation the next crop should not exceed this amount. Therefore, a law would be promulgated reducing the area under cotton by a million feddans. The cultivation of cotton in Egypt would be absolutely forbidden except in certain regions, and any infringement of the law would be punishable by imprisonment. The liberated area would be devoted to the growing of cereals.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture (a Press Association Foreign Special message from Cairo says) has issued a circular to the fellaheen, pointing out that a large portion of the possible profits of the cotton crop is lost to each cultivator every year through the ravages of the boll worm and the pink boll worm. Yet if all growers of cotton were to co-operate and did their best to follow out instructions, neither of the two worms could become abundant enough to do much damage. By killing one worm in June they will have prevented the damage done by 100 in July, by 5,000 in August, by 500,000 in September, by 50,000,000 in October, and by 5,000,000,000 in November.

Cabling from Cairo on September 23, Reuter stated that a decree had been published limiting the cotton cultivation for 1915 to 1,000,000 feddans, representing a reduction of 740,000 feddans.

Reuter's correspondent at Constantinople wires that some 800 houses in the Jewish quarter of Hasskeui, on the Golden Horn, were destroyed by fire on Wednesday night, and about 3,000 Jews of the poorest class are homeless.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Oil News* cables that the new well Gemsah No. 10 is easily capable of producing 1,000 tons a week, and that the oil is absolutely pure. The well is flowing of itself.

The depleted forests of northern Syria furnish very little lumber for building or other purposes, as a consequence of which it is practically all imported. None is imported direct to Aleppo from the places of origin (says our correspondent), but it is brought in shiploads to Alexandria, Beyrout and Tripoli, from where it is distributed in wholesale lots to interior points. Importers at those seaports have connections in Roumania, which furnishes the major portion, and in Russia.

Roumania is not at present engaged actively in hostilities, but its army is almost completely mobilised, and a great decline has taken place in the production of crude oil (says *Petroleum World*). Large stocks have been accumulated by the Government, but export is stopped by reason of the practical closing of the Dardanelles and the insecurity of Roumanian oil traffic through the Mediterranean. Small quantities are, however, being sent across the Black Sea into Asia Minor.

The July output of Roumanian oil amounted to 144,000 tons, or a decrease of about 5,000 tons as compared with the June production.

The work of erecting the breakwater in the Eastern Harbour at Alexandria is to be continued, says *The Egyptian Gazette*.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance has issued a circular informing all Ministries and Departments that no promotion or increase of salaries can be granted during the present financial year and requesting them not to make any new appointments without the previous consent of the Ministry of Finance.

The Sudan Government, says *The Egyptian Gazette* (September 9), has ordered its store of coal at Port Sudan to be removed to Guelbit, a distance of 80 miles from the coast.

A parcel post convention has been concluded between the United States and Greece, and took effect May 9, 1914.

In Ispahan the existing telephone system is to be enlarged so as to include the towns of Sehdeh and Najafalead at a distance of 15 and 20 miles respectively from the capital.

Mr. Frederick Peabody Crane has entered upon his duties as manager of the affairs of the Standard Oil Company of New York in the Turkish Black Sea coast. His headquarters will be Samsoun.

Mr. Selim Tawil, who trades under the style of Selim Tawil and Co. at 6, Hall Street, Manchester, has entered into a deed of arrangement with his creditors, under which his liabilities are given at £4,228, as against assets £1,243. The debts are owing principally to Manchester houses.

Sherif Tidjani, whose father is reported to be the head of 3,000,000 African tribesmen, has volunteered for the French cavalry.

The Rumanian Government have prohibited the export of coal to Austria.

TURKEY'S CORN SUPPLIES.

Reuter's Agency reported from Constantinople on September 15 that, the Turks having recently requisitioned a consignment of Russian flour, the Russian authorities have retaliated by seizing during a voyage in the Black Sea 45,000 sacks of Roumanian flour destined for Constantinople. The Roumanian Government has, moreover, prohibited the export of corn, which is a very serious matter for Turkey, inasmuch as Roumania is the only country from which the Turks draw their food supplies.

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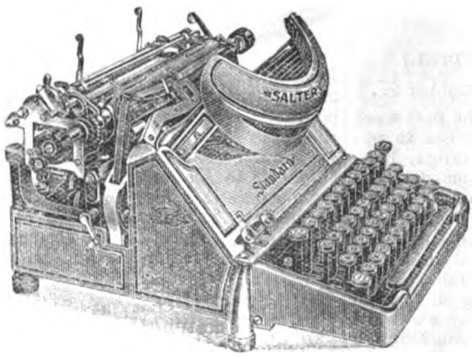

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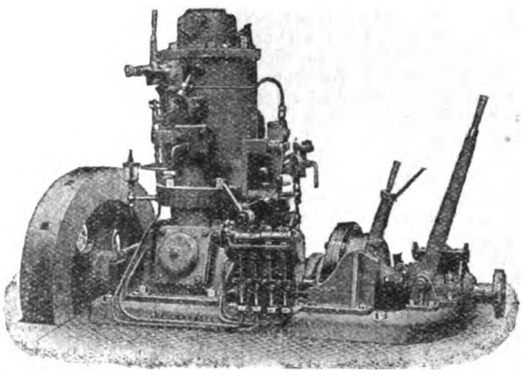

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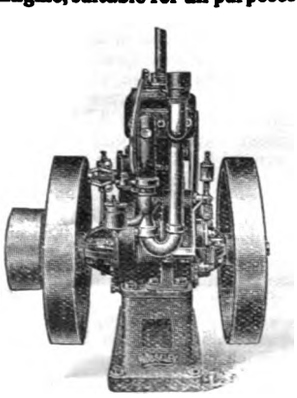

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Engineering Notes.

A Mechanical Milk Drying Process

Makers of the Kourouk Kaimac in Asia Minor will be surprised to hear that what they can do with the help of a saucepan and a hot metal tray by their fireside an inventor has succeeded in doing by a special mechanical process. The process is entirely mechanical, and is in no way based on previous vacuum pressure, or spray systems. The apparatus consists of a drying chamber built of bricks, insulated wood, and metal lining, within which is passed an endless travelling steel band about 20 ins. in width. Through the top of the drying chamber a vessel is inserted, wherein the milk is vaporised before supplying it to the band for final drying. In this vessel the vaporisation rids the milk of two-thirds to three-fourths of its original content of water. A revolving cylinder, dipping into a cup of the partly vaporised milk, conveys the liquid to the slowly moving metal band, the milk film being thus passed into the drying chamber, where it is subjected to superheated circulating air, and when scraped off from the band by a keen-edged knife contains only 2 to 5 per cent. of water. The degree of desiccation may be regulated by controlling the temperature of the heated air, and to some extent by varying the velocity of the steel band.

Mechanical Hammers.

Ironworkers in the East will be interested to hear that the difficulty they often experience in turning out comparatively heavy forgework, owing to the want of more powerful hammering, can now be overcome without much outlay. The Oriental blacksmith is a clever worker. With his ordinary forge, anvil, hand-hammers and a few odd tools, he often turns out most ingenious mechanical devices for local industries; and to his skill is due the crude, but useful, imitations of agricultural implements, light machinery, presses, etc., of European design which one can see in many villages at work. But any forgings requiring a heavier blow than that which is possible with a sledge-hammer he cannot tackle. The same may be said for a great number of workshops throughout the East. They know of the existence of steam and other mechanical hammers, but their price prohibits their use in such cases. It will, therefore, be of interest to such ironworkers to have information concerning a new mechanical hammer which may meet their requirements. It is made in various sizes. The first, a 5-cwt. hammer, is worked by the depression of a foot-rail, or treadle, in front of the anvil. Motion is conveyed to the hammer by means of parallel arms by which the hammer is always held in a vertical position, and this feature allows any reasonable height of tool or thickness of iron to be worked. The weight of the blow may be varied by means of a lever attached to the bottom of the springs, or the hammer may be thrown back out of the way almost to a vertical position if required. A second, heavier size hammer, gives a 9-cwt. blow; and the hammer-head will move anywhere over the face of the anvil, thus enabling punching, swaging, heading, or any similar work to be accomplished. A light or heavy blow may be delivered. Another size is a double or treble headed hammer, power-driven, giving a 33-cwt. blow; this is a type favoured by boltmakers and others who have work to do requiring two or three separate operations, in dies or swages. Means are provided for the exact adjustment of the dies, and a jingler block is fitted to enable work to be done which requires heading. To this hammer is also attached a guillotine for the cutting of hot metal, the blades of which are of special steel. Another size, also power-driven, is a four-headed hammer, a tool with which it is possible for four sets of dies to be worked as required. In our opinion these power-driven types may well be adapted for the cutting of a certain kind of light mule and donkey-shoe, extensively used throughout the East; and also of a variety of iron fittings used for native agricultural implements.

PALESTINE RAILWAYS.

The U.S. Vice-Consul at Jerusalem reports:—The enormous tourist traffic in Palestine, which increases annually, has caused the Hejaz Railroad officials to study the situation with the idea of creating a network of railroads in the interior of the country. In order to exploit the valley of the Jordan the Hejaz Railroad has formed an exclusively Ottoman company, which will undertake to connect the Adjlun Mountains, east of the Jordan, with the plateau of the Hauran. The preliminary survey, which was finished last year, traced a twenty-two mile line, joining the two most important points of the country—Deraca, situated on the principal line of the Hejaz, and Bosra (Eski-Cham). Deraca is at the junction of the lines Hamah-Damascus and Damascus-Medina. Bosra, situated in the midst of the Hauran, is the centre of the important trade in wheat, which is exported from this region to the Mediterranean border.

A shorter line, opened to commerce on January 1, runs from Haifa to Acre, 109 miles in length. This line branches off, three miles from the principal Haifa-Damascus line, near Belad and Sebah, ancient Arabian towns, and traverses the plain of Acre. After crossing the Kison River, which empties into the Mediterranean at Haifa, the line encircles the sand hills along the coast until arriving in the suburbs of Acre. This city is the seat of government of the district, but has neither political nor economic importance. Large ships seldom visit this place, though in summer time a large number of sailing vessels arrive from Egypt to purchase water-melons, which abound in this region.

A third branch of the Hejaz Railroad is the line Affoule-Nablus-Jerusalem, still in process of construction. While the line Haifa-Acre did not present any technical difficulties outside of two bridges of 164 ft. and 102 ft. in length, this portion of the line is constructed entirely in mountainous territory, with heavy grades and sharp curves.

At the junction Affoule the Jerusalem line branches out. From here one has a view of the Carmel, the city of Nazareth, Mounts Hermon and Tabor, as well as the lesser chain of the Adselloun Mountains. The line then enters the plain of Jesriel for 10½ miles until Djenin is reached. Here it penetrates a narrow and tortuous valley and begins a climb (18 to 26 per cent. grade) to the summit of the mountains of Galilee. From here the line descends on the other side, turning south-east and arriving at the second station in course of construction.

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Government Contractors, Engineers, Importers of Machinery of every description, Diesel, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Pumps Windmills, Agricultural Machinery, &c. Large stocks kept at all depots.
Sole Agents for over 40 first-class firms.

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Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 758.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
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Also at ALEXANDRIA and LONDON.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, July 26.

Trade in June.

The trade returns for Bulgaria during the month of June (O.S.) show the following totals:—Imports, 31,200,000 frs.; exports, 18,100,000 frs. As compared with the corresponding figures for May, the imports have remained stationary and the exports have diminished. The exports, consisting exclusively of grain and grain foods, have been greatest through Bourgas, Varna being second. Through Bourgas 345 truckloads of wheat and maize were exported, and through Varna 270 truckloads.

Increased Duties on Alcohol, etc.

The Bill for increasing the duties on alcohol, oils, sugar products, beer, tobacco, etc., was adopted by the Chamber, sanctioned by the King, and is already in force.

New Insurance Company.

A new Bulgarian General Insurance Society, "Orel," has been founded here, with a capital of 2,000,000 frs. (£80,000). Among the members of its Board of Administration are Mr. R. Fanta, of the Balkan Bank, as President, and Mr. M. Jeneff, former Minister of Finance, as Vice-President.

BULGARIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

On December 31 last the paid-up capital of the above company was 1,500,000 frs., the life funds, etc., stood at 10,573,308 frs., and deposits, etc., at 5,397,941 frs.

The figures for the last five years are as follows:—

	Premiums. Frs.	Losses. Frs.	Funds. Frs.
1909	8,870,883 ..	5,799,509 ..	5,447,736
1910	9,370,238 ..	5,433,251 ..	6,329,216
1911	9,516,440 ..	6,707,310 ..	6,399,065
1912	12,183,010 ..	7,125,393 ..	7,457,652
1913	15,868,747 ..	9,724,190 ..	9,505,844

It will be seen, says *The Policy Holder*, that the year 1909 found the company with reserves equal to 61 per cent. of the premium income. In 1911 the percentage stood at 66 per cent., whilst last year the figure worked out at 54 per cent. So a period which many thought would spell absolute disaster leaves the office still in an excellent position.

THE BRITISH MORATORIUM.

On Wednesday night the decision of the Government in regard to the question of extending the moratorium was announced.

After consultation with the various interests concerned, the Government have decided that the time has arrived for bringing the moratorium to an end with as little delay as possible.

There will be no further extension of the moratorium relating to bills of exchange (other than cheques or bills on demand). There will be no further extension of the general moratorium in so far as it applies to (*a*) debts due to and by retail traders in respect of their business as such, and (*b*) rent.

As regards other debts to which the general moratorium applies, there will be an extension of one month, *i.e.*, from October 4 to November 4. This extension will be subject to the condition that the interest due under past proclamations is paid.

On November 4 the general moratorium will come to an end as regards all debts.

In reference to the decision not to extend the moratorium relating to bills of exchange, it is to be borne in mind, as announced in the Press on the 5th inst., that arrangements have already been made by the Government under which the Bank of England will advance to acceptors where required the funds necessary to pay all approved pre-moratorium bills at maturity.

The Engineering Editor of "The Near East" will always be pleased to answer inquiries from readers respecting any machinery or appliances described in these pages.

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THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Paid up, £400,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £600,000.

Branches:

BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	**£600,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND	**65,000**

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Miniah, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up)	**Frs. 45,500,000**
RESERVE FUNDS	**,, 14,500,000**

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	**£850,000**
RESERVE	**£210,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI.
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU
C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

An Encouraging Outlook.

Although business is completely removed from normal there are definite signs that it will gradually revive. The announcement that the Government intends to abolish the moratorium on November 4 is excellent news. It is quite impossible to carry on the business of the country whilst there is a moratorium, and now that the Bank of England will advance money to meet pre-moratorium bills there is no reason why trade should not be pushed upon honest lines. Certainly a moratorium cannot be considered honest.

The banks will no longer be able to protect their deposits, but they can, of course, borrow money from the Government if they care to pay the usual deposit rates for the loan. The fact that they can obtain whatever money they need will prevent another run. During the past month all the banks have been gradually building up their gold reserve; and, although cash in hand may in some cases include money borrowed from the Government, there is no doubt that the stock of gold at all the joint stock banks has largely increased.

War Loan Speculations.

Everybody in the City is now wondering when the Government will issue a war loan, and upon what terms they will borrow the money. The war up to the present has been financed by means of Treasury bills, of which 56 millions have been issued, and a portion of the war material has been paid for in £1 and 10s. notes. Apparently the Government have issued about 27½ millions of the new paper money, and as the banks have only taken a million and a-half of this money the rest may be considered as part of a war loan.

New York Exchange.

An attempt is being made in the United States to reinstate exchange between New York and London, and a gold pool is to be formed for that purpose. The money asked for by New York City was readily subscribed and the notes are now at a premium.

The Stock Exchange shows no signs of reopening. The decision to put a fixed minimum price on all gilt-edged securities has had very little effect, and has certainly stopped business. It has proved itself a very unpopular suggestion. Nevertheless, there is a fair amount of trade being done in oil shares and the securities of armament companies, as compared with a few weeks ago. But none of the big brokers are paying their office expenses.

Germans in the House.

There is still a very strong feeling in regard to the German firms in the House. It is said that one Anglo-German went to Berlin on the proclamation of war with the intention of enlisting in the German army. He, however, changed his mind and came home again, and the story goes that his partner was so disgusted that he brought the matter before the Committee. It is also said that some of the Anglo-German firms have refused to comply with the orders of the Committee and present their accounts, and *The Financial News* calls upon the Committee to expel these members. There is not a shadow of doubt that the Anglo-German financial group in London is working in sympathy with the Germans, and not with the English.

Dividend Prospects.

The Johannesburg Consolidated report shows almost as good a profit as last year, but the directors decline to pay a dividend. Probably the bulk of their spare cash is locked up in loans on the Stock Exchange, and until that money is released no dividend is possible. The Pearson and Knowles report was fairly satisfactory, and it is pleasant to think that the Partington Company, a subsidiary, was able to materially help the parent company at the outbreak of war. The Sheepbridge figures are good, and the balance-sheet shows a very strong position. Associated Portland Cement cautiously passes its dividend. Its earnings are sufficient to pay 5 per cent., but the commitments for the current year are heavy, and the directors no doubt feel that with a debenture service calling for £280,000 a year there will be some difficulty in meeting even the preference dividend if the war continues.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Ottoman Railway.

The report to hand shows a balance carried forward of £98,763, as against £36,533 a year ago, but included in the former amount is an outstanding sum of £38,686 due from the Ottoman Government for the transport of troops, the non-receipt of which sum materially diminishes the cash resources of the company. The earnings on revenue account for the past half-year amounted to £197,938, compared with £148,747 in the corresponding period of 1913. The expenditure amounted to £86,419, compared with £79,008, and the net profit to £111,518, compared with £69,739 in the corresponding period of 1913. The balance of net revenue, including the sum brought forward from last half-year, amounts, after defraying all fixed charges for the half-year and providing for dividend on the preference shares and reserves for locomotives and waggon renewals, to £98,463, which the Council propose to carry forward. The prospects of the present season were very good, but owing to the war and prohibition of the export of grain from Smyrna the transport of produce and the circulation of passenger traffic have been seriously checked.

Mr. E. T. Boxall.

An adjourned meeting was held on Monday at Bankruptcy Buildings of the creditors of Mr. Edward Thomas Boxall, export merchant and director of companies, of 64, Cornhill, E.C., whose statement of affairs showed gross liabilities £176,147, expected to rank for £71,463, and net assets valued at £71,094. The creditors resolved that the meeting be further adjourned until October 12 to enable the debtor to submit an amended scheme, and that, in the event of the debtor being adjudged bankrupt, Mr. Oscar Berry, chartered accountant, be appointed trustee of the estate with a committee of inspection.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan.—Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons publish the numbers of 223 bonds of the Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan of 1891, amounting to £64,000, which have been drawn and will be paid off at par at their offices on October 10.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—The receipts for the eleven days ended August 31 amounted to £E4,431, against £E6,346 during the corresponding period of last year.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Coupon No. 34, falling due October 1, 1914, on the 5 per cent. debentures should be lodged at the Bank of England, London, E.C., for payment.

Egyptian Markets.—The receipts for the week ended September 10 amounted to £603 (increase £34); aggregate to date, £34,244 (decrease £1,579).

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for last week, 1,870 tons (previous week, 1,130 tons); Hurgada production for last week, 140 tons (previous week, 110 tons).

Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum.—Production week ended August 22, 188 tons.

Roumanian Pipeline and Trading Company.—A resolution was passed on August 11 and confirmed on September 8 to the effect that the company be wound up. Liquidator: A. E. Rigden, 54, New Broad Street, London, E.C. A meeting of creditors was called for September 24 at 12.

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 20th inst. amounted to 70,000 frs., against 370,000 frs. last year.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION of the OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt give notice that on and after the 14th September, 1914, SIX MONTHS' INTEREST at the rate of Four per cent. per annum will be PAID against Coupon No. 22 of the Unified Converted Debt. The payment of this Coupon will be made in all the towns mentioned on the Coupons up to the 13th February, 1915, after which date they will be payable in Constantinople only.

Constantinople, 1st September, 1914.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Juillet, 1914, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	996,360
Titres divers	530,777
Comptes-Courants	419,332
Avances sur Marchandises	1,049,300
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,504,133
Avances sur d'autres garanties	899,560
Effets sur l'Etranger	737,887
Effets sur l'Egypte	577,827
Immeubles et mobilier	257,475
Placements à courte échéance	323,700
Comptes Banquiers	362,893
Gouvernement du Soudan	332,059
Encaisse:	
Especes:	
Or £E.886,281	
Argent et nickel £E.531,556	
£E.1,417,837	
Billets de Banque £E.365,371	1,783,208
Divers	124,735
	£E.9,889,246

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,462,500
Fonds de Prévoyance	24,375
Comptes-Courant, Dépôts et autres	2,639,024
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,692,158
Ministère des Finances	439,646
Ministère Compte spécial	26,716
Comptes Banquiers	235,106
Chèques et effets à payer	102,300
Divers	342,421
	£E.9,889,246

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.1,100,022
Titres	1,099,978
	£E.2,200,000
Billets émis	£E.2,200,000
	£E.2,200,000

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, AUGUST 29, 1914.

Assets.

Metallic reserve: Gold ..... 153,124,578; Foreign bills payable in gold 56,625,646		209,750,224
Silver and other coins		677,745
Roumanian and foreign bills		257,843,080
Advances against Government securities 33,934,100		
On current account 111,547,500		93,121,110
Unused balance .. 52,360,490	59,187,010	
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,999,357
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,762,877
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,036,281
Premises		6,731,813
Furniture and printing machinery		1,086,783
General expenses		450,910
Government and other securities deposited		135,932,567
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		252,882,822
Current accounts		25,005,866
Security accounts		23,449,741
Sundry accounts		6,293,688
Total Lei		1,057,298,822

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,179,870
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	521,681,375
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	2,020,091
Current accounts and drafts at sight	26,616,336
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	388,815,389
Sundry accounts	59,648,975
Total Lei	1,057,298,822

Bank Rate, 7 per cent.

OTTOMAN FOUR per CENT. LOAN of 1890, for £T.4,999,500.

The following BONDS were drawn on the 14th August, 1914, for repayment at par on the 14th September, 1914,—Nos.:—

301 to 350	77901 to 77950	146601 to 146650
10501 — 10550	79701 — 79750	155251 — 155300
15301 — 15350	82701 — 82750	161901 — 161950
15601 — 15650	84301 — 84350	165901 — 165950
22401 — 22350	86151 — 86200	167501 — 167550
30551 — 30600	88101 — 88150	168851 — 168900
31951 — 32000	94651 — 94700	178201 — 178250
32801 — 32850	101601 — 103650	179951 — 180000
33451 — 33500	105151 — 105200	180401 — 180450
37951 — 38000	107951 — 108000	181551 — 181600
38751 — 38800	111251 — 111300	194201 — 194250
45901 — 45950	113551 — 113600	197851 — 197900
48401 — 48450	113951 — 114000	199551 — 199600
48651 — 48700	116051 — 116100	210001 — 210050
51901 — 51950	121051 — 121100	212751 — 212800
53801 — 53850	121701 — 121750	217701 — 217750
54401 — 54450	130651 — 130700	218601 — 218650
57551 — 57600	133201 — 133250	224351 — 224400
61101 — 61150	133401 — 133450	224901 — 224950
69401 — 69450	136001 — 136050	

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 178.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Those who have been looking for some decisive victory on the Aisne, a great success crowned by a spectacular surrender of troops, have so far been disappointed. The present warfare in France is officially compared to the operations of a siege, and the numbers of men engaged are so considerable that the length of the battle must be reckoned in days rather than in hours. Still, to the close observer it is apparent that there has been a substantial advance during the last seven days of the battle. A French official *communiqué* published on Tuesday kept so well within the truth that many folk thought that the Allies must have actually retreated. Their spirits were, however, raised next day when it was announced that the Germans were industriously bombarding positions some miles to the north of the line indicated in the *communiqué*. In these days of a censorship which is almost hypersensitive on the subject of military events in France and has on several occasions decided that it is dangerous to reproduce in London what has already been officially published by our Allies in Petrograd and Paris, it is difficult to be more explicit. We are perforce compelled to limit our comment and to confine our statement to the bald announcement that in the Battle of the Aisne the German counter attacks, although fierce and determined, have been consistently repulsed, and that the actual line of battle is being prolonged.

On the eastern frontiers of the Teutonic Allies the military situation is curiously uneven. In the north what is believed to be the main German Army has, under the eye of the Emperor William, emerged from East Prussia and overrun the northern extremity of the kingdom of Poland. It is understood that vast masses of Germans have been pushed forward into this new theatre of war, but so far they have been entirely unable to force their way across the Niemen, behind and on the higher bank of which the Russians are "holding" them, apparently with no very great difficulty. It seems that the Russian strategy is to profit by the existence of this great natural entrenchment and to expect a German offensive under conditions eminently favourable for the defence. In this way a comparatively small force of men may be considered as containing a numerically superior German army, while the weight of the Russian numbers is being usefully employed elsewhere.

So rapid and successful has been the Russian advance against the Austrians that to all appearance the whole kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, with the exception of Przemysl and the Cracow district, has passed under the control of the invaders. In this quarter the magnitude of victory is not expressed in figures of killed or captures, but in geographical terms. The Russians have swept all opposition before them, and have traversed the passes of the Carpathians. Once more after an interval of sixty-five years they have invaded Hungary. When last the soldiers of the Tsar, under Prince Paskevitch, passed into the basin of the Tisza and the Danube it was at the invitation of the Emperor Francis Joseph himself, and it was to that invasion that he owes his present Apostolic Kingship of Hungary. The Magyars had declared the House of Hapsburg to be "false and perjured," and had excluded it "for ever" from the throne. This was in April, 1849. At the end of September in the same year the Russian general was able to report to Tsar Nicholas I., "Hungary lies at the feet of your Imperial Majesty." Is history to repeat itself?

If the Russians have swept through the passes of the north, the Serbians have once again seized Semlin, and thereby invaded Hungary in the south. The most recent attempt of the Kaiserlichs to penetrate into Serbia appears to have failed as completely as those which preceded it, and the Serb forces seem to have reached a point in Bosnia within twenty miles of Serajevo. We have from time to time remarked upon the lack of recognizable movements in the campaign of the Drina, and suggested an explanation. Now, however, it is possible that the Serbian Army is at last in a position to undertake a substantial invasion of Bosnia. Those who are impatient with what they term the slowness of development on the part of the Serbian offensive should remember the efforts put forth by the Serbs in resisting attack, the extraordinary geographical difficulties of the country into which King Peter's army hopes to press, and the fact that the Serbian peoples had had over twenty months of war and mobilization

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as a preliminary to the campaign in which they have been engaged with numerically superior adversaries unexhausted by previous warfare.

Having reached the Balkans, we pass from countries actually engaged in war to those about to embark upon the great adventure. Of these it is possible that there will be three. The Russian victory of Lemberg was of assistance to the Roumanians in deciding upon which side of the fence to descend. We understand that they have decided, and with a worldly wisdom, acquired doubtless by careful observation of Balkan affairs, they are engaged in arranging necessary and important details with their prospective Allies. On another page we publish a map and an article explanatory of Roumanian territorial ambitions towards Transylvania. Should those ambitions be gratified and an ethnic rectification of frontier in the direction of the Bukovina be secured it is obvious that the doctrine of the Balkan balance of power demands a revision of the boundaries laid down by the Treaty of Bucharest, even if racial requirements did not render it imperative in the interests of future peace.

The Italians are believed to have arrived at the parting of the ways, and it is probable that the absence of the Marchese di San Giuliano from the Councils of the Cabinet will enable that body to abandon the policy of which he has been the most strenuous exponent. It may be that a reconstruction will be a necessary preliminary to the declaration of war against a hated ally which can now not long be delayed. Or Signor Salandra may take the opportunity of being temporarily in charge of the Consulta to take the first step towards the liberation of the Trentino. In any case the pretext is at hand—Italian fishing boats have been destroyed by Austrian mines. A determined statesman can readily find a plausible excuse in connection with so unfortunate an incident for declaring war if he so wish.

And, lastly, there are the Turks. For some time past their neutrality has been of a remarkable description. They have been assured of a comfortable future in the event of their keeping the peace. They have equally been assured as to their fate in the event of their adopting an opposite policy. One would imagine the path of an Ottoman statesman at the present moment to be unusually clearly defined. Yet apparently the Porte is assailed by doubts. Some of these doubts have induced it to mass large numbers of troops in positions where they can be useful only in the event of an attack upon Egypt. Others have led it to abolish *motu proprio* great numbers of international agreements, and to behave in certain other ways in a manner indicative of a lack of reasonable consideration for the just rights of neighbours. From certain quarters warnings of great weight and no uncertainty have been addressed to the Turks. In our opinion, however, it is not entirely the Turks who are to blame in this matter, unless it be indirectly. It is possible that many Ottoman statesmen would like to be able to control their own national affairs in the interests of their own country. Unfortunately these men are nearly powerless in the presence of the garrison of armed Germans who beset the Porte at the present moment and by strengthening the hands of the war party seek to impel the Empire of the Osmanlis to embark upon a fatal policy of adventure solely in order to "create a diversion" and alleviate to some small degree that pressure from the Allies which Germany begins to find inconvenient. It is the old story of Sindbad the Sailor and the Old Man of the Sea. Let us hope that the Fate which guides the destinies of the Guarded Realms will permit the analogy to be carried further. It will be remembered that Shehèrazade allowed Sindbad to get rid of his vindictive burthen.

In view of the ill-advised activity of the Turks, who, at the behest of alien advisers, have filled Syria with their soldiers, for whose subsistence the countryside has been swept bare by the requisitioning officers, it is of the first importance that the Army of Occupation in Egypt should be maintained at its present strength. What that strength may be is for the Turks to find out. All that it is prudent for us to say in the present circumstances is that more Egyptians have seen more of his Majesty's soldiers of all arms during the last three weeks than has ever been the case before, and we are convinced that it is widely recognised that the Army of Occupation stands as a shield for all those amenities which render existence in Egypt more tolerable for all classes than is the case in the direct Ottoman provinces. It is nearly four centuries since Yawuz Sultan Selim first carried the horse-tails to the banks of the Nile, and there is nothing in the history of those four centuries to tempt the mass of the Egyptian population to hope for another Turkish conquest.

As we have repeatedly pointed out of late, the Consular post offices in Turkey have in most cases lost their *raison d'être* with the recent improvement in the Ottoman postal administration, and it is not surprising to learn that the Powers have made up their minds to abandon these privileges which have outlived their usefulness, and now only serve as irritating advertisements of foreign prestige and international rivalry. While heartily approving of the proposed change, which indeed, we have for some time past advocated, we cannot but regret that the date selected for the first public step towards the suppression of the Consular post offices should coincide with the date appointed by the Turks for the "abolition" of the Capitulations. It would have had a better effect upon Turkish public opinion had some other date been chosen, as it is unfortunate to do anything which might seem to recognize in any way the action of the Porte in that connection.

Yet another branch of Ottoman activity may be found in Albania. A cleverly manipulated propaganda was set on foot to persuade the Moslem beys and their adherents that the rule of a Christian Prince must necessarily mean enslavement for true Mussulmans. Indeed, to the type of mind which can only conceive personal liberty as being synonymous with the right to oppress *rayahs* a regime which postulates the equality of creeds must of necessity appear repulsive. Left to their own devices, the Moslems decided to ignore the International Commission of Control, which had no means of enforcing its decisions, and proceeded to give effect to the policy advocated by Ottoman intriguers. A Moslem, son of the ex-Sultan, Burhan-ed-Din Effendi, has been elected Mpret of Albania, and the wholesome rule which was devised for the purpose of avoiding *odium theologicum* in the infant Principality by placing a Protestant to rule over a mixed Moslem, Orthodox, and Latin population has been violated.

It is unfortunate that a Moslem Mpret should have been set up, not because we have any objection to the foundation of a new Mohammedan dynasty—even in Europe—but because the election of a ruler professing one of the local religions will be eagerly seized upon as an excuse for separatist propaganda on the part of the Orthodox and Latin minorities. A recrudescence of the Epirote movement is inevitable, and it is possible that the Montenegrins may seek to fish in troubled waters to the end that a Catholic Maltsor state may be established between Orthodox Montenegro and Moslem Albania under the rule of a cadet of the House of Petrovitch. In any case it appears that Burhan-ed-Din Mpret is likely to find the area of his dominion somewhat curtailed even within the exiguous territory provided for his luckless predecessor.

At the moment of going to press we learn that reference is permitted to the landing of British Indian troops in France. A considerable force has made the voyage under favourable weather conditions from Egypt, and has been successfully debarked upon the territory of our Ally. Should any bitter memories remain among the French of our former struggles in India the arrival of a Sepoy Army under the British flag to help France rid her soil of a barbarian invader will go far to obliterate them.

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CONSTANTINOPLE LETTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, September 8.

Turkey and Her "Guides."

The Government continues to ingeminate peace as vigorously as the deceased Lord Falkland. The Grand Vizier has constantly assured the British Ambassador and the Russian and French Ambassadors that he does not dream of war. Turkey, his Highness has repeated, is animated by a most pacific spirit, and her preparations are purely defensive. Other members of the Cabinet re-echo their chief's declarations, and no doubt can arise that these declarations are perfectly sincere—sincerer certainly than Talaat Bey's declaration on his word of honour on August 9 that Turkey had no intention of giving asylum to the "Goeben" and "Breslau" or of purchasing these ships.

Yet with all this a series of incidents goes to prove that Turkey is being forced on to the brink of the precipice half conscious of the danger, half willing to be led by her cynical guides. Till now no German of the crews of the warships which I have mentioned has left. Anyone with eyes can see them in Yanni's Bierhalle, some clothed in the Turkish red and white, some still wearing the German blue with the fez. Khaki-clad soldiers in trams now and again betray an amazing familiarity with German patois, which is explained by the fact that 600 of these mercenaries have arrived here since the European war began, and are now stationed at the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, and also at Makrikeui and Chatalja. Big guns—not the famous 42-centimetre mortars it is true, but 30.5 c.m. coast defence pieces from the house of Krupp—have arrived at Constantinople viâ Roumania and Bulgaria. More German officers have come. Also, *alles geht ganz gut!*

Outrage by Officers.

There are other quaint incidents. Russian residents are being ejected by the police without warning or notice. They are detained in the "lock-up" at Galata Serai, which Mr. Clerk, the British Adviser to the Ministry of Justice, has suggested should be burnt as grossly insanitary, and are then "dumped" on board the first steamer bound to Russia. Shots have been fired by officers at an English house. On Saturday last occurred a tragic incident at Floria or Galataria, near San Stefano, in which a number of Europeans were beaten, men and women indiscriminately, by a party of armed officers, one shot dead and two at least wounded. The officers, who belonged to the air-battalion, wished publicly to destroy a French flag belonging to the French proprietor of the hotel where the outrages took place. After this chivalrous performance the French Ambassador made very strong representations to the Government, which replied that it would open an inquiry into the affair and take the necessary steps. But will it be able to punish the guilty persons? Few of us think so, though we hope it may. Such occurrences, combined with the "tail-twisting" exercised by the police, an inefficient force, and the attitude of the Gendarmerie do not encourage residents to take a roseate view of their prospects when, as will soon be the case, the Porte has denounced the Capitulations.

Anti-English Feeling.

Of course, there are pro-Turkish apologists who maintain that all this is natural enough, that the Turks are much incensed with the Powers for having declared that no combatant in the Balkan War should be allowed to extend its territories at the expense of the beaten side, for having guaranteed Turkey's territorial integrity and allowed that integrity to be violated, and with England in particular for having seized the two ships building for the Porte in British yards. But one really fails to see what good Turkey can get by so openly showing her feelings. Why, too, is the public not incensed against Austria and Germany? Why does practically the whole Turkish Press call down the Divine displeasure on the Entente Powers, sneer at all successes of the forces of the Entente, on the few occasions when it publishes them, and harp whenever possible on the Panislamic string? None are so blind as those who won't see.

The Berlin Touch.

The foreign advisers to the Government have in some cases received unlimited leave on half-pay. The German Ambassador, whose tales of the annihilation of three-quarters of the British Army and the capture of the remainder are said to have drawn tears to the eyes of a neutral Ambassadress, has now let it be known that the Turcos captured in Belgium by the Germans will be sent here, to "the centre of the Caliphate," Germany having no quarrel with poor Moslems forced into war against their will! The Turkish newspaper *Tasvir I Efkiar* expatiates at great length concerning the humanity, nobility, and courtesy of the Deutscher as compared with the attitude of other Powers, piratical brigands all, who live by oppressing poor Moslems in India and Africa.

In the writer's opinion the situation is as bad as ever. "Incidents" may bring about a conflict between Turkey and the Entente. Otherwise the pinch will come when the Government has to make up its mind to demobilise after spending four millions for nothing, or to risk war. In that case there is danger that its mind will be made up for it by the soldiers.

September 20.

Germans' Latest Intrigues.

There is no real change in the situation save that the departure of Admiral Limpus and his staff may be taken as proof that the British Government has found the situation created by the presence of over 2,000 German soldiers and sailors quite impossible. At present there is no talk of a rupture; but the Russian colony, which has had to undergo a vigorous course of "tail-twisting," which it has borne with ursine patience, is beginning to leave Constantinople. The Turkish proverb, "Don't fool with the tame bear," is evidently disregarded in these stirring times. Meanwhile the Germans are in great evidence here. They have purchased more than half the Press, their sailors, still wearing "Goeben" and "Breslau" on their ribbons, can be seen everywhere, and the other day a British member of the dockyard staff, who while examining the keel of a ship called, "I say, Johnny, come and look at this," to what he imagined to be a Turkish engineer, received the reply, "Türkisch verstehe ich gar nicht!" All this explains the anxiety which the Russians feel. They believe that if the Turkish Fleet goes out into the Black Sea, even with the best and most pacific intentions, there will be ways of creating an incident which will lead to hostilities. And there they are right. Can anyone trust the 1,500 Germans on board the four German-built destroyers and the "Goeben," "Torgud Reis," "Barbaros," and "Breslau" not to provoke an incident? The Turks have no real control over the "Goeben's" officers and men. For one thing they cannot run her, and the Germans, knowing that fact, have to be left in charge. This being so, one cannot doubt that the appearance of a "Turkish" squadron in the Black Sea is likely to have disastrous results.

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Effect of Russian Victories.

There is no sign whatever of demobilization. Things remain as they are—great masses of troops camped all along the coast between Ismid and Constantinople, other masses at the Heads and the neighbouring forts, and 200,000 men in Thrace. Till now something like 600,000 men have been got together. They are insufficiently equipped, but there can be no doubt that large quantities of warlike stores from Germany were shipped here during the first week of the war, and it is believed that more are on their way through Roumania. But if the latest news from Bucharest is reliable these consignments may yet be seized; for telegrams from Roumania give the impression that the defeat of General Conrad von Hötzendorf in the seventeen days' battle of Galicia by the Russian armies under the Grand Duke Nicholas has made the Roumanians understand that now is the time to move. In this connection it is worth noting that every account from Russian sources of the course and results of the great battle gives prominence to the remarkable services rendered to the Slav armies by the Bulgar General Radko Dimitrieff, whose victories at Kirk Kilissé and elsewhere in the Balkan War are still fresh in our memories.

Pan-Islamic agitation continues, but there is reason to believe that the Turkish agitators who were sent to Egypt have found that country a rather unfruitful field for operations. Some, it is here averred, have been mysteriously wafted away to obscure oases where they may intrigue to their hearts' content without doing harm to anyone. In any case the German and Turkish extremists do not seem to have made much of a success of their scheme for the "revolutionizing" of Egypt. The Turkish Government is said to be disposed to leave that flank alone, for the present at any rate.

The Capitulations and the Courts.

The foreign communities remain uncomfortably silent as to their prospects under the Capitulations. The Ministry of Justice continues to prepare for the new regime, but how on earth the work can be done in time no one knows. Moreover, the personnel is insufficient to deal with foreign cases. I am not concerned to discuss whether it is competent to tackle them at all. The fact remains that there is a shortage in most of the courts, and that the Law's delays are more marked here than ever since the mobilization, most of the younger men having been called out, and every court being thus deprived of a certain number of junior officials. Talaat Bey assures us that the police have received orders to deal politely and tenderly with Europeans, but similar orders were issued during the anti-Greek troubles in Anatolia. Then it was a case of "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes." And in any case, even if the police display the most thorough urbanity to us all, what of the gendarmerie and the military authorities? The perpetrators of the crime at Floria, near San Stefano, remain, as far as we know, unpunished. Yet everyone knows their names.

The British Volunteers.

A meeting held at the British Club here resulted in over £T750 being subscribed in a quarter of an hour for the payment of the expenses of twenty-six British volunteers who are to leave for the front. More has since been subscribed. The British colony has "played up" well, and it will continue so to do.

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THE GERMANS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The following interesting details concerning recent happenings on the Bosphorus are extracted from a series of letters sent home by a prominent member of the British Colony, and have been kindly placed at our disposal by the recipient.

Writing on September 2, he said that "we are drifting to war, but goodness knows with whom. First it was Great Britain, then Russia, and to-day it is Greece." Two hundred and twenty Germans, the writer adds, arrived at Constantinople on August 31, and were said to be gunners who have been lent to or enrolled by the Turks.[1] At Samsun there are 105,000 Turkish soldiers (three army corps?), and landing stages have been erected on both sides of the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus. The mobilized army numbers 1,200,000 men, and the gravest problem for the authorities is how to feed and clothe them.

On the 5th the spirit shown was "more conciliatory." The writer refers to the mobilizing and requisitioning going on on the Asiatic side, blankets and shoes having to be deposited at Scutari. In villages the crier announces that all eligible men have to enlist immediately; those refusing to do so will be hanged on the morrow—a penalty which makes the writer point out that the Government will require "a lot of rope."

In a letter dated September 8 reference is made to a further batch of 300 Germans who arrived on the 6th. The total number of Germans already "lent" to the Turkish fighting forces is estimated at 3,000, and arrangements are being made whereby German and Austrian subjects who, for some reason or other, cannot return to their own country to enlist, can do so in the Turkish Army.

An affray[2] occurred at San Stefano on Sunday, the 6th, the victims being a Frenchman and a Greek. The Frenchman had a small café, on which, together with the Turkish flag, the tricolour was flying. Some Germans came up and ordered the owner to pull down the French flag, which he refused to do. They left and promptly returned with some Turkish and German military, and the flag was pulled down.[3] On the same day the military authorities commandeered for three hours the Shirket boats which ply between the Asiatic and European coasts, and transported an army corps from Scutari to Pera. On the 8th, that is, two days before the news became public, the writer was joyfully informed by a journalist that the Government was going to abolish the Capitulations,[4] with the result that the mixed courts would disappear and many "foreigners" would be mobilized.

The letter of September 10 gives some vivid accounts of the proclamation of the abolition of the Capitulations. It was hailed as "the dawn of a new era," and the day was promptly acclaimed as Independence Day. Flags were flying everywhere—in Pera, Stamboul, and Galata, enthusiastic crowds surged through the streets and were harangued by "Moslems and orators," whose great theme was that England had crushed down Turkey; that Turkey had been paying her cash to England; that this was now going to stop; that Turkey was going to be free and would in future manufacture all her own requirements. In Stamboul the Committees ordered all shops to be closed and flags to fly for three days, during which a general holiday was to be celebrated. One heard a lot of talk about Lafayette and other "revolutionary" heroes, but (adds the writer) perhaps it was just as well that all this happened, as it gave the inflammable populace an outlet for its feelings and diverted its attention from the war.

In the meantime "the outlook in the interior is black, and financial ruin stares everyone in the face." A gentleman who

[1] According to a Roumanian paper to hand, a special train, composed of German carriages and full of German sailors, passed through Bucharest on August 29 bound from Germany, via Rustchuk, to Constantinople. In view of popular opposition, the Roumanian Government issued a *communiqué* stating that the Germans were not sailors but workmen for the Baghdad Railway, but the *communiqué* added that, in order to allay uneasiness, the Government had decided not to allow in future the passage through Roumania of groups composed of more than twenty individuals. From all accounts a similar special train took the Germans across Bulgaria, and in answer to a protest by the Entente Powers the Bulgarian Government asserted her neutrality and her ignorance of the real character of its occupants. No stipulation was, however, made regarding the further running of special trains. It will therefore be possible for Germans to travel across Roumania in groups and then unite in Rustchuk, which is most likely what happened in the case of the Germans who arrived in Constantinople on September 6.

[2] Our Constantinople Correspondent refers to this incident in his letter on page 703.

[3] The British flag has on one occasion met a similar fate. On September 11 we published a letter from our Constantinople Correspondent, in which he referred to the pulling down by the crowd of a Union Jack and its being trampled upon in the presence of police officers. This occurred in Galata, and we now understand that the flag was flying on the premises of the Economic Stores.

[4] On September 8, or two days before the abolition, the usually well-informed correspondent of the *Journal des Balkans* stated that "he had been informed by a letter from Constantinople that the German and Austrian representatives declared at the Porte that their Governments renounced in future all rights enjoyed by their subjects under the Capitulations. This *démarche* has created a sensation, because it is only too evident that Germany and Austria wish to oblige Turkey to provoke the Entente Powers."

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had returned from the interior beyond the head of the Gulf of Ismid gave the writer a pitiable picture of the country. Not a male between the ages of thirteen and forty-five was to be seen anywhere, old men and women were employed in making roads, everything that could be requisitioned had been taken, crops were rotting because no one was allowed to touch them, barley and grain could not be harvested, much less transported by rail to Constantinople, where, *per contra*, famine prices exist.

The next letter, September 12, referred to the abolition of the foreign post-offices in Turkey, and stated that the officials of the German and Austrian post-offices were to be retained by the Turkish Government.[5] It was announced that a drastic reform in the Customs tariff was to be introduced, beginning with wines, spirits, fine cloths, and high-class boots, the tariff on which will be increased by about 100 per cent.

Apart from this, the situation appeared more hopeful. The majority of people are sick of Turkey's last adventure, and only ask to be left alone. However, the minority rules. The spirit of the half-starved, underfed soldiers is anything but warlike, and dissatisfaction is rife. It is, apparently, worse in the Smyrna district than elsewhere, and it is no secret that many of the soldiers intend throwing down their rifles and going over to the enemy on the first opportunity. As for war with Great Britain, the impression on September 10 was that it would not take place.

On September 14 the idea of a war either with Greece or Russia had become remote, but an original view of Turkey's attitude was gleaned by the writer from a Turk of some standing and authority. "Turkey by mobilizing," he said, "obliges Russia to keep 400,000 men in the Caucasus, and we are therefore able to help Germany as efficiently as though we went to war."

But Germany's ascendancy in Constantinople goes even further. The correspondent says that "there can be no doubt" that Germany is placing big contracts for vegetables, flour, rice, etc., in Stamboul, that these provisions go to Germany viâ Philippopolis, Rustchuk, and Bucharest, and that in return Turkey receives guns and ammunition. On September 12 fourteen wagons of guns and ammunition arrived at Constantinople, having come from Germany viâ Bulgaria.

In the last letter received in London, and dated September 15, it is stated that the forts at Therapia are manned and officered by Germans, and that the headquarters of the German military have been established at Kavak.[6] All belated Austro-German troops, referred to in a previous letter, have been ordered to assemble at these places, which are held by about 30,000 men.

It is suggested, moreover, that the Ambassadors representing the Allies are not "taking a true view of the position," nor do they realise the "gravity of the situation."

[5] Reuter's Constantinople correspondent, cabling on Monday, stated that the French and Russian post-offices will close on October 1, but the staffs will be transferred to their respective Embassy buildings, where they will continue to receive European mails up to October 25 and extra European mails to November 26. The Austrian and German will be closed completely.

[6] The Austrian official *Gazette* announces the promotion of Colonel Pomian-Kovsky, military attaché at Constantinople, to the rank of "plénipotentiaire militaire" at the same Embassy. It is also announced by the *Jeune Turc* that the commandant of the "Goeben" has been appointed an Admiral in the Turkish Navy.

TURKEY AND THE WAR.

A correspondent has sent to *The Morning Post* some extracts from a letter dated September 15, and received on Saturday by a British firm. The writer says:—

"Although there is a large party in favour of war, mostly the military, pushed on by the Germans, there is also a party in favour of strict neutrality. The leaders of the latter party are the Heir-Apparent and the Minister of Marine, and a great number of the older, well-educated Turks. In the event of war being declared it would not be at all surprising to see them go for each other. When we hear of German victories a lot of bunting is displayed and the Germans talk very loud, and we then hear that the Turks are going to war. When, however, victories are reported on the other side the Germans do not show themselves and things seem very quiet. The "Goeben," while at anchor has lately been seen flying a Turkish flag at the peak of the mainmast and the German flag on the maintopmast. We do not know how many Germans there are on board, but one of her pinnaces was seen yesterday manned by German officers and sailors in their own uniforms."

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ALBANIAN LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DURAZZO, September 23.

From Bad to Worse.

Things are going from bad to worse in Albania, and to-day the country is in a state of chaos. Since the departure of Prince Wilhelm anarchy has reigned in this unhappy country.

When the Prince left it was understood that the International Commission of Control would carry on the administration of affairs, the Prince himself having, in fact, announced in the proclamation he issued before his departure that he would provisionally hand over this duty to the Commission. But these anticipations and hopes have not been realized: for one thing, because there is no agreement either between the Ministers (and consequently between the Powers) or between the delegates of the Commission of Control; and for another because of the absolutely contradictory views and opinions held by the leaders of the insurrectionary movement. A few days later the foreign representatives in Albania left Durazzo as a measure of protest. The Commission of Control still remained, but rather in the character of mere spectators.

The Reactionaries.

Meanwhile, the rebels lost no time in asserting themselves everywhere and endeavouring to organize their so-called Committee. For the time being their headquarters are at Shiak, a small village near Durazzo, and the cradle of the reactionary anti-dynastic movement. Up to the present Shkodra, Mati, Luma, and the Malissia of Dibra and of Hasi remain outside the jurisdiction of the revolutionary party; and as far as one can judge by the present state of affairs they will remain loyal to the Government and Prince William. It may be remarked that except for the majority of the inhabitants of the Shkodra district, who are Catholics, the population of these loyal districts is purely Moslem.

Insurgents' Divided Councils.

What the insurgents will do remains to be seen. What is certain is that they are by no means agreed amongst themselves. Already misunderstandings and rivalries have broken out amongst them. They have not even got a single purpose. For whilst some of them desire to have the Ottoman Prince Burhan-ed-Din as their ruler, others want Prince Fuad, of the Khedivial family; others, again, want a foreign prince, but not Prince Wilhelm. A meeting will take place shortly at Durazzo, where all these parties will be represented and will choose their ruler.

On the other hand, Essad Pasha Toptan is openly carrying on his intrigues with the Greeks on one side and the Serbs and Montenegrins on the other. It is even reported that Montenegro is working hard to get a Prince of its own Royal house elected.

Exodus of Royalists.

In spite of all these various tendencies the reactionary spirit is not strong in Albania itself. At Durazzo and Valona wholesale arrests have been made, so that the number of Nationalists and Royalists now held as prisoners by the rebels in the various towns amounts to several hundreds. This persecution by the rebels has driven many Liberal-Nationalists to go into voluntary exile. A good many still remain in Albania, but only at Shkodra or in the Malissia. The others at first chose Brindisi and Bari as their places of refuge; but now Italy has just refused hospitality to them, having requested them to leave these towns. It is generally said here that Italy, being strongly in sympathy with the rebels, and opposed to Prince Wilhelm, could not bear to see these refugees, who still remained loyal. Now, therefore, a new centre is being formed at Lausanne, where a League for the Defence of the Independence and Integrity of Albania has just been founded. It is reported that several branches of the league have been established already. But what the near future has in store for the country nobody can say.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 14.

The Khedive.

Contrary to what was announced in the local Press, H.H. the Khedive has not left Constantinople for Cairo. The news got round probably owing to the fact that the Khedivah Mother's palace has undergone a "spring clean" after having been shut up all the summer, and it was known that her Highness's anxiety for her august son's health had kept her by his side ever since the attempt made on his life. It is understood, however, that it is considered wisest that the Khedive should not return to Egypt just at present, and that for reasons of health he may shortly pay a visit to Switzerland.

The Case of Prince Omar Toussoun.

Arrivals from Marseilles bring back an interesting story as to the reason why Prince Omar Pasha Toussoun, the Khedive's cousin, has not returned to Egypt, as he intended to do. Some two weeks ago the Prince sent instructions to his Daira in Egypt that all correspondence, etc., was henceforward to be sent to him at Marseilles. This aroused a certain amount of comment in native circles, as it seemed strange that he did not avail himself of the opportunities that were then offering themselves to Egyptians to return to Egypt, and all manner of rumours came into circulation. From the information given by recent arrivals it now appears that during his stay in Paris the Prince frequented circles that were under the suspicion of the police. When he wanted to leave Paris he was only allowed to proceed as far as Lyons. Later he was given a permit to travel to Marseilles, but on arrival there he was met by a police official, who informed him that he would not be allowed to leave Marseilles, and that he must take up his residence at a certain small hotel. The Prince not unnaturally demurred at this, and insisted on going to one of the larger hotels. Eventually this was allowed, but it was intimated to him that he would be under supervision. At the hotel he is said to have uttered threats against the French authorities, and to have behaved in such a manner that the police had publicly to intervene, and searched him and his baggage. One of his friends was also placed under supervision and forbidden to leave for Egypt.

Native circles freely assert that there is a good deal more behind this enforced detention than has been allowed to transpire. Prince Omar Toussoun, who is one of the wealthiest landowners in this country, is well known for his pronounced pro-Turkish and Pan-Islamic sympathies, and his name was frequently mentioned in connection with the running of contraband cargoes of arms, ammunition, and provisions across the western frontier of Egypt during the Tripoli War. He was also one of the prime movers in the raising of the Ottoman War Fund and the Egyptian Red Crescent Fund.

Egypt and Indian Loyalty.

The cable giving particulars of the remarkable demonstration of loyalty made by India absolutely dumbfounded the Egyptians. It is impossible to exaggerate the effect it has had. The natives never realised that British rule was so popular throughout the Empire, and the solidarity which the latter—even those parts of it inhabited by Orientals—has displayed has come as a terrible revelation to those who fondly imagined that their anti-English and anti-Christian feelings found there an echo and sympathy. But more surprised still are the Egyptians to find that of all the Moslem peoples throughout the world the Turks—and their Egyptian dupes—alone display antagonism for France and England and sympathy for Germany. The news and letters that arrive from well-nigh every country where any important Moslem community exists show that the latter is in every case heart and soul in favour of the Entente, and eager to give practical testimony of its good-will. So far few comments on the matter have been published in the vernacular Press, but these will certainly not be long in appearing, for there is no mistaking the impression that has been made.

The British Command in Egypt.

This week Lieutenant-General Sir J. G. Maxwell took over the command of the Army of Occupation from Major-General the Honourable Julian Byng. It is with very great regret that we learnt that the latter had left Egypt, though there was not one of us who did not rejoice with him at the reason which necessitated his departure and which will give him a further opportunity to enhance his already brilliant reputation. Sir John Maxwell's return to Cairo has given general satisfaction. The choice is considered a very wise one at the present juncture; for, in addition to being very popular with Thomas Atkins, he enjoys great influence with the "Gyppies," who still cherish affectionate recollections of him in his Egyptian Army days.

German and Austrian Spies.

The German Chargé d'Affaires and the Austrian Agent embarked, as arranged, with the entire diplomatic and consular staff on the s.s. "Catania" on Thursday. By the same steamer the military authorities deported M. Hugo Hackh, a well-known German piano dealer, who was arrested under suspicious circumstances near Mustapha Pasha Barracks at Alexandria, and who has been forbidden to return to Egypt until the conclusion of the war. The search for wireless apparatus and spies continues most actively. It is understood that one or two of the former have been run to earth, though the authorities are not unnaturally reticent on the matter. Two suspicious characters, an Austrian and a German, have been arrested in Upper Egypt, and have been handed over to the Italian and American Agents respectively for deportation.

INDIAN TROOPS IN EGYPT.

The Indian troops that have been sent to Egypt for garrison duty have evidently created a favourable impression on the native population. On the 19th ult. the troops in Cairo were paraded through the streets of the capital, and some of the Press comments on the military promenade are interesting. Both the *Moayad* (the Nationalist organ) and the *Watan* (Coptic) devoted leading articles to the unusual event. We are indebted to the *Egyptian Gazette* for the following brief extracts:—

The *Moayad*:—"The inhabitants of Cairo witnessed yesterday morning an unprecedented scene in the streets of their town, the scene of the Indian troops reviewed. Both natives and Europeans looked with keen interest and amazement at these young and middle-aged men of India, in military uniforms with turbans on their heads and modern rifles on their shoulders, ready to fight in defence of England which is holding them under her control. . . . . There is no doubt that the Indians have shown all possible proofs of loyalty to Great Britain in this crisis of the war. Have they been wrong or right in this attitude?"

The journal goes on to point out that they are on the right side, because "The fundamental point in the programme of British policy is to grant independence to those nations with which England has colonial or occupational bonds, on the condition that they will remain friendly and loyal to her when the necessity arises."

The *Watan*:—"The British Army, compared with the armies of the other great Powers, is small, but it appears that this small army will not fail to stand against the biggest of armies. The British troops are almost in constant active service in different parts of the world. . . . They offer themselves for active service of their own free will, in accordance with the voluntary system, and for this reason the individual trooper of the British Army should be estimated as equal to ten of the troops of the other Powers recruited under compulsory systems."

The *Misr*, another Coptic journal, remarks:—"We have observed that these troops were as glad to see the Egyptians as the Egyptians were to see them. Their greetings attracted the sympathy of all the natives who saw them, and they received many expressions of welcome in return. They all look very healthy and strong."

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, September 12.

Local Effects of the War.

The Children of Israel of old found it a hard task to make bricks without straw; and it seems to be an equally difficult matter to write a letter in a place where there are only two topics of interest—the progress of a vital war about which we know absolutely nothing reliable, and the utter stagnation of trade, with its consequent distress and misery, only too evident to us. Moreover, there is the likelihood that when one does write the letter will be long out of date when it reaches its destination, if it ever gets there at all. For instance, I have to-day seen The Near East of August 28, in which is a Salonika letter of July 25, since which everything has changed, and a universal catastrophe has been fiendishly brought about.

Owing to a rapidly decreasing stock of paper, with very little hope of further supplies soon coming in, our newspapers are now reduced to one small sheet, with a much smaller second edition or supplement (the same price being charged for each separately), in which is no room for anything except contradictory war telegrams, speculations and rumours as to what Turkey and the other Balkan States are going to do, a series of police orders vainly meant to regulate the price of provisions and fuel, with articles, letters, etc., bewailing the situation in general. We used to have Salonika society gossip, to hear of such places as Albania, Epirus, Mexico, and other foreign parts; but the rest of the globe is now wiped out, and for us exist only the battle-fields, actual and potential, of Europe.

A Deutsche-Levante steamer reposes in the bay, and as no more belonging to that company are likely to be seen in these waters for some time to come, the agent, presumably to occupy his leisure hours, daily posts up at the foot of his office stairs telegrams announcing glorious German and some Austrian victories, messages from the divine William, including a long one to President Wilson endeavouring to justify German cold-blooded murders of women and children, the wanton burning of towns and villages, and other brutal savagery, all of which are read and believed by gaping passers-by. The German consular authorities, too, get from their Government regular official reports of the progress of the war as they wish it to be, which are communicated to the members of their colony, and even read out to an admiring congregation at their church on Sundays. But we poor Britons, having no church of our own, cannot be so favoured, and only twice since the war began has there been sent to our consulate, for our information, any official account of the situation. All we have had communicated to us otherwise are certain Orders in Council whereby we are warned of the pains and penalties we shall incur by lending money to the enemy, and things of that sort, such Orders being in our case ludicrously unnecessary, as, the banks having closed their doors for payments, we cannot get money for our own needs, let alone for an enemy.

The Refugees' Problem.

At last our local authorities have awoke to the fact that, at any rate for the present, we have had enough refugees dumped upon us. A few days ago the "City of Malaga" arrived with about 1,600, but they were not allowed to land, and the captain was ordered to take them to the Piræus. Others have come since then, but they too have been refused and sent off to the same destination. It was certainly high time. Even under normal conditions it would be a big task for these impoverished territories to support through winter the thousands that have already come, but how it can be done with the existing penury one fails to see. The police authorities are at their wits' end even now to devise schemes for keeping down the ever-rising price of provisions. With the very best intentions, they arbitrarily fix sale prices for all articles of personal and domestic consumption, even the quantities shopkeepers must keep in stock and that they may sell to their customers, etc., of which due notice is given in the newspapers. But all this fails to effect the end in view, and these notices quickly become dead letters, and have to be continually modified. The danger now is that merchants will altogether cease to import, and that supplies will certainly fall off if the natural course of commerce is unduly hampered, in which case the situation would inevitably become far worse. In such abnormal times it is hardly likely merchants will go on importing unless they see an adequate profit in the end. The police may force them to sell their present holdings at arbitrary prices, but they cannot compel them to order more and run the risk of further loss.

Moreover, it is whispered that there are cases of plague both here and at the Piræus; and if this be true shipping will certainly fight shy of Salonika, and imports of all kinds will practically cease, a state of famine being the result. There seems a foundation of truth for these rumours, seeing the port authorities have now stopped the lying alongside the quays of all ships coming here, the reason given being the danger of an invasion of rats. Everybody knows the connection between plague and rats. As many steamers, however, are anchoring stern on to the quay, to which they are moored aft by hawsers, rats still have an easy means of reaching the shore.

A Postscript.

Just as I was about to close this letter I have been favoured by our Consul with the contents of an official telegram, dated London, the 11th inst., giving most satisfactory information of the progress of our allied armies. Needless to say it is a very different version from what comes to us "made in Germany," and it has the ring of sterling, not German, silver.

OFFICIAL "NERVES" IN SYRIA.

A correspondent in Syria writes:—"The Turks seem to be getting very nervous of late, and as for suspicion, they start at anything that has any connection, however remote, with the British Government. A young Syrian gentleman, Ibrahim B. Hassoun, who is in the service of the Anglo-Sudanese Government, was lately spending his furlough in this country, and attended the wedding festivities of some relation of his in the Hauran. Afterwards, when travelling to Haifa, he was astonished to find himself accosted by soldiers and an officer, who, after asking what brought him to that neighbourhood, hailed him off before a Court Martial for examination. He explained who he was, how he came to be in the country, and so forth, and was finally set free. But it is clear that the military authorities still regard him as a spy in the service of the British Government, and have only released him because of lack of evidence.

"In connection with this state of suspicion it may be noted that no telegram in English, though written in the plainest of language, is accepted. The Turks appear to think that English has peculiar powers of its own!"

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

HOW TO LIVE IN PERSIA.*

For the archæologist, for the sportsman, and for the traveller who likes to wander leisurely along little-used tracks amidst varied and very often grand scenery, Persia possesses attractions that enable it to stand comparison with any country in the world. And though it cannot boast a large number of European residents, those who have lived long in the land almost always look back on their residence with real pleasure. But it must be acknowledged that it is not a country in which the average European or American can live, or in which he can undertake even a short journey without taking certain precautions that are not called for in more advanced countries. Should he endeavour to do so he is like to come to grief quickly, for the climate is original, so are the autochthons; and it does not pay to take liberties with either of them. The traveller or would-be resident, however, who is prepared to adapt himself to his surroundings need fear little either from the climate or from the natives; and how to carry out the process of adaptation is told very fully and clearly by Dr. Neligan. Travellers and residents in other countries of the Near East will also find a great many invaluable "tips" in the book. There are, for instance, instructions how to form and lay cement flooring of various kinds; how to rig up a simple form of fixed bath; how to prepare and apply a top dressing for a lawn tennis court; what kinds of water vessels to use on a journey; and much more information of a similar eminently practical kind that should be useful to residents in many parts of Asiatic Turkey and the Sudan, as well as to those in Persia. What the author writes about carpets and the buying of carpets, about Persian holidays, Persian time, and the Persian and Arabic calendars is almost as interesting to the stay-at-home as to the traveller who knows his Orient well.

The subject of "Routes from London to different parts of Persia" provides material for a very useful chapter; while notes on "Some of the Principal Main Routes in Persia" are given in the next chapter. The latter, being "in each case the result either of personal experience or of that of other Europeans who have recently done the journey," are likely to be more reliable than such things very often are; but the reader is expressly warned to make enquiries before deciding to follow any particular route. This is such a simple precaution that the warning seems almost superfluous; but the countries of the Near East appear to possess an extraordinary fascination for travellers of the most happy-go-lucky character, so, doubtless, the author is well advised in including it. The chapter on "The Care of the Health" constitutes a veritable *vade-mecum* on this important subject, and that on "Outfit" should prove valuable to the novice. In connection with the subject of "Stores" Dr. Neligan has some particularly sound advice to offer:—

> It is a great advantage as well as a great economy to be able to live entirely on the country in which one finds oneself. It is easy to do this in Persia, but the ability to do so is largely a question of individuals and of locality. While some people find life impossible without added luxuries in the shape of "tins" and bottled beer, others are quite content with what is to be found on the spot! Probably having investigated the local resources more thoroughly, they are able to obtain better results.

And again:—

> . . . A plea in favour of making the best of the local resources and supplies must be entered. There are a number of excellent Persian dishes, and also vegetables and herbs, which it is a pity that Europeans do not use more. On the other hand, a protest must be made against the use of a lot of preserved edibles. The bad housekeeper is generally known by the quantity of "tins" which he or she uses. . . . Apart from the question of expense, preserved food is seldom the equal of fresh food.

If Europeans in Persia and other countries of the Near East would lay these hints to heart, and act upon them, their health would almost certainly benefit.

The author's remarks upon the Persians and on the climate of Persia are well worth quoting. After pointing out that many Europeans are prone to judge all Persians by what they see of the official classes and of servants, and that this is not reasonable, he proceeds:—

> To the credit, then, of the Persian may it be submitted that he is intelligent, hospitable, and courteous; that he has a keen sense of humour, and is devoted to children, flowers, and sport; that he knows his country's poetry and history to a remarkable extent. The country people are industrious, hardy, frugal, and, for the most part, peaceably inclined. From our point of view the Persian's love of work is not manifest, and his business methods are leisurely and devious to the point of vexation (what else can be expected in a country where time is of no account, and one hundred miles a day is express travelling?). The Persian has the faults of Eastern nations and of his creed. Corruption is rife; truth is a matter of convenience, but there are striking exceptions; take, for instance, the honesty of the *charwardar* (muleteer) and *hammal* (porter) classes. It is only fair, however, to remember that in questions of morals, as in other matters, the point of view accounts for much. Many of the Persian's bad points are the result of a system and of much misgovernment. Revolution, civil war, maladministration, epidemic disease—these have too often caused the cup of Persia's troubles to overflow. But it must be owned that, as far as foreigners are concerned, though considered lawful prey, as everywhere else in the world, in no other Eastern country have they been treated so uniformly well as in Persia. And this holds, in spite of recent unfortunate incidents.

As to the climate, from what may be called the European point of view, the author sums up as follows:—

> The insurance companies, owing to ignorance of the conditions in Persia, class it as a tropical country, and as a country where, on account of internal disturbances, there is danger to life. As a matter of fact, in the opinion of all those who are best qualified to judge, neither view is correct. . . . Persia is *not* a tropical country; for the greater part of the year the climate is temperate. . . .

He adds:—

> Europeans do not run any risk of life worth considering. Persia differs very much from, say, China in this respect. The ordinary traveller may be robbed on the road, but he is not killed.
>
> It might be further pointed out that in a country where there are no railways as yet, and not two dozen motor cars, no overhead cranes, no "tubes," no houses that will burn, and no militant suffragettes, the ordinary risks to life are somewhat less than in certain other parts of the world.

Lest the remark as to the few motor cars in the country should lead the hasty reader to suspect Dr. Neligan of being an opponent of the all-conquering car, we may add that the notes upon "Motor Cars in Persia" that will be found on pages 182-185 are the most complete of their kind that we have read. In connection with the state of the country it is pleasant to find the author paying a well-merited compliment to the Swedish officers who have been training the Gendarmerie. He writes of "a marked improvement" in the state of the principal roads as regards disturbances, and considers that "the prospects of general security being restored are bright." We sincerely hope that the present disturbed state of Europe will not result in any dimming of those prospects.

* "Hints for Residents and Travellers in Persia." By A. R. Neligan, M.D., etc. (Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, London. 5s. net).

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

"Foreigners in Turkey: Their Juridical Rights" is the title of a book published a fortnight ago from the Princeton University Press. The author is Professor P. Marshall Brown. The book could hardly have made its appearance at a more suitable moment.

Messrs. A. and C. Black announce for immediate publication "Lands and Peoples of the Bible," by the Rev. James Blaikie, F.R.A.S. The volume is illustrated with numerous plates, and the author makes liberal use of the results of modern exploration in Palestine, Babylonia and Assyria, Egypt, and Syria in his studies.

Among the Victoria League publications is a leaflet entitled "The Servians and Austria," by Mr. G. M. Trevelyan. The price is ½d. for one copy, large quantities being sold at lower rates.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I see that THE NEAR EAST published an article last week on Consular Post Offices in Turkey. Doubtless this was a serious and sober screed, but from my own experience in a certain city of Syria I can truly say that one at least of the Consular post offices was not then a serious institution. Being a stamp collector, with a weakness for the overprinted issues provided by the foreign post offices in Turkey, I entered, and at the *guichet* (the arrangement is similar in *all* the offices) demanded one specimen of each value on sale. The postmaster, pleased to find a purchaser for some of his higher values, became affable. He produced obsolete rarities from a private drawer, offered to postmark my stamps lightly, and expressed opinions freely about things philatelic in particular, and matters Ottoman in general. As I went out I made to post a letter in the box provided for the purpose. "Don't do that," cried the postmaster; "if you want your letter to *get* anywhere, you had much better post it at the Austrian office!"

***

I see that the King of Roumania, or his successor, is supposed to be upon the point of qualifying once more for that proudest of German titles, *Mehrerer des Reichs*. As his Majesty already bears four territorial quarterings on his shield of arms for the Principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia, the Banat of Craiova, and the territory of the Dobruja (*Azure two dolphins affrontées gold*), he will probably add another for Transylvania (or Ardeal, as his people call the Principality) should the fortune of war subject it to his sceptre. As borne by its present Imperial and Royal Apostolic owner, the shield of Transylvania might well make a neighbour envious. It may be blazoned: *Per fess azure and gold, over all a bar gules from which issues a demi-eagle displayed sable between in chief a sun-in-splendour and a crescent silver. In base seven towers sable.* The seven towers undoubtedly refer to the seven towns from which the *Erdély* of the Magyars, our Transylvania, takes its German name Siebenbürgen. The upper part of the Transylvanian shield is very reminiscent of the full coat of Wallachia: *Azure an eagle displayed holding a sceptre, a sword, and a Cross, in dexter chief a sun, all gold.* His Roumanian Majesty will thus be able to embroider on his coat-of-arms an eagle and a half, two suns, and two crescents, as he already bears one on his Moldavian quartering *Gules a bull' head caboshed, between its horns a star and in sinister chief a crescent, all gold.* His motto might well be "Heaven's Light our Guide," if that were not already taken, as, in addition to the heavenly bodies enumerated above, Craiova provides yet another star: *Gules on an open crown, a lion rampant crowned and holding a star, all gold.*

***

Dame Naturo has a reputation for studying the current history of mankind, and doubtless reads her daily paper to see what is happening. As the result of her diligence she nearly always takes steps to assist mankind when by its own folly it has unduly depleted its numbers—scientific observers have learned names and columns of statistics to prove this, and doubtless they will eagerly seize upon the Hatches, Matches, and Despatches column of the *Echo de Bulgarie*, in which is recorded Nature's latest recuperative effort. Fearing that the Bulgarian race might have suffered unduly as a result of its recent arguments with its neighbours, Dame Nature has arranged that in one district alone three Bulgarian mothers should present their respective husbands with triplets—all boys in all three cases! What makes it the more remarkable is that the proud fathers all belong to one political party. Really the statistics of the scientific observers will tend to become complicated if party politics come to be mixed up with the statutory returns of the Bulgarian registrar-general.

***

It is remarkable to what an extent St. George, the hero of Christian and Moslem alike, is concerned in the war in his capacity as patron saint. Not only is his Cross, scarlet on a white field, borne on every British flag on land, but it appears twice on the White Ensign. The Order of the Garter is peculiarly his own, while he shares the patronage of another British Order with the Archangel Michael. This body somewhat illogically has its chapel in the Cathedral of St. Paul. In Russia St. George is the patron of an Order admission to which is confined to those, of whatever rank, who have performed some pre-eminent feat of arms in the field, and the saint also appears on horseback on the Imperial Russian coat of arms. In Germany Bavaria alone seems to hold the martial saint in reverence, but in Italy, where every preparation is being made for war, the great port of Genoa is under St. George's patronage, and in the old days was proud to call her republic by his name. The piety, or perspicacity, of mediæval monks ascribed the honour of being St. George's birthplace to Lydda, on the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway. I notice the din of war has penetrated even to that spot, and that the mobilization in Palestine is once more disturbing the pilgrim route up from the sea to the Holy Places.

***

In his letter published in our issue of September 27, 1912, our Cairo Correspondent referred to a speech made by Admiral Breusing at a meeting of the Pan-German League. I came across the passage to-day, and it reads rather strangely. For it records that the Admiral "declared, that in case of war with Great Britain, Germany's first object would be to make, with the assistance of Austria and Italy, a land attack on Egypt, in order to stop the British food supply." Presumably Admiral Breusing knew what he was talking about, so we must conclude that Germany's calculations were not quite so perfect as she had always led the world to suppose. At any rate, we have not heard of any above-board attack on Egypt, either with or without the assistance of Austria. Neither has Italy shown any marked inclination to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the Kaiser. And up to the present the British food supply has not been cut off. Admiral Breusing and his friends must guess again.

***

Neutrality appears in some places to be a word capable of modification. A country is able, seemingly, to be "strictly" or "very neutral," or it may be just "neutral," or it can be like a correspondent who writes, "of course, we are neutral, but we sincerely hope you will win." As far as I can make out from reading the papers the Turks have declared that their neutrality is something really monumental and epoch-making among neutralities—supposing that the word has a plural—and have repeated this statement on several occasions. Yet men can be found to carp at the Ottoman interpretation of the duties of a neutral, which is held to lack at times that dispassionate outlook upon a warring world which The Hague expects of everyone who does his duty. On the other hand, a neutrality such as that professed by Italy or Roumania can be regarded by one side in the present conflict as being "a sort of" neutrality—and very diluted at that. Indeed, it is hard to find that adamantine imperturbability and noncurance which upholders of the abstract read into the epithet neutral, unless, perhaps, it be in Bolivia or Abyssinia.

***

Mr. A. Hilliard Atteridge had a most interesting article in the September number of *The British Review* on General Brialmont. The Belgian military engineer who designed the fortifications of Liège, Namur, and Antwerp has, as most of my readers are aware, also left a monument to his skill in Eastern Europe. In 1883 he was trusted by the Roumanian Government to prepare a scheme of defence for the country. It was on the basis of the costly experiments made in constructing the forts round Bucharest that he designed the fortifications of Liège and Namur. Perhaps it is not so widely known that he prepared a plan for the Ottoman Government for the fortification of Constantinople. But the plan has never been carried out, having been postponed to the *bukra* which never comes.

CORSAIR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

TURKEY AND GERMANY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—

"Our life and prosperity will be decided by the results of the battles in Western and Central Europe. If Germany lives, we live: if Germany loses, we will lose our national existence."

This is a quotation from the *Public Opinion*, a widely read Beyrout Arabic paper.

It is needless to say that this is the general opinion here. Even the most ignorant are living in the hope of seeing Germany win, and through her the Turkish Empire strengthened and consolidated. German news is printed and sold in the city, while the restrictions upon Reuter are increasing daily. The other day the newspaper editors were warned against publishing the English, French, and Russian Ambassadors' telegrams, while the telegrams from the German and Austrian Ambassadors are typewritten and sold in the streets. Nor is the Turkish Government satisfied with this. Two weeks ago, in one of the Turkish Army camps in the city of Jerusalem, there was held a reception in honour of the German colony in that city. A friend of mine told me the other day that while at Jerusalem he walked through the Moslem Cemetery just outside the east wall of the city to see the "Golden Gate." He

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was stopped by a Moslem, who told him he couldn't go any further because he was a Christian My friend told him that he was an American and that the Americans are going to help the Germans! He was immediately set at liberty, and he paraded the whole cemetery.

It is inexplicable that with all the demonstrations of sympathy that the Turkish Government shows towards the German, Turkey is going to stay "neutral."

Take the "Goeben" affair. The "Goeben" and her mate could have easily steamed into the Adriatic and then stayed there to help the Austrian fleet. Instead of that they took the risk and went through the Dardanelles. It is hardly conceivable that Germany at this time should be able to spare one of its finest battleships, if in sending it to Constantinople the Germans were not counting on Turkey doing something for them in return. Thanks to fortune and the good sense of Talaat Bey, however, Germany has not been able to pull Turkey into the battlefield yet. We hope in the interests of this country, it will never be able to.

The suppression of the Capitulations of European Governments at this critical time is very deplorable. Under other circumstances it might have been perfectly right for Turkey to pass a law like this, but at present it seems only ominous. Meanwhile, military preparations in Palestine are going on with the utmost rapidity. Large buildings are being leased for use as hospitals, and the troops are drilled morning and afternoon.

Yours, etc.,
AN OBSERVER.

Jerusalem, September 14, 1914.

THE CAPITULATIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—May I be allowed to say, on the pro-Turkish side, a few words with regard to the above, which have been abolished by Imperial Iradé as from the 1st October, 1914, and with regard to which I do not doubt but that you will have many letters from those who are only too keen to blame *everything* that Turkey does, on principle?

Your Constantinople Correspondent, though scrupulously fair in his methods of argument, is rather too keen to look at the various questions that arise with a partiality for the Christian grievance, whatever it may be, and with too little allowance for the Turkish aspect of the same question. I therefore anticipate that he may not give force to the one point that I would like to emphasize—viz., the terribly hindering and unjust effect in the past of the whole system of the Capitulations on the Ottoman Government, and on the Ottoman population in general.

In connection with the various letters that I have written you from time to time, and that you have been kind enough to publish, certain of my late opponents have tried by gentle verbal suasion to convince me how wrong I have been to stick up for the Turks, and how harmful are the various Britannico-Turkish Associations to which I and other friends of Turkey belong. The attempts were, of course, all doomed from the outset, for the very bed-rock of the other side of the question is either one of two things, sometimes both: (a) a *racial* and ingrained dislike of the Turks (when it is not a question of an Englishman); and (b) a more or less avowed antagonism to the Islamic religion and, consequently, a natural desire to support the cause of Christian nations with which Turkey may have differences. With regard to the former, the tendency is, of course, natural. When for ages past there has been friction between races it is too much to expect that any particular member of one of the races in question can be *quite* impartial in an argument on the question of his country's relations with that of the other race; there may, of course, be exceptions, but I think a fair example would be to say that if an Englishman were now to be discussing the question of Anglo-German relations there might be at least a *slight* bias in his argument in favour of his own country. It is only natural, and no one could blame him. But I think that when it is someone of a nation that has *not* a standing cause of friction with the Ottoman Empire, that that person should not be, or, rather, should try not to allow himself to be prejudiced against the Turkish side simply because of the question of religion.

In our epoch, and in England in particular, differences of religion do not make causes of dissension amongst the population at large, and I think that those who have to consider or comment on the relations of the races in the Near East should try more than they do at the moment not to be influenced by the fact that one side is Christian and the other Mohammedan. In this part of the world at any rate, the Christian races have much to learn from the practical observance of their religion by the Mohammedans in the matter of charity and filial respect (to quote two instances). And I think it is safe to say that no one ever starves to death in Constantinople. Can the same be said of any Christian capital? Let us, then, abandon our one-sided view of the problems here and admit that Turkey has been crushed for centuries under the obviously unfair burden of the Capitulations under which, not only were foreigners relieved from the payment of taxes applied to all Ottoman subjects, but the State was unable to make its own laws in the matters of Customs duties, etc., without first obtaining the consent of all the Great Powers—a process which at the best of times meant the granting of reciprocal and generally ruinous concessions in return, and took interminable periods to accomplish. Imagine government under such conditions! Add to this the continual interference of the Great Powers in every department of the State, and the inability of the latter to impose punishment on the breakers of its laws; and on the top of all this remember that these Capitulations were originally granted by the Ottoman Rulers of their own free will under conditions of time and history quite different to modern civilisation, and you may have some faint idea of the abominably unfair and unjust burden under which the Ottoman people suffered.

I do not say that our Government could have done anything alone; for unless all acted together we would have given our consent when other Governments would have bargained for theirs—thereby causing possible trade disadvantages to Great Britain. But what I do say is that Turkey, in taking advantage of the present European situation to relieve herself of the millstone round her neck, has acted quite justifiably, and her Government is to be congratulated on its well-timed and bold move. I trust that the various European Powers involved will accept the *fait accompli* with good grace, and that, in particular, Great Britain will accept it in such a spirit of good will that it may cause Turkey to forget its disappointment over the "Sultan Osman" incident, and its bitter memory of the breach of faith of Europe, in the famous declaration at the outset of the Balkan War that, whatever the result thereof, the territorial situation of the opponents would remain unaltered.

Yours, etc.,
ARTHUR P. TULLY.

Constantinople, 11th September, 1914.

EGYPT AND THE PRESS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In view of the friendly feeling towards England displayed by Egyptians, and of the loyalty of Indian Moslems, I have no doubt that Englishmen will be even more ready than they usually are to listen to any request for consideration that may be put forward by Egyptians and by Moslems. I therefore take this opportunity of writing to ask whether it would not be possible to put an end to certain annoyances to which we have been subjected in the past, and which might quite well have done irreparable mischief. I refer to the ill-informed and frequently grossly inaccurate references to Islam, Moslem teachings and traditions, and Moslem ways and customs that appear only too frequently in both Egyptian and English papers. Thus, at the time when mistrust was intense in Egypt a certain London paper wrote "Unless the leopard of Mecca changes his spots," and various others misquoted certain verses from the Quoran to prove that Moslems were fanatics, thanks to the teachings of their faith. But what made matters worse was that a certain local paper in Egypt, immediately after the murder of the late Boutros Pasha Ghali, began inserting certain insinuations that added more fuel to the fire. Thus, upon proposing to change the names of certain streets it said that if the name of Sharia Clot Bey were changed into Jennet-el-Muameneen it would not have failed to create tremendous enthusiasm among "its hard-labouring inhabitants." To indicate the gravity of the impression of such a paragraph I need only point out to the English reader that the "hard-labouring inhabitants" of that locality are merely people who run gambling hells and all sorts of infamous places, and that "Jennet-el-Muameneen" means the "Paradise of Moslems." Again, that paper undertook to criticise the style and literature of the Quoran, and, pointing out the fallacy of Arabic logic, it gave a literal translation, or, so to speak, a false translation, of one of Al-Mutanibbi's best lines, in which he said: "He would have listened to your pleadings were he conscious, but he whom you reproach has no conscience." Such insinuations caused at the time so much resentment and fury among all classes of Egyptians that Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Shawish, who was a teacher in Cambridge University and who has a good knowledge of English literature, wrote in the heat of the debate that "The English language is devoid of literature." It is not too much to say that the publication of such statements and views was the prime factor in widening the gulf between English and Egyptians at the time when the Egyptian authorities did hold the reins of the Administration, and the Egyptians had therefore nothing to complain of about the Anglo-Egyptians. English writers and journalists would certainly do better to bear in mind constantly that captious critics are always abroad and ready to put all sorts of constructions on such quotations.

It is such most irresponsible writings, of which the English authorities would hardly have been conscious, that would enable Germans to pose as protectors of Islam, arming themselves with such phrases as indicating England's designs on, and intentions towards, Islam. And while the Germans and others have been energetically busy, both in Constantinople and Cairo, in furthering their propaganda of being the champions of Islam, England, feeling sure of her "clean hands" and her honour—which, in the circumstances, proved to be a serious mistake—did not trouble in any way to bring home to the Moslems any of her researches into and knowledge of Islam. Thus, while Baron Oppenheim was spreading his propaganda broadcast, from Cairo to the Euphrates; while the *Ottoman Lloyd* was publishing inflammatory articles in Constantinople, and the German director was devastating the Khedivial Library, and introducing into it as many German books as possible (whether translated into Arabic or not), the English Government not only did not trouble to keep its popularity among Moslems unimpeachable, but it is almost certain that those lamentable publications passed quite unnoticed.

What England badly needs is to step forward and explain herself to the people. Her best policy would be to organise a Press campaign and a literary campaign that would not only dismiss German (and other) mischievous machinations, but would popularise English ideas, ideals, and traditions, thus making England understood.—Yours faithfully,

ALI F. MOHAMED.

London, September 30, 1914.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Mpret's Failure.

The following extract is from *La Gazette de Lausanne* of September 12:—

Dès son débarquement, le mbret rencontra des difficultés qu'il n'avait pas su prévoir. Nous avons rapporté au jour le jour les mesures qui, prises dans les meilleures intentions, le rendirent impopulaire auprès d'une partie de ses sujets. Il vint un jour où ceux-ci s'armèrent les uns contre les autres, et ce jour-là, qui en faisait un souverain de guerre civile, rendait inévitable la chute du prince de Wied. Réfugié à Lugano, le mbret peut annoncer à ses sujets sa rentrée prochaine dans sa bonne ville de Durazzo: nul n'est dupe de ce langage et lui-même se fait moins d'illusion que personne.

Germany's "Friendship for Turkey."

An editorial note in *The Orient* of September 2 calls attention to a point of some importance, and one which the Turks, who are such warm admirers of the Teuton, would do well to reflect upon:—

Italian neutrality up to the present moment has been based on her declaration first that the war into which Austria and Germany plunged was one of aggression and not of defence, and secondly that those two empires did not consult her as their ally before declaring war; and that, therefore, her alliance with them did not bind her to act at all. We have no indication that Germany or Austria will call in question the correctness of these statements of their former ally. The facts alleged by Italy may be regarded as correct. We wish to call attention to one fact logically resulting from these allegations. The Triple Alliance has up till now been very unified; no such rift in the lute has occurred before. Then the same principles now asserted by Italy may be presumed to have guided the Alliance for at least the past four years. Hence we may assume with justification that when Italy made her attack on Turkey in September, 1911, she had previously consulted the other members of the Alliance and obtained their consent. Otherwise, Germany would have had good reason to come to the aid of her friends the Turks against an attack that was far more unprovoked than that by Austria on Servia. This goes to show that Germany was cognisant of the plan of Italy to seize Tripoli, and did not lift a finger to help Turkey. We wonder how the Turks think of this fact as bearing on the attitude of Germany toward them to-day.

The Capitulations in Egypt.

Writing on "The Danger in Egypt" in *Truth*, "Scrutator" remarks:—

Under the capitulations it is doubtful whether the Austrians and Germans can be commanded to leave Egypt, or whether trading with those persons is trading with the enemy. In Egypt every man's house is his castle in the literal sense, for the house of an Italian or Austrian subject living in Cairo or Alexandria is Italian or Austrian territory. Amongst the whites there is no such thing as an Egyptian citizen. During a European war this is a very dangerous state of affairs. What is wanted is to make an end of the fiction of Turkish suzerainty and the hypocrisy of Egyptian autonomy, and to boldly declare Egypt to be a British Protectorate. This would immediately restore confidence; France would not object, while Germany and Austria would be excluded once for all.

The Turk through American Spectacles.

If it is nothing else the following comment from *The New York World* (September 15) is amusing. It is under the characteristic heading of "Bully for the Turk!":—

Promptly upon its denunciation of the capitulations, the Sublime Porte gives proof of Turkey's fitness to enter the sisterhood of free nations by raising its protective tariff 100 per cent.—almost, indeed, up to the average rate to which ours was reduced by the Underwood Bill. What a noble campaign of education must have preceded this enlightened action! "Bismillah!" shrieked the spell-binders of Stamboul. "The foreigner pays the tax. Rally to the defence of home industries against the pauper labour of Germany and America! Spurn the sophistries of the Cobden Club; and if British gold has corrupted your would-be leaders to the debasing heresy of free trade acquaint them with the cord and the Bosphorus! I have spoken. Salaam aleikoum!" In rural regions the argument varied. Much laughter must have greeted the story of Hodja Hussein, who sheared his fat-tailed sheep backward because with only a 14 per cent. tariff on wool he couldn't bear to look the intelligent animals in the face. By whatever argument achieved, this is a glorious victory. How it heartens the true friends of the poor labouring man!

Roumanes in Austria.

We quote below from an article in *The Manchester Guardian* (September 29), under the heading "Roumania's Chance":—

It is not to be denied that the Roumanes of Transylvania are placed in anything but happy material and political conditions. Forming a class of poor peasants under Magyar landlords, being, moreover, subjected to the merciless process known as Magyarisation, they of late have also been gradually deprived of their religious liberty and robbed of their churches and church schools, and transferred in some instances to the jurisdiction of Catholic bishops. It must be obvious to every Roumanian that no such golden opportunity for seizing Transylvania and completing the nation's unity on one side at least will ever recur. Roumania, in fact, is in the same position as Italy, and it is not without significance that rumours should speak of negotiations between the two countries. Roumania is able to invade Transylvania with at least 300,000 well-trained men, and if Bulgaria should think the moment opportune for seeking revenge upon her for the Treaty of Bucharest, Roumania will be able to put against her another quarter of a million.

Turkey and the Balkan States.

The following extract is from an article in *The Weekly Dispatch* (September 27) by Mr. H. Charles Woods:—

From a diplomatic point of view, the positions of Italy, Roumania, Turkey, and Bulgaria are by far the most important feature of the international situation. At the present moment, for various reasons, each of these countries is maintaining a neutrality, the possible duration of which it is impossible to calculate. As far as Italy and Roumania are concerned, as it is now unlikely that either of these countries will take the field on the side of Austria and of Germany, it is only a question whether they will permanently maintain their present attitude or whether they will take the field on the side of the allied entente Powers. Agitations are reported to have taken place in both these countries in favour of war, but it is natural that no wise Government in either of them should agree to risk the dangers of military operations until it has assured itself that the diplomatic field is clear. The positions in Turkey and in Bulgaria appear to be uncertain. In the former country the situation is always complicated by the attitude of the Chauvinistic section of the Committee of Union and Progress, which may at any moment predominate and force the hand of the present Grand Vizier (Prime Minister), who is reported to be in favour of peace. The attitude of Bulgaria almost entirely depends upon whether means can be found to compensate her for the loss of, or to give back to her, territory which should have remained Bulgarian after the Balkan wars.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND.

Lady (Ralph) Paget, the Hon. Lady Whitehead, Lady Boyle, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Lord Fitzmaurice, Sir Valentine Chirol, Sir Arthur J. Evans, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey, Mr. G. M. Trevelyan, Mr. Bertram Christian, and Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson are the signatories of an appeal which has been issued on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund. The circular states:—

In practice, if not in theory, Serbia is as much our ally as Russia, and as such is entitled not merely to our esteem and sympathy, but also to assistance of a more practical kind. In striking contrast to her achievements are the meagre resources of the little country. For the third time in two years she is involved in war, and this time her very existence as a nation is at stake. The last two wars cost her not less than 50,000 lives out of a population of barely three millions, and yet despite her exhaustion she has hurled back Austria's boasted punitive expedition, and in her turn inflicted severe punishment on Austrian armies. But this success has been won at fearful cost, and the shortage of doctors and nurses is very great—greater than in any other part of warring Europe.

A small detachment of ten British nurses, under the leadership of Mme. Grouitch, is now in Serbia; but these gallant volunteers urgently need further help. How urgently is best proved by the pathetic appeal of the Serbian Government enjoining strict economy in lint, cottonwool, and hospital appliances.

Nor is this all. Serbia's undefended capital has been systematically bombarded by Austrian and Hungarian troops; the fertile district of Shabatz has been brutally ravaged by the invaders in the opening weeks of the war, and the suffering among non-combatants in the north of Serbia is therefore quite as acute as in Belgium and Northern France. Under these circumstances we have no hesitation in appealing to the generosity of the British public in aid of a country which is assuredly fighting our battles as well as those of her own race.

Any help will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Parcels of clothes, etc., especially medical and surgical appliances, should be addressed to Lady (Ralph) Paget, at 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.; cheques should be sent to Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., Hon. Treasurer, Serbian Relief Fund, at 63, Queen's Gate, S.W., or to the account of the Serbian Relief Fund at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, 1, St. James's Square, S.W.; inquiries should be addressed to Bertram Christian, Esq., chairman of executive, at 22, Berners Street, Oxford Street, W.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Oct.	1914. Sept.		1332. Julkada.	5675. Tisseri
2	19	Friday	12	12
3	20	Saturday	13	13
4	21	Sunday	14	14
5	22	Monday	15	15
6	23	Tuesday	16	16
7	24	Wednesday	17	17
8	25	Thursday	18	18

Sunday is the birthday of her Majesty the Queen Dowager of The Two Sicilies, sister of the late Empress of Austria.

Sunday is the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Paul of Russia, husband of the late Princess Alexandra, sister of his Majesty the King of the Hellenes.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduke Clement Salvator of Austria-Tuscany, grandson of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty the Emperor of Austria.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.I.H. Mehmed Nizam-ed-Din Effendi, son of the Heir and twenty-seventh in order of succession to the Ottoman Throne.

Wednesday is the birthday of her Grand Ducal Highness Princess Antoinette of Luxemburg and Nassau, niece of the late Archduke Karl Ludwig of Austria, brother of the Emperor.

Thursday is the birthday of his Majesty the King of Montenegro.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Harald of Denmark, nephew to her Majesty the Queen Mother.

Thursday is the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Serge of Russia, brother-in-law to the Grand Duchess George, *née* Princess Mary of Greece.

H.R.H. Oscar of Prussia, a nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, has been taken seriously ill from heart weakness. His condition is considered grave.

H.H. Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Hesse, a nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, is reported to have been seriously wounded.

It is reported from Rome that the Albanian Senate has elected H.I.H. Burhan-ed-Din Effendi, son of the ex-Sultan, to be Mpret of Albania.

Lord Roberts attained his eighty-second birthday on Wednesday.

Lord Roberts, who visited Serbia some years ago, has written to Mme. Christitch:—"I am altogether in sympathy with Serbia in the gallant and successful struggle she has made against great odds in meeting the unprovoked attack of Austria, and I certainly think this country should show her appreciation of the assistance Serbia's army has given the Allies, the great sacrifices she has made, and the material losses she has suffered in their cause, by sending her whatever help she may need at the present time, whether in money or in comforts for her sick and wounded, as some recognition of the great part she is playing in this war.

According to the French papers H.R.H. Prince Adalbert of Prussia, a nephew of Her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, who was reported from Copenhagen to have died in hospital in Brussels, was originally wounded by his own men.

Field-Marshal Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in France, attained his sixty-second birthday on Monday.

The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* reports under date of September 20:—Admiral Limpus and his staff left on Wednesday, taking with them the good wishes of a host of friends. The fact that the Turkish authorities bade him no official farewell, only one Turkish officer in mufti being present at his departure, has aroused much comment.

According to a Reuter's message from Constantinople a statement which appeared in the Press that Sir Richard Crawford, Adviser to the Ottoman Ministry of Finance, contemplates resigning his post in the Turkish service is quite unfounded.

The Bulgarian General Todoroff, commanding the Rilo Division, has been decorated by the Tsar with the Order of St. Stanislaus (First Class).

The new American Minister to Persia, Mr. Caldwell, and his wife, are reported by *The Orient* to have left Constantinople on September 2 by Persian steamer for Batoum on their way to Teheran.

Lieutenant-General Sir E. T. H. Hutton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., who has been appointed to command the 21st Division of the Third New Army, served in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882 including the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and commanded the Mounted Infantry in the Sudan in 1884-5. He also served with distinction in the South African War.

On the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Genadieff, H.M. Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria has presented to the leader of the Stambulovists a gold *tabatière* with the royal monogram. Madame Genadieff has received a valuable brooch.

The marriage took place on September 5, at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, Palestine, of Mr. Otis A. Glazebrook, American Consul in Jerusalem, to Emaline Adelia Rumford.

Mr. Charles H. Riggs, son of the Rev. Charles W. Riggs, formerly of Aintab and now of Oberlin, U.S., has been appointed as a missionary of the American Board and a pioneer in agricultural work in Albania.

Major Greenhill Gardyne, whose marriage to Miss Rachel Lethbridge took place by special licence on Saturday, 26th ult., at the Church of St. Michael and All Saints, Lyndhurst, joined his battalion of the Gordon Highlanders in Cairo last winter.

The announcement of the marriage of Major G. R. Macnab, Gordon Highlanders, to Miss Mary Winifred Kay, daughter of the late Christopher Kay and Mrs. Kay, of Ravenscroft, Middlewich, will be read with great interest in Cairo, where both the contracting parties were well known and very popular. The bride was a frequent visitor to the capital, where she resided with her near relatives, Captain Broadbent, of the Camel Corps School, and Mrs. Broadbent. Major Macnab has also many friends in Cairo, and deserves special credit for the energies he has bestowed upon the efficiency and working of the Soldiers' Club. Very few persons beyond their immediate relatives were present at the wedding at All Saints, Ennismore Gardens, on the 24th ult. Mrs. Kay, the bride's mother, gave her away, and her immediate attendants were her cousin, the Hon. Dorothy Emmott, and Miss Constance France Hayhurst. In the unavoidable absence of a brother officer, Major Macnab was attended by Mr. John Kay as best man.

We regret to announce the death of Lieutenant-General James Henry Bor, C.B., C.M.G., which took place on Wednesday last week at Gaulston House, Coole, Westmeath. The late officer, who had been Aide-de-Camp to the late King Edward (1904 to 1910) and to King George (1910-11), saw a good deal of service in the Near East. In 1878 he accepted service in Cyprus, under the Foreign Office. From 1884 to 1892 he was Chief Commandant of the Cyprus Military Police. Appointed Colonel of the Cretan Gendarmerie in 1897, he served in Crete throughout the insurrection of that year, being decorated for his services, and receiving from the King of Italy the silver medal for gallantry while suppressing the mutiny of the Albanian Gendarmerie.

General Straghan, whose death was mentioned in last week's issue, was the father of Mrs. Blunt, whose husband, Lewa Blunt Pasha, has for many years served with the Egyptian Army.

According to a Reuter's message a telegram received at Amsterdam from Valona states that the Greek Governor-General of Epirus, has been killed in a motor accident.

The Rev. P. B. Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy, of the Albanian Mission, are now, we understand, in the United States.

Mr. A. S. Merton, of the Egyptian Department of Agriculture, has been appointed

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Secretary to the Supplies Commission appointed by the Egyptian Government on August 24.

Captain Harry Sherwood Ranken, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., who has died of wounds at Braisne, had been employed with the Egyptian Army, and was a member of the Sudan Sleeping Sickness Commission. In collaboration with Dr. H. E. Plummer and Captain Fry he prepared a series of "Reports on the Experimental Treatment of Trypanosomiasis."

Captain Lumley-Smith, who was well known in Egypt when with his regiment, the 21st Lancers, and who married the second daughter of Coles Pasha, has recently been appointed adjutant of the Herts Yeomanry. His battalion has just been ordered out to Egypt; and if it is stationed in Cairo Mrs. Lumley-Smith will in all probability join him there.

The youngest son of Coles Pasha has lately joined the West Somerset Yeomanry, who expect to proceed to the front shortly.

On September 1, at Roumeli Hissar, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. George Baker, of Constantinople.

Mr. Arthur Warden Baker, who volunteered for service, has been appointed 2nd lieutenant in the Scots Fusiliers. The son of Mr. Arthur Baker, Lieutenant Baker is well known in Constantinople and the Near East generally.

Sureya Bey Vlora, the Albanian Minister in Vienna, left the Austrian capital for Lugano on September 8, according to *Le Jeune Turc*.

Mr. N. B. T. Mackintosh, formerly of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, has taken over the Boys' High School, Sutton, Surrey, of which he is personally acting as principal.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The *Journal des Balkans* announces that the Russian General Poponoff, Military Attaché at Cettinje, has been placed in command of the Montenegrin Army.

The following appointments have been made in the Egyptian Army:—

Bimbashi C. L. Barlow has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam whilst employed in the Sinai Peninsula.

Captain George G. Cobden, 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and has been posted to the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Lieutenant William J. Maxwell, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and has been posted to the 10th Sudanese.

The following transfers have been approved:—

Kaimakam H. F. Elgee Bey, Officer Commanding 3rd Battalion to Officer Commanding 12th Sudanese.

Kaimakam P. C. Joyce Bey, Officer Commanding 12th Sudanese, to Officer Commanding 3rd Battalion.

Bimbashi S. T. Grigg, 15th Sudanese, to Camel Corps.

Mr. John Arthur Ray, of Texas, at one time American Consul in Muskat, has been appointed American Consul in Odessa.

According to *Le Messager d'Athènes*, Mr. Koussidis, a professor of the School of Arts and Crafts in Athens, has been appointed Director-General of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones in Greece.

Mr. Stellakis, Greek Consul-General, left Port Said on September 6 en route for Greece. He has been succeeded by Mr. Xanthopoulos, who was previously Consul at Port Said and has now returned there again.

Mr. Charles E. Allen, of Kentucky, and Mr. E. F. Lange, of New York, have been appointed American Student Interpreters in Turkey.

Mr. William R. Langdon, formerly clerk in the American Consulates-General in Constantinople and Athens, has been appointed American Student Interpreter in Japan.

Mr. Adolph Van Hemert Engert, Student Interpreter, has been appointed Deputy American Consul-General and Interpreter in Constantinople.

NEW BISHOP IN JERUSALEM.

Canon Rennie MacInnes, M.A., has been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to succeed Bishop Blyth, whose resignation of the Bishopric in Jerusalem and the East takes effect from October 18. The Bishopric was founded in 1841 (Act 5 Victoria, cap. 6, commonly called "The Jerusalem Bishopric Act," an amendment of Act 5, George III., 1737), jointly with the Kingdom of Prussia, Great Britain and Prussia having alternate right of appointment. This dual arrangement came to an end in 1881, when Prussia did not exercise her right of appointment, and the Bishopric remained vacant for over five years. It was revived in 1887 by Archbishop Benson, and reconstituted as an English Bishopric, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London being the three trustees.

Canon MacInnes is the younger son of the late Mr. Miles MacInnes, of Rickerby, Carlisle. He was educated at Harrow, and graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, from whence he went to Ridley Hall. He was ordained deacon in 1896 and priest in 1897 (diocese of London). His experience of English clerical work is the three years he spent at St. Matthew's, Bayswater (1896-1899), when he became an honorary member of the C.M.S., and joined the Cairo Mission. Canon MacInnes early devoted himself to the study of Egyptology, and is considered a very fair authority upon certain points of this big subject. It is this historic sense which has led him to make a sympathetic study of the Coptic Church in Egypt, with which his relations have been very friendly and courteous. He is also a keen student of Arabic, and has some knowledge of Islam as represented in Egypt. He did not, however, identify himself with the aggressive smashing policy of certain members of his society a few years back, whose zeal somewhat outran discretion, and did not help matters forward permanently. Canon MacInnes has done some sound but not "showy" work. He is much liked socially in Cairo. In 1909 the Bishop appointed him an Honorary Canon of St. George's Collegiate Church (English Cathedral) at Jerusalem, marking his appreciation of Mr. MacInnes's missionary work in the diocese, which he has always followed with close interest in all its branches.

The fifth Bishop in Jerusalem will take up his work under very different circumstances from those which complicated and vexed the revival of the Bishopric in 1887. Whereas there was then neither church house nor any work that belonged to the Bishop as Bishop, there is now the solid foundation known as St. George's, comprising the beautiful cathedral, bishop's house, clergy house, library, schools, and medical work at Jerusalem, as well as at Haifa, Beyrout, and Syria. The earnest hope is being expressed widely by Churchmen, both in England and in the diocese itself, that the new Bishop will pursue the non-party policy of the fourth Episcopate, now closing, both with the Churches of the East and in missionary questions, which has brought the Church of England in the Near East to her present position of dignity and advantage.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

WYLIE—HARRIS.—On September 17, 1914, at the British Consulate and afterwards at All Saints' Church, Cairo, by the Rev. W. Stunden, M.A., A. S. Wylie, of the Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, to Winifred Mary, eldest daughter of A. J. Harris and Mrs. Harris, of Llanishen, Glamorgan.

DEATH.

PARKINSON.—On September 23, suddenly, while travelling to Cyprus, Herbert Frederick Cavendish, the dearly beloved husband of Ellen Parkinson, of Highfield, Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt, and son of Mrs. Parkinson, of Lansdowne Road, W.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1914.

SECOND THOUGHTS IN ROUMANIA.

Events are proving too strong for the Roumanians. At the outbreak of the European War a Council of State proclaimed the neutrality of Roumania, and the step seemed adequate for the situation at that moment. News of the violation of Belgian territory had not reached Sinaia; Great Britain had not yet declared war. In spite of the prominent part played by Serbia in the preliminaries, the struggle had resolved itself into a quarrel of the Great Powers, and Roumania's first duty seemed to lie in the Balkans. There, in view of the uncertainty attaching to the attitude of Turkey and, possibly, Bulgaria, the task of maintaing the *status quo* appeared to be obviously imposed upon her. She had a proprietary interest in the Treaty of Bucharest, and felt that her national dignity would not allow her to see its provisions lightly set aside. Eight weeks of war, however, have opened up not only for Roumania, but for the whole world, a wider horizon than presented itself on August 3, the date of the Roumanian State Council. The causes of the Armageddon are better understood; the resolve of the outraged conscience of civilization to be rid once and for all of the incubus of German militarism and to place, if possible, on a firm and lasting basis the peace of Europe is appreciated. In the light of the true significance of the great war the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Balkans appears for the first time a wholly inadequate policy. In some respects, moreover, it is a mistaken policy; for the *status quo* cannot fail to be modified whether by the victory or the defeat of Serbia, and by maintaining the Treaty of Bucharest Roumania would not be perpetuating the principle which that agreement formulated. While, therefore, the faith of the Roumanian Government has been shaken in the infallibility of its original policy, the Roumanian public, young and old, has been dreaming dreams and seeing visions. The rout of the Austro-Hungarian armies not only by Russia's overwhelming numbers, but by the comparatively scanty forces which Serbia has been able to put into the field, has opened up the prospect of the collapse of the Dual Monarchy. In the event of a partition of the Hapsburg estate, the first reversion to one portion would be claimed by Roumania. Across the Carpathians and in Bukovina are situated some three million Roumanian kinsfolk, whose ultimate "redemption" has been the cherished ambition of the Roumanian people ever since the national instinct found expression in the union of the two principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. The time for the realization of this ambition seems to be drawing near, and it is feared that if Roumania does not act now the opportunity will pass. Thus in the course of a few weeks public opinion has veered round from approving a policy of neutrality to the demand for an immediate declaration of war, and its pressure is being felt in the highest quarters.

The Government, however, still delays to take the fateful step. Its difficulties are admitted. The most formidable, we may feel sure, is the national reluctance to place King Carol in a false position. For forty-eight years he has guided the destinies of the country with conspicuous success, and the Roumanians are the first to acknowledge their indebtedness to him. It savours of a tragedy that on the eve of his jubilee, for which preparations are already on foot, a crucial difference of opinion should arise between Sovereign and people. But King Carol is too loyal to his adopted country to allow his personal predilections to thwart the realization of the national ambition. If he cannot bring himself to sign a declaration of war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, his reluctance will be understood and respected, and means will have to be found to enable his Majesty to delegate the act to other hands. We have little doubt, however, that the wish of Roumania will be that King Carol should lead the nation in person across the threshold of its desires. Even when this difficulty has been overcome, the Roumanian Government will find it necessary to secure its diplomatic "lines of communication" before it launches an army over the Carpathians or into Bukovina. The understanding with Bulgaria, so far as is known, is now complete. Any action taken by Roumania is likely to be regarded as being in the interests of the Balkans as a whole, and Bulgaria's service to the common cause will merit the same recognition, whether peace is secured in the Balkans by means of her neutrality or by the unsheathing of her sword. The possible effect on Turkey, however, of a Roumanian declaration of war cannot be overlooked. So far the Porte has refrained from throwing in its lot with the waning fortunes of Germany and Austria-Hungary; but it is playing recklessly with fire. It has borrowed two German men-of-war, and probably as many as two thousand German soldiers and sailors; it has mobilized its army and massed troops on the Egyptian frontier; it has affected to flaunt the whole world by announcing the abolition of the Capitulations. Whether the action of Roumania in throwing in her lot with the enemies of Germany and Austria-Hungary will cause Turkey to fling further prudence to the winds or will make her realize the increasing hopelessness of the German cause is entirely a matter for speculation. The former possibility has to be reckoned with, and entails upon the Roumanian Government the necessity of seeing to the arrangements made to deal with the Turkish danger.

When the Great Powers stood committed to war some voices were raised in Roumania in favour of immediate participation on the side of the Triple Entente. As things are to-day, it would have been better if such advice had been followed at the time. For the reasons we have set forth this course was not possible; but it will not be overlooked that each day's delay now tends to rob Roumanian participation of much of its virtue. The nation would not have been human if at one time the thought had not occurred to it that it might stand to gain all that it wanted without the expense and risk of a campaign. If such a belief is still to be met with in Roumania, it knows well how to hide its head. The heroism of the Belgians and the prowess of the Serbians have left no room for selfishness or craven fears on the part of any nation which seeks salvation for itself or sympathizes with the cause of civilization. The eagerness of the Roumanian people to take up arms for the realization of its destiny is manifest, and it chafes under the restraint that has hitherto been imposed upon it. Already it has had to stand by and see some of the work in which it ought to have co-operated performed alone by the Russians. If it holds back much longer there will be the danger that the Allies may feel that, for the sake of Belgium and Serbia, the principle of the reward being proportionate to the effort will have to be enforced. Even now the Roumanian Government will do well not to set its expectations too high. As it has failed to bear the heat and burden of the day, it has forfeited the right to dictate its own terms. It will realize, however, that the principle for which the Triple Entente is fighting covers all the ground on which Roumanian hopes are built. Nevertheless the cause of permanent peace in Europe requires that the legitimate aspirations of every country should be attained. In this matter Roumania must share the lot of the Balkan States. If these arrive at a mutual agreement among themselves, which leaves no party dissatisfied, there will be much to be said for the principle of "Roumanians for Roumania." But the occasion for insistence on this point has gone by with the delay in the Roumanian declaration of war. The Government can now only hope to make good its claims after it has vigorously carried out what work the successful advance of the Russian arms has still left it to do.

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ROUMANIAN AMBITIONS.

When Mr. Asquith, speaking at the Guildhall in November, 1912, enunciated as a political dogma "The Balkans for the Balkan races" few of his hearers expected that within two years the Balkan races would be in a position to claim the territory inhabited by their co-nationals outside the Balkan peninsula. Yet now the opportunity lies ready to the hand of Roumania to unite under her national sceptre those of her people who have hitherto had to bear allegiance to St. Stephen's Crown the national emblem of the alien Magyars in Hungary, or to the Imperial Crown of Austria in the Bukovina. We publish below an ethnographical map of those portions of the Dual Monarchy where the great mass of these foreign Roumanians live, so shaded as to indicate the areas inhabited by actual Roumanian majorities.

The Roumanians in the Dual Monarchy, according to the two last census returns, numbered:—

	1900.		1910.
In Hungary	2,799,479	...	2,949,032
In the Bukovina ...	228,507	...	273,254
Elsewhere.....	2,358	...	2,469
	3,030,442		3,224,755

Among the irredentists of Bucharest are some who favour what may be called "Dacianism"—inasmuch as they consider that the Roumanian monarchy should be territorially co-terminous with the former Roman province of Dacia. The western boundary of this was certainly the Tisza or Theiss, while that on the east was either the Pruth or the Dniester. The Dacians, in drawing a Roumanian frontier along the Tisza, would include not only the whole of the Roumanians in Hungary, but also a very considerable number of Magyars, Szeklers, Germans, and Slavs, and would, in their anxiety to liberate their kinsmen, thus subject multitudes of unwilling aliens, foreign alike in language, race, and creed.

Others less ambitious aspire only to the acquisition of those Hungarian counties which form what used to be the autonomous Principality of Transylvania, as we style what is known to the Roumanians as Ardeal, to the Magyars' Erdély and to the Germans' Siebenbürgen. The boundary of this historic State is shown on the map as it was until 1867, and does not include the counties which were temporarily gained for Transylvania by Stephen Bocskay in 1606.

The population of Transylvania was in 1900:—

Roumanians	1,397,282
Magyars and Szeklers.....	814,994
Germans	233,019
Others	11,543
	2,456,838

From this it will be seen that Transylvania proper contained in 1900, the latest year for which the writer is able to find the necessary figures, less than half the Roumanian-speaking population of Hungary. The non-Roumanian races have been resident in Erdély for a very long time—indeed, the Germans generally known as Saxons are the descendants, if not of the children who were decoyed away from Hameln by the Pied Piper, as legend will have it, at least of colonists introduced at the beginning of the twelfth century. These three peoples, the Magyars and their kinsmen, the Szeklers, and the "Saxons," were the "privileged nations" who alone enjoyed political rights in the Principality up to 1848. The Diet of Nagy Szeben recognised the Roumanians as a "fourth nation" in 1863, but Erdély was swallowed up in Hungary in 1868, and the process of compulsory Magyarization began to the infinite disgust of the Saxons and the Roumanians.

ROUMANIANS IN THE DUAL MONARCHY.

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There is much in the history of Transylvania just as there is much in the population of the Principality which is antagonistic to the theory of amalgamation with Roumania. It was the Magyars of the Principality who were the only free representatives of their race when the rest of Hungary was partitioned between the Austrians and the Turks, and even now a population of 1,000,000 non-Roumanian mountaineers can become a formidable minority in the very heart of the new Roumanian State.

Should the service of the Roumanians be such as to secure for their monarchy an extension of territory over the whole of Ardeal, it is obvious that elaborate provision must be made to safeguard the rights and liberties of the Magyar, Szekler, and German inhabitants of the six counties in the south-eastern corner of the Principality, Háromszék, Csik, Udvarhely, Maros-Torda, Kis Küküllo, and Nagy Küküllo. The world is not anxious for that treatment of minorities which is only too common in the Balkans to be extended north of the Carpathians. If there is to be peace in Transylvania in the future under the sceptre of the Hohenzollerns of the south there must be no application of the *lex talionis* in Ardeal. Far better would it be if the whole non-Roumanian population were legally expropriated, adequately compensated under proper supervision, and removed from the country. The Szeklers are supposed to be the "frontier-guards" of the Magyar State. If Erdély is to be lost to Hungary the Magyar garrison and the frontier guard had better be recalled with the realm of St. Stephen, and their places could be filled by Roumanians from Hungary proper. During the past few years there have been racial difficulties in Posen, in Alsace-Lorraine, in Bosnia, in Transylvania itself. It will be more than foolish to overthrow one ethnic injustice in order to erect another in its place.

MR. BUXTON'S VISIT TO BULGARIA.

The following correspondence has passed between Mr. C. Kessary, the London correspondent of the *Estia*, of Athens, and Sir E. Grey's private secretary:—

30, Gloucester Terrace, W., Sept. 23.

Sir,—I beg to bring to your notice that in a large section of the Greek Press the following statements have been published:

(1) That Mr. Buxton, M.P., President of the Balkan Committee, has been sent to the Balkans on an official mission from the British Foreign Office.

(2) That he is accompanied by the private secretary of Sir Edward Grey.

(3) That his mission is to obtain the good will of Bulgaria towards the Triple Entente by promising her part of Macedonia, including Cavalla, and this, of course, at the expense of Greece and Serbia.

I am more than convinced that the above information cannot be true, and is largely due to German machinations, and shall feel extremely obliged if I may be authorized to contradict officially the above information through the *Estia*, one of the most important Athens newspapers.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHR. KESSARY, London Correspondent of the *Estia*.

Foreign Office, London, S.W., Sept. 24.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of yesterday, calling attention to certain statements which have been made by the Greek Press, Sir Edward Grey desires me to say:—

(1) That Mr. Buxton, M.P., President of the Balkan Committee, was not sent to the Balkans on any official mission from the British Foreign Office.

(2) That Mr. Buxton was not accompanied by Sir Edward Grey's private secretary, but by his brother, Mr. Roden Buxton.

(3) That Mr. Buxton's visit to Bulgaria was a private visit, and that there is no foundation whatever for stating that he made offers to the Bulgarian Government at the expense of Greece and Serbia.

You are authorized to contradict, on the official authority of the Foreign Office, the statements referred to in your letter under reply.—Yours very truly,

W. TYRRELL.

THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Mr. Roosevelt and the War.

The following extract from a message of the Washington correspondent of *The Times*, under date of September 24, gives Mr. Roosevelt's views on the war and the conditions of peace:—

Americans, he said, have a twofold duty in this crisis. They must profit from its lessons, and must be ready to aid the achievement of a just peace. But he continued:—"Of course, peace is worthless unless it serves the cause of righteousness. A peace which consecrates militarism will be of small service. A peace obtained by crushing the liberty and life of unoffending peoples is as cruel as the most cruel war. . . . A peace which left Belgium's wrongs unavenged, and which did not provide against the recurrence of such wrongs as those from which she has suffered, would not be a real peace." Mr. Roosevelt then analysed the causes of the conflict. There is room, he thinks, for sincere differences of opinion about the initial positions of Austria, Serbia, Russia, Germany, and France. As for England, "when once Belgium was invaded, every circumstance of national honour and interest forced England to act precisely as she did act. She could not hold up her head among the nations had she acted otherwise." About Belgium also, only one view was possible. She was deliberately brutalised. "I admire and respect the German people. I am proud of the German blood in my veins, but it is impossible not to face the danger of a transatlantic application of all that Bernhardism implies. The United States must be prepared. Arbitration treaties, The Hague Court, and all the rest of the pacificist stock-in-trade are useless unless backed by force. No abundance of the milder virtue will save the nation that has lost its virile qualities. On the other hand, no admiration of strength must make us deviate from the laws of righteousness. What has occurred to Belgium is precisely what would occur, under similar conditions, to us unless we were able to show that the action would be dangerous."

Plain Talk for Turkey.

The following is an extract from a leading article of *The Times* (September 30), under the heading of "Alternatives for Turkey":—

We are confident that in the long run the Allies will be victors in the European war, and that their victory will be complete. If, as we believe, this expectation is fulfilled, they will not spare Turkey the just punishment which wanton intervention in a struggle that is not hers will bring upon her. Her ill-knit Empire is open to attack by sea and by land in many directions. It includes possessions which each of the Allies may reasonably desire to annex or to assign to the minor States which prove amenable to their advice, and populations whose disaffection towards the rule of the Committee and whose aspirations for self-government are notorious. Respect for subsisting treaties and a wish to prevent the extension of the European war have led the Allies to promise Turkey a great reward for standing aside and keeping at peace with the Balkan States. But if she attacks either they will not forgo the uttermost consequences which victory may bring them. They will break up the Turkish Empire, or allow others to break it up, should they deem its destruction to their advantage, as almost certainly they will do. We have neither the right nor the wish to dictate to Turkey. We owe it to her, as an old friend, and we owe it to ourselves, to put before her in blunt and unmistakable terms what the policy of the Allies will be if she treats them as enemies.

The Claims of Serbia.

The following is an extract from an article in *The Birmingham Daily Post* (September 26), under the heading of "Serbia's Great Work in the War":—

The stand which Serbia has made and is making in the South against the gigantic power of Austria is not less heroic, and has, happily, been more successful than the stand Belgium made, and is making, against the might of Germany. When the history of this war is written what may most appeal to the imagination of men will be the courage—I had almost written the superb and unprecedented courage—of the small nations. Of Belgium nothing need now be said, for the great qualities she has shown and the bloody sacrifices she has endured are in all men's minds. But let us not forget Serbia. Does the story of the world exhibit a nobler and more inspiriting spectacle than these few millions of Slavs—five millions at the utmost—defying the giant power of Austria? It is, indeed, a case of David and Goliath; but David, equally armed, not merely with sling and stone, for the Serbs, an historic and ever-warlike people, have not only trained all their manhood to war, but have provided themselves with the best arms modern science can provide. And with that army they have achieved an astounding success undreamt of in the West when the war began.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

H.M. KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Cyprus Gazette of September 8 announces the issue of five-pound and one-pound notes, to be redeemed at their face value by the Government at the expiration of six months of the termination of the present war or before that date, should the Government so desire. The £5 note is printed in red ink, and shows a simple design with the value in English, Greek, and Arabic. The £1 note is of a similar design, but is printed in black ink.

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On August 21 we reproduced an extract from an article which appeared in a London paper and which described the run on the Constantinople banks towards the beginning of August. In the course of this article, it was stated that the National Bank of Turkey was among those whose doors were besieged by "angry and panic-stricken crowds of Turks, Levantines, and Europeans." This is inaccurate, as there was no run on the bank at all. The withdrawals of funds by the depositors was barely above the average, and at no time was there any indication that anything resembling a run on the bank would take place. We sincerely regret it if the reproduction of the article in question in THE NEAR EAST should have created a false impression concerning a bank in which British capital is largely interested.

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I am glad to see by the publication of the September issue of *The Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt that even if the other local Chambers have temporarily ceased publishing their monthly journals, it has, nevertheless, been decided to continue to publish the British one, "as it is considered that British trade needs every assistance now, even more than at normal times." This is the right spirit to show, and it is emphasised by the anouncement that, in view of the many opportunities for British manufacturers of articles to gain a foothold in Egypt, as a result of the war, the Chamber is "ready to assist *not only its members*, but British manufacturers with any information they may require regarding the local trade, and advise them as to the best means of introducing their goods." The Anglo-Egyptian Press is also putting its shoulders to the wheel with articles, so that, if the "war on German trade" does not succeed in Egypt, it will be no fault of the Chamber or of its Press supporters.

***

The question of representatives and travellers is one that is so frequently cropping up that the following extract from the annual report of Mr. Geary, British Vice-Consul at Alexandria, will be read with interest:—"There seems to be a growing tendency to appoint salaried representatives of British firms in Egypt, as soon as the growth of business renders this advisable, instead of relying entirely on local agents. There can be little doubt that an employee whose career is bound up with the success of his firm, while his profits in most cases increase automatically with the increase of business that passes through his hands, is more likely to advance the interests of his firm than an agent who has many irons in the fire. Where the business does not justify the appointment of a salaried representative, it might be possible for more than one non-competitive firm to appoint a joint representative. This plan has been tried with some success in the Far East."

***

Verily, the Germans are Machiavellian! It was only last week that I referred to Roumania and the economic sway exercised by Germany over the whole of the Near East, but I must admit that I was not prepared for the following tit-bit culled from a recent issue of the *Journal des Balkans*. According to this paper, the Diskonto-Gesellschaft of Berlin, which has huge interests in Roumania, has "sacrificed" 200,000 lei for military charity in Roumania; 100,000 lei for the Roumanian Red Cross, and 100,000 lei for the families of soldiers killed in battle. Another financier of shrewdest dye, a certain Ludwig Roselius, of Bremen, has sent 25,000 to the Queen to be distributed among institutions destined to help the destitute families of soldiers. According to the paper which publishes these German *douceurs*, "one would think that the Germans were inviting the Roumanians to a war-dance."

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The Diskonto-Gesellschaft is, by the way, one of Germany's most powerful financial agents in the Near East, and is heavily involved in most of the big Balkan loans which have the approval of the Imperial Government. One of the most recent of these was the ill-fated Bulgarian loan of last summer, to which I have already referred. This loan was to have been taken up by a group of banks, including several Austrian banks, and the greater part of the first slice of the loan was to be devoted to the paying back of small loans made by Bulgaria during the war. One of these creditors was, of course, the Diskonto-Gesellschaft, and another the Russo-Asiatic Bank. I now learn that, by an arrangement with the Diskonto, the latter agreed to pay the former 10,000,000 roubles on August 7. Naturally, this has not been done, and now, it appears, the Russo-Asiatic is clamouring in Sofia for immediate payment. Bulgaria—and rightly, I think—is pleading a case of *force majeure*, and there the matter rests for the time being, but I understand that the pourparlers now going on are likely to lead to a compromise. Apropos of this, the question arises: Did the Diskonto-Gesellschaft and its group pay Bulgaria anything off the first section of the new loan, and, if so, how much? I think it was very little, but perhaps the group are beginning to think it all too much. For they will shortly be in need of all the spare cash they can lay their hands on.

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The news concerning the Egyptian Government's decision to restrict the cultivation of cotton in 1915 has created quite a sensation in cotton spinning circles, and the extracts reproduced elsewhere from *The Manchester Guardian* give one aspect of the question. But, as the writer himself points out, "it would be rash to assume that the authorities in Egypt are not fully alive to all considerations," to which is added the pious hope that "one awaits further information as to the Government proposals with confidence that such extreme measures will not be found necessary." *The Times* Cairo correspondent, on the other hand, cabling on September 23, states that "the measure is much approved" and is "expected to facilitate negotiations for the financing of the present cotton crop."

***

At first sight it would appear that the last clause is somewhat optimistic, but on analysis it must be admitted that it is based on sound judgment. In the first place, reference must be made to the London Commission which was recently appointed by the Egyptian Government, primarily with a view to determine what amount of Egyptian cotton England was likely to require this year. The Commission has now finished its work and has been wound up, and I am in a position to announce that it came to the conclusion that Lancashire would only require about 4,000,000 cantars of cotton this season. As the crop this year promises to be a heavy one (7,800,000 to 8,000,000 cantars), it is obvious that there will be a surplus, and unless a shrinkage of the supply is assured for next year, the financing of this year's crop will be rendered practically impossible. As it is, the Government's measure insures this shrinkage, with the result that it will be easier to finance the crop this autumn. Of course, this is all on the assumption that the war month.

In the current issue of *La Vita Italiana all'Estero* there is an interesting article on "Italian Interests in the Balkans," in the course of which the writer points to a circumstance already mentioned in these columns months ago. The point in question refers to Italy's thoroughly pro-Austrian attitude when, during the Balkan War, Austria objected to Servia's "little window" on the Adriatic. It stands to reason that the acquisition by Serbia of a port on the Adriatic signified a new market for Italian goods and an excellent route for a commercial penetration of the Balkans. Instead of realising this the Consulta foolishly objected to the creation of this port.

COMMENTATOR.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

British Firms interested in carrying into the Near Eastern market the war against German trade, and desirous of specific information concerning the prospects there, are invited to communicate with the Commercial Editor, "THE NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, E.C.

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War on German Trade.

SOAP TRADE IN THE NEAR EAST.

In continuation of our series of extracts from the bulletins issued by the Board of Trade, we give this week particulars from the same source of the openings for trade in soap which present themselves in the Near East:—

Germany's exports of soap amounted in 1912 to £451,200, Austria's to £108,200. In 1913 Austria's exports of fine soaps were as follows to the undermentioned countries:—

	£
Bulgaria	3,000
Roumania	1,100
Turkey	11,100
Egypt	5,100

Germany's exports of fine soap to Turkey are estimated at about £5,000 per annum.

[From the foregoing figures which are by no means complete, the Austro-German soap trade in the Near East must be considerably over £30,000 per annum. The principal lines imported by the Balkan States from Austria and Germany are cheap scented soaps, both bright in colour and strong-scented. Finer qualities come principally from France. From the British soap trader's point of view, the Near East market has not been properly worked up to the present; were it to be done, results would most certainly justify initial expenditures.]

"As regards household and laundry soap, the exports from the United Kingdom are already so large that it would seem that we have little to gain in this line."

[The above applies in a general manner to the market as a whole; regarding more particularly the Near Eastern market, there are good opportunities in the Balkan States for cheap household soaps (Serbia, for instance) if the market is properly worked. Once established, a brand of household soap would practically monopolise sales.]

The following particulars are available as to the special requirements of some Near Eastern markets:—

Turkey.

The Austrian Consul at Smyrna, in a recent report, observed that ordinary qualities of soap are produced in the country. There is, however, a considerable demand for toilet soaps, which is supplied by Italy, Germany, and, to a smaller extent, Austria-Hungary. Emphasis is laid on the need for introducing soap in attractive packings.

It appears from a French Consular Report on the district of Haifa and Acre that, in order to compete successfully with the local product, imported soap must be cheap and should not be too soluble, as the washerwomen leave their soap in the water. It is stated that the Germans sell a toilet soap at 1 fr. 80 a dozen cakes (of 100 grammes each), and a glycerine soap at 2 frs. a dozen cakes.

The Special Commissioner recently sent by the Board of Trade to Syria reported that the largest quantities of the very cheap class toilet soaps are imported from Austria (small cakes in brilliant colours, sold in the bazaars at about 20 to 30 paras per cake), and from Germany. The German firms supply such soap as plain scented soap (cakes weighing 100 grammes, six cakes per box), 1.80 frs. per dozen; glycerine soap (transparent), 2 frs. per dozen; and family soap, 1.80 frs. per dozen.

A report by the German Consul at Beirut for 1911 states that France supplies the better quality soaps, other kinds coming from Germany and Austria. The demand for imported soap has decreased by reason of the fact that there are produced in the interior large quantities of household soap, which is preferred by the native population because it is not so readily soluble as the European varieties.

A recent report by the German Consul at Trebizond states that amongst better quality soaps imported into his district a well-known British brand formerly occupied first place; in 1913, however, the imports of this brand fell off considerably. Ordinary washing soap was imported from other parts of Turkey and from Greece to the value of 150,000 frs.

Montenegro.

The Austrian Consul at Antivari reports that soaps are imported almost exclusively from Austria-Hungary. The imports from Austria in 1911 amounted to 86,400 kgs., and from Hungary 22,400 kgs., and consisted chiefly of the better qualities. Italy supplies cheaper varieties.

Bulgaria.

According to a report by the German Consul at Varna the imports of common soap continue to show considerable expansion, in spite of the increased output of Bulgarian manufacturers. The principal countries from which supplies are drawn are Turkey, France, the United Kingdom, Austria, and Germany. Toilet soaps from Karlsruhe continue to compete successfully with the Bulgarian and French products.

Albania.

The Austrian Consul at Valona states that the demand there is almost entirely for ordinary household qualities. The use of higher quality soaps is only very slight.

Serbia.

The Austrian Consul at Uskub points out that the people there chiefly use a home-produced soap. The well-to-do classes, however, are beginning to evince a liking for fancy soaps, and a considerable increase in the sales of these better quality soaps is noticeable.

Egypt.

The following figures show the value of imports of soap of all kinds during 1913 from the undermentioned countries:—

	£E.
United Kingdom	14,231
Turkey	198,486
France	11,998
Austria-Hungary	5,953
Germany	1,546
Total from all countries	231,894

The German Consul at Cairo states in his report for 1912 that although common soap is imported largely from Turkey-in-Asia, and is also manufactured in Egypt, soap of better quality is obtained to a large extent from Austria-Hungary and the United Kingdom. The former country particularly has increased its trade to a considerable extent within the last few years; Germany's trade, on the other hand, has suffered a set-back, having fallen from £E2,074 in 1910 to £E688 in 1911. This decrease is stated to be due largely to the fact that German manufacturers have not efficiently canvassed the market by means of commercial travellers. Moreover, French goods are tastefully and carefully packed, whereas German manufacturers often do not pay sufficient attention to the packing of their wares.

Our Alexandria Correspondent sends us the following particulars concerning soap-making in Egypt:—

The consumption of common soap in Egypt is considerable. Formerly this article was imported from Syria, Crete, Greece, and Marseilles, but since the introduction of cottonseed oil into soapmaking the local industry has developed to a great extent, and the importation of household soap has dwindled.

The two kinds of soap generally manufactured in Egypt are the "Nablousi," an imitation of a soap made at Nablous, and the "Traboulsi," an imitation of a variety made at Tripolis in Syria. In the interior the demand is confined entirely to these two varieties, but in Alexandria there is also a market for the white soap of Crete, the yellow soap of Greece, and the Marseilles soap.

As a result of the great advance in the price of cottonseed oil, there is now being manufactured an inferior quality of soap, manufactured by the cold process with imported fats, talc, and caustic soda. Oil containing sulphur is also added, in order to give a slight smell of olive oil, which recalls the Syrian soap.

The largest producer of soap in Egypt is the Salt and Soda Company, which owns two large factories in connection with its refineries at Kafr Zayat and Alexandria.

The wholesale price of soap in this country is P.T.4 for soaps manufactured by the hot process with oil of sulphur, P.T.3 for those manufactured by the cold process from cottonseed oil, and P.T.2 from those manufactured from grease and talc.

There is only one factory for high-class toilet soaps in Alexandria. This article is chiefly imported from England, Germany, and France.

Lubricating Oils and Greases.

Germany's exports of lubricating oils and greases amounted in 1912 to £487,350, as against £860,380. Owing to the fact that lubricating oils, etc., are not separately recorded in our export returns, details on the lines of those given above for Germany and Austria-Hungary cannot be given for the United Kingdom. Moreover, the Austrian figures appear to cover a somewhat larger field than the German, so that the total given for Austria is undoubtedly too large, but to what extent it is impossible to say.

The following were (in 1912) Germany's exports to some Near Eastern countries:—

	£
Greece	2,850
Roumania	3,350
Turkey	6,200
Egypt	2,700
Morocco	750
	£15,850

as against the following figures for Austria:—

	£
Greece	5,600
Servia	6,600
Montenegro	320
Bulgaria	1,100
Roumania	500
Turkey	1,935
Egypt	1,460
Morocco	100
	£17,615

or an approximate total of £35,000, part of which will have to be supplied in future by British exporters.

Greece.

The following particulars are available as to the trade in lubricating oils, etc., in Greece:—

An Austrian Consular report for 1911 draws attention to the increased demand for lubricating oils and greases, owing to the rapid development of the Greek mercantile marine in recent years. The consumption is mainly accounted for by purchases for the use of single vessels (the large steamship companies buying direct in bulk) and for foreign warships visiting Greek ports. Many firms are established in the Piræus and Syra especially for the supply of ships' requisites. The importations of lubricating oils reached a total value of £10,000 in 1911. Germany and Austria are mentioned amongst the leading countries of supply. Lubricants are imported in casks of 140 oka (about 400 lbs. avoirdupois).

[We draw our readers' attention to an article on "The Importance of Lubrication," which appeared in The Near East on September 11.]

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS.

The following bulletins were published during the past week:—Goldsmiths' and silversmiths' ware, and electro-plate; fertilisers; medicines, comprising drugs and medicinal preparations; sewing, etc., cotton; rail locomotives; perfumery and cosmetics; fire-proof bricks, retorts, crucibles, etc.; and building and furniture fittings, including locksmiths' wares.

Applications for copies of any of the above or of those published in our previous lists should be addressed to the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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IRONMONGERY IN EGYPT.

The Moniteur Officiel du Commerce, of Paris, states that the imports of ironmongery to Egypt rose in value from £E213,000 in 1909 to £E260,000 in 1913. This increase results from activity in the erection of new buildings involving an increased demand for ironmongery for use in their construction. The following are some of the more important of the articles in demand:—

Locks.—Ordinary locks are imported from France in large quantities. German makers have introduced types of locks which they have created. America sends her well-known special locks, which have a great success. Locks for drawers, boxes and cupboards are supplied almost exclusively by Germany.

Iron Nails and Iron Wire.—Prices for these are very subject to fluctuations. Ordinary nails come specially from Belgium and the best qualities of nails and also iron wire from France.

Wire Netting.—France is the chief supplier of this article, but Germany and Italy are making progress with netting at low prices.

Copper Taps, Etc.—France supplies cellar taps without competition, but German makers send well made water taps at low prices, which are adopted by the water company.

Iron Kitchen Utensils.—Very light articles which do not last long are not liked by buyers. Germany and Belgium supply a fairly heavy kind which are more durable and find a better demand.

Enamelled Iron Kitchen Utensils.—Germany and Austria, especially the latter country, have achieved great success in the manufacture of goods of superior quality, whilst at the same time they do not neglect the cheaper qualities, which they supply at very low prices.

Scales and Weights.—These are all of French origin. Other countries have not so far competed in quality and price. Germany, however, is beginning to supply an article which is appreciated for its good construction and cheapness.

Screws are supplied in equal quantities by France, Belgium and Germany. The qualities are similar. Iron Pins are supplied mostly by France. Bolts.—Four years ago, France, England and Germany manufactured each its own kind of bolts. At the present time England continues to supply its specialities, but Germany now produces the French article with perhaps a little less finish but at a lower price.

Most articles in copper and brass for construction purposes come from Germany, and are stated to be better made and cheaper than those which up to two years ago were exclusively supplied by England. Germany procures all the types manufactured abroad and imitates them and at the same time complies with all the wishes of buyers. It is pointed out that in the competition amongst manufacturers of these goods, minor matters such as packing and ticketing should not be neglected. Attractiveness in the appearance of a package is often of importance. Germany sends travellers speaking three or four languages, who are most tenacious and never discouraged, and express gratitude for the smallest order obtained from retailers.

COMPETITION WITH GERMANY AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade, on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board have received a very large number of enquiries for names of sellers or buyers of articles.

Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with the enquiries, and lists are being prepared and circulated of articles which enquirers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. The first list was published on August 29; the second list is now ready and may be obtained on application to the branch. Firms interested in any of the goods mentioned, either as buyers or sellers, should communicate with the Director of the Commercial Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

Constantinople. September 20.

There is a good deal of sickness here, and much distress. The crop has been good, but the railways cannot take it, and the peasantry left on the ground after the mobilization have had difficulties in getting the harvest in in some places, while in every quarter they have no market. Anyone who could arrange for cheap transport of grain from up-country now would be like to make a fortune in no time, for the farmers are ready to sell for a song. Business remains in general in the lowest possible water.

Athens. September 15.

The Government, with the object of preventing any inordinate increase of prices, is importing about thirty million francs' worth of cereals and sugar from America. These it will sell to the various merchants and millers, while at the same time it will fix the retail selling price beyond which no one may sell. The stringent measures taken by the Government have prevented any serious rise in the price of foodstuffs. Bread, for instance, has only gone up five centimes per oke.

ROUMANIAN CROPS.

The following statistics concerning this year's wheat crop are published by the Ministry of Agriculture:—

The area sown with wheat this year was 2,100,000 hectares, and the crop is estimated at 16,600,000 hectolitres, or 7.9 hectolitres per hectare. This is, roughly, about one-half of the annual average during the past five years, namely, 30,500,000 hectolitres. The quality is likewise inferior, weighing from 72 to 73 kilos per hectolitre.

FOOD REMITTANCES FOR TURKEY.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce has been informed of a communication received by the Turkish Vice-Consulate in Manchester, from the Ottoman Embassy in London, to the effect that the authorities in Turkey have received from time to time, through the parcel post, importations of ham, etc. As all flesh foods imported have to be accompanied by a certificate from the health authorities, duly legalised at the Consulate, it should be known that, unless these regulations are observed, the parcels will be retained by the Customs authorities.

BRAILA GRAIN TRADE.

The acting British Vice-Consul at Braila reports that the Committee of the Braila Bourse has notified that, owing to the European war, it has been impossible for local merchants to carry out their sales of grain abroad, as from July 25.

EGYPT'S COAL IMPORTS.

The following are, according to Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., of Alexandria, Egypt's imports of coal from January 1 to September 17, 1914:—

	Tons.
Welsh	431,918
Newcastle	178,003
Scotch	118,836
Yorkshire	94,801
Other qualities	186,383
Total	1,009,941

as against 1,029,390 tons for the same period last year.

Stocks ashore and aboard steamers in port discharging, 40,000 tons.

ALBERT SINGER
KHARTOUM SUDAN

EXPORT OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

Agency for firms desirous of introducing their brands of goods into the Sudan.

Established 1900.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, October 1.

Sugar.

The market for foreign granulated has been quiet, but steady, with only small sales passing. American granulated for prompt has sold at 26s. 6d., and for shipment first half October at 25s. 9d. c.i.f. English refined continues to show a good demand, and prices are unchanged: Tate's cubes No. 1, 33s. 6d., and pieces at 23s. to 27s.

Coffee.

The public sales were resumed on Tuesday, with a total catalogue of 4,759 packages. The demand was very poor, only a few lots of desirable quality being disposed of, and the great bulk of the offerings was withdrawn. Prices ruled irregular, and sellers' limits were seldom reached. Costa Rica, fine bold coloury, was sold at 82s. 6d., and fair bold greyish at 73s. 6d.; medium ditto at 66s., and peaberry 80s.; East India medium coloury realised 67s., and peaberry 71s.; washed Dumont at 52s. to 59s.

Seeds.

Linseed has been steady and in sellers' favour for distant positions, London, spot, Bombay, 47s. is asked; Calcutta, spot and afloat, 46s.; and Oct.-Nov., 46s. 3d. Hull, spot, Bombay, 47s. is asked. Cotton seed is rather dull; London, spot, Egyptian, quoted £7 15s.; loading sold at £7 15s.; and Oct. £7 18s. 9d. is asked. Hull, spot, Egyptian (old), £7 10s.; spot, Bombay, £6 1s. 3d., and on passage, £6 2s. 6d. asked. Rapeseed largely nominal. To London nothing was offered; to Hull, Ferozepore, Sept.-Oct., 51s. asked, and bold Ferozepore ditto, 53s.

Oils.

Linseed remains quiet at current prices. Spot pipes (landed terms), 26s. 3d., and spot, barrels, and month, 26s. 9d.; Hull, spot and Sept., 24s. Rape oil is firm. Refined, spot, in barrels, 35s. 6d.; Japan (in cases), July-Aug., 30s. 3d., and Sept.-Oct., 29s. 3d. Cotton oil is dull. Crude, Egyptian, spot, pipes, 29s. 5d.; refined, pale, pipes, 28s.; and sweet, barrels, 35s.

Oilcakes, etc.

Linseed.—There has been little activity in the market during this week, and trade has been confined to buyers filling their immediate requirements; at the same time, values are fairly well sustained, there being a general idea that prices will harden during the coming months in consequence of the present unremunerative state of seed crushing. Best London linseed cake met a dull sale at £8 12s. 6d. to £8 17s. 6d. Cotton cake.—Owing to the last steamer cargo of Egyptian cotton cake arriving in a more or less heated condition, causing a shortage on spot, quotations are fully 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per ton dearer, best brands making £5 8s. to £5 10s., in warehouse, while a steamer parcel afloat commands £5 5s., ex-ship, with English cakes, making rather more money at £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d., and Bombay, £4 15s. Decorticate cotton cakes are not offered on spot, but parcels of meal are obtainable at £8 5s., while for Oct.-Dec. monthly shipments the low figure of £7 5s., ex-ship, would be accepted.

Locust Beans.

There is scarcity for present delivery, the nearest quotations being £6 15s. for whole and £7 5s. for kibbled.

Corn.

Wheat.—The cargo market has been more or less quiet, with little change in values, both buyers and sellers being indifferent; 46s. would buy choice white Kurrachee afloat or Oct.-Nov. Buyers generally have adopted a waiting policy, which certainly cannot last.

Maize.—For Danube - Galatz - Foxonian, afloat, 30s. 9d. is asked, and Danubian-Bulgarian, loading, is offered at 30s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Parcels are very slow.

Barley.—There has been only moderate business during the week at late rates. For Black Sea, arrived, ex-store, 25s. 3d. is wanted, and 25s. 6d. for Sept.-Oct., while No. 1 Californian, brewing, afloat, is quoted at 32s., and Sept.-Oct. at 32s. 6d.

Oats are very quiet and unchanged.

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Egyptian Cotton.

RESTRICTED CULTIVATION.

The report that the Egyptian Government is proposing a compulsory reduction of the acreage under cotton in 1915 is, says a correspondent in *The Manchester Guardian*, a very serious matter. In the course of his article he argues that "if the idea of the Egyptian cotton growers is to restrict the crop to such a quantity as will enable them to command something like decent prices they are probably not far wrong in their estimate. But it is hardly conceivable that they can be so foolish as to attempt anything of the kind. They must be aware that the recent high level of the price of Egyptian cotton was due very largely to the impossibility of obtaining a crop sufficient to meet the increasing demand for fine cotton.

Artificial Prices.

"Any attempt to maintain the price of Egyptian cotton at a high level, out of proportion to its cost of production and the price of American cotton, by an artificial restriction of the supply could only result in very serious damage to the fine cotton trade, which would in the long run react upon the growers of the raw material. The experience of the trade in 1909-10 ought to have convinced the growers that Egyptian cotton no longer possesses the monopoly which it once enjoyed, and that any excessive premium of Egyptian over American will inevitably lead to the substitution of the better grades of American cotton for the ordinary Egyptian.

Cereal Crops.

"The idea of increasing the production of cereals looks well on paper, but it must be remembered that durra is virtually the only summer cereal crop in Egypt which can replace cotton. Wheat, barley, and oats are winter crops in Egypt, and the reduction of the cotton crop in summer would not affect the production of these crops to any material extent. It must be remembered, too, that the quality of Egyptian wheat has hitherto rendered it unsuitable for export to European markets. It seems therefore that the only result of reducing the cotton acreage will be to give the native grower plenty of durra to eat and no money to pay his debts, with the result that he will be forced to sell his durra, probably at unsatisfactory prices, to pay his rent and taxes The landlords will have greater difficulty than before in collecting their rents and the Government their land tax, while the fellah will be worse off than ever."

LANCASHIRE EXPORTS.

The August Board of Trade returns, says *The Daily Dispatch*, were the most lugubrious for probably a generation. It is likely, also, that the September returns will be very unsatisfactory, but there is a growing body of opinion that we have seen the worst. From now onward we may look for better things. These gaps in supply make for healthiness in our chief markets abroad, which, it must not be forgotten, are prosperous, and want goods the bulk of which only the machinery of Lancashire can supply.

Deliveries continue to be taken with more regularity, the financial situation is on the mend, and without very much delay new business will have to be considered. Probably very few members not directly interested on the shipping side know what difficulties merchants have had to overcome. These are being gradually dealt with. Forward contracts of any note are not yet practicable, but we know of various mills that are being put on full time.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, October 1.

No improvement whatever has transpired in the market during the past week. The tone continues very uncertain, and there is a general lack of confidence on the part of buyers in the prospects. One reason for the depression is the unsettled state of the raw cotton markets. A further reduction in spot prices has occurred in Liverpool, but values are still on an artificial basis. It is feared no immediate opening of the future market can be arranged. Manufacturers of cloth have had a most discouraging week. Very poor advices are being received from Egypt. Remittances are slow in coming in, and shippers are not at all disposed to send further supplies of goods out. The Near Eastern outlets are badly situated and business has been quite at a standstill. Some traders are rather alarmed at the proposed ending of the moratorium, and representations are being made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to the matter. Practically no offers have been met with for India, and the further loss of boats, as a result of the exploits of the German cruiser "Emden" has caused uneasiness. There is no fresh news from China, and stocks in Shanghai are heavy. Producers of printing cloths are doing very badly, the depression in Burnley and district being very acute. Less machinery is now running in Blackburn compared with a few weeks ago. Fresh work is badly wanted by manufacturers in Nelson and Colne. Nothing is occurring at the moment to prevent a more wholesale stoppage of looms in the near future. Buyers and sellers of yarn have simply been marking time. Deliveries are falling off, and owing to there being no disposition to accumulate stocks, the output is being further restricted. Perhaps on the whole Egyptian qualities are rather better situated than American descriptions. There is no chance of export business at the moment.

THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

The following are extracts from a review of the Lancashire cotton industry recently published in *The Statist*:—

The conditions prevailing during the past month may be described as being without parallel in the lifetime of any living person. The dislocation of trade as a result of the European war has been very severe, and the production in yarn and cloth is only about one-third of the output of normal times. Practically no fresh business has been done during the month, fresh orders being confined to Government contracts to meet the requirements of the war. Attempts have been made at exports, and during the last fortnight some shipments have taken place, chiefly to India. The high insurance rates, however, are a bar to any important development in our foreign trade. On the outbreak of the war shippers of cloth instructed manufacturers to stop all deliveries. This step was of serious consequence to all producing concerns, and goods began to back up at the weaving sheds and in merchants' hands. Since then some supplies have been taken, but a steady restriction of the output of cloth has taken place.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

COMMERCIAL & AGENCY CO. OF EGYPT, LTD., Alexandria & Cairo.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The operation of the Greek moratorium has been extended to October 13.

A number of engineers have left for Eski-Joumaya, says *Le Journal des Balkans*, in order to study on the spot the canalisation of the River Vranja, the silting and spreading of which caused the recent floods from which the whole country has suffered.

Constantinople papers state that the Ottoman Government has just begun the installation of the telephone line to connect Sofia and Constantinople. It is expected that the work will be completed towards the end of the year.

The directorate of the National Bank of Greece has decided to open a branch at Kavalla.

The Ottoman Government has created a consular agency at Toulouse. The post is honorary.

The *Echo de Bulgarie* states that an agreement has been come to between the railway authorities of Roumania, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria, by which it is decided to arrange a new conventional train service between Vienna and Constantinople. The route will be Vienna—Budapest—Bucharest—Rustchuk—Tirnovo—Stara Zagora—Constantinople.

The exportation of cereals from Roumania to Austria and Germany, which is now officially prohibited, has been virtually stopped for some time past, the railway authorities declining to accept consignments for transmission beyond the frontier, on the ground of congestion of traffic.

According to news from Sofia, a tunnel and a bridge on the Uskub-Salonika line has been destroyed by comitadjis, and the rails torn up at various points. The news lacks confirmation.

Austria has cancelled all her commercial treaties. The oldest of these was the Anglo-Austrian treaty, and one of the youngest, that concluded with Serbia in 1911.

The Roumanian Bank Rate was fixed on September 6 at 6 per cent.

A sum of from 30-40,000,000 lei will have to be spent by the National Bank of Roumania in granting small loans to farmers on their crops. This is an exceptional measure produced by the present money stringency.

The Roumanian State Railway receipts for July amounted to 10,649,000 lei, or an increase of 6,500,000 lei over last year's receipts when, owing to the war, practically all transport had been stopped. From April 1 to July 31, 1914, receipts totalled 41,900,000 lei, an increase of about 10,000,000 over last year and 4,500,000 over 1912.

The National Bank of Bulgaria, with a view to facilitate credit during the moratorium, is granting exceptional terms to its clients, Those, for instance, who prior to the moratorium had paid back more than 50 per cent. of their loans to the bank, are enabled to borrow again up to the 50 per cent. limit.

The directors of several important Russian banks have handed over to M. Spolaikovitch, the Serbian Minister in Petrograd, 20,000 roubles for the Serbian Red Cross Society.

British manufacturers and merchants wishing to obtain a market in Sweden are invited to write to the Secretary, Swedish Chamber of Commerce, 5, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C., in order to obtain names of importers and advice on commercial conditions in Sweden, etc. The Chamber receives daily a large number of inquiries from Swedish importers who have hitherto purchased from Germany and Austria. British importers wishing to obtain supplies from Sweden will also be assisted by the Chamber.

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE LEVANT TRADE.

Attitude of British Shippers.

On September 4, "H. E. P.," writing to THE NEAR EAST, advocated that if we really intended to wage a successful war on German trade, it would be necessary for the Liverpool shipping companies to continue their services to Constantinople and the Near East. "Commentator," at the time, pointed out the impracticability of such a policy, and we now receive the following letter from the Constantinople agency of the Ellerman Line, which bears out this opinion:—

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Dear Sir,—It is evident that your correspondent H. E. P. is not thoroughly *au courant* of the position existing at Constantinople. Does he know, for instance, that the Turkish authorities are making wholesale and, in many cases, arbitrary requisitions of goods deposited in merchants' premises, in bank depots, and in Customs warehouses? A large proportion of the goods imported through the Liverpool liners are required by the authorities, and are consequently liable to requisition. Can it be expected under these circumstances that merchants should import goods (even if there was a market for them) which are seized by the authorities, and against which an incomplete receipt is given (stating no price) for settlement "after the war?" Does H. E. P. know that business is at an absolute standstill, and that even if requisitions were not resorted to, there would be no or very few imports for lack of funds to pay for them? The importation of coal to Turkey, which of late years formed no inconsiderable portion of the cargo carried by the Liverpool liners, is prohibited by the British Government.

The exportation of grain is prohibited by the Russian and Ottoman Governments. There may be a small lot of general cargo offering for shipment, but here again enormous difficulties are met with in financing such shipments owing to the refusal of banks to discount bills or enter into transactions of any kind.

I ask, under these circumstances, whether it is possible for the liners to run their steamers to the Levant, when it is evident, for the moment at least, that there is little cargo, if any at all, to carry on both the outward and homeward passage.

Mr. H. E. P. must remember that the Messageries Line is subsidised by the French Government, whereas the Liverpool lines are entirely independent of outside assistance. I would also point out to H. E. P. that the Moss Line does not form part of the "Ellerman combine."—Yours truly,

JAMES LA FONTAINE.

Constantinople, September 18.

CLOSING OF THE DARDANELLES.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent reported on Monday that the port authorities of the Dardanelles notified the closing of the Dardanelles for navigation.

It is generally believed that the closure is only temporary—a matter of a few days; it is likewise suspected, however, that Germany has induced the Turks to close the Straits.

According to a Reuter's telegram from Paris of yesterday's date, advices from Constantinople say that the local Press states that the closing of the Dardanelles is due to the presence of the Anglo-French fleets cruising at the entrance to the Dardanelles and searching mercantile vessels, which is prejudicial to the advantages arising from the opening of the Straits.

MINES IN THE ADRIATIC.

Venice, October 1.

Owing to the mines in the Adriatic, the steamboat service from Trieste to Venice has been suspended. It is reported that the Government has decided to stop all mail steamer service in the Adriatic.—Reuter.

According to the Weekly Suez Canal Shipping List of Messrs. Worms and Co. (forwarded by Messrs. James Burness and Sons, London) there passed through the Suez Canal during the week ended September 10 sixty-seven vessels, of which fifty-one were British.

HAIFA NOTES.

The following are extracts from a letter from our Haifa correspondent, which has taken two months to reach us, having been despatched on August 2:—

The vessels of the Greek "Achaia Steamship Co." are now calling at this port twice a week with satisfactory results for the owners.

A movement is, I learn, on foot aiming at the formation of a native steamship company, but it is doubtful whether it will ever be successful. Local merchants are undergoing considerable loss and inconvenience as a result of the high freight rates charged, but the directors of the various steamship companies appear to be in agreement regarding a general tariff.

The Italian "Società Italiana Marítima de Navigatione" has also been permanently established here. In common with other steamship companies, the vessels of this company call twice weekly, and are doing a good business.

SALONIKA A FREE PORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, September 15.

The establishment of a free port at Salonika has been decided upon in order to facilitate Serbian commercial interests, and a Bill to this effect will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies as soon as it assembles.

Large harbour extension works and improvements will also be effected, and merchandise destined for Serbia will be subjected to no duties or taxes whatever.

NEW PASSENGER SERVICE.

Reuter reports from New York that the International Mercantile Marine Company announces the establishment of a direct passenger service from this port to Greece, beginning on October 15. The steamers "Kroonland" and "Finland" will maintain the service, calling at the Azores, Gibraltar, and Naples.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Roumanian Steamship Service has started a new bi-weekly line from Constantza to Mangalia, Cavarna and Balchitck, and a second line between Constantza-Cavarna-Balchitck and Constantinople.

The Messageries Maritimes Company has put some of its larger boats on the Constantinople line on account of the extra traffic due to the suppression of other lines.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE LEVANT.

The Chamber enters upon its fourth year with several new men on the managing board. Among these may be mentioned Mr. Oscar Gunkel and Mr. Lucien Irving Thomas, otherwise directing the affairs of the Standard Oil Company in the Levant, Mr. Arthur Leavitt, Assistant Turkish Secretary at the American Embassy in Constantinople, Mr. Theron J. Damon, an American journalist residing in the East, Mr. Theo. N. Curmusi of the Austro-Americana Steamship Line, and Mr. J. Wylie Brown, who takes over the executive work of the Chamber, which during the last two years has been performed by Dr. Hubert Banning.

AMERICA AND THE LEVANT.

There are many natives of the Sivas Vilayet in the United States, and the money which they send to their families and friends plays an important part in the economy of the population. About Ltq. 12,000 in American cheques passes through the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Sivas each year, while the post office, private banks, merchants, etc., handle a sum to make up an average of from fifteen to twenty thousand Turkish pounds per annum. These remittances from America, together with similar income from Russia, Roumania, etc., are the means which save many regions from financial bankruptcy.—*Levant Trade Review.*

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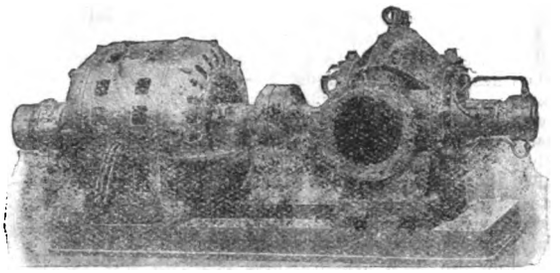

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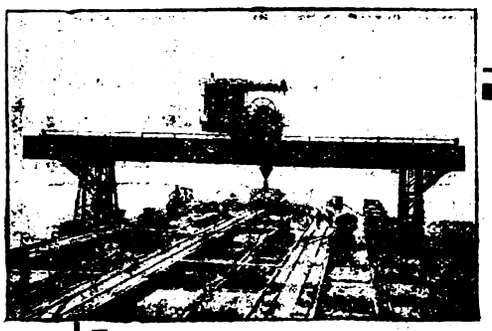

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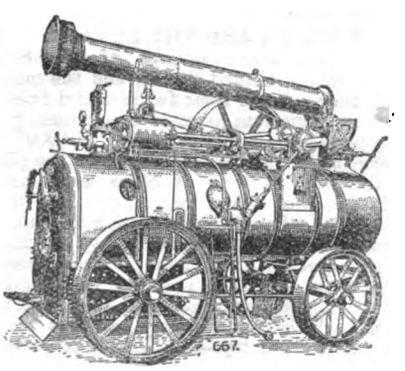

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Engineering Notes.

War on German Trade.

It is, we think, hardly correct to call the proposed concentration of efforts of British manufacturers for the recovery of the old position held by them until a few years ago in the world's commerce "a campaign to capture German trade." The expression, perhaps, suits the present martial times, but its applicability is doubtful. The Press in the meantime is inundated with suggestions on the subject. Some of these are, undoubtedly, quite practical, but the majority are of an amateurish character, suggesting all kinds of attacks (except, it must be admitted, bomb-throwing from airships). However, so far as we know, none of the suggestions, practical or unpractical, have been acted upon. The Board of Trade, on the other hand, is acting effectively by rousing the energy of manufacturers and by showing in plain figures the great advance of the enemy within recent years. It is, moreover, demonstrated that Germany sent to Great Britain last year £80,000,000 worth of goods, a great portion of which represents the value of engines, machinery, motor-cars, mining and agricultural implements, electrical appliances, railway and tramway material, tools, hardware, cutlery, etc., all of which could be made in Great Britain. We will not deal here with how this home trade of eighty millions is to be "captured," we are more interested in the engineering trade which the Germans and Austrians have taken from the English in the Near East, and which represents many millions.

Why Germany Gained Ground.

In the Near East, including Southern Russia, British manufacturers and merchants developed trade in their own way and dictated the terms on which that trade should be carried on. When others came upon the scene, they had neither the position nor the information possessed by the British, but they meant business, and so they took risks. Where they could they obtained money in advance, where they could not they got it on delivery, or they gave credit. The Germans could give the latter with the assistance of their banks, which had agents and representatives throughout the Near East. In this way, and with up-to-date, systematic and concentrated efforts, they succeeded in capturing British trade, which, in the meantime, had made no efforts whatever to modify old methods. Every attention was paid by Germans to the particular requirements of buyers of machinery, implements or tools, and any change of designs to suit local wants or conditions was promptly undertaken.

How to Regain Trade.

It is not so difficult to regain our lost trade as it is represented in the plans of commercial-war strategists. In a great many instances only a slight relaxation of British cast-iron rules is needed to recover the lost position. Many existing banking establishments in the Near East, and especially private bankers, are always ready to undertake the carrying out of credit terms when the buyer is trustworthy. Slight alterations in the construction of a machine or implement must not be refused. No new plant or machinery is required for such alterations. Capable travellers must be sent, and only capable and responsible agents or representatives must be appointed. We will deal in forthcoming issues of THE NEAR EAST, with the various classes of engines, machinery, etc., mentioned in the bulletins of the Board of Trade, as to the particular districts of the Near East in which such engines or machinery are required, and the type which the Germans have introduced.

A New Motor-Car "Log."

Owners of motor-cars often have good reason to suspect, from inexplicable wear and tear of their vehicles, or the consumption of fuel, that unauthorised use of their property is made by those in charge. There are, of course, many devices recording the mileage and speed of a car, but that is not all that an owner wants to know. Thus a new instrument of quite recent invention is undoubtedly a great advance in that direction. This new instrument is, so to say, a mechanical "log-book," recording perfectly and accurately the movements of the car. By its use it is possible to obtain tangible evidence of the time during which the vehicle is running and standing, the velocity with which it is travelling at any given time, and the total distance travelled. The log is reproduced on a strip of paper which is suitably graduated to show both time and miles. The paper is carried on a revolving drum, which is actuated by clockwork mechanism, while an improved speedometer mechanism controls the movements of a pencil point which travels across the circumference. The drive is taken from the centre of the front wheels in the usual manner, and the speed of the flexible shaft is suitably reduced by a gear box at the back of the instrument. Special precautions have been taken, not only to prevent the instrument's operation being interfered with so that incorrect records should be shown, but also that any attempt to tamper with the drive or other parts shall immediately be shown on the record strip. The strip of paper gives a complete running record for thirty-six hours, when it is necessary for another roll of paper to be put in the machine, and this operation is an extremely simple one. The value of securing an exact log of the movements of a car needs no demonstration.

Automatic Sprinklers.

The automatic sprinklers introduced in Alexandria appear to be operating most successfully, states the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce. Since their introduction, the pumping station has dealt with fifteen fires in cotton risks, eight of them having occurred in buildings protected by sprinklers, and in every case the sprinklers have acted with the greatest efficiency. What would the claims have amounted to had these buildings not been protected with sprinklers?" ask the journal, and then adds:—"The insurance companies will be the first to admit that Minet-el-Bassal is a very different proposition from their point of view from what it was a few years ago. We believe we are right in saying that they would probably prefer to see more buildings able to claim the 30 per cent. discount on premiums allowed on buildings properly protected by sprinklers than to carry the unprotected risks at the higher premium. If merchants would insist, as it would appear to be in their interest to do, that the shoonahs they rent should be sprinkler protected, Minet-el-Bassal would soon finally lose the reputation of being from the insurance point of view one of the most hazardous areas in the world."

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

[*Further information concerning tenders marked (B) can be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*]

Steam Coal.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration for the supply of (1) 360,000 metric tons of Welsh steam coal, and (2) 40,000 metric tons of Lambton's steam coal. October 20. [B.]

Bicycles.—Tenders will be received by the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the supply of bicycles and accessories to the police, and for the upkeep and repair of the bicycles of Cairo and Alexandria cities, for a period of three years, commencing on November 1, 1914. October 15.

MOROCCAN OPPORTUNITIES.

A British Morrocan correspondent of the British Empire Industrial League, living at Mogador, has written making suggestions for the capture of more trade. He says, *inter alia*:—As a loyal subject of his Majesty I welcome this opportunity of putting my hand to the wheel, with a view to not only regaining lost ground, but also to entirely superseding the German and further developing the sale of British products. I could at once make arrangements," he continued, "to transfer to them (English firms) the whole of the trade hitherto done throughout Morocco by the German firms referred to." The correspondent then gives a list of articles imported into Morocco by Germans and Austrians. These include enamelled ware, porcelain cups and saucers, coloured tea glasses, cotton reels, plain and mercerised cotton yarns, cutlery, cheap paper envelopes, watches and clocks, gold thread, cotton cord and kaftan, needles, superfine cloth, iron fittings, locks, bolts, pocket mirrors, glass and glassware, decorated tin boxes, fez, horse shoe nails, soaps, sewing machines, glass beads, velvets, motor-cars, methylated spirit, petroleum lamps, sanitary articles, earthenware, packing paper, dyes, imitation amber, combs and brushes, brass plates and electrical fittings. The war has, of course, entirely stopped all commercial relations between Morocco and Germany. The moment is, therefore, most opportune for British firms wishing to extend their trade in this part of Africa.

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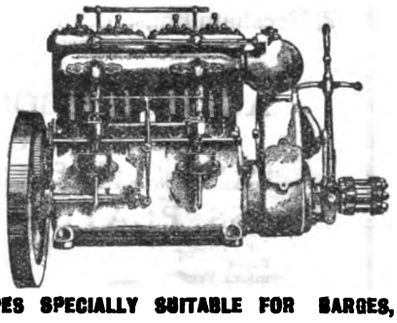
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Financial Situation in Egypt.

A Welcome Improvement.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Cairo, September 14.

The financial situation appears to be much easier, and as proof thereof we have the fact that whereas some ten days ago the banks would only accept drafts on London from ordinary individuals "for collection," to-day they freely buy this paper for cash or credit on account. The opening to-day of the Minet-el-Bassal Bourse for dealings in spot cotton and cereals is most welcome, and it is generally considered that it will greatly assist the "place" and improve the situation.

The Moratorium.

The chief banks in Alexandria and Cairo have been studying the question of the extension of the general moratorium declared on August 9 and expiring to-morrow, as also various proposals made by the Government for the further relief of the situation. A committee has been conferring with the Ministry of Finance, and a decree has been signed, and will be issued to-night, extending the general moratorium until October 1.

Under the new moratorium banks and credit establishments are bound to pay a sum not exceeding £E30 on each deposit the balance of which does not exceed £E200. On deposits, which on August 8 exceeded £E200, a maximum of 15 per cent. must be paid, after subtraction of any payment made since August 9, in no case can more than £E9,000 be withdrawn from any one deposit. Charitable institutions are to be allowed to withdraw up to 30 per cent. of their deposits, subject to deduction of anything paid on or after August 9.

All this is an improvement on the original arrangement, for under the first decree, i.e., the one promulgated on August 9, depositors could only insist on payment of 5 per cent. with a maximum of £E3,000 per claimant. To-day's decree goes even one step further, for it enacts that traders and contractors shall have the right to withdraw from their deposits, in addition to the 15 per cent. laid down, sufficient to enable them to pay the salaries and wages due by them, and that all cheques and bills drawn in payment of taxes or fees due to the State or any of the municipal bodies must be paid in full.

All commercial debts or negotiable instruments which matured prior to August 4, and in connection with which legal proceedings were either presented or suspended in virtue of the decree of August 9, will become payable on and after to-morrow in regard to 15 per cent. of their value, whilst the drawees of bills and such like negotiable instruments, which are held by a bank or credit establishment, is now allowed to set off against any such bills or negotiable instruments without any limitation any balance that may stand to his credit at the same bank or credit establishment. The other provisions of the moratorium decrees of August 4 and 9 still hold good, such as they are.

Taxes Paid with Jewellery.

The Council of Ministers took an unusual decision this week, but one that the peculiar state of affairs existing at present, and likely to exist for some time, entirely excuses. Pending the adoption of some scheme for financing the cotton crop and, in many cases, even after any settlement is arrived at, great difficulty will be experienced by the fellaheen in paying their taxes. The heaviest instalments of the latter fall due during the ensuing three months, and on the collection thereof the Government relies for the wiping out of the deficit that results in the summer, and for the creation of a substantial working cash balance.

It has been reported that many persons, in order to pay the taxes, have been selling articles of gold jewellery, which, owing to the present state of affairs, have fetched ridiculously low prices. (As an instance of this, I would say, that anyone with a few sovereigns to spare could easily make a profit of about 12-15 per cent. thereon by going into the Muski and purchasing gold articles, which, owing to the scarcity of gold coinage and stagnation of business, the merchants are willing to sell at anything up to 15 per cent. below the actual value of the gold contained in them.)

By the decision referred to above, the Council of Ministers has arranged for the fellaheen to be allowed to tender gold jewellery in payment of their taxes. Government assayers are to be appointed in the Mudirias and Governorats, and the articles tendered will be correctly valued, and if the value exceeds the amount of tax due, the difference will be paid in cash to the owner. By these means, the fellaheen will not suffer the heavy losses that they would incur did they dispose of their jewellery to dealers.

Liquidating Gold Hoards.

The gold thus bought by the Government will be melted down into ingots of £500 each, and will, it is understood, be deposited with the National Bank of Egypt, who may receive power to issue more notes against it. It is not certain to what extent the fellaheen will avail themselves of this new arrangement. The authorities frankly admit it is an experiment and an attempt to keep the direct taxes up to their usual level without inflicting any hardship on the masses. It is known for a certainty that vast sums are swallowed up every year in the Muski—and, consequently, are withdrawn from circulation—where they are melted down and made up into the many divers articles of jewellery with which the fellaheen love to adorn their womenfolk, and which the latter covet to such great extent. After a prosperous cotton season at least £200,000 thus disappears, and competent authorities compute that in some years quite double that amount is handled in this manner. It is hoped that the inducement held out by the Government will cause the fellaheen to liquidate what amounts to nothing more nor less than gold hoards, and that, together with the sums that are still believed to be buried, and that the tightness of money will cause to be unearthed, a substantial amount of the gold hitherto unremuneratively invested by the Egyptians will return into hands which can utilise it for the general benefit of the country.

EGYPTIAN MORATORIUM.

Reuter, cabling from Cairo on Wednesday, stated that a Khedivial decree had been issued for the prolongation of the moratorium until October 15 on the same terms as previously.

EGYPT AND INDIAN FINANCE.

The succession of native Indian bank smashes has, says the Cairo correspondent of *The Pioneer*, not been without its effect in Cairo. Egypt enjoyed close relations with India owing to the large number of Indian traders who are settled here. These traders regularly make remittances home, and the tightness of money resulting from these failures has naturally sent the rate of exchange on India up considerably. The local banks have been asking as much as 1½ to 1¾ per cent. on the face value of rupee drafts payable in India. As a result there has been a run on the local post offices, where British postal orders for one sovereign, payable at fifteen rupees in India, are issued for a commission charge of 1 per cent. only.

GAMBLING IN ROUMANIA.

The Indépendance Roumaine, in a spirited article, calls the attention of the Government to the fact that since June 20 up to September 1 the Roumanian gambling houses have made profits amounting to about 40,000 lei per night. It compares these startling profits with the penury and stringency obtaining everywhere in this year of war, and rightly suggests that the proprietors of these casinos and gambling houses should be asked to ply their trade elsewhere. Another suggestion frequently made in Bucharest is that the Government should levy so high a tax on these establishments as to oblige them to close down or disgorge the greater part of their profits.

CROWN LANDS IN PALESTINE

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, August 3.

Crown Lands.

A new company has been registered in Constantinople under the presidency of Prince Ali Pasha, the Vice-President of the House of Deputies, with a capital of one million Turkish pounds. The object of the company is to purchase the Crown lands of both the Palestine and Syria districts in order to prevent the Jews from securing these lands. Every Turkish subject may hold shares, and traders and cultivators especially of the country are invited to do so. Many notables of the two districts are taking part in carrying out the scheme, and the Government have promised to give the needed help. According to the local Press, the plan will serve to stay the influx of immigrants as well as to counteract the unceasing endeavours of the Zionists, who have obtained a great portion of the lands in Palestine.

Abolition of the Meteliks.

As history repeats itself, so the history of the meteliks (copper Turkish coins) repeats itself. With reference to what has already been said in the columns of The Near East regarding these coins, I give the following information. On Thursday, July 30, the Jewish money-changers of the city, who are the fulcrum of commerce in Jerusalem, refused to deal in the old copper meteliks, and soon their example was followed generally in the trading community and even by some of the Governmental Departments. Jaffa has also followed suit. It was rumoured some time ago that the Government was going to abolish the old copper meteliks—namely, the one, two, five, ten, and twenty pieces—in March, 1915, the fiscal year of the Government. The action of the Jewish money-changers has caused a great deal of uneasiness and stagnation of business, and although the Government has issued orders to prevent this strike, they have refused to deal in the old copper coins.

CONSTANTINOPLE IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. Consul Waugh in his annual report on the trade of Constantinople states that during the early part of 1913 there was a severe depression owing to the effects of the war, but towards the end of the year there was a recovery which became brisker in the early part of 1914. Several improvements have been made in the main streets, and some of the narrowest have been widened. An excellent service of electric tramcars runs from Pera across the bridge to the far end of Stamboul; the town is supplied with electric light, and there is a good telephone service. The Société Impérial Ottomane Co-intéressé de Docks, Arsenaux et Constructions Navales (Armstrong-Vickers) has obtained a concession for reorganising the dockyard of the Golden Horn, and to build at Ismidt a floating dock of the capacity of 32,000 tons, and building repairing yards for naval purposes. No new railways were opened during the year, but the Baghdad railway is making steady progress, and various concessions for railways in Smyrna have been granted or are under consideration. Of the electrical material imported £20,000 worth was from the United Kingdom and £140,000 from other countries; of the steam and oil engines and parts £159,000 worth was from the United Kingdom (increase 50 per cent.) and £342,000 from other countries. An electric lighting concession for the town of Mersina has been granted to an Ottoman subject.

BRITISH GOODS REQUISITIONED BY TURKEY.

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople reports that he has received information from the Turkish Government to the effect that United Kingdom firms, whose merchandise may have been requisitioned by the Turkish Military Authorities without delivery of a receipt, should communicate with the Civil Authorities at Constantinople or elsewhere with a view to having the required formalities carried out.

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NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - - - - - Dr. 20,000,000
RESERVES - - - - - „ 13,500,000

HEAD OFFICE: ATHENS.

BRANCHES:

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère, Dimitzana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta, Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante.

GOVERNOR - - - - - ———
SUB-GOVERNOR - - - - J. EUTAXIAS.

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted. Correspondents in all Parts of the World.

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS. Codes Used—LIEBER'S; A.B.C. (5th Edition)

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Deda-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 65,000

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - „ 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI.
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU
C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

Stagnation!

The newspapers persist in declaring that the whole position is much better. I am quite unable to agree. We have got used to the condition of chaos—that is all. The Stock Exchange shows no inclination to re-open its doors, and the amount of business done by brokers and dealers on a cash basis is infinitesimal. The fixing of prices at which gilt-edged securities are to be sold has had only one result—namely, to stop business. This move of the Committee was instigated by the dealers, and it is seen to-day that all the dealers are sellers. They are never buyers. Consequently you can only deal one way.

Armament Shares in Demand.

There is, however, one exception to the stagnation business: that is amongst armament securities. Everybody realises that the armament firms must make very large profits out of the war. As a consequence there has been a demand for the shares. For example, Kynochs have risen £5, and the Birmingham Small Arms, which were quoted at 45s. before the war, are now difficult to buy at 55s. Vickers Maxim are now 34s. 6d. and Armstrongs 39s. 6d., whilst Cammell Laird are quoted 4½. All these securities seem good to buy at their present prices. The Birmingham Small Arms report appeared this week. The profits for the year are £190,429, or £3,400 better than in the previous year, and the dividend of 15 per cent. is again paid. £50,000 goes to the reserve fund and £68,284 is carried forward. The balance-sheet is strong. Creditors only amount to £75,000, and the total assets of the concern are £1,891,677, of which £870,000 consists of cash and investments. The investments show an increase of £300.000, which money has been put into the Daimler Company. The business has been well managed for a great number of years, and has a splendid record.

Germans in London.

There is a good deal of talk about the position of the German houses in London, and it is quite clear that many of them are heart and soul with the enemy. The sooner the Government realises this the better. There are also many Anglo-German firms on the Stock Exchange, and some of these openly express sympathy with the national foe. It is rumoured on good authority that the principal shareholders in the Swiss Bank are two of the directors of the Dresdner Bank. The two banks have been closely associated, and are supposed to control the German copper industry. It has been declared that they own the bulk of the shares in the Metallische Gesellschaft and Henry R. Merton and Company. This is a matter that should be gone into, and if the firms mentioned have no German connections they will gladly welcome any inquiry.

End of the Moratorium.

The ending of the moratorium will be an excellent thing for trade in general, and probably some arrangement will be made by the Government to help those firms who have a large business abroad and find a difficulty in obtaining money. Many of the Bradford houses who do a large business in Germany have been asked to take scrip in the recent German Imperial Loan in payment of their debt. This is an impudent proposal, and is not likely to be accepted. Apparently all German traders owing money abroad have been instructed to make this offer.

Companies' Earnings.

The Brazil Railway report has been the event of the week. The position of the company appears to be hopeless. Two of its most important railways, the Madeira Marmore and the Sarocabana, have defaulted on their bonds, all the subsidiary industrial undertakings have got into trouble, and the only two roads now controlled by this railway that are doing well are the Paulista and the Mogyana. It seems most unlikely that the company will be able to meet the interest on its so-called bonds. Holders should remember that these bonds are only secured upon paper agreements and not upon actual physical assets, and they should sell for whatever the bonds will fetch. The Johannesburg Consolidated has had a fairly good year, but, as the whole of the money is locked up in loans to the Stock Exchange, no dividend can be paid, although 5 per cent. has been declared.

No News from Egypt.

There is no news of any importance from Egypt, but the financial section in Alexandria and Cairo look upon a war with Turkey as inevitable.

COMPANY MEETING.

OTTOMAN (SMYRNA-AIDIN) RAILWAY.

Lord Rathmore, presiding on Tuesday over the general meeting of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, stated that the declaration of war in the beginning of August was speedily followed by a prohibition by the Ottoman Government of the export of grain from Turkey, bringing with it a suspension of credit and a consequent stagnation of enterprise and commerce throughout the country. In addition, the state of war had led to an almost entire cessation of maritime traffic in and from the Port of Smyrna. Having regard to all these circumstances and in view of the unsettled state of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, the directors had most reluctantly decided to carry forward to the next account the large balance shown.

The new Convention which had been signed with the Turkish Government would not become operative pending the completion of transactions with other parties in which the Government was engaged at the outbreak of the war. The directors believed that the Convention would place the company in a decidedly stronger position in the future. It secured an extension of the time-limit of their concessions for an additional period of forty-nine years—that was, until the end of the present century; and it also included the grant to the company of the right to construct extensions of their existing lines over a total length of 230 miles in addition to the 379 miles which were at present covered by their railway.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for last week amounted to 1,673 tons (previous week, 1,870 tons); Hurgada production for last week, 143 tons (previous week, 140 tons).

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway.—The coupons and drawn bonds of the 4½ per cent loan, due October 15, will be paid on and after that date at the offices of Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.

Ottoman Railway From Smyrna to Aidin.—Receipts for the week ended September 26 amounted to £9,527, against £13,848 for the corresponding period of last year.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, SEPTEMBER 5, 1914.

Assets.

Metallic reserve: Gold ..... 151,115,384; Foreign bills payable in gold..... 56,609,356		207,724,740
Silver and other coins		640,155
Roumanian and foreign bills		257,477,771
Advances against Government securities ..... 34,242,300; On current account 111,428,100; Unused balance .. 38,275,184	73,152,916	107,395,216
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,999,357
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,759,377
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,036,281
Premises		6,732,328
Furniture and printing machinery		1,086,831
General expenses		720,622
Government and other securities deposited		136,394,667
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		253,544,822
Current accounts		27,437,634
Security accounts		24,402,909
Sundry accounts		6,497,513
Total Lei		1,073,124,181

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,203,800
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	531,379,010
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	2,425,965
Current accounts and drafts at sight	26,625,205
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	389,939,489
Sundry accounts	61,213,926
Total Lei	1,073,124,181

Bank Rate, 7 per cent.

COMPANY NOTES.

Traian Roumanian Oil.

The report of the Traian Roumanian Oil Company, Ltd., presented at the meeting on Tuesday, covers the period from March 19, 1913, to April 30 last, and states that the profit for the period amounted to £28,561. After making provision for English and Roumanian taxes, amounting to £1,925, writing off £17,040 for depreciation and £755 half the preliminary expenses, there remains a balance of £8,839, which sum it is proposed to carry forward. The production of crude oil from the company's properties situated in the districts of Baicoi, Bustenari, and Campina amounted to 23,686 tons. The company not having entered into long period contracts has benefited from the steady rise in price of crude oil which has taken place during the past eighteen months. A comprehensive drilling programme was initiated when the property was acquired, and six wells were located in positions where good results are practically certain. Unfortunately the Balkan War of 1913 considerably interfered with the development work, about 80 per cent, of the workmen having been called to the colours during the Roumanian mobilisation. As a consequence it was not possible to complete any of these new wells. Progress during the winter months was also retarded by the unfavourable weather conditions which prevailed. The recent outbreak of war has rendered the transport of crude oil in Roumania practically impossible and, as all the company's available storage is full, it has been necessary to close down for the present most of the producing wells. Meantime, with the limited supply of labour available, it is hoped that it will be possible to continue drilling operations at some of the most important wells, and that when transport facilities are again available several of these will have reached the productive stage. Official recognition of the company has been granted by the Roumanian Government, and the properties have been transferred into the company's name.

CURRENCY FOR NEW GREEK TERRITORIES.

H.M. Minister at Athens reports the publication of a Royal Decree dated July 21-August 3, providing for the extension to the Greek New Territories of the coinage system in force in Old Greece, so that all the coins struck in virtue of the laws regulating that system, and those which are at present circulating, will be legal tender in the New Territories. The circulation of copper or nickel coins of the Ottoman Empire is prohibited, but the 25, 50, and 100 piastre Turkish gold coins, as well as the ½, 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 piastre silver coins, will be temporarily legal tender in the New Territories, except that the gold coins will not be legal tender in Crete.

GREEK INSURANCE.

We published last week a reference made by our Athens correspondent to war risks. *The Board of Trade Journal* now publishes the following:—

H.M. Minister at Athens reports that the *Official Gazette* of August 18 publishes a decree empowering the Ministers of Finance and of National Economy to authorise the National Bank, as mandatory of the State, to cover, on account of the State, war risks on cargoes of currants exported by sea. The conditions of insurance are to be settled by agreement between the two Ministers and the National Bank. The decree is subject to subsequent approval by the Chamber of Deputies.

TURKISH POST OFFICES.

Reuter reported from Constantinople on Tuesday that the French and Russian post offices will close on October 1, but the staffs will be transferred to their respective Embassy buildings, where they will continue to receive European mails up to October 28, and extra-European mails to November 26. They will discontinue from October 1 to despatch mails from Constantinople, and this duty will devolve entirely on the Ottoman postal administration. The Austrian, German, and Italian offices will close October 1. No mention is made of the British post office.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 600,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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بانق عثمانی

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

Head Office: **GALATA**
Branches **- - STAMBOUL and PERA** } **CONSTANTINOPLE.**

ALEXANDRIA. PORT SAID. CAIRO.

London: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C. Paris: 7, RUE MEYERBEER.

Manchester: 25, PALL MALL.

COUNCIL IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr. ARTHUR NIAS, Director-General. Mr. LOUIS STEEG, Director-General-Adjoint.

M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CABTALI, } Directors.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.	PARIS.
Messrs. THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.	Messrs. CHARLES DE CERJAT.
E. W. H. BARRY.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.	GEORGES HEINE.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.	.HENRY.
LORD HILLINGDON.	LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
HON. HERBERT A. LAWRENCE.	ALBERT MIRABAUD
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE.	RAOUL MALLET.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, BART.	PYRAME NAVILLE.
	LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
	FELIX VERNES.

London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

EUROPE.
Adrianople
Cavalla
Dedeagatch
Drama
Gumuldjina
Janina
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adatia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Aziz)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

SYRIA.
Aleppo
Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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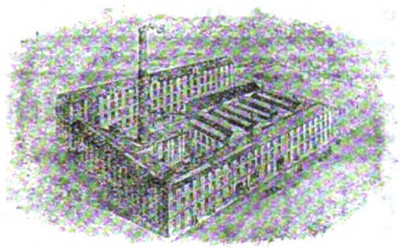
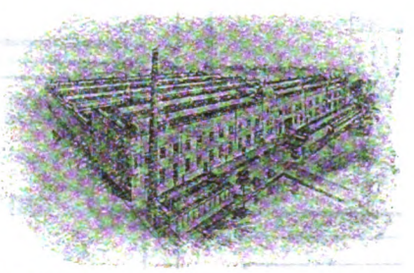
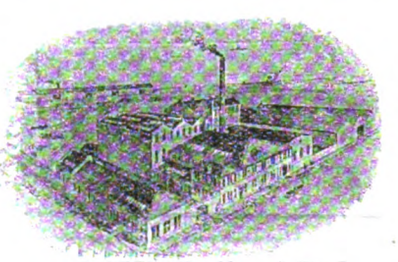

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 179.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

During the past week the war in the west has been extended along a line leading northwards from the Aisne through Bapaume and Arras to the neighbourhood of Armentières and beyond. Hitherto the operations along the river front in France and before Antwerp have been quite distinct, but the constant efforts of the Germans to outflank the left wing of the Allies and to intercept communications between Antwerp and Ostend have tended to bring the two battle areas nearer together. In Antwerp itself the situation is believed to be less critical than was the case twelve hours ago. The Germans are making a very determined effort to possess themselves of this great fortress, and have penetrated through the outer line of defences on the east and south. Unforeseen factors have, however, entered into the defence, and the task of the assailants has been materially made harder owing to the fact that the German artillery no longer enjoys an undisputed mastery by reason of its weight of metal. It cannot be said that Antwerp is besieged, seeing that the railway to Ostend is still open, as every effort on the part of the enemy to cross the Scheldt for the purpose of cutting that line of communication has been foiled. But it is beset, and until the Germans have been driven back out of range of Antwerp or its defences we cannot be entirely content as to its safety.

In view, however, of the imminence of actual bombardment the Belgian Government has taken the very wise precaution of withdrawing its administrative staff and its archives out of the danger zone to Ostend. Such a step enables the military authorities to consider Antwerp as the great fortress which it is, and not as the capital of a kingdom. The reasons for the departure of the Belgian Government from Antwerp are precisely those which influenced the French Government to retire from Paris to Bordeaux. Further east along the front in France our gallant Allies have effectively smothered repeated attempts on the part of the Crown Prince's army to break through in the Argonne and on the Upper Meuse. In the centre of the line of battle—that is to say, the section between Suippes and Soissons—no important movement has been chronicled, but in the western section very vigorous fighting is believed to be even now in progress. Here the fortune of war has swayed almost a few metres at a time, and the soil is becoming sour from the presence of such multitudes of men during so long a time. General von Kluck is now in a less favourable position than he was a fortnight ago, and there is a general impression among well-informed observers that Fortune is smiling upon the arms of the Allies.

In Poland the German offensive in the north failed miserably to force the passage of the Niemen, and the great movement which was to have altered the whole fortune of the war has not only been checked and rebuffed, but has actually had to be diverted into another area. So far as can be known at present, substantial numbers were withdrawn from the army of East Prussia to accompany General von Hindenburg in his attempt to save the remnant of the Kaiserlichs from destruction near Cracow. It is not improbable that this decision was hastened by the handsome Russian victories on the Niemen and near Suwalki. As a result of these movements and changes of plan, the Russians have once more appeared as conquerors in East Prussia, while what must now be considered the main German Army of the East has descended into Southern Poland, and now faces the victorious Russian Army of Galicia across the waters of the Upper Vistula. With that fine disregard of frontiers which distinguishes modern warfare, the German Army is drawn up on Russian soil facing the Russians on Austrian soil, while the unhappy Kaiserlichs have to support their terrible ally partly on their own and partly on German territory. Meanwhile the Russians are sweeping through the passes of the Carpathians into the plains of Hungary. They have already occupied the Ruthenian counties round Máramoros Sziget, where they find themselves as much among their own people as they were in Galicia, and some of the Slovak counties in Northern Hungary, where also they are among a kindred folk. So rapid have been the Russian invasions of Hungary, and so menacing is this advance considered to be, that the Kaiserlichs are making every effort to fortify Vienna, which saw an invader's camp fires as recently as 1866, and was twice occupied by Napoleon's troops in 1805 and 1809. It is reported as likely that the Imperial Court and Government may withdraw to Prague, which would be directly behind the great Teutonic hosts in Silesia and Southern Poland, and maybe the aged Emperor will bitterly

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regret that he has left unfulfilled his promise to his Czech subjects to be crowned King of Bohemia. Were the Czechs to be as ardent supporters of the Throne as are the Magyars—won by just such a concession in the past—the arms of the Kaiserlichs would be greatly strengthened at the present moment.

In the southern theatre of war a close examination of the rival statements of the two Press Bureaux still leaves the observer in considerable doubt. It is plain that the Serb Allies have not as yet taken Serajevo, and it is equally certain that no considerable invasion of Serbia has been effected by the Kaiserlichs. Yet it seems that the Serbians have been unable to make good the positions which they had won on the Romania Planina, and the line of battle seems to have been rolled back towards the Drina. Without artillery nothing can be achieved against the defences of the Bosnian capital, and heavy guns can only be brought up under cover of the advance of large bodies of troops. The raiding parties of Montenegrins who have pressed right up to and beyond the Serajevo forts can have but little influence upon the fortunes of a war against a foe equipped with every device of military science, and as yet the Serbian Army is not in a position to force its way through the mountains and hold ground long enough for great guns to be brought to bear upon the permanent works in which the Austrians put their trust.

In both Italy and Roumania a considerable volume of public opinion exists in favour of immediate action, but those in control of the Government have decided that the time is not yet. It may be that preparations are not yet complete. We know that in the case of Italy much was found to be necessary in the way of replenishing stores and rearranging the disposition of artillery since the end of July. It may be that the opportunity is not yet ripe. Certainly in Roumania the influence of King Carol has restrained both statesmen and people from anything in the nature of precipitate action. Both Rome and Bucharest are determined to consult their own interests, and it is not for any foreigner to attempt to dictate to them what steps they should take in pursuit of those interests. We can only remind them that the parable of the labourers in the vineyard will not be the text upon which the Peace sermon will be preached when the time comes.

It is very greatly to be hoped that the reported ill-treatment of Macedonians by Serbian officials, which are vouched for not only from interested but also from independent sources, are unfounded. Engaged upon a life-and-death struggle, from which we hope Serbia will emerge the victorious liberator of her kinsmen beyond Save and Drina, the monarchy of King Peter cannot afford to figure as an oppressor elsewhere. Envious neighbours are only too ready to listen to stories of ill-treatment if any case occur, and, in view of the mutual suspicions of those Balkan States which still remain at peace, it is highly undesirable that any opportunity should be given to the diplomacy of the Teutonic Powers for making further trouble. We consider it to be unlikely that Bulgaria will emerge from her neutrality, in spite of the Austrophil leanings of Tsar Ferdinand or the Russophobe creed of his Ministers. But there is a vast difference between the maintenance of a strict neutrality in the midst of suspicious and suspected neighbours and the reconstruction of a Balkan *bloc*, to which desirable end great statesmen unceasingly labour.

Of Turkey it is difficult to write. The behaviour alike of metropolitan ministers and provincial officials is so remarkable, and the situation of all Europeans, save subjects of the Teutonic Powers, so precarious, that it is difficult to believe that the Porte is master of its own fate. It is idle to recapitulate the untoward events which are of daily occurrence; it is vain to ask what peaceful purpose the military movements in Asia Minor can serve. The Porte has been assured that no one of the Powers of the Triple Entente or their supporters harbours any evil intentions against it, and common sense would naturally persuade the Turks not to cherish schemes of conquest at the expense of all their neighbours at once. But it appears that it is not the Turks with whom our statesmen have to deal, but with Powers who affect to use the Porte as their puppet. It is an undignified position for the Commander of the Faithful to occupy, and one far from creditable to the statesmanship of his Grand Vizier. We most earnestly hope that the successor of Mohammed Fatih, the first Padishah, will be able to shake himself and his country free from the grip of the Byzantine nightmare of intrigue and force which now menaces the Guarded Realms.

The efforts of Berlin to pull the strings of Islam have often been noticed in these columns, and upon occasion we have expressed our suspicions that the long-drawn war in Morocco was not wholly foreign to Germany. Still the confession of a German officer recently captured in France that actual skilled assistance was given to the Moors to enable them the better to occupy the attention of the French will be somewhat of a surprise to some. We know that the Teutonic Consular representatives had to be expelled from Tangier by the French, just as they had to be removed from Cairo by the British military authorities. We know also that German agents were troublesome to the Italians in Libya until summarily suppressed. We are aware that the Germans are straining every nerve to set the Turks against us, and that they have failed to enlist the Sheikh-es-Senussi as an armed supporter of their policy. Yet, in spite of all their efforts, it is comforting to view the Dar-ul-Islam. A genuine public opinion exists in Moslem Egypt in favour of Great Britain and her Allies. Moslem Algeria and Moslem India are pouring forth their blood and treasure for the sake of France or in the service of the King-Emperor. Moslems of African race have distinguished themselves in the same service further afield, and such assurances have been given that we now have every right to believe that if further assistance be asked of Islam within the British Empire it will eagerly be accorded.

Such being the case, it is open to question whether Ottoman Islam is as opposed to the cause of the Allies as at first seems to be the case. Patriotic Turks in Cyprus, inclined to be indignant with Great Britain for having requisitioned the warships in building for Turkey in British yards and moved by anti-British articles in the Constantinople Press, have listened to the reasoned explanation of the British High Commissioner, as conveyed in a letter to Irfan Bey, the senior Moslem member of the Legislative Council in the Island, and have recognized alike the necessity and the legality of the action. Is it too much to hope that equally patriotic Turks on the mainland will come to the same conclusion if the same arguments can be presented to their consideration? The powers that be in Constantinople evidently are of that opinion, as every precaution is apparently being taken to prevent the Turks of the mainland from knowing anything except what the Teutonic "advisers" of the Porte think fit for public circulation.

The election of Burhan-ed-Din Effendi as Mpret by the Albanian Senate has been followed by that of Essad Pasha Toptan, the exiled Minister of War of the ex-Mpret, as Grand Vizier, or President of the Provisional Government. It is asserted that his Excellency produced such overwhelming arguments in favour of his candidature that the Senate was unable to refrain from making him Dictator of the Principality in name. It remains to be seen whether he will be able to make himself master in fact and restore peace to the country. In the south we learn that a Moslem force has defeated the Epirotes in the Valona district, and it is possible that this may lead to renewed activity on the part of the Orthodox insurgents, who have frequently declared that they will never again submit to Mussulman domination. Such activity in its turn is not unlikely to produce uneasiness in Italy as to the safety of Valona. Rome is determined not to allow this portion of the Adriatic to pass under Greek control, whether it be Hellenic or Epirote, and as Italy is for the moment the only representative of the Concert with time to devote to such matters, it is not unlikely that further hostilities in Southern Albania may lead to an occupation of Valona by Italian troops, acting, at first at any rate, in the name of Europe.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 22.

War Conditions.

When hostilities broke out in Europe, the British and Egyptian authorities at once closed up all official channels of information and forbade the local Press and foreign correspondents from publishing or despatching any articles or messages that had any bearing on the local military situation, or contained matter that might be of some assistance to the enemies of the Entente. No one could or indeed did object to this interdiction, which has had such a signally successful precedent at home. One or two journals did venture to publish information, which was regarded as a transgression of the official order, and they were promptly dropped upon in a manner that will ensure that no repetition of the offence shall take place. Beyond those instances, there has been no attempt at disobedience, and everyone seems to have realized the necessity for keeping everything as secret as possible.

But this secrecy that has been imposed, this veil that has been drawn over actions that everyone knew were imminent or were taking place, has had as one natural result the circulation of the most extraordinary and at times contradictory, rumours, with regard to the situation in Egypt. The Turkish Army has appeared at least half-a-dozen times on the eastern frontier, now at Akaba, now at El Arish, now at Ghezza, and it has even crossed the border! The wells on the caravan road from Kantara, which are considered of such strategic importance, have been blown up or destroyed regularly every week! And last, but not least, the troops from India have, ever since August 15, according to "authoritative statements" in the clubs and cafes, been dodging about between Bombay and Marseilles, incidentally disembarking at Suez and detraining at Cairo in a most extraordinarily agile manner, which left one, in the end, absolutely bewildered as to what had happened.

The Indian Troops.

As a matter of fact, all these circumstantial statements as to the movements on the eastern frontier and those of the Anglo-Indian forces have been quite incorrect. The curtain that has concealed the military dispositions has now been drawn aside sufficiently to let us and the Egyptian population know that troops from India have arrived, and that their disembarkation on Egyptian soil started on the 9th inst., but exactly in what numbers they have landed and what proportion, if any, has gone on, no one—not even the officers themselves—is able to tell. The manipulation of the curtain is in very deft hands, and in the circumstances one must be content with whatever items of information, whatever facts permitting accurate deductions, are vouchsafed to us.

The fact that the Anglo-Indian troops had arrived was confirmed by a parade that took place through the city on Wednesday last. The troops marched in from Heliopolis, where an enormous camp had been laid out, past Shepheard's and the Continental, where Lieut.-General Sir John Maxwell, the G.O.C. of the Army of Occupation, took the salute, down the Sharia El Manakh, past the French Agency, which they saluted with "La Marsellaise," the National Bank of Egypt, across into the Abdin Square, and back viâ the Opera Square and the native quarter of Clot Bey, into the Sharia Abbas once more. In spite of their unpleasant sea-trip the troops looked very smart, the black-bearded Sikhs, some of them of gigantic build, and the Jap-like Gurkhas, arousing much interest, especially amongst the natives, and the whole parade was most imposing; though it would certainly have been more impressive if the police arrangements for keeping the route had not been so inadequate. For once in a way one regrets to say that the Cairo City Police did not display its usual efficiency.

The Late Mustapha Pasha Fahmy.

Universal regret was expressed and was evident when it became known that Mustapha Pasha Fahmy had passed away on Monday morning last. The aged statesman—he was 71—had arrived on the 8th inst. from Marseilles, where he had had a paralytic stroke, followed by a second one on the steamer, and his demise was quite expected. His funeral took place in Cairo on Tuesday, and the crowd of notables, European and native, who followed the coffin through the streets was in itself an eloquent testimony to the affection and respect that the late Premier had inspired amongst all classes of the population. His funeral was, indeed, the most impressive one that has taken place in Cairo for many years, if one excepts that accorded to the Coptic Prime Minister, Boutros Pasha Ghali, which was attended by special circumstances.

In the late Mustapha Pasha Fahmy England loses a sincere and loyal friend, and Egypt a distinguished and able servant. Throughout the period during which he held office, either as Prime Minister or as an ordinary Minister, he ever displayed a foresight and a grasp of Egypt's peculiar political position and her needs that were unique in an Oriental. He was, as Lord Cromer said, every inch a gentleman, and during the thirteen years he acted as Prime Minister under the great Pro-Consul, he never once failed him. As may be remembered, Mustapha Pasha Fahmy was again offered the Premiership last spring. Whatever theories may be indulged in as to the reason, he firmly rejected the offer, there is little doubt that his state of health must have been a determining factor, and although everyone regretted the non-return to power of this veteran and able statesman, it was evident, and events have proved it, that his decision was entirely in the interests of the country.

Egyptian Interests in the Deutsche Orient Bank.

The closing of the doors of the Deutsche Orient Bank just at the most critical period at the outset of hostilities must have come as a terrible shock to its many Egyptian depositors, and the latest action of that institution in trying to get out of the obligation imposed upon it by the extension of the moratorium—it pretended that the payment made under the first moratorium had to be deducted from the larger one authorized under the extension—cannot have done much to raise their confidence. The number of native depositors in the D.O.B. is enormous. Scarce an important Daira or rich native but has entrusted its or his money to the Teuton. The Egyptian Red Crescent, the Egyptian Congress, and the Egyptian University all have their funds in its coffers. One and all have been lured by the high rates of interest allowed, and by the belief that it was all done for love of the Moslem.

Rumour has it that at the last moment an important sum was sent by the bank to Germany; and although its local management contradicts the statement, it is pretty generally felt in financial circles that the deposits were not all lent out in Egypt or in Syria. It is to be hoped that, since his pocket is touched, the Egyptian will at length realize the true value of the Teuton's avowed friendship for him, and that he will draw a comparison between the position of the D.O.B. and the local British and French banks which have remained open all the time, and have by no means insisted on

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adhering to the bare minimum imposed by the moratorium decree.

The D.O.B. has served the political ends of its Government nobly, and it will be interesting to see whether it will be able to pay its depositors in full when peace is declared. In the meantime, it would appear to be the duty of the authorities to pay much closer attention to its administration. Since Egypt is in a state of war with Germany and German Agent and Consuls have left the country, there should be no reason why, as in England in the case of the German banks, an English manager should not be appointed. Considering the large amount of Egyptian deposits, such a step would be fully justified in the interests of the country. It would ensure that depositors would obtain fair and impartial treatment, and that all the assets would be held in trust for them. Under present conditions no such guarantee exists.

EGYPT AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The following statement issued from the British Agency, Cairo, is yet another item in the evidence that is accumulating day by day to show how greatly Germany miscalculated when she reckoned that the Egyptians would rally to *her* support:—

"His Britannic Majesty's Agency has received a number of inquiries from Egyptian notables who desire to express their sympathy for Great Britain by subscribing to the British Red Cross or other Relief Funds for sufferers from the present war. These offers of assistance, which are especially valuable as an indication of the excellent feeling towards Great Britain prevailing throughout all classes of Egyptians at the present moment, will be deeply appreciated by His Majesty's Government. The National Bank of Egypt will be glad to receive and acknowledge subscriptions to the British Red Cross or Prince of Wales's Funds.

"At the same time, the Agency desires to point out that Egypt has been herself affected by the war and that the existing financial stringency is causing, and is likely to cause during the coming winter, a considerable amount of unemployment and distress throughout the country. In the circumstances, the Agency would recommend that Egyptians should not, in their laudable desire to show sympathy to Great Britain, lose sight of this aspect of the case, and considers that the best method of showing this sympathy, and the one which will be most appreciated by his Majesty's Government, is that all Egyptians should concentrate their efforts to assist their poorer fellow-countrymen by organising relief to meet local distress."

EGYPT AND THE INDIAN TROOPS.

Reuter learns in connection with the suggestion that at least a portion of wounded troops from the Indian Expeditionary Force should be brought to this country rather than be kept at hospital bases in France and possibly at Alexandria, that the primary consideration in this matter is climatic. No doubt can exist in India as to the reception which would be accorded to any of his Majesty's Indian troops were they brought here, and while the warmth of that reception would be intensified in present circumstances hardship would be suffered by the troops themselves. The personal welfare of this section of the forces must outweigh all other considerations, and India, who already knows the affection and admiration with which her rally to the King-Emperor is regarded in this country and throughout the Empire will not be slow to interpret rightly the proposed distribution of her wounded.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society, of which Prince Mohammed Ali is president, has made a contribution of £E1,000 to the funds of the British Red Cross Society. The Prince telegraphed this sum to Lord Kitchener, who replied thanking the president and the native members of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society for their generous gift.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Port Said, September 22.

The Suez Canal.

The staff of the Suez Canal Company has been seriously depleted by the departure of the French Reservists for the front. The office, works, telegraphs, etc., are now being conducted by a staff composed almost entirely of men of advanced years, whose only regret is that they are unable to join their compatriots in the active defence of their country.

The working of the canal is carried on with the same regularity and efficiency as before, and the international waterway is open to the world's shipping.

Germans and Austrians.

Much amusement has been caused here by the efforts of the unfortunate Austrian and German Reservists to join the colours. They have been refused passages by captains of numerous steamers of all nationalities, and they were finally ordered by their consuls to embark on Italian steamers at Alexandria. After several vain attempts a number succeeded in getting away from that port by a Greek steamer, but, if rumour may be believed, they were met outside the harbour by a British cruiser, and are now being cared for by the British Army at Malta. Their repeated refusal by steamers of several neutral Powers affords a striking commentary on the popularity of the Teutonic Alliance.

The German and Austrian Consuls have been requested to leave the country. The Austrian Consul left a few days ago, and the German Consul is given until the 24th of this month. Their duties are taken over temporarily by the American Consul, who, by the irony of fate, is an Englishman.

The Indian Expeditionary Force.

The first convoy of transports bringing the Indian troops has at last arrived, and a number of steamers has already passed through the Canal and proceeded to an unknown destination.

The majority of steamers engaged in this work are owned by the British India Steam Navigation Co. It is said that as many as eighty of this company's vessels have been taken up by the Indian Marine for carrying troops.

The destination of the troopships is generally supposed to be Alexandria, where the troops will be landed and exercised after their long journey, and on the arrival of another convoy they will, it is said, re-embark for Marseilles under convoy of the Franco-British Fleet.

THE ENEMY OF ISLAM.

Addressing a meeting promoted last week by the Indian Volunteers Committee, at the Polytechnic, H.H. the Agha Khan gave a stirring address on the loyal spirit of India at this crisis. He could not, he said, adequately express the feelings of pride and joy with which he was addressing young fellow-countrymen whose spontaneous desire actively to serve the King-Emperor in this supreme hour in the destinies of Europe and the world had found scope in the formation of the Indian Field Ambulance Corps. They represented a spirit which was universal among their countrymen sojourning here. In this supreme hour differences of race and creed counted for nothing among the King-Emperor's Indian subjects. They were absolutely united in the common purpose of taking their full share in the trials and sorrows of the Empire, and in contributing to the sacrifices entailed by her unconquerable determination and that of her Allies to win through.

He had always been convinced that Germany was the most dangerous enemy of Turkey and other Moslem countries, for she was the Power most anxious to enter by "peaceful penetration" Asia Minor and Southern Persia. But she had been passing for years past as a sort of protector of Islam—though Heaven forbid that they should have such an immoral protector. Happily, so far as the Moslem subjects of the King were concerned, these efforts were absolutely futile. They would never break down the strong wall of their loyalty, which was based on the consciousness that their dearest interests, religious as well as civil, were guaranteed to them by British rule more securely than they could be by any other dominion.

In a message dated October 1, Reuter's Cairo correspondent says:—General Sir John Maxwell, commanding the British Army of Occupation, has published an order that all German, Austrian, and Hungarian subjects in Egypt will have to register before October 10 and obey the conditions under which they are allowed to remain in the country. Persons disobeying this order will be arrested.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 23.

The Situation in the Balkans.

The efforts made by Germany to stir up the Balkan States have so far failed, notwithstanding the Turkish mobilization. This is largely due to the attitude of Greece, who, strong in her possession of considerable military and naval forces, has declared her intention of standing by her ally, Serbia, and has thus counteracted certain aggressive tendencies that might have led to serious trouble in this part of Europe. Moreover, the failures and reverses of the German Army and the victories of the Russian Army have also had their effect. According to latest reports from Constantinople, however, it looks as if Turkey, which seems just now to be in the position of a German possession, is really about to take action of some kind. Against whom? Everything seems to indicate Russia as the object of attack, but the fact that it might also be directed against this country is not lost sight of here.

Greco-Roumanian Relations.

On the other hand, everything seems to show that in Roumania the constantly increasing pressure of public opinion in favour of the Triple Entente will at last compel King Carol's Government to abandon its neutrality and embark upon the military occupation of Transylvania and the Eastern Bukovina. Roumania, finding herself, as regards Austria, situated similarly to Italy, will in all probability wait for the latter to abandon her neutrality first, so as to take common action with her against Austria.

It is quite clear that the new situation brought about by the unfavourable turn which the fighting has taken for Austria offers to Roumania opportunities that make her wish to be free to employ her army in another direction than in the south. This accounts for her activity in endeavouring to bring about an understanding between Greece and Turkey on the subject of The Islands.

All this had created an impression here, as I indicated in my former letter, that Roumania had entirely lost interest in the Treaty of Bucharest. However, since the return to Athens of the Greek delegates to the Turco-Greek conference in Bucharest, who doubtless had occasion to discuss these questions with the Roumanian Government, it is stated in official circles that relations between the two countries still rest on the solid basis of the coincidence of their interests. Besides, Roumania is not at all forgetful of the risk of a Bulgarian invasion, which might seriously menace her territory while her army was occupied in Transylvania, in which case the assistance of Greece could be of the greatest value to her. But on the other hand, Greece would find herself in a very difficult situation if she, or Serbia, should meanwhile be attacked by Bulgaria, since Roumania could only send a very small part of her forces to defend the territory annexed under the Treaty of Bucharest. In these circumstances the Opposition journals are advising the Government to have a clear understanding before entering into any such engagement, as to what compensation would be given to Greece, and to get it directly guaranteed by the Triple Entente Powers, to whom she would be acting as an ally, and from whom she might therefore expect the treatment of an ally.

As to the compensation (Kavalla) that Roumania would be prepared to give Bulgaria at the expense of Greece, in order to ensure her neutrality, it is stated in official circles here that Roumania never dreamed of anything of the sort. Such a proposal, it is pointed out, would be opposed to her own interests; for, in violating the Treaty of Bucharest, she would naturally render herself liable to have to restore the part of Silistria which she annexed by virtue of that very Treaty.

The Bucharest Negotiations.

The breaking-off of the Turco-Greek pourparlers upon the pretext of awaiting "a more favourable moment," as the official communiqué put it, has brought about no change in the relations between the two countries, having simply put them back to where they were before the Bucharest conference. Thus, besides the question of The Islands, there are left in suspense others, no less important, for the solution of which Greece was prepared to make some concessions in the matter of The Islands. These questions concern the persecutions of and excesses committed against the Greeks in Asia Minor: that is to say, the indemnity to be paid to the victims, the exchange of properties to be arranged between the emigrants, etc., which are questions of vital importance to Hellenism in Turkey. Greece having demanded an immediate settlement of these questions, Turkey agreed that they should be arranged at the Brussels conference —which, of course, did not take place.

Such a state of affairs could not, however, continue without seriously prejudicing the interests of Greece, who naturally wishes to take advantage of the first chance to put an end to it. Should nothing occur in the Balkans to make Greece abandon her neutrality, and thus give her an opportunity to settle her accounts with Turkey, she, having rejected the settlement offered her through German mediation, would look to the Triple Entente Powers to obtain for her at the conclusion of the War a satisfactory and definite settlement of The Islands and the other questions. That would be one of the rewards that Greece would expect from the Entente for her friendly attitude either in remaining neutral, or in taking part in the War in favour of the Entente, as the case might be.

The Capitulations: Greece Uneasy.

The attempt made by Turkey to suppress the Capitulations has caused more anxiety to Greece than to any other country concerned. For, it is argued, if in spite of the Capitulations, Greek subjects are liable to such persecution and annoyance as at present, it is not difficult to imagine what their lot would be if the Capitulations were abolished. Greece, being the only Balkan State enjoying capitulatory privileges on the same footing as the Great Powers, has protested with them to the Porte against the abolition.

The German Minister's Nerves.

The caustic articles in which the Greek Press has criticised the acts of vandalism committed by the Germans at Louvain and in France, and the lively good wishes for the Allies expressed daily by the great majority of the Greek journals, have given the German Minister an attack of nerves. The official representative of the heroes of these exploits of savagery, imagining that these articles were inspired by Mr. Venizelos, went to the King to complain against one of the journalists, and by implication against Mr. Venizelos. But his activities have had quite a contrary result to what he hoped. The organs of the Press, which had, after all, only given truthful expression to the feeling of the Greek people, and had carefully refrained from any personalities, promptly replied to the Minister's action by publishing a series of still more enthusiastic articles, glorying in the gallantry and the victories of the French, and the principles of liberty and justice of the noble English nation, which has always protected the small and the weak against the greed of the great. The French and English flags were also printed in their correct colours at the head of these articles. These manifestations of feeling have apparently made his German Excellency even more furious.

Mr. Streit's Resignation.

Mr. Streit, who has just resigned his portfolio as Minister for Foreign Affairs, was a victim of his extreme Germanophilism. Indeed, it is affirmed that the communications made to the Opposition journals to which I alluded in my former letter—and according to which the Triple Entente Powers were represented as having promised Bulgaria territorial compensations at the expense of Greece, and as having encouraged Turkey in her pretensions to the Islands, in order to turn Greek public opinion against her—emanated from Mr. Streit, and that this was the direct cause of his estrangement from the Cabinet. Mr. Venizelos, has taken over the direction of foreign affairs while still retaining the direction of the Ministry of War.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)
Nish, September 14.

Serbia Invades Bosnia.

Except at Belgrade, along the River Sava, and in the North-West, along the Drina, the effects of the gigantic war now proceeding are for the moment but little felt. The greatest difficulty is caused by the closing of all the banks in Serbia, which naturally entails a good deal of hardship; and another inconvenience is the difficulty of communication with foreign countries, either by land or by water, and the dislocation of the postal service.

Serbia is making every effort to maintain the military reputation which she gained in the late wars against Turkey and Bulgaria. She is calling up all her sons, even those who have been hitherto considered incapacitated, to take up arms for the defence of the country. Small as the State is in comparison with her mightier neighbour, the Serbian forces, encouraged by the success and advance of the Russian troops, are no longer remaining on the defensive, but have gone forward to attack the enemy in its own territory. What the Austrian troops have failed to achieve the brave Serbs have accomplished.

The Biter Bit.

For several weeks the threatened invasion of Serbia by the Austro-Hungarian troops has been defiantly set at naught; the Dual Monarchy which had boasted of being able to overrun the whole of Serbia in a few days and to take possession of Belgrade in as many hours has found itself greatly deceived in its expectations. The Austrian troops have failed to occupy Serbia as they had intended, but the Serbian troops to-day have invaded the enemy's territory.

Austria-Hungary's Failure.

The failure of the Austro-Hungarian invasion seems almost ridiculous. When, after numerous failures, the Austro-Hungarian troops did at length set foot on Serbian soil, crossing the rivers Drina and Sava in the North-West, their armies, consisting of 200,000 men, although opposed by an inferior force, were unable to advance. Although they occupied the commanding position of the heights of Tcher, 600 metres high, they were ignominiously beaten, the heights were taken by assault at the point of the bayonet, and the invading forces fled in disorder. The battle lasted five consecutive days. But after the heights of Tcher were taken and the enemy's left wing broken, it did not take the Serbians long to make their victory a decisive one. The Austrian troops fled in panic, making for the pontoon-bridges to get across into their own territory. The fields were piled with their dead, the rivers were a mass of floating corpses, large numbers of prisoners were taken and a quantity of booty, consisting of guns, rifles, ammunition, field-hospitals, etc., was secured.

In a few days, however, the enemy again attempted to invade Serbia. This time their forces consisted of four divisions and one brigade, numbering 90,000 men. They succeeded in crossing again at Ratcha, at a point where the Drina flows into the Save, and across the Drina further to the west, but met with the same fate as before. After the first day's battle they were scattered, and on the second day the majority of those still fighting were driven into a bend of the Drina from which they could not escape. Here the Serbian infantry, supported by artillery, almost annihilated these remnants of Austro-Hungarian troops. The enemy's losses in dead and wounded are estimated at 10,000 men.

Beaten as they are the Austro-Hungarian troops are still making efforts to force their way into Serbian territory by crossing the Drina, but each time they are repulsed with great loss. One point, however, near Krupanje, they have again succeeded in reaching in great numbers, and at this moment there is desperate fighting going on between the two contending armies. At present it seems likely to end in another glorious victory for the Serbian arms.

Capture of Vishegrad.

In the meantime, Serbian troops are also employed further south, in an aggressive movement, and yesterday they captured Vishegrad after brilliantly carrying the fortified positions commanding it.

Nor is Serbia's forward action limited to this direction. Some days ago the Serbian troops crossed the River Save at several points and heroically cleared the whole length of the opposite banks of the river of the enemy. A little south of Mitrowitz, the 13th Regiment of Infantry and part of the 15th Regiment, having to contend with overwhelming forces of the enemy, met with very heavy losses; but this had no influence on the operations of the Serbian Army, which successfully accomplished its task; and to-day the Serbian troops occupy Semlin, the frontier town opposite Belgrade, and are also operating further north in the district of Srem (Sirmium). The fortified position outside of Semlin is in Serbia's possession, and consequently the bombardment of Belgrade from the land batteries has ceased; and it is hardly likely that the Austrian river warships will venture to approach Belgrade or Semlin under present circumstances.

The railway bridge between Belgrade and Semlin has been temporarily repaired, and the railway station at Belgrade and railway lines leading to it have been put in order. If all goes well, the inhabitants of Belgrade will soon return to the capital, and again take up their residence there.

ROUMANIA AND THE BUKOVINA

In view of the statement recently made by a Roumanian diplomatist about the nationality of the inhabitants of the Austrian province of the Bukovina, the following table, taken from the 1910 census, is of interest:—

Population of the Bukovina.

				Percentage of Total.
Slavs:—			342,397	43·07
Ruthenes.....	305,100	38·38		
Poles.....	36,210	4·55		
Other Slavs ..	1,086	0·14		
Roumanians			273,254	34·38
Germans			168,851	21·24
Others.....			10,427	1·31
			794,929	

From this it will be seen that the Roumanians form rather more than one-third of the population, and are outnumbered considerably by the Slavs, of whom the greater number are Ruthenians or Little Russians. The map which was published in The Near East of last week shows the districts of the Bukovina where the Roumanians are in a majority, and there is no valid historical reason for considering the Bukovina as an indivisible political and territorial unit. Indeed, it only came into existence as a distinct administrative area late in the eighteenth century, when it was acquired by Austria from Turkey.

The Japanese Red Cross has sent a large consignment of medical stores to Serbia.

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SERBIAN AMBITIONS.

Historically as well as racially there is much to be said in favour of the Serb ambitions for the acquisition of some of the Austro-Hungarian territories between the Drave and the Adriatic. Dalmatia, which stretches a long finger of territory far to the south and intervenes for so many miles between Bosnia, the Hertzegovina, Montenegro, and the sea, is, in spite of the long Venetian domination, a kingdom of the Southern Slavs, only 2.84 per cent. of the inhabitants being Italian.

Bosnia and the Hertzegovina have a Slavonic percentage of 97.56. Its inhabitants are, however, mainly divided between three creeds, while those of Dalmatia and Croatia-Slavonia adhere chiefly to two. As in the Balkans, religion enters largely into the politics of racialism. A Latin Bosnian is apt to consider himself a Croat, just as his Orthodox brother is a Serb or his Bosniak cousin a "Turk." In the Slovene provinces of Austria, where a Slavonic people shares the territory with Germans and Italians, the population is almost entirely devoted to the Latin Church.

THE SOUTHERN SLAVS OF THE DUAL MONARCHY.

	Serbs and Croats.	Slovenes and Other Slavs.	Non-Slavonic Races.	Percentage of Slavs in Total Population.
Styria	151	410,913	983,635	29·47
Carinthia	28	82,663	304,381	21·37
Carniola	205	491,836	28,286	94·56
Görz and Gradisca	186	155,089	94,618	62·14
Trieste	2,403	57,671	130,839	31·17
Istria	168,184	57,239	110,945	58·32
Croatia and Slavonia	2,588,954	—	43,000	98·75
Dalmatia	610,669	3,066	21,120	96·67
Bosnia and the Hertzegovina	1,822,564	29,041	46,439	97·56

RELIGIONS OF THE SOUTHERN SLAVS IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

	Latins and Uniats.	Orthodox.	Moslems.	Percentage. L.	O.	M.
Croatia and Slavonia	1,861,500	661,600	—	71	26	—
Bosnia and the Hertzegovina	442,100	825,400	612,100	23·29	43.49	32.25
Dalmatia	539,000	105,300	—	83·49	16·32	—

Among the 1,426,568 Slavs in Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Görz and Gradisca, Trieste and Istria there were in 1910 only 4,411 Orthodox, the rest being overwhelmingly Latin.

Dalmatia.

During the first half of the seventh century that Slavonic invasion took place which still colours the country ethnically. The people of Romance stock retired before these invaders, and, by crowding into Ragusa, Zara, and Spalato, preserved an Italian tradition, which, subsequently strengthened by the Venetian connection, survives in those centres to this day. Later, when the Slavonic Serbs adopted Christianity, they preferred the Orthodox creed or one of the numerous heresies which arose within it, while the Latins of the coast adhered to Rome. For several centuries the rival populations, whose differences were emphasised by their religious beliefs, failed to coalesce. In the ninth century a Serb pirate community, which still retained an affection for Paganism, came into prominence at the mouth of the Narenta. These people early became involved in war with the Venetians, and, after a by no means one-sided struggle, were forced to submit to the Republic of St. Mark in 998, when the Doge assumed the title of Duke of Dalmatia in honour of the conquest. The Italian cities of the seaboard, while retaining a considerable measure of autonomy, turned to Venice for assistance

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against their Serb neighbours, who in their turn accepted the protection of Hungary, which was eager to contest the sovereignty of the coast with the Italian Republic. For 300 years the Venetians and the Magyars disputed the lordship of Dalmatia, which at that time had no fixed frontiers, with varying success. Towards the end of that time, however, the Serb States of the interior, which had hitherto directed their vigorous though distracted nationalism against the Byzantines or the Bulgars, began to push towards the Adriatic, and by 1389 the King of Bosnia was master of the coast from Cattaro to Fiume, with the exception of the Venetian fortress of Zara and the independent Republic of Ragusa. The Bosnian Empire of Tvrtko and his successors was, unfortunately, almost as ephemeral as the Serbian Empire of Dushan, and within half a century the Venetians were able to conquer the whole of what we now understand as Dalmatia, with the exception of Ragusa, where the commingling of Italian and Serbian races and traditions produced a brilliant literary and mercantile civilisation, which only the rude hand of Napoleon was able to subvert in 1808.

The Coming of the Turks.

After the Ottomans had conquered the territories and inherited the ambitions of both Serb and Magyar it was only to be expected that they should come into collision with the Republic of St. Mark. At the beginning of the sixteenth century Dalmatia was overrun by the Turks, and by the peace of 1540 the Venetian dominion was once more reduced to a few isolated ports and islands, the whole of the interior forming the Ottoman Sanjak of Klissa. Many Serbs, under the pressure of this political change, emigrated from the Turkish territory and took refuge under the wings of the Evangelist's Lion, where in course of time they adopted the religion of their protectors. It is due to this movement of the sixteenth century that there is now a percentage of 83.49 of Latins to 16.32 of Orthodox in a kingdom which has an almost entirely Serb-speaking population. It was not until 1699, by the Peace of Karlovitz, that the Venetians recovered the whole of Dalmatia, a dominion which was not disturbed until Napoleon destroyed the Republic of St. Mark in 1797 and gave Dalmatia to the Austrians. In 1805 he took it away from them, and attached it to his own kingdom of Italy, only to transfer it a few years later to the French Empire. At his fall it was restored to the Austrians.

Croatia—Slavonia.

The kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia, which at present is a "member of the crown of St. Stephen," and as such is united to the Hungarian kingdom, had but a brief separate existence. During the reigns of the kings of Croatia, in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the Croats—whose chief differences from the Orthodox Serbs (who are their blood kin) are that they adhere to the Latin Church and make use of the Latin alphabet—established a reputation for maritime prowess at the expense even of the Venetians. A disputed succession to the crown in 1098 gave an opportunity to Ladislaus I., King of Hungary, to seize the country. This prince maintained an autonomous organization in his subject kingdom, and delegated his authority to a Ban, who was generally a Croatian nobleman. Although there were numerous insurrections, the authority of the Hungarian kings was never seriously shaken, and the kingdom of the Catholic Serbs followed the fortunes of the Magyar monarchy. Thus, in 1527, the Croats accepted Ferdinand I. of Austria as their king upon his election to the throne of Hungary.

In course of time, like the greater part of the realms of St. Stephen, Croatia was overrun by the Turks, and in 1606 the Emperor-King retained only the western portions under his dominion. The whole territory was recovered in 1718, with the exception of a small area—Turkish Croatia—which was amalgamated with the Ottoman vilayet of Bosnia, and only returned to the Hapsburgs at the annexation of 1908. At this time it must be remembered that a very considerable area of Croatia, Slavonia, and Hungary itself was occupied by what was known as the Military Frontier. This extended along the whole of the Turkish march, from the Carpathians to the sea, and was under an entirely separate administration with a legal system of its own. In course of time the Military Frontier became no longer necessary, and late in the nineteenth century the greater part of the districts which composed it were amalgamated with Croatia and Slavonia. During the period of the Turkish Occupation the Hungarian kingdom had been partitioned and weakened to such an extent that for many years "Imperial Hungary" was merely regarded by Vienna as a troublesome and unimportant frontier province. In such circumstances it is not surprising that the old relationship of Croatia to the Crown of St. Stephen should have been forgotten when that august diadem was so little regarded by its wearer. As a result of this Croatia came to be considered as a Crown land of the Austrian monarchy, and as such was subjected to the administrative experiments of Vienna, and not of Budapest.

The Kingdom of Illyria.

In 1767 Croatia, Slavonia, and Austrian Dalmatia were united under the name of the Kingdom of Illyria, and a precedent was thereby set which, had it been followed, would have led to the formation of a third prop for the Hapsburg throne, which is now uneasily poised upon only two. This experiment in Illyrism, half-heartedly attempted by Vienna, was widely extended by Napoleon, who stripped the Hapsburgs of the greater part of Croatia and added it to the "Illyrian provinces" of the French Empire, which comprised Carinthia, Carniola, Dalmatia, and the Littoral. When the Napoleonic régime collapsed the Emperor Francis erected a little kingdom of Illyria of his own, but, somewhat curiously, excluded those provinces which had been called Illyria in 1767, and only arranged Carinthia, Carniola, and the Littoral within the new dominion. This arrangement lasted until 1849, and Croatia and Slavonia were restored to their old dependence upon the crown of St. Stephen. The aggressions of Magyar nationalism, which sought to impose its own language upon the Croats, led to a recrudescence of Illyrism, and the celebrated Ban Jellachich was anxious to reunite Croatia with the Slovene provinces of the Austrian kingdom of Illyria. At that time, however, the Slovenes had no racial consciousness of their own, and the Hungarians were able to prevent the Austrian Emperor from taking so wise a step. The part played by Jellachich in the subsequent relations of Hungary and the Hapsburgs is too well known to need recapitulation. His dynastic loyalty secured the liberation of his country from Magyar dominance, but German influences in Vienna were afraid of the rising strength of southern Slavdom, and steps were taken to prevent the formation of a Croato-Slovene State, which might well have acted as a counterpoise to the Magyars.

Croatia was an Austrian crown land until 1867, when the Hapsburgs made peace with their Hungarian subjects and sacrificed all dreams of Illyrism in the process. Croatia was once more subjected to the Magyars, who have done all in their power to excite the dislike and mistrust of their Croatian subjects.

Trialism.

Of late years "Illyrism," or "Trialism," as it is sometimes called, has aimed at the amalgamation of Croatia-Slavonia with Bosnia, the Hertzegovina—the ancient Duchy of St. Sava—and Dalmatia to form a Serbo-Croat kingdom of equal political status with Austria or Hungary under the sceptre of the Emperor Francis Joseph, who still styles himself King of Illyria. This would not include the Slovene provinces of Austria—Carinthia, Carniola (Krain of the Germans, Krajina, "the frontier," of the Slavs), and the Littoral, which have but little connection with the historic independence of their Croatian and Serbian kinsmen to the south-east, and are almost entirely Latin by faith and Western by tradition.

Sir Valentine Chirol, formerly the Foreign Editor of *The Times*, has contributed to the series of Oxford pamphlets, published at twopence each by the Oxford University Press, one on the subject of "Serbia and the Serbs." In this he sketches the history of the Piedmont of the Balkans, and traces the sequence of events which led up to the explosion of July last. There is but one misprint, 1891 is given instead of 1901 as the year of ex-King Milan's death.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

If to err—or, more vulgarly—to take a toss, be human, then, indeed, the Censor is sometimes not divine. A few days ago that august being addressed a gravely-worded letter to a London daily rebuking it for having contravened his regulations by publishing a certain dispatch. He received a polite reply from which he learned, possibly to his surprise, that he had duly passed the message in question, which, moreover, had been drastically cut down before it had been submitted to him, for fear that he should inadvertently pass certain passages, the publication of which the editor considered dangerous to the public interest. One of these days they will realize that a censor who has to be censored for fear that he should "give the show away," and does not know what he has seen, or recognize his own censoring, is hardly worth the fuss made about him.

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In the absence of important news from the Front during the third week of the Battle of the Aisne the Censor laboured unceasingly to extend the sphere of his usefulness. I have collected one or two Censor tales already, but so far he has done nothing to equal his last exploit. A certain great journal submitted for censorship a despatch received by post from its correspondent in Nish. The despatch, which was just four weeks old—such being the delays of war—contained some breezy descriptive writing in which reference was made to the pipes smoked by a certain officer in that town. These pipes attracted the Censor's notice—he smelt danger, not tobacco, and in the interests of the military situation, and in order to prevent panic excised the superlative epithet qualifying the pipes smoked by an officer a month ago in Nish! If the poor censors have to work as hard as that to protect us from reported odours in the Balkans no wonder they have no strength left to prohibit the circulation of the entirely fictitious news of a "victory" for the Allies in France, which they permitted to be so largely reported last week.

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In view of the difficulty in obtaining news about Persia which exists at present I take it very kindly on the part of the German wireless information bureau to tell us what has been happening in Tabriz. As the Germans say there has been wide-spread movement, as a result of which the Russians have been defeated after fierce fighting, we may, with some confidence, assume that the caravan routes are well policed, and that the harvest has been good in Northern Persia.

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I am sorry to see that the Macedonians are once more on the warpath. Old and deeply ingrained habits cannot be readily shed, and for years past tradition has prescribed a season of insurrection between harvest home and the first snows. Those acquainted with Macedonia and the manners of its masters are not surprised that the bad old times have not yet disappeared. The new proprietors were warned what would happen at the time of the Treaty of Bucharest, but now they are trying to implicate the Bulgarian Government in the band-fighting which is reported from several centres in Macedonia—Moslem as well as Exarchist. That also is traditional, and shows how hard it is to kill a custom.

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It is reported that the serious risk to which Turkey is now exposed by the folly and boundless vanity of one or two of her most prominent men has roused the ex-Sultan from his apathy; and that he has addressed to the controllers of her destiny an impassioned warning of the danger in which they are placing her. What truth there is in this report I am unable to state, but as it certainly does not emanate from Germany there is at least a chance that it may not be false. Moreover, Abdul Hamid, however closely he may be confined, and however dulled his brains may have become as a result of that confinement, is still too clever a man to be blind to the critical position in which poor Turkey now finds herself. Such blindness as *that* could only be produced by super swelled-headedness, which was not Abdul's complaint. If he has issued the warning attributed to him it shows that he cannot be quite such a selfish man as his detractors would have us believe. For if he were he would have let the country go to the dogs and chuckled over its progress.

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I have long recognized that the Egyptian Government Survey Department is extremely enterprising, but even so I was not a little surprised to read in the *Journal Officiel* the other day a notice that the Department has issued a special war map of Central Europe, which, with sixty-six assorted flags, can be bought for the modest sum of 60 milliemes. Map and flags can be had in English or Arabic. In view of the interest that the fellah is showing in the war, I imagine that the Arabic edition should prove popular.

I cannot absolutely guarantee the truth of the following story, but I believe it to be true, and it is at least characteristic as regards Lord Kitchener. A certain crack territorial corps, having volunteered for foreign service and been accepted, was shipped off to some "destination unknown." In due time, after a voyage rendered monotonous by the failure of the Kaiser's warships to put in an appearance, the force reached a French port; and the men's hopes rose high. At once the report was passed round that they were to get a cut in at the Kaiser's "cannon fodder" forthwith. But, alas! disillusionment followed hard on the heels of rumour. They were, in fact, to go on garrison duty to a station which we will—with an eye on the Censor—refer to as Utopia. A chorus of groans rent the air. Then some bright individual suggested a kind of telegraphic Round Robin to Lord Kitchener. No sooner said than done. A telegram begging that they might be allowed to go to the front forthwith was drawn up and dispatched, and the reply was anxiously awaited. It came. "Utopia, or disband," it said; and it was signed, "Kitchener." So "Utopia" it was.

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Surely our ethnographer has got loose again, as I see that Serbian ambitions are discussed elsewhere in what is doubtless a learned article and illustrated by a map. So I must gird myself, don a herald's tabard, and blazon forth the gorgeous shields of dominion which perhaps King Peter will be able to add to his existing achievement. First, there comes the kingdom of Dalmatia, with *Azure, three leopards' heads affrontées, crowned gold*; then Croatia, with a splendidly simple shield *Chequy* silver and gules; and Slavonia, *Azure, a river in fess vert bordered argent, thereon a weasal passant proper beneath a gold star.* Bosnia itself, which is already partly within the Serbian sovereign's grasp, has for arms, *G les an arm holding a scymetar all proper.* I see also that Rascia—which roughly corresponds with what diplomacy, but not the Turks, called the Sanjak of Novi Bazar—has a shield of *Azure three horseshoes inverted silver.* It should surely be a lucky coat to quarter on the new Serbian shield. Ragusa, the last of the Mediterranean Republics to survive, and now Duchy of the Hapsburgs, bears *silver three bends azure*, and Cattaro, which may have to be represented on King Nicholas's *écu complet*, has *silver a lion rampant gules.* The heralds have it that the kingdom of Illyria, whatever actual territorial existence it may now have, in armoury is dignified as showing *Azure, an antique galley gold.*

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Are Serbians, I wonder, able to "see things" or to inspire others to "see things" that are hid from most of us? It will be remembered that in the review of Mr. Petrovitch's fascinating "Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians" that appeared lately in THE NEAR EAST mention is made of the "seeing" (by "thousands of soldiers," be it noted) of Kralyevitch Marko at the battle of Prilep two years ago. And this week my attention has been called to a letter from Mr. Chedo Miyatovich which appeared in *Light*, and gives particulars of "visions," almost as strange, of Serbians seen by an English lady. Briefly, the story is that a Serbian officer and a Serbian lady whose love affairs were not running smoothly had been debating the great "to be or not to be" question, and the officer—a lieutenant at the time—asked Mr. Miyatovich's help. The latter in turn consulted an English lady at Bradford, who, after seeing four visions of the officer and the lady, foretold a happy marriage for them, and brilliant success in his profession for the lieutenant. A good many things seemed to point to the impossibility of the "vision" being fulfilled, so to say. Amongst others the medium foretold that the officer would inspect the embarkation of his men on a large steamer; and this was in 1910, before Serbia even talked at all of her "little window." However, it all came out as foretold. The young lieutenant *did* superintend the embarkation of his regiment at Durazzo, during the late Balkan wars; he married the lady of his choice; and he is now a major. Mr. Miyatovich gives all names, dates, etc., in his letter, and tells us that the Crown Prince of Serbia was so interested in the story that he sent for the hero, who produced documentary evidence as to its authenticity. I for one certainly would not like to express doubt of the perfect accuracy of the story merely because I cannot explain it all. Too many strange things have happened in my own life.

CORSAIR.

Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports, under date of the 4th inst.:—Turkish and German agents are reported here to be scattering proclamations in Persia preaching a holy war against Russia, France, and Great Britain. The Christian population on the frontier continue to be alarmed by the attitude of the Kurds.

Under date of October 4, Reuter's Odessa correspondent reports that many Bulgarian volunteers have arrived in that city, anxious to be enrolled in the army of General Radko Dimibrieff.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

ÆSOP ON THE SITUATION.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I read the present position between Great Britain and Turkey in the light of the following fable:—

A Lion was one day engaged in the eating of an exceedingly tough and scraggy Eagle which had foolishly aroused the King of Beasts from peaceful Slumber in the Sunshine. In this unpleasant Task the Lion was aided by a friendly Bear and a cheerful Cock, whose Farmyard the Eagle had devastated. While the three Friends were thus engaged an inquisitive Gobbler, misled by the Fuss which the Eagle made in dying, saw fit to peck the Lion's Tail and tweak the Bear's left Ear. Occupied with the crunching of aquiline Morsels neither Animal for the Moment paid any attention to the absurd Bird, which shot his Feathers, swelled his Comb and strutted as though he were no End of a fine Fellow. When, however, the Eagle had been swallowed, before settling down to digest so sorry a Meal, the Lion and the Bear made bold to ask the Gobbler what might be his little Game. Abashed, the Bird replied: "Sirs, I meant no Harm," to which they answered, "Foolish Fowl, your Wits are plainly weak, we will put you in a Cage lest worse befall, and we will take Care of your Farmyard."—I am, sir,

Æsop Junior.

London, October 6, 1914.

TURKEY AND GERMANY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—It seems to be distinctly unfortunate for the Ottoman Empire that Enver Pasha ever went to Germany; for while there he appears to have imbibed the doctrines that are now making the Prussians so universally detested throughout the civilised world. And now not only does he model his moustache more or less upon that of the egregious Kaiser, but he seems determined to play the part of an Ottoman Kaiser-cum-Napoleon, and, thanks to his inordinate ambition, Turkey's very existence is actually imperilled. At least, that is the impression left on the minds of many sincere well-wishers of the *real* Turks.

But are we not to some extent responsible for this state of affairs? It is obvious that even Enver could not have wrought the harm he has if only the activities of the notorious Wolff Bureau had been counteracted by the dissemination of accurate information through an all-British agency. A study of recent issues of The Near East will surely prove the accuracy of this statement to any of your readers. And though it may now be too late to undo the mischief done, it is to be hoped that if, after all, Turkey should succeed in avoiding the pitfall that has been dug for her by her false "friends," we shall see to it that she is spared from such risks in the future—by establishing, or supporting, a decently run Press bureau of our own at Constantinople.

In the meantime, we can only hope—for Turkey's sake—that the cooler heads amongst the Sultan's Ministers may be able to keep Enver in check, in spite of his three thousand or so German assistants—or masters.—Yours, etc.,

Pro-Turk.

London, October 7, 1914.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turkey and Her Counsellors.

At the end of last week Turkey's attitude was a subject of considerable interest, if not of anxiety, to Press and public in this country. The feeling of "the man in the street" on the subject may, perhaps, be summed up as one of hopefulness that his old friends would not suffer themselves to be used as catspaws by the Germans or the Germanophiles. The Turks' difficulties were recognised; their neutrality was earnestly desired, for their own sake chiefly; but their active interference was not feared. *The Manchester Guardian* put the matter well in a leading article:—

We must own that the Turkish Government's position is extraordinarily hard. If she keeps to the straight path of neutrality Germany can certainly inconvenience her a good deal. If she yielded to the German squeeze she would inevitably make dangerous enemies among the Allies, for her interference would be quite unprovoked and would be deeply resented. It would also be ineffectual, for it would instantly and almost automatically call into action counteracting forces in South-east Europe. An anti-English movement at Constantinople now would come too late to do us appreciable harm in India, where all the great Mahommedan influences have already rallied to our support. It might cause us a little trouble in Egypt, but nothing likely to make any serious difference in the later stages of our war with Germany.

That is the very view which The Near East has been endeavouring to impress upon its Turkish friends ever since the war broke out. The writer in *The Manchester Guardian* winds up neatly:—

Turkey is so drenched with cooked accounts of the progress of the war by the official Press Bureau at Berlin that expectation of a German victory is common at Constantinople. That is perhaps the chief danger. It would be a curious tragedy if, after all the vicissitudes of its long, wonderful history, the Ottoman Empire in Europe were to die of false news.

Turkish Uneasiness.

It is difficult for the average Englishman to see clearly the Turkish point of view. Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall, however, seems not only able to see it, but to identify himself with it, and in *The New Age* (October 1) he enters an eloquent plea for Turkey in "Turkish Independence." Turkey, he says, is resolved that interference in her internal affairs of a peculiar kind, which other nations do not suffer, should henceforth cease, and with it the haughty treatment from certain Powers to which she has been exposed in the past:—

Rather than endure such treatment any longer, she will fight, and go down fighting, to avoid inglorious death. A reassuring word from England given solemnly could easily prevent this great catastrophe. One trusts that the word has been, or may yet be given; the more so that unpleasant rumours are abroad. Persistent rumours—perhaps made in Germany—of a decision of the Entente Powers to rob Turkey of Constantinople on the conclusion of the war, even though she should maintain neutrality, are current in the Near East. Another whisper runs that that decision was already irrevocable at the very moment when the three Ambassadors approached the Porte with their offer to "defend the integrity and independence of Turkey against all comers."

Both rumours are, of course, absolutely false; and both are obviously of the Berlin brand. But it is worth directing attention to them as showing the kind of lie that is foisted off on the Turks by their Teutonic "friends"; the kind of "false news" to which *The Manchester Guardian* refers. Mr. Pickthall adds:—

The Turkish Government with one exception has no desire to go to war upon the side of Germany. But the Turkish army has been mobilised; it is as fine an army as they ever put into the field; the troops are spoiling for a fight of some kind. The neutrality of every nation has a bias; and that of Turkey, necessarily, owing to her recent history, has a noticeable bias to the German side. But the Government, in spite of most tremendous pressure from Berlin, has hitherto preserved neutrality. It was no easy task; and would have been impossible but for the belief which seems implanted in most Turkish minds that England is a truer friend than Germany. Will the Porte be able to maintain neutrality if England fails to give the word of reassurance I have mentioned? Would the Porte be wise to maintain neutrality in such a case?

He concludes with a reminder of the good work the Young Turks have done "under difficulties which English people can hardly be expected even to conceive."

More German Machinations.

A Tiflis correspondent sends to *The Westminster Gazette* (October 6) a communication regarding the machinations of German agents in the Caucasus and amongst Armenians in Turkey. He writes:—

. . . . It is opportune to let Western Europe know something of the machinations of German agents who have been sedulously endeavouring to create disturbances in Russia by fomenting disaffection amongst the Uniate and Gregorian Armenians. Some Turkish subjects of notoriously evil reputation, receiving subsidies from a source openly antagonistic to Russia, have left no stone unturned to persuade the Armenians in the Caucasus to rise against the Czar. The police, however, through the loyalty of the Supreme Patriarch at Etchmiadzin, have been placed in possession of facts which enabled them to counteract the Teuton emissaries from Constantinople with remarkable skill and adroitness.

Germany had promised to "protect" the Armenian Christians if they would assist Germany now! Turkey was enabling arms and ammunition to be stored for use on the frontier! England would soon be tired of the campaign in France and leave Paris to Germany without even trying to help her ally! This was the kind of "stuff" whispered about since the declaration of war. There has also been a very active propaganda against England in Turkish Armenia by Germans for the past ten years, and the inscrutable silence of the British Government until the end of last July has largely aided German propaganda. Natives could not understand British methods of treating calumny with contempt, and so playing, as it seemed, the German game.

Another Potsdam Disappointment.

The failure of the German emissaries to stir up Egypt to aid the enemies of the Entente is the text of an article entitled, "The Loyalty of the Fellah," in *The Glasgow Herald* (October 3). The writer says:—

No doubt the belief was entertained in Berlin, if not in Constantinople, that the Egypt of the British Occupation was like the smoking flax—only waiting a fanning breath to break into flame. Whatever influences were brought to bear on the handful of malcontents who pose as Egyptian Nationalists the result

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has been one more disappointment for Potsdam. There is no unrest in the country, and if any should occur in the near future it will not be because the fellah—who, after all, is the person who counts when it comes to talk of insurrection—has any grievance against Britain or any affection for Germany, but simply because the price of cotton, on which he depends for his generally precarious existence, is unremunerative. If it is merely a question, however, of tiding the people over a period of difficulty caused by serious restriction of demand for their only commodity, the Egyptian Government is qualified to deal with it—is, we believe, prepared to deal with it. Economic trouble of itself cannot therefore be a serious danger if the people as a whole are loyal to their governors, and their loyalty gives us no ground for disquietude.

The German Conscience.

In a leading article on "Turkey's Policy," *The Morning Post* calls attention to a point of some interest:—

Turks are hardly readers of history, and are not likely to know that Ranke, the greatest of German historians, held that Louis XIV. of France committed an unpardonable sin against Europe when he made alliance with Turkey against the German Emperor. The German conscience, then, rejects the idea of co-operation with Turkey. It is for Turkey to draw the inference as to the motives of a German policy which seeks that co-operation. But, after all, what the Turkish Government has to consider is the interest of the population of Turkey, especially of Asia Minor. Can that interest be promoted by a new war just now, when Turkey is in no danger and when by remaining at peace she has still a chance of restoring her administration and her finances?

Perhaps the Turks think that "the German conscience" is dead. If so, they are not alone in this opinion.

Strenuous Nish.

Under the title "Nish in War Time" *The Times* published a graphic article from its correspondent in the temporary capital of Serbia, written on September 3. Existing conditions in that city are, he says, "frankly abnormal":—

Half the population of Belgrade sought refuge here, with the result that the few small, dirty hotels are crowded and every house with a vacant room has been invaded by some of the host of unwilling immigrants. Foreign ministers are billeted in divers places, Serbian Ministeries are located in any available buildings, where departmental chiefs work in small rooms with a table in one corner and a bed in the other. The chancery of the British Legation occupies half a narrow, dirty room in a small, grubby hotel, the remaining half serves as a bed-chamber for an energetic attaché, who is distinguished by a determined liking for cold baths and rank plug tobacco, which he burns in stumpy briar pipes. The Ministry of War, with a flagrant disregard of Christian prophecy, occupies the Bishop's Palace. In among the trees by the river-side there is a small café, over the entrance to which hangs a card bearing an ink-written legend which in English means "National Assembly." Here it was that the Serbian Parliament met and took measures grossly affecting the destiny of the nation. Yet, in spite of all the drawbacks, of which I have instanced but a few, the administrative machine is working with remarkable smoothness.

Serbia Quietly Confident.

As to the spirit in which Serbia has faced and is facing the trial he writes enthusiastically:—

I find myself possessed of an ever-increasing admiration for the Serbians. The spirit of the nation is wonderful. During this, their third consecutive war, they are to be seen at their best. From the very beginning of their present struggle, even before they were assured of Russian help, there was no panic and little excitement. Now the people, having nothing to do, sit calmly at café tables, and wait, mostly in vain, for news. The peasants go to war as to the manner born. Reservists come in from the fields, drop scythe, shoulder rifle, say "au revoir," and march off to battle as though to a new field of golden, waiting corn.

And his description of the gallant Serbians' feelings towards this country is calculated to increase still further our liking for them:—

The news of England's help, precious above all in Serbian eyes, called forth nought but quiet and heartfelt expressions of gratitude. Yet England's decision counted for so much. It put new life into the peasant soldiers. England was with them; therefore they must win. Even when the news came of the great victory at Jadar, when the hated Austrians were beaten into a mass of hopeless fugitives, there was no "mafficking," no cheering, but your Serbian friend seized your hand and wrung it with a fervour which eloquently expressed the pride and thankfulness pent up in his heart.

Articles to Note.

"Turkey, England, and the Present Crisis," by Marmaduke Pickthall, in *The Asiatic Review* (October).

"The Diplomatic Situation," by J. Ellis Barker, in *The Outlook* (October 3).

"Fruit Culture at Baghdad," in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* (October 3).

THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Serbia and the Allies.

On Saturday *The Globe* published an article with the above title, from which we take the following extracts:—

In proportion to her resources, Serbia has made sacrifices and achieved results infinitely greater than those of any other Power engaged in this war; and it must never be forgotten that if to-day the situation stands fairly for the arms of the Allies, it is due in no small measure to the brilliant victories won by the Serbian Armies over vastly superior forces of the Austrians. . . That in the final settlement the reward of Serbia will be honourable goes without saying; but that is still a long way off. Some more immediate recompense is necessary. As a comparatively undeveloped country Serbia we know is lacking in those comforts and provisions that are necessary to mitigate the sufferings of the wounded; and her civilian population will feel the pinch of want in the coming winter. Something should be done at once to put the Serbian Government in a position to meet all these necessities, and to ensure that privation and resourcelessness shall not be allowed to achieve what the armies of Austria failed in. Whatever supplies are needed should be hurried into the country before the rigours of winter set in. It is the least that can be done for a people so gallant.

The Turk and the Tempter.

Under the above heading *The Daily Graphic* published on Monday a note regretting that "the insidious intrigues and brutal pressure of the Wilhelmstrasse are making mischievous headway at the sublime Porte." The writer continues:—

We, in this country, understand perfectly well the mingled intimidation and cajolery by which it is sought to tempt the Ottoman people to their ruin, and they may rest assured that we are watching their difficulties with a very genuine sympathy. We trust that even now they will find the strength and common sense to resist overtures which are not only a peril to their most vital national interests, but which have nothing in common with their best traditions and aspirations. . . . The wiser heads among them must surely see that the resentments of yesterday count for little in the sum of national honour and security. . . . Turkey cannot afford to become the catspaw of the Powers of Darkness, not only because of the ignominy of it, but because it is a doomed course. In 1849 Turkey resisted the Reactionaries of Vienna and Potsdam, and in doing so established a claim on our sympathy which, in spite of unworthy Sultans, she has never forfeited. She will do well to remember this precedent to-day.

The Reorientation of Roumania.

The current *Outlook* contains an article on "The Attitude of Roumania" which is well worth reading. Owing to lack of space, we can quote only the passage in which the writer sets out two of the reasons, "apart altogether from the King's personal sympathies, which account for the country's present inaction":—

The first is that Roumania's hands are not entirely free. So long as Turkey's attitude remains equivocal—and just now it seems to be more ambiguous than ever—Roumania is naturally and legitimately reluctant to throw all her energies into the northern theatre of operations. The present plight of Germany can hardly encourage her to trifle with the conception of war on two fronts. The second reason is that the notion of co-operation with Russia demands a complete reorientation of the ideas of most Roumanian diplomats of the older school. Consider the mental attitude of a good Roumanian now well advanced in the fifties; and we may probably assume that most Roumanians in high positions are about that age. Our typical Roumanian fought with Russia in the War of Liberation, and then looked on in futile exasperation while Russia appropriated for herself the best part of the spoils. For the next thirty years he continued to regard Russia as a faithless friend and Austria as a sure protector. . . . Then in 1908 came a change. Austria began to adopt a more selfish and personal policy in Balkan affairs, a rapprochement with Russia followed; and only in May of this year the Tsar and his family spent two days on Roumanian soil. But from an entente to an alliance is a great step. Should we English have been equally ready to support France in arms in 1904 as in 1914? There is no ground for surprise that Roumania hesitates to break with her diplomatic traditions; rather we may feel some sympathy with statesmen who find that events have moved more rapidly than their ideas.

W. N. WILLIS'S GREAT BOOK,

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It is a vehement appeal to Christian England to save the children of Egypt from the open vortex of degradation and shame permitted—indeed, encouraged—by the Capitulation Laws which govern that country.

The chapter descriptive of Lord Kitchener as a civil administrator will be a revelation to even the most enthusiastic of that great General's friends and admirers.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Oct.	1914. Sept.		1332. Julkada.	5675. Tisseri
9	26	Friday	19	19
10	27	Saturday	20	20
11	28	Sunday	21	21
12	29	Monday	22	22
13	30	Tuesday	23	23
	Oct.			
14	1	Wednesday	24	24
15	2	Thursday	25	25

To-day is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduke Theodore Salvator of Austria-Tuscany, grandson of the Emperor.

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Pia of Parma, aunt of H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Francis of Bavaria, great-nephew of the late ex-King Otho of Greece, who has recently been wounded in action.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. the Count of Flanders, younger son of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, and at present a guest in this country.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.H. Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mechlenburg-Schwerin, whose functions as Imperial German Governor of Togoland were recently terminated by the Allies.

To-morrow is the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen of Wurtemberg, mother-in-law to the elder brother of the ex-Mpret of Albania.

Saturday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Nasr-ed-Din Mirza of Persia, uncle of His Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah.

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Maximilian of Baden, who was born a Princess of Cumberland, and niece to Her Majesty the Queen-Mother.

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Peter of Montenegro.

Monday is the birthday of H.H. the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glucksburg, father-in-law of H.R.H. the Duke of Albany, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Mirko of Montenegro, née Constantinovitch, a relative of the late King of Serbia.

Monday is the birthday of H.I.H. Fakhr-ed-Din Effendi, elder son of H.I.H. Burhan-ed-Din Effendi, who has just been elected Mpret of Albania.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Elisabeth of Roumania, eldest daughter of the Crown Prince.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduchess Margarita Maria of Austria, daughter of the late Grand Duke of Tuscany.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Cyril of Russia, husband of a daughter of the late Duke of Edinburgh, who had at one time been Grand Duchess of Hesse.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduke Leopold Salvator of Austria, brother of the late Grand Duke of Tuscany and brother-in-law of H.R.H. the Duke of Madrid.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Maria Theresa of Parma, aunt of H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

Reuter's Sofia correspondent reports that on Tuesday King Ferdinand received in audience M. Panaretoff, the first Bulgarian Minister to be accredited to the United States, who is leaving via Constantinople to take up his post at Washington.

H.R.H. Prince Eitel Friedrich of Prussia, nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, has been injured while serving with the German Army.

It is announced that H.I.R.H. the Archduke Joseph Ferdinand, eldest son of the late Grand Duke of Tuscany, has been given the command of the Austrian Army near Cracow vice General von Auffenburg.

Lord Kitchener telegraphed to Mr. Milne Cheethan requesting him to visit personally the late Mustapha Pasha Fahmy's residence and present his most sincere condolences to the sons-in-law and the family of the deceased, saying that in the death of Fahmy Pasha Lord Kitchener has lost a great friend and Egypt has lost one of her greatest statesmen.

Lord Roberts has consented to be a vice-president of the Serbian Relief Fund. The committee of the fund has decided to send a Red Cross unit to Serbia, under the direction of Lady Ralph Paget.

Gifts in kind—warm underclothing for the soldiers, and dresses and suits for their families—are, we understand, being received in considerable quantities at 195, Queen's Gate, but there is no risk of the supply exceeding the demand. Mrs. Seton-Watson, Mrs. Carrington-Wylde, and Mrs. Bertram Christian have kindly undertaken to unpack, sort, and forward the goods. The committee is meeting once a week at 22, Berners Street.

General Sherif Pasha, former Turkish Minister in Sweden, and proprietor of *Mecheroutiette*, arrived at Alexandria on September 21.

M. Michel Madjaroff, the Bulgarian Minister, who, as already announced in these columns, has recently been appointed to Petrograd, will leave London in about ten days to take up his new duties.

October 28, St. Simon and St. Jude's Day, has been fixed for the consecration of Canon MacInnes, the new Bishop in Jerusalem, in Westminster Abbey. The sermon will be preached by the Bishop of London.

On September 19 the staff of the Bulgarian War Office entertained the Ex Minister for War, General Boyadjieff, at dinner at the Military Club, Sofia.

Professor Flinders Petrie visited Manchester on Monday. In the evening, at the University, he delivered an address on "Metals in Ancient Egypt" to the Egyptian and Oriental Society, and later in the evening he gave a lecture on "The Treasure of Lahun."

King Constantine has advised the despatch of ten surgeons to Serbia in addition to the two Greek medical teams already at the front. King Constantine's action has caused the greatest satisfaction in Serbia, where the medical authorities are experiencing the greatest difficulty in coping with the wounded.

On Sunday, the 4th inst., at 71, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, the wife of Hugh Evelyn Wortham, editor of *The Egyptian Mail*, gave birth to a son.

Sir William Garstin left London on Saturday for Paris.

Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and Mr. C. Buxton left Sofia for Bucharest on Saturday.

His many friends both in Egypt and in this country will be pleased to learn that Mr. R. C. S. Morrison-Scott has been gazetted to a temporary commission in the Royal Marine Artillery.

Madame Take Jonescu, who arrived in town recently, is leaving London shortly for Bucharest.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Crawfurd Price upon the birth of a son, which took place last Saturday at 24, Glenlock Road, Hampstead. Mr. Crawfurd Price is a well-known journalist of Athens.

We learn from *The Egyptian Gazette* that Dr. Zwemer recently met with an accident in Cairo while cycling in the Boulac Road. He collided with a carriage and received several painful contusions on the head, arm, and legs. He was removed quickly to the home of Mr. Upson, of the Nile Mission Press, where Dr. Madden attended him. No bones were broken, but he will be required to keep his bed for several days.

The Egyptian Gazette reports that Osman Pasha Mortada, Director of the Khedivial Maieh, soon after his return to Cairo from Constantinople, informed a representative of *Misr* that the Khedive was in excellent health, with the exception of a slight trouble in his teeth, and that he was still in Constantinople, as its climate suits him at the present time.

WHERE TO STAY.

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Lieutenant Hugh Mockler-Ferryman, of the 52nd (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) Light Infantry, who was killed in action at the Battle of the Aisne on September 16, was the elder son of Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Mockler-Ferryman, author of the "Military Geography of the Balkan Peninsula" and of many other well-known works.

The Turkish Ambassador called at the Foreign Office on Wednesday and saw Sir Edward Grey.

Balkan papers received by the last mail report the death on the battlefield of Mr. Vladislav Ribnikar, a well-known Serbian journalist and editor of the *Politika*. Mr. Ribnikar was the brother-in-law of Mr. Tcholak Antich, the Serbian Minister at Sofia.

The Egyptian Gazette states that several Anglo-Egyptian officials have volunteered for the British Army. They are: Messrs. E. L. Chambers, A. J. Haughton, G. P. Mead, W. G. North, R. Scammell, W. Day, E. C. Bambridge, J. A. Tennant, G. St. C. Fielden, A. Holden, G. A. Roberts, and C. F. C. White. Most of them, adds the *Gazette*, left for England by the Orient liner on September 15.

Among the passengers who left for Port Said by the P. and O. s.s. "Mongolia," which sailed from London last Saturday were:—Judge and Mrs. Maxwell Fleming, Mrs. Madden, Judge and Mrs. Marshall, Miss D. W. Marshall, Judge and Mrs. Tuck, and Mrs. J. Warnock.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Essad Pasha Toptan has been appointed Grand Vizier of Albania.

The Greek Chamber has elected as President Mr. Zavitzands, the Government candidate.

Mgr. Joseph, bishop-in-charge of the diocese of Stara Zagora in Bulgaria, has been elected Bishop of Tyrnovo.

Baron Fasciotti, Italian Minister in Bucharest, has returned to his post.

Mr. Papadopoulos, President of the Hellenic Consular Court at Smyrna, has been promoted to the corresponding post in Constantinople.

The Cyprus *Gazette* announces that Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, and Mr. H. C. Lukach, Assistant Secretary and Clerk of the Executive Council, have been appointed to the Currency Commission.

Mr. C. Diamandy, Roumanian Minister at Petrograd, has returned to his post from Bucharest.

M. Constantin Collas has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation in London.

Mr. B. B. Howell, of the Finance Department, Sudan Government, Cairo, has been transferred to Khartoum to replace Mr. Ornald J. Forster, who has been transferred to Cairo. Mr. Howell arrived at Khartoum on September 4.

Mustapha Bey, of the Ottoman Ministry of Public Works, has been appointed Director of Railways in succession to Muklitar Bey.

SIR MURDOCH MACDONALD.

The following appreciation of Sir Murdoch Macdonald recently appeared in *The Egyptian Mail*:—"The Ministry of Public Works in the last thirty years has enjoyed the services of many brilliant engineers; the roll of names which begins with that of Sir Colin Scott-Moncrief, and includes Sir William Garstin, Colonel Ross, Sir William Willcocks, and Sir Arthur Webb, is one of which Great Britain and Egypt should deservedly be proud. To these Mr. M. Macdonald—Sir Murdoch Macdonald as we shall now know him—has been no unworthy successor. He came to Egypt not so many years ago, but he quickly made his mark. In the heightening of the Aswan Dam and in the work at Esna his services were signal, and when the work at Aswan no longer presented such difficulties as demanded his supervision and presence he was offered and accepted the post of Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Public Works. It was the last appointment the late Sir Eldon Gorst made; it was assuredly the best. Lord Kitchener, with his power of divining a man's capabilities, did not take long to discern the remarkable calibre of the Under-Secretary. When Mr. Dupuis resigned Mr. Macdonald took his place, though not his title. Since then he has given proof of high administrative faculties, coupled with an insight into the technical problems of irrigation in Egypt, that put him as high as any of his famous predecessors. Unlike most of them, he had not enjoyed a long experience of exclusively irrigation engineering. But he brought to his new task an acute intellect and an extraordinary power for work, and it has been his good fortune to put through schemes for the development of Egypt wider than any of those which the Occupation has hitherto accomplished. His success has been unimpeachable. The cultivable northern regions of the Delta will in two or three years be increased by a million acres; for the first time in history drainage in Egypt will be as efficient as irrigation. Nor will it be said that Sir Murdoch Macdonald only attacked one side of the dual problem that eternally besets the irrigation engineer. We are embarking on large schemes of irrigation in the Soudan that will have their effect on every part of Egypt; Mr. Macdonald has envisaged a wider field than lay open to any of his predecessors, and it may even be that he will stretch the far-reaching hand of the Ministry of Public Works beyond Khartoum, beyond the Bahr el Gazal, to the lakes of Uganda, where the Nile has its rise. That will be the last chapter of the history that begins with the Cairo barrage and has been consummated in our generation by the Aswan Dam. This is a great, a splendid work, and Egypt can consider herself lucky that she has the engineer able to carry it out. Of the man himself one finds it hard to speak, for one feels that he himself would rather be unspoken of. His unfailing sympathy, his unflagging zeal—these his colleagues know. And the wide world knows, too, that the cares of high office and the incessant claims of the most exacting position the Egyptian Government has to offer have never for one moment diminished his courtesy, his urbanity, and his interest in anything that appertains to the fuller life of the community."

OBITUARY.

SIR WILLIAM CARINGTON.

The death is announced of Colonel the Hon. Sir William Carington, Keeper of the King's Privy Purse since 1910. Sir William was born in 1845, was educated at Eton, and entered the Grenadier Guards, of which he became a lieutenant-colonel. He participated in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, and fought in the action of Mahuta, in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star. In 1868 he became Liberal member of Parliament for Wycombe and represented the constituency for fifteen years. He was associated with the Court for thirty-four years, and was appointed Groom in Waiting to Queen Victoria, retaining that appointment from 1880 to 1882, when he became Equerry, a position he occupied until 1901. In that year he was made Controller and Treasurer to the Prince of Wales and Extra Equerry to the King. He had been Keeper of his Majesty's Privy Purse since 1910, and was appointed Privy Councillor in the same year. Sir William Carington was created K.C.B. in 1913, having previously been made C.B. in 1897, K.C.V.O. in 1901, and G.C.V.O. in 1911. He married in 1871 Juliet, the only daughter of Francis Warden.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS.

CROSBIE.—On October 4, 1914, at 125, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N., Sarah McMorland, widow of Rev. P. Crosbie, of Salonika, in her eighty-ninth year.

SINADINO.—On October 3, at The Lodge, Southfields Road, Eastbourne, Nicolas Sinadino, of Alexandria, Egypt, aged fifty-three. Funeral Norwood Cemetery, Wednesday, 11.15 a.m.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1914.

PLAYING WITH FIRE.

Until two days ago it seemed all to the good that Turkey, in spite of many provocative acts, had refrained from an actual declaration of war. If it be true that she has now received four big siege guns from Germany, the world will be less ready to attribute to prudent statesmanship the delay in taking the fateful step which can only lead to a further diminution of the Ottoman Empire. Nevertheless, we should like to feel that each day which passes is strengthening the hands of the moderates of the Committee of Union and Progress, who are known to be in favour of neutrality. It is indeed difficult to understand how the military party contrives to retain its influence. What it seeks to commit the country to is in effect a struggle single-handed against the greater part of Europe. If Turkey embarks upon hostilities at this juncture she will nominally be striking a blow on behalf of Germany and Austria-Hungary. But just as neither of these Powers is in a position to offer her practical support on sea or land, so will Turkey's campaign fail to exercise any appreciable effect on the struggle in Central Europe. Neither Russia nor Serbia would detach a single soldier from the firing line or its immediate supports, nor would the Anglo-French fleets have to impair their strength in the Adriatic in order to cope with the Turkish complication. The military party in Constantinople can hardly be advocating hostilities merely for the *beaux yeux* of Germany. It must hold out for Turkey some permanent advantages, which, having won by her armed might, she will be in a position to retain by the same means. The greatest optimist cannot expect to achieve more on the Caucasus and Egyptian frontiers than the infliction of passing inconvenience to the Russian and British Governments. On her European frontier, however, there is room for more definite aspirations. Thrace and Salonika are alluring objectives, and there is the settled conviction that the Turkish Army is capable of better things than it accomplished in the Balkan War. We may leave it to the Porte's military experts to decide what chances it has of winning back and holding Thrace against the armies of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece; but it may be taken for granted that, if Salonika were seized against the wishes of the Triple Entente, the last word would rest with the guns of the Anglo-French fleet. Turkey has profited more than once by the divisions of Europe, but to-day she is no longer able to play one set of Powers off against another. She has to decide between Germany and Austria-Hungary on the one hand, whose assistance is limited to war bulletins and a military mission, and, on the other hand, the Powers of the Triple Entente, who possess the command of the sea and are in a position to deal with a hostile Turkey at their leisure.

We have no wish to do an injustice to the military party in Constantinople. Before the outbreak of the war abundant support was to be found for its line of reasoning. It had the assurances of Germany that France could be overrun in three weeks, that the Russian Army was of no fighting value, and that the British Army was contemptible. For Turkey, therefore, to make common cause with the victorious hosts of Germany and Austria-Hungary and to help herself to whatever territory she coveted seemed the obvious and most advantageous course. But the day has gone by when such a policy can be seriously advanced. Germany's war of easy conquest has become, according to her own showing, a struggle for existence; Austria-Hungary may still be capable of a stubborn fight, but it will be with her back to the wall. It would be more than quixotic on Turkey's part to attempt now the programme which seemed so attractive as expounded by German theorists before the war. When Germany has carried out the part which she had mapped out for herself it will be time enough for Turkey to round off the pleasing picture in South-East Europe. In the meantime the Porte may profit by the opportunity which has been afforded it of taking stock of the European situation. If it finds that things are not turning out quite as Germany led it to expect, let it consider to what extent Austria-Hungary has been a free agent in mapping out her own destiny. If, as is far more probable, the Dual Monarchy has been merely a catspaw of Germany, it will be well for the Porte to reflect whether Turkey had not better resume her freedom of action before it is too late. The mistakes of the German General Staff regarding conditions in Russia and France may be repeated in connection with the situation in the Near East, and Turkey might soon be fighting as hopeless a struggle as Austria-Hungary has had forced upon her in Galicia. The latter Power, however, can console herself with the reflection that the fate of dismemberment seemed to be reserved for her whatever course she took. Turkey, on the other hand, is threatened by no such catastrophe. A sound policy in the future superimposed upon neutrality now means for her the consolidation and material progress of the Ottoman Empire. An appeal to the sword, if successful, might restore to her a small stretch of territory which she has never held with any advantage to herself; if unsuccessful, it would mean the loss of the capital of the Empire and the expulsion of the Turks from Europe. Such a contingency, let it be remembered, is by no means remote. Turkey was threatened with that fate two years ago when the Bulgarians reached Chatalja; now there is the certainty that Russia will exact the penalty in full for any active hostility on Turkey's part.

We refuse to believe that the Turkish Government has been so blind to its own interests as not to count the possible cost of a declaration of war. The more the inevitable result of an unsuccessful campaign is brought home to it, the more likely is it to subject the programme of the military party to scrutiny in the light of events in Central Europe. Much sympathy will be felt with the reluctance of Enver Pasha and his military clique to see the Turkish Army settle down to a long era of peace under the stigma of the Balkan War. But an army is not everything in a State; at best it should be the servant and not the master of that State. The dangers that ensue when the latter condition obtains are being exemplified by Germany. However one may admire the marvellous precision of the German war machine, there can be no doubt that the subordination of diplomacy to militarism is likely to prove the undoing of the German Empire. May Turkey take the lesson to heart in time! The Porte has not yet wholly surrendered itself to its military elements. It has its statesmen as well as its protégés of Potsdam, and there is a general belief that if Talaat Bey would only rally the former to his standard and come out into the open all would be well with Turkey. It is not denied that the military clique has had some arguments on its side. The action of the British Government in effecting the compulsory purchase of the two Turkish men-of-war building in this country has lent itself to misrepresentation, and was deeply resented in Turkey; moreover, Turkish fears have been played upon in regard to Russia's alleged designs upon Constantinople. But Turkey stood to lose nothing—if her pledges were genuine—from the temporary loss of the two men-of-war, and she can easily satisfy herself regarding the friendly intentions of the Triple Entente. The three Powers ask for her neutrality far more in Turkey's own interests than from a desire to avoid military complications for themselves. The effect of Turkish hostility on the military situation would be relatively small, but the consequent disintegration of the Turkish Empire would have far-reaching results, and the Powers, in addition to wishing Turkey well, are not anxious to add to the problems which they will shortly be called upon to solve.

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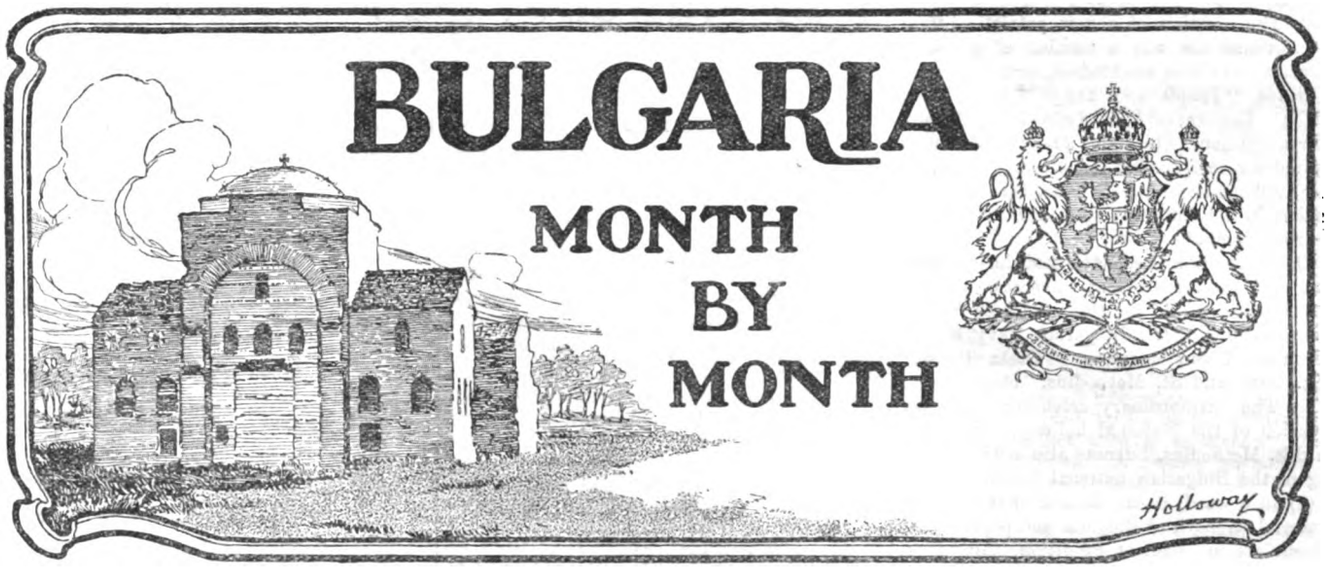

BULGARIA'S NEUTRALITY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bulgaria's attitude in the present war is one of strict neutrality, and it will be her policy, dictated by her leading statesmen and her own interests, to maintain that attitude so long as it is in any way compatible with national prestige, honour, and integrity.

By remaining neutral in these troubled times Bulgaria is rendering the best services within her power to the cause of the Allies, and for reasons that are only too obvious. In the first place, her neutrality has enabled Serbia to throw her whole army against Austria and leave her eastern frontier to a large extent unguarded; in the second place, so long as Bulgaria remains neutral Turkey will be unable successfully to wage war on Greece, as her armies will not be allowed to violate Bulgarian territory; thirdly, and parallel with the latter, there is every likelihood that Turkey will remain neutral as long as Bulgaria does; and, fourthly, any campaign undertaken by Roumania in Transylvania will be facilitated by the maintenance of Bulgaria's present attitude.

Questions, it is true, have arisen tending to throw doubt on the sincerity of Bulgaria's neutrality. There was the question, for instance, of the passage of German sailors through Bulgaria from Rustchuk to Constantinople in a special train. In answer to representations made by the Entente Powers at Sofia, the Bulgarian Government declared —(1) That the men were dressed as civilians and had passports declaring them to be working-men; (2) that they came from Roumania, where they had likewise travelled in a special train; and (3) that the special train which took them across Bulgarian territory had been chartered by a private company. Finally, the Government disclaimed any knowledge of the real character of the Germans in question. Latterly, further accusations have been levied against Bulgarian neutrality, such as the transit of war material through the kingdom on its way from Germany to Constantinople. The Government has emphatically denied the truth of these assertions. After all, it must be remembered when discussing the attitude of Bulgaria that one of the principles of her foreign policy is to keep on the best of terms with Great Britain and Russia, and that, unless compelled to do so against her will, she will, whilst maintaining a strict neutrality, do nothing, either directly or indirectly, against their interests or wishes.

In the same way, Bulgaria wishes to live in peace and friendship with her neighbours. Her sincerity in this respect is proven by her attitude towards Serbia in allowing the latter to withdraw her army from Macedonia, and if she does not object to King Peter's army, in conjunction with that of Montenegro, liberating the Southern Slavs from Austrian hegemony, she will likewise raise no objection if Roumania attempts to free her Latin brothers in Transylvania. As for Turkey, the relations between both countries are friendly. It has not been forgotten by the Bulgars that the first to make friends with them after the Second War were the Turks.

Neutrality, then, is Bulgaria's watchword. After the war, when the map of Europe is being carved out afresh, her position, thanks to a period of peace and to her steadfast policy, will be a stronger one than it is to-day, and her claims to territories occupied by her nationals will be fully discussed by the victors, and, it is hoped, will be recognised in a friendly spirit by those of her neighbours who have, or will have, benefited by her neutrality.

Reuter reported on Wednesday from Rome as follows:—

"A representative of the *Idea Nazionale* to-day interviewed M. Rizoff, the Bulgarian Minister here. M. Rizoff denied that any agreement existed between Bulgaria and Turkey to attack Roumania if the latter declared war on Austria, or that Bulgaria would allow Ottoman troops to pass through Bulgarian territory in case of a Greco-Turkish war. M. Rizoff said that Bulgaria would maintain the most absolute neutrality, and, considering the uncertain political situation in the Balkans, Bulgaria would not conclude an understanding now which might later endanger her vital interests.

THE BULGARIAN ARMY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Sofia, September.

With a population of 4,329,108, Bulgaria is in a position to place in the field in time of war an army of about 600,000 men.

Before the war Bulgaria had approximately 7,000 officers, of whom about 2,500 were on active service.

War Casualties.

The following table gives the number of killed and wounded officers and soldiers in the last two wars:—

	War against Turkey.		War against the Allies.
Officers killed	339	....	280
Officers wounded	902	....	773
Soldiers killed	24,401	....	20,326
Soldiers wounded	36,876	....	42,911
Total	62,518		64,290

The number of officers killed was 9 per cent. of the total number of officers in the army, and the number of wounded was 24 per cent., or together, 33 per cent. The number of killed soldiers was 7.5 per cent. of the whole army, and the number of wounded was 13 per cent., or a total of 20.5 per cent. No other army can show such a heavy percentage of losses sustained in a war. In spite of this, and of Bulgaria's great material and territorial sacrifices during the recent wars, the present *moral* of the Bulgars is even more favourable than before the wars.

The best proof of the above statement is contained in the following facts:—

Royal Military School.

(a) Military service in Bulgaria is viewed with greater sympathy now than before the wars. The number of candidates for admission to the Royal Military School has risen. The number of pupils is 1,058, as follows:—

Seniors	184
Juniors	444
1st Preparatory	388
2nd Preparatory	42
Total	1,058

Of these 162, or almost one-sixth of the total, are Macedonians.

It is noteworthy that the educational standard of the candidates is much higher than hitherto. It is also a fact that many of them have given up their university career in order to apply for admission to the Military School.

According to the opinion of competent circles the diligence of the cadets and their confidence in the future are greater than they used to be.

School for Reserve Officers.

Apart from the Military School, there is a Special School for Reserve Officers, which has to be attended by all graduates from the higher and secondary schools who are liable to military service.

Graduates from the higher schools have to spend one year and nine months in the special school and three months in the army; graduates from the secondary schools two years and nine months in the former and fifteen months in the latter.

After having passed an examination, the graduates from the special school are promoted to "candidate-officers," and later on to "reserve officers." They can also be promoted to higher grades after a certain number of years and participation in manœuvres. The annual number of entries into the special school for reserve officers is about 300; this year they number 500.

Bulgarian officers belong to all social classes. Sitting beside the general's son in the Royal Military School is the peasant's son or the son of the ordinary workman. The Bulgarian Army is in every sense a democratic one.

Popular Enthusiasm.

(b) The popularisation throughout the country of the different gymnastic and rifle clubs and the increased number of members. A programme for the military preparation of school children is being elaborated.

(c) The erection of monuments in honour of the warriors who fell in the recent wars. It is noteworthy that the majority of these monuments are erected, even in the smallest villages, by private means.

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Patriotic Literature.

(d) The creation of a new patriotic literature. Since the war a number of patriotic journals have been established, such as *Narod i Armia*, "People and Army"; *Obnovlenie*, "The Renovation"; *Swobodno Mnenie*, "Free Opinion," etc., etc. Daily papers have started a special section for military topics.

(e) All political parties have, through their leaders in the Sobranje, spoken in favour of a "strong army."

(f) The creation of societies and the organisation of funds for different purposes, such as, for instance, in aid for the wounded, for the strengthening of the Bulgarian Navy by the purchase of new warships ("Otetz Paissi," "St. Cyril and St. Methodius," etc.).

(g) The extraordinary celebrations on the occasion of the National holiday, "St. Cyril an dSt. Methodius," denote also a strengthening of the Bulgarian national feeling.

(h) In a word, it can be said that both the material strength of Bulgaria and popular sentiment are in excellent condition. Moreover, the Bulgarian Army, which distinguished itself by its preparedness for war and its iron discipline, has now the advantage of its long experience of war, and is the best guarantee for the peaceful development of the country and the maintenance of its interests.

BULGARIA'S POPULATION.

The following statistics are taken from the *Bulletin Mensuel de la Direction Générale de la Statistique du Royaume de Bulgarie* (August, 1914) :—

Population.

The following give the population of Bulgaria towards the beginning of 1911 and 1912, according to nationalities and sex :—

	1912.	1911.
Bulgars	3,589,439	3,523,311
Turks	502,564	501,560
Other Nationalities	308,557	309,642
Males	2,237,881	2,206,685
Females	2,162,676	2,130,828
Total	4,400,560	4,368,923

Towards the middle of 1912 the population of Bulgaria was, according to more recent statistics, 4,432,427.

Births and Deaths.

The following are the figures for 1910 :—

Births—	
Males	93,866
Females	87,245
	181,111
Deaths—	
Males	50,411
Females	49,500
	99,911

Municipal Population.

The population in 1914 of the various towns is as follows :—

Bourgas	14,897	Rousse	36,225
Chirpan	11,675	Samokov	10,440
Choumen	22,225	Svichtov	13,101
Dupnitza	11,601	Sliven	25,142
Haskovo	15,067	Sofia	102,812
Kasanlik	10,568	Stanimaka	12,969
Kustendil	13,748	Stara Zagora	22,003
Lom	11,081	Tirnovo	12,649
Pazardjik	18,098	Varna	41,419
Plovdiv	47,981	Vidin	16,450
Pleven	23,049	Vratza	15,230
Rasgrad	13,975	Yambol	19,956

The National Bank of Bulgaria in 1913.

Economic and Financial Considerations.

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEAR EAST.")

SOFIA, August.

Regarded from the point of view of profits, the year 1913 was an excellent one for the National Bank of Bulgaria. The gross profits for the year were 20,774,981.92 lewas against an expenditure of 9,443,699.31 lewas, leaving a net profit of 11,331,282.61 lewas. The net profits for 1912 were 6,661,853.52 lewas, showing an increase in one year of 4,669,429.09 lewas. We can therefore rightly assert that 1913 was an excellent year for the National Bank of Bulgaria. But the assertion is only applicable as regards the final result—that is, the net profits—and does not measure the Bank's activity in procuring said results. In order to obtain a fair survey of the former, we shall have to examine it in connection with the economic situation of the whole country, and thereby seek the real causes of the increased profits.

Diminished Activity.

The fact that the Bank's net profits were 11,331,282 lewas in a year when the country was waging a war that ended so disastrously for it, will surprise all who are unacquainted with the conditions obtaining in Bulgaria. It stands to reason that business was dead in Bulgaria during the war, and that none of the banks, including the National Bank, could pursue their activity as in normal economic times. It was only after the demobilisation had been carried out, and more particularly during the last four months of the year, that the situation improved, thanks to increased imports and exports. But this short period of activity cannot account for the surprising results obtained by the National Bank. The explanation of this phenomenon is to be found, in the first place, in the fact that during the war the Bank dealt almost exclusively with the State, opening large credits in its favour and thus enabling it to meet current expenditures; and, secondly, in Article 49 of the Bulgarian Bank Law, which determines that when a bank has advanced to the State sums amounting to more than 10,000,000 lewas, the plus amounts are to bear interest.

Advances to the State.

For almost one year, from September 19, 1912, to September 12, 1913, the date of the extinction of the moratorium, the National Bank devoted its operations, as stated, almost exclusively to the service of the State, thus facilitating the acquisition of enormous army supplies. The result was the issue in ever-increasing numbers of bank notes, the climax having been reached on August 31, 1913, when the notes issued amounted to 209,700,000 lewas. Thereby the limit of 10,000,000 lewas referred to above had been surpassed by a considerable amount, and at the conclusion of the unhappy war and at the end of the year the State's indebtedness to the National Bank stood at about 150,000,000 lewas. The maximum was attained on Sepember 7, 1913, when the debt stood at 157,000,000 lewas. According to Article 50 of the Bulgarian Bank Law, the rate of interest has to be fixed between the State and the bank, but in no case must it be more than 2 per cent. less than the usual rate. For 1913 it was fixed at 5½ per cent. These large interest-bearing advances to the State were the principal item producing the bank's net profits of 11,331,282 lewas in 1913.

The following table shows the National Bank's activity in 1913 as compared with 1912 :—

ORDINARY BANKING OPERATIONS.

Date.	Number of Operations.	Amount in Lewas.
1912	1,214,128	6,250,561,915
1913	957,354	5,385,717,716
	(−) 256,774	(−)864,844.199

OPERATIONS WITH THE STATE.

Date.	Number of Operations.	Amount in Lewas.
1912	241,363	458,017,122
1913	178,671	1,011,431,411
	(−) 62,692	(+)553,414,289

Bank note circulation and gold and silver in hand in 1913 are given in the following tables :—

	Gold. Amount in Lewas.	Date.	Gold Notes. Amount in Lewas.	Date.
Maximum....	56,428,000	Aug. 7	181,769,000	Sept. 22
Minimum....	50,271,000	Jan. 7	138,915,000	Jan. 22
Average.....	54,922,000	—	163,616,000	—
	Silver.		Silver Notes.	
Maximum ..	23,935,000	Dec. 7	28,009,000	July 31
Minimum....	16,902,000	Jan. 7	22,531,000	Nov. 30
Average.....	20,418,000	—	24,151,000	—
	Gold and Silver.		Gold and Silver Notes.	
Maximum....	79,326,000	Dec. 7	209,696,000	Aug. 31
Minimum....	67,173,000	Jan. 7	162,033,000	Jan. 31
Average.....	75,340,000	—	187,767,000	—

BALANCE-SHEET, December 31, 1913.

	Lewas.
In hand on December 31, 1912	163,513,209
Paid in on 371,353 operations in 1913	1,616,097,361
	1,779,610,570
Paid out on 317,548 operations in 1913	1,611,130,622
In hand on December 31, 1913	168,479,948

of which—

	Lewas.
In gold and silver	78,773,757
In notes	89,706,191

Gold Reserves Abroad.

It will thus be seen that the cash and notes in hand on December 31, 1913, did not differ much from the figures for December 31, 1912. The same does not apply, however, to the bank's gold reserves in the hands of its correspondents abroad. On August 31, 1912, the date of the mobilisation, these stood at 36,700,000 francs, and were subsequently strengthened against securities on May 6, 1913, by a further 12,000,000 francs. By October 14 they had entirely disappeared, but were again brought up to 13,500,000 francs by the end of the year. It was the State's obligations abroad that exhausted the bank's gold reserves in the hands of its foreign correspondents.

The Moratorium.

As long as the moratorium lasted—that is, from September 17, 1912, to September 12, 1913—the bank's balance-sheet remained stationary, with the exception of its opera-

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. *Established 1879.*

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £800,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

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tions with the State. Noteworthy only is a greater activity in the granting of advances on the deposit of securities, due to the restriction of personal credit. These rose from 7,300,000 lewas in 1912 to 8,600,000 lewas in 1913.

Portefeuille.

After the repeal of the moratorium the situation altered rapidly. At different periods the bank's portefeuille was as follows :—

	Securities.	Value in lewas.
On September 14, 1912 (3 days before mobilisation..... ...	43,891 ..	52,618,133
On September 30, 1912	45,571 ..	51,393,465
On December 31, 1912	44,272 ..	50,597,754
Acquired in 1913	37,384 ..	49,86.,506
	81,656 ..	100,459,260
Encashed in 1913	52,164 ..	59,371,631
On December 31, 1913.....	29,492 ..	41,087,629

The portefeuille showed the following variations :—

	Portefeuille.	Deposited securities.	Total.
Maximum (Jan. 7, 1913).....	50,536,9:0	33,204,405	83,741,324
Minimum (Dec. 31, 1913).....	41,087,632	17,621,879	58,709,511

Special Current Accounts.

These are in the nature of advances made by the bank and secured by the guarantors. On January 7, 1913, these were valued at 42,803,833 lewas, and by December 31, 1913, they had fallen to 39,060,362 lewas.

Generally speaking, a considerable decrease in the portefeuille took place towards the end of the year—namely, to the extent of 25,031,813 lewas. The largest decrease is in the item "Private Banks," whose deposited securities dropped from 33,200,000 lewas on January 1, 1913, to 17,600,000 lewas on December 31, 1913. The special current accounts also show a falling-off of 3,743,471 lewas.

Deposits.

These data show that in the latter part of 1913 a decided and general improvement had taken place in the money market. This improvement extended to the ordinary deposits, which increased by about 20,000,000 lewas; current accounts also increased, namely, from 30,200,000 lewas towards the end of 1912 to 56,400,000 lewas on December 31, 1913. This increase in liquid money proves the existence at the time of a considerable amount of capital, which could have been usefully employed in industrial and commercial enterprises, but which, owing to the abnormal times produced by political events, found no opportunity for investment. In view of the monetary situation, the National Bank of Bulgaria undertook to attract this capital by offering to pay an interest of 3 per cent. thereon. It was thus able to prevent these moneys from being devoted to speculation on the foreign *agio* (rate of exchange), which would have had the result of sending it up and thus accentuating the crisis. The fall in the "Private Bank Accounts," alluded to above, shows the same improvement in the situation, because it proves that these banks had so far recovered that they were able to reduce their obligations towards the National Bank and the number of their deposited securities.

Foreign Exchange.

The *agio* crisis in Bulgaria began towards the beginning of the war, in September, 1912, but remained latent as long as the moratorium was in power. As soon as the latter had been repealed, however, it broke out with pent-up vigour. The cause is to be found in the country's very unfavourable balance-sheet. The more complex the political situation in the Balkans, the greater grew the country's monetary obligations abroad. Thus, for instance, the service of the consolidated debt—interest plus amortisation—rose from 45,000,000 lewas in 1911 to 53,000,000 in 1912, and amounted to 57,000,000 lewas in 1913. To this must be added 4,000,000 lewas, representing the dividends to be paid on foreign capital invested in the country, and 5,000,000 lewas to cover insurance premiums which rose considerably as a result of the war; moreover, the trade returns were, in view of increased consumption of foreign goods at home and the prohibition of exports abroad, unfavourable to the country, and showed a deficit in 1912 of 57,700,000 lewas, which rose in 1913 to 80-90,000,000 lewas. Another factor in the situation was the financial boycott subsequent to the demobilisation of the Army, the result of which was that it was impossible for the State to raise a loan abroad.

Exchange Syndicate.

In order to meet the country's heavy obligations abroad, foreign currency was requisite, but was not forthcoming in sufficient quantity owing to reduced exports. During the last four months of the year imports rose enormously without a corresponding increase in exports. The demand, therefore, for foreign money was enormous, and change quotations rose accordingly. Private banks sought to profit by this state of affairs and engaged in rather harmful speculation, with the result that the foreign *agio* rose rapidly, reaching a climax on December 16, 1913, when it stood at 22.25 per cent. It was time now for the National Bank to intervene. In order to put an end to this form of speculation, the National Bank took the initiative and formed a syndicate composed of all banking institutes whose object it was to avoid competition on the purchasing market, and thereby to reduce, if not entirely to remove, competitive speculation on the *agio*. This fell from 22.25 per cent. on December 16 to 15 per cent. on December 19, and by February of this year it had dropped to 8 per cent.

Increasing Exports.

Other factors influenced the situation similarly. It is a fact that every crisis creates its own peculiar conditions, which enable it eventually to be overcome. Thus, whereas the high rate of exchange tended to stem imports, it simultaneously gave an impulse to exports, all the more gratifying because the country had stored two good harvests, which were only waiting to be sent abroad. By means, therefore, of the artificial restriction of speculation through the Exchange syndicate, and by forcing exports, the *agio* had fallen by the first half of March, 1914, to 7 per cent.

Capital and Profits.

In spite of all the unfavourable circumstances enumerated above, the end result of the year was, as previously pointed out, a most favourable one for the National Bank of Bulgaria. The net profits rose, as stated, from 6,661,853 lewas in 1912 to 11,331,282 lewas in 1913. This result was principally due to the increased circulation of bank notes and the interest of 5½ per cent. paid by the State to advances exceeding the ten million lewa limit. Up to 10,000,000 lewas no interest is paid by the State.

The bank's net profits for 1913 are detailed as follows :—

	Lewas.	Per Cent
Reserves added to the Bank's Capital	2,832,820.65	.. 25
Mortgage Reserve Fund	174,364.80	.. 1.5
"Doubtful Operations" Fund	4,670,855.87	.. 41·17
Commissions (tantièmes)	325,985.59	.. 2·8
State Operations	5,327,265.70	.. 29·53
	11,331,282.61	

On December 31, 1913, the National Bank of Bulgaria possessed the following capital and funds :—

	Dec. 31, 1912. Lewas.	Dec. 31, 1913 Lewas.
Bank's Capital	13,054,244.61	15,878,065·61
Reserves	7,323,671.—	7,323,671.—
Mortgage Reserve Fund ..	496,:76.64	670,931.44
"Judicially Recognised Land" Fund	515,060.63	722,704.62
"Doubtful Operations" Fund.....	2,151,762.86	4,809,402.33
	23,532,315·74	29,404,775.—

THE HARVEST OUTLOOK.

(From the Official Monthly Bulletin for September.)

From the most recent information to hand concerning Bulgaria's crops, including maize, it appears that the outlook is satisfactory. Autumnal cereals, nevertheless, show a slight falling-off both as regards quality and quantity. Barley is the best of these latter crops. The oat harvest is excellent in many districts, more particularly in that of Sofia.

Autumn Cereals.

The following are estimates of this autumn's cereal crops :—

Wheat.....	12,500,000 quintals
Rye	2,500, 00 ,,
Barley	3,500,000 ,,
Oats	2,000,000 ,,

The maize crop is somewhat backward, but it is not expected to be under 850,000,000 kilos. The millet crop is satisfactory, and has been harvested. A greater amount was sown this year than usual

Tobacco.

Tobacco is in an excellent state, and the crop promises to be a good one. Two or three first pickings have already taken place everywhere, and the weather has favoured the drying of the leaves. According to information to hand, the output this year can be estimated at about 15,000,000 kilos of good quality. These figures do not apply to the New Territories, where only half the ground to be planted with tobacco is under cultivation. Here the output is estimated at about 7,000,000 kilos.

Sugar and Vines.

Sugar-beet promises well; nevertheless, it does not seem to flourish well in the department of Stara-Zagora.

In spite of the favourable weather, the vines have not been able to progress, and are suffering from mildew and other diseases. In the regions of Lovetch, Tirnovo, Razgrad, and Chuma the crop is badly compromised, but in the regions of the Vidin, Lom, Rustchuk, along the Black Sea littoral, and in the New Territories, the outlook is better, though the ripening of the grapes is at least a week late.

Fruit.

Other fruit are showing better results, foremost in importance being plums, followed in order by apples, peaches, nuts, pears, and quince. The state of the olive, fig, and granate trees is promising.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Survey work on the new line from Samovite to Nicopali is shortly to be completed.

The municipality of Sofia is providing work for the unemployed. An Employment Bureau is to be opened at the municipality in this connection.

The exportation of eggs from Bulgaria is no longer prohibited (September 13).

The *Outro* of Sofia denies that war material for Turkey has passed through Bulgaria.

The Agricultural Bank has been authorised by the Council of Ministers to issue a loan of 5,000,000 lewas, under Government guarantee, for distribution among the victims of the floods at Eskijumaia and among the inhabitants of the Harmanly district invaded by the Turks.

The Bulgarian Government has appointed a Consul in Salonika and it is reported that another will be appointed in Serres.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

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The Bulgarian Exchange Law.

In Connection with the Establishment of a Stock Exchange in Sofia.

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEAR EAST.")

Sofia, September.

The first Stock Exchange in Bulgaria is to be established this year in Sofia. The necessary preparations have already been made by the Sofia Chamber of Commerce and Trade, and it is to be hoped that the institution will be in a position to carry on operations towards the beginning of September.[1] According to the Exchange Law passed on March 1, 1912, the initiative for the creation of an exchange has to be taken by the local Chamber of Commerce and Trade, in this case that of Sofia. The object of this clause is to ensure that an exchange can only be established there where the necessary guarantee is forthcoming.

Exchange Regulations.

The Sofia Stock Exchange will be controlled by regulations, which have not been definitely fixed, being still in elaboration, and which will have to be approved by the Administrator of the Exchange and the Minister of Finance. It is therefore impossible to analyse them here, but we shall refer to the Exchange Law, which is applicable to the regulations, and will have to be incorporated in them.

The Bulgarian Exchange Law of 1912 defines an exchange as an open market where dealers and brokers meet to transact business, and determines two kinds of exchanges —namely, a "stock" exchange and a "commodity" exchange (mart). Article 1 determines the nature of business to be transacted—in the former, coins, gold and silver, banknotes, public and private securities, and also commercial securities are to be negotiated; in the latter commodities, freights and transport insurance, including marine insurance. Article 2 states that at an exchange all the above operations can be concluded, but in case only those of the first category are negotiated it is a stock exchange, and if only those of the second category it is a commodity exchange.

State Control.

According to Article 3 all exchanges stand under the control of the State, and no new exchange can be established except by a Governmental decree, to be signed, in the case of a stock exchange, by the Minister of Finance, and in the case of a commodity exchange by the Minister of Commerce and Trade. In these circumstances, the control of the exchanges is exercised directly by either one of the two above-named Governmental departments, but the method of control varies accordingly. Article 11 states that, in the case of a stock exchange, an Exchange Commissary, who is a Government official, has to be appointed by royal decree. The control of the commodity exchange, on the other hand, is entrusted to the local Chamber of Commerce and Trade, which appoints an official delegate therefor. The Commissary, in the case of the stock exchange, and the delegate, in the case of the commodity exchange, are responsible for the carrying out of the Exchange Law and Exchange Regulations. They have free access to all meetings held by the Administrative Board of the exchange within their jurisdiction, control all resolutions, and have to point out any illegalities that may occur with a view to their removal. They are, moreover, obliged to report to the Minister of Finance (or Trade and Commerce, as the case may be) any irregularities or illegalities that may occur in the life of the exchange, and advise as to the measures that will have to be adopted in order to ameliorate the situation.

Exchange Corporation.

If it is intended to erect an exchange in any given locality in Bulgaria, the local business men who wish to operate thereon have, in the first instance, to form themselves into an Exchange Corporation. Members of such a corporation can only be business men whose trade tax (Gewerbesteuer) amounts to at last 200 lewas, in the case of a stock exchange, per annum, and 100 lewas in the case of a commodity exchange. Companies are to be represented on the corporation by special delegates. The tax clause is the only one affecting members of a corporation—that is to say, that foreigners, for instance, are also eligible for membership. According to Article 16, only members of the exchange corporation can operate on the exchange.

Administrative Board.

Each exchange is to be administered by a Board composed of nine members—namely, two delegates of the local Chamber of Commerce of whom one is its secretary, one delegate of the brokers operating on the exchange, and six delegates of the Corporation, elected at the latter's annual meeting. The delegate of the brokers is entrusted with the duties of a syndic. The Board elects its own officers, four in number—namely, a chairman, two deputy chairmen, and a secretary. These officers form the executive, and it is their duty to see that the Board's resolutions are duly carried out.

The Board's principal duties are as follows:—

(a) It determines the date of the annual meeting (of the Corporation?) and summons it;

(b) It decides what securities or commodities can be admitted to the exchange;

(c) It arranges for the quotation of prices;

(d) It draws up the annual report of the Corporation and submits it, after it has been voted at the annual meeting, to the corresponding Governmental Minister, etc., etc.

Brokers.

Brokers who operate on an exchange are regarded as public individuals who negotiate business for a third person. They must be of Bulgarian nationality and at least twenty-seven years old, must have at least a secondary school certificate, and have had five years' business experience, etc. No secondary school certificate is required in the case of a broker on a commodity exchange. Brokers are admitted on the recommendation of the Exchange Board by a Ministerial ukase, and are expelled in the same way. The Board decides the number of brokers to be admitted. Each broker has to give a security of 10,000 lewas for operating on a stock exchange and 5,000 lewas on a commodity exchange.

Arbitration.

A Court of Arbitration has to be instituted on every exchange and it has to decide all questions arising between members in the course of their dealings; its jurisdiction is obligatory in cases where the deal has already been concluded. The court is composed of three members, a chairman and two members appointed by the litigants. It can also be composed of one member, but only in case both litigants agree to his selection. A list of members who have the exclusive right to act as arbitrators during the forthcoming year has to be passed at each annual meeting of the Corporation.

Stock Quotations.

The Board decides as to the admittance of securities to quotation on the exchange. In the case of State securities, the Minister of Finance has likewise to give his authority. All business done on the exchange is either on sight (Real) or *à terme*. The latter, whether in stocks or commodities, is legally recognised if concluded on the exchange.

The above are the principal clauses of the Bulgarian Exchange Law. We shall refer at some length to the regulations adopted for the establishment of the Sofia Stock Exchange as soon as they have been definitely approved.

(1) Owing to the war and the proclamation of the moratorium, the opening of the Stock Exchange has been postponed.

THE BULGARIAN LOAN.

Frequent questions have arisen regarding the outcome of the Bulgarian loan of 500,000,000 lewas concluded in July last with a group of Austro-German banks at whose head stood the Diskonto-Gesellschaft of Berlin. In a recent communication reprinted by the Sofia paper *Mir*, M. Tontcheff, the Minister of Finances, stated (and we have every reason to believe the report to be accurate) that:—"It is not true that we only received an advance of 5,000,000 lewas on the loan recently concluded. The fixed advance of 120,000,000 lewas was punctually paid. Of this sum 30,000,000 lewas were forwarded to the Austrian banks, and 27,000,000 lewas were left with the contracting group at the disposal of the Russian Asiatic Bank.

"Similarly it is not true that the last-named sum of 27,000,000 lewas was confiscated by the German Government. This sum could not have been confiscated, because the Diskonto-Gesellschaft is a private bank. According to correspondence which we have had with the bank in question, the whole sum remains credited to the Russian Asiatic Bank."

It will thus be seen that, after having paid bank accounts abroad to the extent of 57,000,000 lewas, the Government had a sum of 63,000,000 lewas in hand for other purposes.

No further operation in connection with the loan has since been negotiated.

COMMERCE.

Bulgaria's trade statistics, interrupted owing to the Balkan War, have now been brought up to date to the month of April, 1913, and to the month of March, 1914.

In April, 1913, the value of her imports was 12,430,056 lewas, as against 19,376,339 lewas for the same month in 1912, and the corresponding figures for the country's exports are 9,846,337 lewas and 20,902,945 lewas.

In March, 1914, the value of the imports was 25,786,747 lewas, as against 8,527,780 lewas for the same month in 1913, and 19,668,705 lewas in 1912. The corresponding figures for the country's exports are 19,964,328 lewas, 8,345,904 lewas, and 24,747,808 lewas.

Further details concerning the country's trade in March, 1914, are as follows:—

Imports.

From England to the value of 4,302,092 lewas (as against 510,359 lewas in 1913), the principal items being:—Cotton goods (2,816,146 lewas), metal and metal articles (362,373 lewas), machinery (418,461 lewas), and chemical products (260,998 lewas).

From Austria-Hungary to the value of 6,460,205 lewas (as against 2,886,829 lewas in 1913), the principal items being:—Cotton goods (2,501,399 lewas), metals and metal goods (844,593 lewas), machinery (511,863 lewas), leather and leather goods (437,058 lewas), and colonial produce (474,973 lewas).

Germany's exports to Bulgaria amounted to 5,529,458 lewas (against 2,683,663 lewas in 1913), the principal items being:—Cotton goods (1,288,800 lewas), metal and metal goods (887,546 lewas), machinery (722,384 lewas), and non-denominated articles (1,146,214 lewas).

The imports from other countries were:—From Italy, 1,773,577 lewas (of which 1,303,225 lewas represent cotton goods), as against 402,945 lewas in 1913; Belgium, 689,717 lewas, against 495,476 lewas; Turkey, 1,468,440 lewas, against 26,194 lewas; and France, 2,604,316 lewas, against 310,016 lewas.

Exports.

To England to the value of 1,164,478 lewas, as against 497,908 lewas in 1913, the principal items being:—Maize (518,224 lewas) and rye (196,488 lewas).

To Austria-Hungary to the value of 969,890 lewas, as against 902,586 lewas in 1913, the principal items being:—Eggs (322,610 lewas) and tobacco (231,208 lewas).

To Belgium to the value of 8,565,715 lewas, as against 1,941,915 lewas in 1913, the principal items being:—Wheat (5,184,656 lewas) and maize (2,363,030 lewas).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We publish to-day our second monthly supplement on Bulgaria, and readers will find the analysis of the National Bank of Bulgaria interesting from many points of view, as giving a rather concise survey of the economic situation of the country during a year of war. The trade returns for March of this year, as compared with March of last year, as well as those for April of last year as compared with April, 1912—that is to say, before the war—are most instructive, and the country's recuperation a noteworthy feature. It is gratifying to see that our trade with Bulgaria has improved. Austria and Italy, it will be observed, are our two most formidable rivals in the cotton goods trade, and more particularly is the growth of Italy's exports in this respect to be noted. She is gradually becoming our most serious cotton goods rival on the Near Eastern market, as was pointed out by our Special Correspondent in the Balkans some time ago. In Serbia, for instance, before the war, she had ousted Austria, and in satins was doing an almost exclusive trade.

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The Admiralty notice concerning the port of Dedeagatch should, in view of the uncertainty of the Dardanelles route and in view of the normal growth of our trade with Bulgaria, be welcomed by shippers. I think it would at the present time pay a line to organise a regular service between Dedeagatch and the west of Europe, with a call at the first port on the mail route. This would greatly facilitate communications between Bulgaria and England, France, etc., at present in a most absolute state of chaos. Cargo, both outward and homeward, would be easy to get, and the line could make a permanent feature of this route, to the advantage of all concerned, including its own dividends. Needless to say, the Bulgarian authorities will do all in their power to facilitate the service, which will be a forerunner of the inevitable development of southern Bulgaria.

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On September 28 Reuter's Agency reported from Venice that advices from Vienna stated that, "as a result of the refusal of the Canadian Pacific Railway to pay dividends to Austrian shareholders, the Government has confiscated the company's securities and moneys deposited in Vienna, in addition to their observation cars running on the Austrian railways." I have been unable to have the above report confirmed, or otherwise, at the London offices of the C.P.R. On September 30, however, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy was reported by Reuter's from Montreal as having said: "They (the Austrians) do not know whether we will pay dividends or not. They may confiscate what they like, but we will do our duty." It would seem, therefore, that it is premature to pass any further remarks, as nothing positive seems to be known regarding Austria's latest move against the C.P.R. The Austrian offices have all been closed down, and it is quite on the cards that the Government will have taken further measures against the company, but the plea of "no dividends" is too thoroughly Germanic in its naïveté to be admitted. In any case they could not expect any dividends to be paid them; and, when all is said and done, I think the Canadian Pacific can afford to laugh at a defeated Austria.

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How German influence is being felt as far East as the Persian Gulf, is to be gathered from two letters which have reached me from a Busreh correspondent who is engaged in the shipping business. They are dated August 19 and August 27. The following extracts clearly illustrate German influence on Turkish imagination, and must be borne in mind when the final day of reckoning arrives. I quote from both letters: "The Turks' chief energies for the moment seem to be concentrated on mobilizing, and they are calling up all sorts of people to serve, and are bleeding the Christians to the extent of 43 liras per head if they want exemption. . . . They have, however, made special arrangements for any Turkish subjects employed by the Germans, and are not calling these up for service nor demanding cash. There have also been various rumours about the Turks commandeering all coal and oil here, and last Thursday, I think it was, we received official notice that they required it, but so far they have not prevented us coaling our ships, though I know they stopped some of Messrs. ——— stuff, and I believe put all their stock under seal. . . . . Last night there came reports of the declaration of war by England upon Turkey, and though this is not yet confirmed, the vessels were warned to leave Turkish waters, and they all went off down to Mahomerah, and are now going to Bushire."

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The second letter contains the following:—"Last week the Gulf mail boat only came up to Bushire, and it has done the same this week, only we are getting a tug to go from Mahomerah to Bushire to take the mails down. The situation here is still very indefinite, and we really had no official news till last Saturday, when the Consul had a telegram stating that there was no need for a panic, but that the British ships had been ordered to withdraw from Turkish waters as a precautionary measure, on account of the pronounced pro-German bias shown by the Turks. This seems pretty plain-speaking, and I think it has sobered things down a bit here. But practically all business is suspended, and we have got all our ships that we can in the Karun."

***

Thanks to the kindness of a large Liverpool firm, I am able to reproduce the following extracts from a most interesting letter received from the firm's Constantinople correspondent. I quote:—"While exporters are doing no business because of the inability to finance purchases, and because of the senseless prohibitions of the Government, importers are likewise not buying or placing orders for the same reasons as regard finance and for two other reasons. First, the lack of shipping facilities; and second, because of the senseless requisitions of the War Office. The hackneyed business expression that "there is nothing doing," has never been more truly applied to any situation than to the present one in this country. The complete stagnation is not, however, due entirely and directly to the European War. The Turkish Government by their policy have accentuated what was bad enough, without any assistance.

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"During the first week of August, provisions and all foodstuffs rose tremendously in price. Many foolish things were done such as buying hundreds of loaves of bread. Prices fell again almost as quickly as they rose, and although such articles as sugar, tea, candles, butter, etc., articles that are imported from abroad are higher in price than normally; all vegetables, fruit, poultry and eggs are cheaper than they usually are because the export of foodstuffs is prohibited.

***

"I have mentioned above the requisitioning orders issued by the Government. No heed seems to have been taken as to whether articles are really wanted or not, and as a result such things as ladies footwear and ladies hose have been seized. Further, all the potatoes in the market were seized; as a result no potatoes were sent in from the interior, where thousands of tons are grown every year. An English steamer with a thousand tons of maize on board was forbidden to leave for Liverpool until the maize was discharged, and this although quite 20 per cent. of last year's crop of maize is available and the new crop, which has just been harvested, is very much above the average. A direct result has been that dealers in foodstuffs, coal, and anything which might perhaps be seized, stopped the shipment or did not allow the goods to be landed, but returned them to the place they came from. The action of the War Office in requisitioning all the flour and wheat, threatened us with a shortage of flour; this was followed by a proclamation that merchants could safely bring flour into the country, it would not be seized. Merchants, however, put no faith in the proclamation, as another could be published later annuling the first one. It was not until the prefect of the city called the flour merchants together and assured them that they could rely upon the proclamation referred to, that flour was again imported from Roumania."

COMMENTATOR.

WAR ON GERMAN TRADE.

British Firms interested in carrying into the Near Eastern market the war against German trade, and desirous of specific information concerning the prospects there, are invited to communicate with the Commercial Editor, "THE NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, E.C.

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War on German Trade.

BOOTS AND SHOES IN THE NEAR EAST.

In continuation of our series of extracts from the bulletins issued by the Board of Trade, we give this week particulars from the same source of the openings for trade in boots and shoes (except of rubber) which present themselves in the Near East :—

The total value of boots, shoes, and slippers (except of rubber) exported from Germany in 1912 amounted to £1,281,000, from Austria in 1913 to £1,037,000, and from the United Kingdom in the same year to £4,307,000.

Of the Near Eastern countries, Roumania purchased from Germany in 1912 to the value of £23,600; and Egypt in the same year for £11,000, Austria's buyers were Serbia (£152,000), Bulgaria (£14,000), Roumania (£63,000), Turkey (£18,000), and Egypt (£40,000). The trade done by the enemy in this line in the Near East alone is enormous, being well over £300,000 in value. A great part of this trade should be acquired by us. We must not wait for the countries concerned to come to us asking us to sell; we must go and induce them to buy. As stated in the Bulletin : "The markets of South-Eastern Europe and the Levant may be regarded as a promising field for exploitation." For instance, our exports to Serbia are nil, whereas Austria's exports are over £150,000 per annum.

The following table shows our exports to the Near Eastern countries previously mentioned :—

Serbia	—
Bulgaria	£100
Roumania	£2,700
Turkey	£57,900
Egypt	£97,600

[All of which can easily be augmented. It must not be forgotten, however, that some of the Near Eastern countries (Bulgaria and Roumania, for instance) are seriously beginning to manufacture their own footgear. In Bulgaria a boot factory has been erected under American supervision that is turning out boots and shoes that are far superior to the Austrian and German article.]

The following are particulars concerning the trade in various Near Eastern markets :—

Egypt.

A French Consular Report states that high-class expensive goods are either made in Egypt itself by Italian or Greek workmen, or imported from the United Kingdom, Austria, and the United States. The United Kingdom specialises in men's handsewn boots selling at from 8s. to 9s. a pair f.o.b., including the agents' commission of 5 per cent. The styles in demand are the same as those in vogue in Europe. Ladies' high-class hand-sewn boots and shoes are obtained mainly from Vienna; they are of French or American style with Louis XV. heels, and they sell at 7s., 10s., and 12s. 6d. a pair according to quality. Good quality men's boots of American manufacture find a ready sale in spite of their high price.

A German Consular Report observes that Egyptians being naturally prone to luxury are consequently interested in smart footwear. Even the poorer classes pay considerable attention to their shoes and take a pride in having the best they can afford. There is no doubt that by careful canvassing of the market an increased trade could be done.

Smyrna.

Competition of local firms is an important factor in the trade, the shoes produced in Smyrna being of good quality and comparatively low price. Amongst other countries sharing in the trade are the United Kingdom, which provides goods selling at from 7s. to 13s. a pair. Germany sends fur-lined shoes.

Damascus.

Shoes of box calf, patent and glacé leather, mostly of American style, are imported from the United Kingdom and France. There is an increasing demand for these goods, as their shape and appearance please local buyers, while the local boot and shoe makers are at present unable to compete as regards price.

Syria.

The Special Commissioner sent out by the Board of Trade, in a recent report, writes :—"Notwithstanding the very cheap footwear made in the country, there is a sale at Beyrout, somewhat limited at present, for ready-made boots and shoes, especially in children's and women's sizes. Boys' and girls' ready-made shoes are imported from France and Austria, and find a ready sale owing to their cheapness and smart shape. A small trial which has been made by a local firm in British boots and shoes, in men's, women's, and children's sizes, has been fairly encouraging, but the shape of the British-made shoe does not meet with general favour, and it is believed that were British manufacturers disposed to make a boot to suit local tastes there would be a fair prospect of business. Shape is everything, consistent of course with moderate price, and the narrow toe, pointed kind of shoe and boot is the one most liked by the Syrian.

"Children's boots from Nos. 3 to 6 should sell at about 3s. per pair, and from Nos. 6 to 8 at not more than 4s. Men's sizes must find a sale at from 10s. 6d. to 18s. per pair, but should not be dearer. American ready-made shoes of the 'Walk-over' and 'Hanny' makes have been recently introduced. The American firms have shown considerable enterprise, and have supplied their agents with a very full range of free samples, and their agents have been given a free hand in order to push sales. Shoes and boots of brown box calf are largely worn, and there is a very good opening for a cheap white canvas shoe for summer wear."

Persia.

According to a French Consular report on the trade of Persia, French footwear is considerably dearer than that coming from Germany, Austria, or the United Kingdom.

It may be mentioned that European footwear is only worn by a minority of the population—namely, the well-to-do persons, who buy only good quality footwear of elegant appearance. They take pride in their boots and shoes, and it is a mistake to suppose that any kind of boots and shoes is good enough for the Persian market.

The following extract from the report by the Special Commissioner of the Board of Trade, published in 1904 may still be of interest :—"An increasing demand for boots and shoes (men's and women's) of European shape is noted. Walking boots appear to come chiefly from Austria, long riding boots (chakmeh) from Russia, and fancy shoes and slippers from France."

Trebizond.

The imports at Trebizond (says the "Journal" of the Chamber of Commerce) of sole leather destined for use in the manufacture of rough boots for the agricultural population increased from £6,800 in value in 1912 to £18,160 in 1913. Of the latter total Greece supplied £6,160, Egypt £4,000, Turkey in Europe £2,240, France £3,560, and Russia, Belgium, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the United States the remainder. Leather for uppers shows a diminution in the imports, which amounted in value to £3,880 in 1913. Kid is most in demand, then patent leather, box calf and black calf.

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PORT SAID AND THE WAR.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
PORT SAID, September 23.

The Business Aspect.

The outbreak of war was received in Port Said with considerable excitement, and brought in its train the inevitable chaos and confusion in business affairs.

When the bottom drops out of the credit system, countries which are dependent to a large extent on European centres for their financial support feel the pinch as acutely as any, owing mainly to the sudden stoppage of all exchange business. On August 1 it became impossible here to negotiate the usual shipping bills on London, Paris, or Berlin; consequently, steamers whose Canal dues are paid locally could not pass through the Canal until the dues had been settled elsewhere.

Fortunately this state of affairs did not last long, and very few steamers were delayed on account of non-payment of Canal dues. In most cases arrangements were made for the payment of steamers' dues in London or Paris.

Local banks, after a short "holiday," opened their doors to their creditors, and we are now doing business through the medium of National Bank of Egypt notes and English, French, and Egyptian silver. The bank-notes were at first accepted with reluctance, but it is surprising how popular they have since become with the disappearance of gold, even amongst the natives. It is to be hoped the financial authorities will profit by the lesson of the crisis in order to impress still further upon the Egyptian mind the value and stability of a paper currency.

SITUATION IN SMYRNA.

The Acting British Consul-General at Smyrna (Mr. C. E. Heathcote-Smith) reports, under date September 7, that trade there is in a condition of complete stagnation, although this is the time when the export trade in sultanas, figs, and barley should be at its height. A general prohibition has been put by the Ottoman Government on the export of all cereals, thereby effectually stopping the export of barley, while the business of raisin and fig merchants is at a standstill owing to the absence of all banking facilities. Since the declaration of the Turkish Moratorium in August, no bank has paid out more than £10 against any deposit account, while all advances on merchandise or securities have ceased completely. Under such circumstances there has been a sudden dead stop in business, and ruin faces a large number of firms in Smyrna, who have been dismissing their employees wholesale.

It has been proposed that, in the event of Turkey not being involved in the war, the Smyrna banks should advance to sultana and fig merchants 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. cash against the value of the fruit brought to Smyrna for handling and shipment. The cash thus obtained would be used partly to satisfy the up-country grower who sold the fruit, and partly to pay the daily wages of the many thousands of hands engaged in the packing and export of the fruit. Although such financial measures are of particular importance for the sultana and fig trade, dealers in all the other Smyrna crops (cotton, cotton-seed, opium, valonea, oil, tobacco, etc.) will need more or less similar facilities if they are to carry on their normal business.

Requisitioning of goods by the military authorities in the Smyrna district has discouraged any attempt being made at present to renew orders for goods from abroad. Gold is very scarce amongst private merchants, and the local banks are hoarding the little they have.

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS.

The following bulletins were published during the past week :—Pins and needles; manufactures of iron or steel wire; cables, cordage, twine, nets, etc.; tin wares (including tinfoil); heavy chemicals; cast-iron goods (stoves, bolts, etc.); ornamental feathers; boilers and boilermakers' wares, and cement.

Applications for copies of any of the above or of those published in our previous lists should be addressed to the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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The Cotton Crisis.

Sir Charles Macara on the Situation.

Two weeks ago we referred in these columns to Sir Charles Macara's proposal for the creation of a cotton reserve, the intention being to prevent the Lancashire market from being overwhelmed with current supplies, while, at the same time, it is hoped to effect a considerable control over the prices. Simultaneously we had to report from Egypt the curtailing by the Government of the acreage to be sown with cotton next year—the only remedy, apparently, for the abnormal state of the market as produced by the war. Since then we have received numerous letters from readers in all parts of the country who are directly interested in the cotton industry, and one and all protest loudly against the Egyptian Government's drastic action. In view of this, and in view of the fact that we are inclined to regard Sir Charles Macara's scheme as not only practicable, but indicative of the ultimate remedy to be adopted to improve the situation, we have interviewed its author both concerning the general situation and the Khedivial decree above mentioned.

The Egyptian Situation.

Regarding the latter, Sir Charles, who, it will be remembered, was prominent in advocating the British Government to guarantee the three million loan for cotton-growing in the Sudan and who has always shown great interest in the development of Egypt's cotton crop, was most positive in his condemnation. The penalising of the planter, he said, was no remedy for the situation. The International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Association and the British Cotton Growing Association had always been advocating the increase in the area under cotton, and here was the Egyptian Government, on the advice of people hardly competent to deal practically with the question, upsetting the work of years and penalising the planter to the detriment not only of his own interests, but to those of the State, whose revenues were bound to suffer. The immediate object of this, it was stated, was to enable the present crop to be financed—a roundabout way of putting it, as the Government were now obliged to issue £5,000,000 in paper guaranteed by the British Government in order to move the crop. Instead of this, the Egyptian Government should have created a cotton reserve out of this year's crop, and thus allowed the law of supply and demand to take its natural course.

This brings us to Sir Charles Macara's reserve scheme which is creating a sensation in all circles, both here and in America, that are interested in cotton. The scheme is simplicity itself. It is nothing more or less than that the British and American Governments should jointly treat cotton as the former has treated sugar, meat, etc.—that is to say, that the price of the raw material must be guaranteed. Why this should be so is best illustrated by the following facts:—

Some Facts.

1. One-third of Great Britain's manufactured exports are cotton goods; therefore, the number of operatives, distributors, and dependents runs into bigger figures than those of any other industry.

2. Great Britain is not only responsible for the cotton-growing areas of Egypt and India, but owns 40 per cent. of the cotton machinery of the world; the United States produce five-eighths of the world's raw material and own 20 per cent. of the machinery; it is therefore these two countries which, in their own interests, will have to regulate the flow of the cotton into the market.

3. The countries at war to-day, exclusive of ourselves, take one-third of the world's cotton crop; this, admittedly, creates a surplus of the raw material on the market, and, as the present year is an exceptionally good one, the surplus is all the greater.

4. The difference in price between a 12,000,000 bale world crop and a 16,000,000 bale crop is approximately £20,000,000: in other words, the difference of ½d. per lb. in the price of the raw material makes a difference of £20,000,000 on the year's crop.

5. In the present state of the market spinners will not buy, not knowing to what depths the price of cotton may go; the result is an entire want of confidence and complete business stagnation. There is thus the gravest danger of an economic disaster in Lancashire. Moreover, if the price drops too low (as it may do), that is, below the cost of production, the planter will be ruined, because not only is he growing cotton at a loss, but because he has already borrowed on the standing crop to meet expenditure. The result will be a cessation of cotton cultivation, spelling disaster to Lancashire. Consequently, the price must not be allowed to drop below the cost of production.

Warning to Egypt.

The above are some of the interesting facts mentioned by Sir Charles Macara in conversation with our representative. Besides, he had a word of warning for Egypt that is not without its grave significance. Egypt must not think, he said, that she is indispensable; if she curtails her crop the deficiency can be made up with better American cotton, thanks to the modern system of combing in the production of fine yarns. She can get from no other crop the revenue she gets from her cotton; so that, if she does not grow it as heretofore, she stands a risk of being seriously prejudiced in the future. In a word, the Government's decision to curtail the acreage under cotton is likely to react disastrously on the country itself.

The Root of Evil.

Opposed to the curtailment of the crop is the reserve scheme. It is an alternative well worthy of consideration. If a grave crisis is to be avoided, said Sir Charles Macara, the Government must find means to control the price of cotton, to keep it at its level with but small variations year after year and thus to normalise the supply of the raw material as we regulate the flow of a river. Should they not do so, they will have to take the responsibility of the greatest depression the cotton trade has ever known. The best way to guard against this calamity and to avoid the expense of providing for millions of operatives thrown out of employment, is to come to an agreement with the Government of the United States, whereby the present extraordinary surplus can be coped with, and a reserve created on the lines advocated for years by Sir Charles Macara. As stored up cotton will last longer than the war, whatever its duration, and as people will have to clothe themselves whatever happens, the supply cannot become so great as to justify the penalising of the cultivator or the curtailing of the crop. If no such measure is taken safeguarding the interests of all the millions concerned in the cultivation of cotton and its industry, from the planter of the raw material to the consumer of the manufactured article, the responsibility, and it is a serious one, will have to rest with the Government. It is a responsibility which he, Sir Charles, would not be willing to shoulder.

The reserve scheme is neither costly nor difficult to work. It had best be organised by means of a guarantee by the State worked through the ordinary trade channels, in the same way as the Government guarantees the Bank of England, thus enabling the latter to guarantee the joint stock banks, and these in their turn their customers. It is even doubtful whether the scheme would cost the Government a penny, unless, of course, they attempted to store up the cotton on their own account, which would, however, be unnecessary. On the other hand, measures like that adopted hastily by the Egyptian Government are laughable, in view of the movement going on throughout the world to increase the area under cotton; and as for the Government of the United States guaranteeing 2¾d. per lb. to cultivators whose cost of production was nearer 4½d. per lb., it does not meet the case. The root of the evil lies deeper, and it is for the Governments of the two countries most directly concerned to eradicate it in the interests of the millions on both sides of the Atlantic who are dependent on cotton for their livelihood.

EGYPTIAN COTTON RESTRICTION.

LIVERPOOL, September 28.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

DEAR SIR,—The Egyptian Government's promulgation of a Khedivial Decree curtailing next season's cotton acreage by 40 per cent. has aroused serious criticism here and at Manchester. The impression prevails that there was no occasion for such a hurry, and that the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government might have been well advised to "wait and see" and consult other interests before acting on the suggestion of one section only, particularly when that section represents mostly the large speculative interest of the Alexandria market, to the exclusion of the far more important and more legitimate interests of the mill industry of Lancashire, not to mention the real interests of Egypt herself and those of the many firms engaged in handling and shipping Egypt's crop, buying, selling, warehousing, and insuring it, and who are not concerned in the speculative attractions of the problem.

However, a Khedivial Decree is not a law of eternity, and I feel convinced that when Lord Kitchener—who has his hands full at present with matters far more important and pressing to the Empire—has the time to go into the matter, and feels satisfied, in the light of subsequent developments, of the convenience of leaving the cotton acreage in Egypt in the *statu quo ante*, it will not take long to revoke the present Ukase, which has sent the bulls of the speculative fraternity into a delirium of anticipatory joy, whilst filling legitimate traders and spinners with fears for the future should these speculators, on the strength of a perhaps insufficient supply next year and the year after, buy up not only all the cotton grown this season, but as much paper contracts as they can get as well—particularly as the latter will not require any outlay of capital once the market has grounded—and then put prices up against everybody else, and subject the whole trade and industry to the worries and losses and disorganisation of business which always result from the selfish operations of a few "cornering" individuals.

It is a generally admitted axiom that to reduce the productive power of a country is tantamount to economic suicide. How much more must it tell upon a country where it is sought to curtail its staple crop, its practically only cash asset, universally appreciated and sought after? Egypt had made a good crop, somewhat damaged by insects, but nothing like the extent into which that damage had been magnified by interested parties—and may be so again—and there was every chance of the entire crop finding a market if prices had been allowed to follow the law of supply and demand. But no; fired up by the bull campaign in America, which has ended by ruining half the market, the Alexandria clique thought that by buying up the crop—in paper, of course—they could force spinners to pay a price which intrinsically it was not worth. They did not think it worth the price themselves, or otherwise they would have bought the actual cotton instead of paper contracts, or taken up the dockets when the cotton was tendered to them instead of running away from it. As a result of their ill-advised tactics, the Alexandria Bourse is in a bankrupt condition, and our spinners and manufacturers, after making tests with other growths which were offered on a much cheaper basis, and finding them quite as good for their purpose, began boycotting Egyptians, first Uppers, for which they found a cheaper substitute in Brazilians and staple Americans, and gradually even the various growths of Delta cotton, which were hopelessly beaten by Peruvian Mitafifi, long stapled Indian, East and West African, and even American Sea Island cotton.

Thus it has come about that Lancashire spinners have consumed some 160,000 bales more than last year of so-called "outside" growths, and that we are left with nearly 200,000 bales of Egyptians unsold, quite two-thirds of which would have gone into consumption and the money for it into the grower's pocket, had the law of supply and

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demand not been interfered with by speculators. Had the price been allowed to go down to, say, 16 dols. in Alexandria the whole crop might have been sold and exported, and with the better methods of cultivation now practised in Egypt, thanks to the efforts of a more enlightened Government, even 14 dols. or 15 dols. would be a good price and leave a handsome profit to the grower.

If proper rotation be observed in the cultivation of cotton in Egypt, there would be no exhaustion of the soil, which is now used as an argument by the advocates of "grow no no cotton." They forget that Egypt's soil is renewed every year through the irrigation of the Nile flood, and once the growers have learnt the lesson of seed selection and renewal—because it is the deterioration of the seed, due to climatic influences, which is the real cause of the crop deterioration—and evolve new strains of suitable staple to take the place of decrepit ones, Egypt will always find a market for all it is able to grow at a price that will leave the Fellah a fair return on his capital and labour.

If the acreage be compulsorily reduced by 40 per cent. or more, I do not hesitate to say that whilst the Government would benefit speculation, and speculation *only*, it would inevitably ruin the chances of Egypt maintaining her place of importance amongst the countries which now supply Lancashire with the long-stapled cotton she requires, and everybody in the trade knows that Lancashire uses more of that than any other country.

The first effect of a curtailment in Egypt would be an increased acreage elsewhere, and if the spinner finds that other countries will be able to supply him with his quality at a price inferior to that pretended by Egypt, where people will naturally think their cotton ought to be worth so much more because they planted so much less—an argument that appeals to the Oriental mind—well, he must not be blamed for buying the other man's cotton and leaving Egyptian alone. And once spindles have been adapted to other growths, it is very difficult to revert to the old kind, with the result that even should Egypt, a sadder but wiser nation, repent of her folly and plant a full crop again, she may find her clients, or most of them, gone, and no consideration of price may bring her trade back again for a long time.

And who can guarantee that the sowing of a full acreage must needs produce a full crop, and a slump in prices? No other cotton crop is so precarious and liable to destruction by its enemies—insects and fogs—as that of Egypt. Supposing now the acreage was reduced by 40 per cent., and the crop grown from a 60 per cent. acreage cut down by another 50 per cent. through damage before it matures, would the poor grower be compensated by the advance in price which speculators would force on contracts, if consumers found that owing to cheaper supplies elsewhere they could do without Egyptian cotton altogether? It would then be too late to remedy the evil, for all who are engaged in the trade know that most of the damage to the crop occurs late in the season and is very often not found out until after it is picked and baled.

There are endless other propositions which might be adduced in condemnation of the latest Khedivial Decree, but I think the few I have mentioned, and which are the most important, ought to be sufficient to cause the Government to reconsider its decision. It is much better for Egypt to grow a crop of ten million cantars, sell it at, say, $14, and kill the competition of "outsiders," maintaining an unrivalled position, than to cut it down to perhaps five millions, market some of it at perhaps $20 or more, remain with the rest unsold and unsaleable, and lose her place and importance as a cotton-producing State.

And how will the future Government of Egypt get in its taxes and pay its way, with no cotton growing or selling? Is it possible that the Financial Adviser was not aware, when issuing his Decree, that whilst he imposes a reduction in next year's acreage of 40 per cent. and threatens severe punishment to offending growers, the British Government are paying a subsidy to the British Cotton Growing Association in order to enable it the better to extend cotton cultivation, and the propaganda in favour of it, everywhere else?

Yours faithfully,

X. X.

FINANCING THE CROP.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, in a message dated October 2, says:—The Financial Adviser in a note on the financial situation issued to-day points out that Egypt, being mainly a cotton producing country, has necessarily suffered from the war, which has caused a reduction in the demand for cotton. It became evident that cultivators would be unable to dispose of their crop, and the Government took action immediately to assist them.

The preliminary suggestion of the Government to purchase the undisposable portion of the crop was found to be impracticable and financially unsound, and it was decided that the best policy was first to ascertain the proportion of the crop to be liquidated and then to render financial assistance in a measure as ordinary conditions permitted, simultaneously seeking aid from the British Government. The commission sent to England reported that spinners would probably purchase 5,000,000 cantars, which would be taken at intervals during the season, and in order to ensure the market against the balance of the crop the Government decreed on September 22 the limitation of the cotton area in 1915.

The Financial Adviser states:—"I think with this measure there is every hope that the balance of the crop will be disposed of in the second half of 1915." Since the country is bound to suffer the severest hardship in the interval, the British Government consented to guarantee up to a maximum of £5,000,000 any sum the Egyptian Government might have to borrow to meet the situation.

The Adviser dwells on the value of the British assistance, which, he says, demonstrates that the calmness of Egyptians and the widespread expression of their sympathy and friendship for England have encountered the recognition they deserve. He warns cultivators that prices are bound to be below the average, and Egypt, like other countries, must expect a loss.

He points out also that it is imperative to keep up the revenue by the prompt and regular payment of taxes, otherwise it will be impossible to meet the State's obligations abroad, whereon the country's credit depends.

In a message forwarded the next day (October 3), *The Times* correspondent says:—"With reference to the Financial Adviser's note, the Egyptian Government, with the guarantee of the British Government, will issue Treasury bonds in London to the amount of £5,000,000, part of which will be used in backing an issue of emergency currency in the form of bank-notes. The National Bank of Egypt has agreed with the Egyptian Government to issue these notes, which will be used in financing the crop through ordinary banking and commercial channels. A scheme on this basis will be in full working soon.

"Meanwhile, ordinary arrangements are being carried out in financing the crop. Arrangements have been made for the usual payment of Debt coupons falling due this month."

CROP VALUES.

The value in lewas of Bulgaria's principal crops in 1910, 1911, and 1912, were as follows (exclusive of straw in the case of cereals):—

	1910.	1911.	1912.
Wheat	200,340,454	213,154,278	225,859,928
Rye	29,795,776	28,235,340	32,918,377
Barley	35,045,259	32,238,110	41,587,743
Oats	16,788,836	16,366,420	17,554,650
Millet	1,197,735	1,433,688	1,091,114
Maize	83,759,313	87,956,413	97,637,120
Rice	2,301,241	1,489,740	1,975,924
Fruit	8,451,658	3,466,855	3,208,830
Attar of Roses	3,540,400	5,641,199	4,172,440

MANCHESTER MARKET.

MANCHESTER, October 7.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the past week have continued very disappointing. No activity has occurred in any quarter. From week to week less machinery is running in both yarn and cloth sections, and as a natural result unemployment throughout Lancashire is increasing. Some advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop are not quite so favourable. There is some expectation of the American crop this season being of record dimensions. The business offering in piece goods for Egypt shows no improvement whatever. Mail advices are very poor. Dealers on the other side complain of the disorganised state of the market. Shippers here are not at all disposed to anticipate future requirements. The outlets of the Levant are badly reported upon, and no relief appears to be in sight. Only odd lots have been sold for India, and shipments to Calcutta are being somewhat checked owing to the fear of danger to boats as a result of the exploits of the German cruiser "Emden." Stocks in Bombay are increasing. Nothing fresh of interest has transpired with regard to China, but one or two small lines have been put through for Singapore. A little more inquiry is mentioned for Java. In the Lancashire weaving towns less machinery is running than a week or two ago. Numerous manufacturers are using up their supply of yarn, and will then stop for an indefinite period. In American yarns for home use very low rates have been taken by certain spinners. Some users of the raw material have the advantage of being able to buy cotton on a much lower range of prices than in Liverpool.

DYERS ADVANCE PRICES.

The Bradford Dyers' Association have issued to their customers a circular stating that in consequence of the serious position of the supply of dyewares and chemicals they regret they are compelled to make certain alterations in their terms, conditions, and prices. For all goods and orders received on and after October 12 to November 30, 1914, inclusive, their prices for dyeing cottons—all blacks and colours—will be advanced by 5 per cent. on prices existing on September 30, 1914; for all goods and orders received after December 1, 1914, and until further notice the prices of blacks will be increased by 10 per cent. and colours 20 per cent. on prices existing on September 30, 1914. They also ask for indulgence in the matter of delivery owing to the difficulty of maintaining regular employment at their works. They assure their customers that this advance of prices has been rendered necessary by the enormous increase in prices of their supplies.

EGYPTIAN COTTON SHIPMENTS.

Some particulars have just come to hand of the shipments of Egyptian cotton from Alexandria in the season ended August. The following table from the *Manchester Guardian* gives the amounts exported by several of the leading firms:—

	Total Shipments. Bales.	Shipments to England. Bales.
Lindemann and Co.	103,304	29,649
Choremi, Benachi and Co.	101,638	63,315
Peel and Co., Ltd.	97,094	71,765
Carver Brothers and Co., Ltd.	94,184	57,147
Pilavachi and Co., Ltd.	53,383	49,172
Frauger, G. and Co.	51,384	16,505
Planta, J. and Co.	49,516	26,275
Reinhart and Co., Ltd.	46,896	27,186
Mohr and Fenderl	46,480	12,261
Andres, F. and Co.	44,339	11,144
Bindernagel, H.	26,751	22,467
Hahnloser, P. and Co.	20,587	9,312
Riecken, G.	14,840	5,207

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens. September 28.

In view of possible difficulties in obtaining supplies of wheat and other cereals next year should hostilities be protracted, the Ministry of Agriculture has issued circulars advising the farmers to pay particular attention to the careful cultivation of as great an area as possible, and giving detailed instructions as to the best methods of securing good crops, etc. Travelling inspectors, too, will give verbal explanations and advice.

CYPRUS BARLEY AND WOOL

(From a Correspondent.)

Attention is being called to the suicidal practice of certain Cypriot merchants of mixing grit and other impurities in barley sold for exportation. So persistent has been this practice that Greek merchants in Egypt have complained bitterly of the results already experienced in that country; and to these are now added warnings from England. This abuse is, of course, condemned by the respectable merchants of Cyprus; and the Greek Press is again taking up the matter—one leading paper pointing out that "we run the risk of seeing our barley excluded from England"—it might add, from other countries. The Government is invited to deal with this evil by legislation.

Cyprus "hill barley," it should be mentioned, is of excellent quality. It is of a kind chiefly grown in the high lands of the Papho and Limassol districts. It is of high value for malting purposes. A large British firm, indeed, stated that it would be prepared to take any quantity of it that could be shipped. The cultivation of this barley might be largely and profitably extended, and it would always find a good market. Sufficient warning ought to have been given by the evil results that have followed the adulteration of so much Cyprus wine. The exceptive "plastering," i.e., addition of gypsum, which has caused the exclusion of such large quantities of wine from France, has not yet been stamped out.

Another matter that deservedly occupies attention is that of the quality of Cyprus wool. The native heads of sheep are capable of much improvement, the quantity of the wool being relatively very poor. The importation of British rams, "Lincolns" and others, on a much larger scale is urged. The interests of Cyprus as a whole call, too, for a large increase of sheep, and a corresponding decrease of goats—the destructive pest of agriculture and forest growth. The Cyprus Committee for the Improvement of Stock has already done much good for the native herds of ponies, and has dealt to some extent with cattle, pigs, poultry, etc. There is plenty of room for the expansion of its energies.

There is every reason to believe that with German competition suppressed Morocco will become a far more important customer for British manufactures than heretofore from the moment that home shipment and mercantile firms summon up courage to resume business.

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PRODUCE REPORT.

London, October 8.

Sugar.

There is not much alteration in the position of refined sugar, and no change in the price of English standards. The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply stated this week that persons desirous of purchasing white sugars imported by the Commission should address themselves not to the Commission but to the brokers or wholesale dealers through whom they have been in the habit of procuring their supplies. Foreign refined, due from America, was sold at 28s., c.i.f., London.

Coffee.

The market has been quiet. There has been some business in fine Costa Rica and East India at 80s. and upwards. Smalls, of the former, also were sold at 63s., and bold at 70s. to 71s.; washed Dumont, bold, sold, 57s. 6d. to 60s. 6d.

Currants.

There is a marked activity now in the market, and trade, by all appearances, has commenced in earnest. The s.s. "Michael Andritsakis" arrived last week with about 1,400 tons. It is evident that a considerable quantity of the present crop is affected by rain; but generally the fruit seems very good and attractive at the present range of prices. Pyrgos, 24s.; Amalias, 25s.; Patras, 26s. to 26s. 6d.; Gulf, 26s. to 28s.; Vostizza, 28s. to 35s.; and Smalls, 26s. to 32s. From Liverpool, it is reported, the volume of business has been satisfactory, and the lower range of prices is causing general activity. Confectionery fruit is in very good demand, and the selection limited, especially of the better grades.

Sultanas.

Sultanas sell steadily, but buying seems to be from hand to mouth. Spot supplies of new fruit are small, and the future is very uncertain, and no authentic information can be given as to the arrival of the next shipment. Smyrna, common to medium, sells at 34s. to 40s.; good to fine, 42s. to 45s.; and choice up to 57s. 6d. From Liverpool it is reported that the demand has been somewhat disappointing. Old fruit is neglected, and shipments of new Smyrna fruit are so small that merchants ask prohibitive prices. No relief is expected until the arrival of the s.s. "Syria," due early next week, with the first general shipment. Some parcels of new Greeks, ex s.s. "Meroe," were sold readily at full prices.

Seeds.

Linseed remains dull, and tendency of prices weak. London-Calcutta, spot, is quoted 45s. 6d.; afloat, 45s. 6d.; September-October, 45s. 6d.; October-November and November-December, 45s. 9d. Bombay, October-November, 47s. Rapeseed is steady. Ferozepore, September-October, to Hull, is offered 51s., and bold Ferozepore, ditto, 53s. Cottonseed, London-Egyptian, afloat, is quoted £8, and new crop, October, £8. Bombay, spot, Hull, £6 per ton. The market for canary seed exhibits some irregularity owing to lower offers for Spanish. There has also been more arriving lately. Hungarian and Danubian haricot beans, in narrow compass, offer at 85s. to 90s. Mustard seed is firm and in better demand.

Oils.

Linseed is very quiet. Spot pipes are offered 25s. 3d.; barrels, ditto, 25s. 9d. Rape oil is steady at late rates. Cotton oil is dull and weak. Crude, spot, in pipes, 26s.; refined pale, pipes, 25s. 6d.; and barrels, sweet, 33s.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes.—In spite of an inactive and dull trade values generally are steady. Best London-made sell £8 12s. 6d. to £9. Cotton cakes.—A sharp advance has taken place both in spot and forward positions, and at market yesterday holders of parcels of Egyptian in warehouse ask £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d., while £5 7s. 6d., ex ship, has been freely paid for September-October shipments.

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Shipping Intelligence.

PORT SAID TRADE ROUTE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, September 23.

Port Said Harbour presented a striking appearance when the German cruisers "Goeben" and "Breslau" were being "rounded up" in the Mediterranean. For six days British and French homeward-bound steamers were detained, and a large number of neutrals preferred the safety of the harbour to the unknown possibilities outside.

Ships were double-banked at the buoys, and the German ships, whose stay was apparently indefinite, were placed stern-on to the quay in the collier basin, so close together that in some cases hardly a foot separated them.

When the news came that all was clear, forty odd steamers were safely piloted out to sea in a few hours, a performance reflecting great credit on the officials of the Suez Canal Company.

THE LEVANT TRADE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I have read H. P. S.'s letter in The Near East respecting the suspension of the services of the Liverpool Lines to the Levant.

One cannot expect these lines to keep up a regular service with their expensive steamers, when there is little or no cargo offering, but there is doubtless sufficient traffic, both cargo and passenger, to warrant a limited service, and I think the Liverpool companies should therefore show their enterprise and patriotism by sailing, say, one steamer a month, even if at a loss. Moreover, in the absence of our German competitors there is the probability of new connections and new trades being opened.

But where, I think, the Liverpool Lines have acted most arbitrarily is in stopping their steamers en route to Constantinople at other ports, and there discharging their Constantinople cargoes. This is a great hardship to consignees, and there is no justification for this action.

During the Italian war, and again recently, the English liners have ended their voyages at Malta, Piræus, or Smyrna, and have landed at these ports their goods for Constantinople and the Black Sea, whereas the foreign liners continue to come through the Dardanelles.—Yours, etc.,

Justitia.

Constantinople, September 22, 1914.

THE DARDANELLES.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent reported on Saturday :—

"A circular Note of the Porte to the local diplomatic missions lays down from the military point of view a limit of six nautical miles parallel to the coast as to the extent of Ottoman territorial waters in the Black Sea, the Archipelago, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Sea of Oman, and the Persian Gulf, while the entire Sea of Marmora is declared territorial waters. As regards the exterior of the entrance of the Dardenelles, the Note prescribes a six-mile space comprised between a line drawn from Kum Kaleh to Seid ul Bahr (at the entrance to the Dardanelles), which is declared an absolutely prohibited zone.

"The same principle applies to the entry to the Bosphorus, viz., a line drawn from the Anatolian lighthouse to the Rumelian lighthouse. Further, the entrance to the Shatt el Arab, within a radius of six miles, and the entire river Euphrates, are declared prohibited zones. Access by day and night to all the forbidden zones is formally prohibited to warships, while merchant vessels are prohibited by night. It is believed that the above prescriptions as regards the Dardanelles are intended to facilitate the solution of the existing difficulty."

The same agency reports from Petrograd, under date October 7, that the President of the Russian Manufacturers and Merchants has had an interview with M. Sazonoff on the subject of the closing of the Dardanelles. The Minister stated that the Powers of the Triple Entente were taking steps with the object of securing the reopening of the Straits. M. Sazonoff emphasised the necessity of freeing Russian trade from German influence.

BRITISH STEAMER FOUNDERS.

Reuter reports from Batoum on October 3 that near Trebizond the Russian steamer "Princess Eugénie," of Oldenburg, perceived the steamer "Belgian King," flying the British flag, in distress. The "Belgian King" sank shortly afterwards. The "Princess Eugénie" saved the crew and 107 passengers.

CARGO FOR BULGARIAN PORTS.

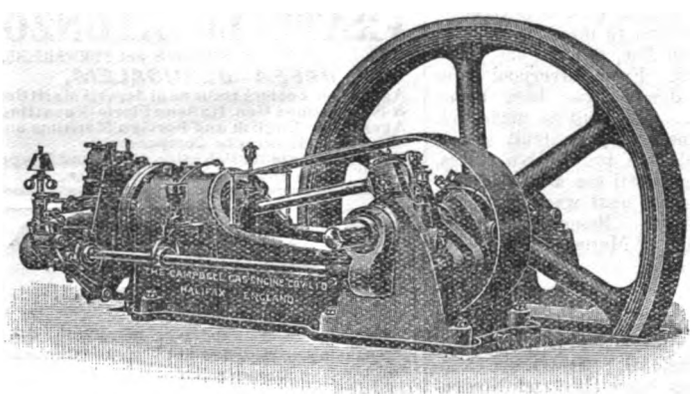
The *Daily Malta Chronicle* published on September 23 the following notice, received from the Admiralty :—

"Bulgarian Government states that they would welcome any ships at Dede Agatch, with cargo for other Bulgarian ports.

"Port is free of mines, and goods consigned to Bulgaria and Constantinople can be forwarded by train.

"Ships which wish to go there should be encouraged to do so."

The Corinth Canal, says our Athens correspondent, which for some time past was partially blocked by a landslip, so that none but small coasting steamers could make use of it. will be opened up again to general traffic in the course of a few days.



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Engineering Notes.

In our "Engineering Notes" last week we outlined the reasons why the Germans have gained ground in the Near East markets, to the detriment of British manufacturers. In the case of the engineering trade, as we have often pointed out, the defective system which British engineering manufacturers have been following there has been the chief factor in affording an opportunity to their German competitors to oust them from those markets. On being asked, for instance, the price of any implement or machinery, they never quote inclusive prices to enable the purchaser to know the exact cost of what he wants delivered to the nearest seaport. The quotations are, as a rule, for delivery f.o.b. Liverpool or London, and often at the manufacturer's works! The quotations include many items for extras or spare parts, and end with charges of from 5 to 7½ and often 10 per cent. on the value for packing. Such a system of quotations not only puzzles, but alarms the purchaser. The Germans, on the other hand, quote strictly inclusive prices. The present writer had an opportunity of seeing a German pro-forma invoice for machinery compared by a buyer with a similar English invoice. In vain he tried to show to that buyer that he would find a saving of 20 per cent. by choosing the English goods, as the German price included ample provision to cover any unforeseen expenses. His answer was: "I don't mind that. I want to know what it will cost me delivered here." And the German had the order.

Carelessness Regarding Delivery.

The carelessness with regard to delivering machinery at a given time is another great defect which has deflected much custom from British manufacturers, and has enabled Germany to step in and secure trade by prompt deliveries. Near Eastern buyers only decide to buy after great consideration, and when the purchase money has been provided. As a rule the order is given at the last moment which will allow a prompt delivery, and the buyer relies on the promise of the manufacturer. A delay in delivery not only tries patience but often results in serious losses. This unfortunately has often been overlooked by British manufacturers in undertaking orders for the Near East.

Travellers and Representatives.

On the very important question of proper representation, British manufacturers are surprisingly indifferent, especially in the Near East, while it is well known that the great commercial success of Germany is due, to a great extent, to the wise selection and dispatch of capable representatives who have a practical knowledge of what they are trying to sell. In the Near East a German traveller can explain to buyers all that they want to know about a machine. He understands what they require, and accordingly advises his firm what to do. Any special alterations needed to meet local wants he carefully studies and submits to his firm, which willingly carries it out. Unfortunately, representatives of British firms are seldom to be found in the Near East, and those who may happen to visit that region are, as a rule, quite incapable of competing with the versatile and qualified German experts. Is it, therefore, to be wondered that, according to official statistics, in one part alone of the Near East the machinery imports in 1911 totalled £2,342,574, of which £1,212,477, or more than half, came from Germany, £474,690 from Austria-Hungary, £324,250 from the United States, and only £211,914 from the United Kingdom?

Cyprus Roads

A correspondent writes:—The development of road communications, involving as it does the bridging of numerous torrents and gullies in so mountainous an island, is still, and will long be, one of the principal needs. A very good piece of work is now being carried out in the west of the island by the construction of a carriage road to connect the large village of Lefka with Mount Troödos. It runs through a long, steep, and very picturesque valley, following the course of a mountain torrent. High up in the valley, at the village of Kalopanagiótes, are situate mineral springs, which possess a high reputation for healing properties and are largely resorted to in cases of rheumatic and also internal ailments. This place should now increase in importance. The Great Fairs of the Kykkou and other monasteries bring vast numbers of pilgrims along this route. The road will be of great value for trade and agriculture.

A Russo-Persian Railway.

In the Russian *Government Gazette* just received it is stated that late in June a party of Russian engineers reached Enzeli for the purpose of examining the proposed railway route from Enzeli to Resht, and thence on to Kasvin. The survey is being conducted under the guidance of the engineer Yarosh. The proposed line is to serve as an extension of that already selected from the station of Alyat, which is near Baku, on to Astara and thence along the shore of the sea to Resht. The Enzeli-Resht-Kasvin route, the length being 224 versts, will follow the existing paved road crossing the high Elburz mountain range near the postal station of Kain. The projected railway from Alyat Station to Kasvin, about 600 versts long, is to connect Central Persia with Russia. There is a good paved road from Kasvin to Teheran—distance, 136 versts. The most important section is that connecting Enzeli and Kasvin, as this gives an outlet to the sea to the richest provinces of Persia—Chamse, Kasvin, and Hamadan, which will facilitate the transport of Russian goods into Persia.

New Solid Fuel Gas Engine.

The naphthalene locomotive built by the Schneider works at Le Creusot, France, is an engineering novelty of much interest. This new type of internal combustion engine depends chiefly on solid fuel—one of its two carburetters using ordinary gasoline or petrol for starting, and the other—water-jacketed, and brought into action when suitably warmed up—employing naphthalene, which is vaporized from the liquid state after having been previously melted in a reservoir. For the locomotive, the water-cooled four-cylinder mechanism yields 70 horse-power at 950 revolutions per minute. The special claims of this engine are its cheap running and its independence of coal and of water, except the small quantity required for cooling.

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Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B H P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

THE CAIRO MOTOR CO., Ltd.
The Largest Motor Depot in the Near East.
SUPPLIERS OF
Motor Cars, Cycles, Launches, Marine Sets, Evinrude Motor Attachments, Dunlop Tyres & all Motor Accessories.
Head Office: RUE SOLIMAN PASHA, CAIRO, EGYPT.
Also at ALEXANDRIA and LONDON.

S.S. "KAISAR-I-HIND."

A New P. and O. Mail Steamer.

The P. and O. Company's new steamer "Kaisar-i-Hind" ("Emperor of India"), so named in commemoration of the visit of their Majesties the King and Queen to India in connection with the Imperial Durbar of 1911-12 (at which time the vessel was projected) has arrived in Tilbury Dock. She has been constructed at the yard of Messrs. Caird and Co., of Greenock, is of 11,430 tons gross register, with a length of 520 ft., breadth 61 ft., depth amidships 38.3 ft., and is driven by two sets of quadruple expansion reciprocating engines developing 16,000 h.p. While she embodies the general design of recent steamers of the "M" class, her internal planning presents a further development of this favourite type among P. and O. steamers, and, being intended more especially for the company's mail and passenger services between London, Marseilles, and Bombay, all her arrangements are made to meet that particular trade.

In the first saloon cabins upper berths are almost entirely absent; most of the cabins contain only two berths, and there are, besides, numerous single-berth cabins. A large majority of the cabins are furnished with cot bedsteads, wardrobes, writing tables, etc., and for each bed throughout the ship there is provided a portable reading lamp; the free provision, also, of an electric ventilating fan in each cabin will be appreciated. The passenger cabins include *en suite* accommodation in the shape of cabins *de luxe* and bedrooms with bathroom attached. Water is laid on to all cabin lavatory basins throughout the ship. Altogether there is accommodation on five decks for 315 first and 233 second saloon passengers.

The sixth and uppermost deck—the boat deck—will, while intended for general use, be of especial value to passengers as an observation deck. Beneath the boat deck sheltered promenade wing decks, flanking the music saloon and a double range of cabins, extend throughout the midship length of the vessel. On this level also is situated the first-class smoking saloon, a handsomely designed apartment with a glass domed roof, including among its comfortable appointments lounge seats, card-tables, electric punkahs, etc., while at the after end access is had to an open-air verandah. Abaft the after well this deck is continued as an awning covered promenade poop-deck of considerable area for the enjoyment of second-saloon passengers.

The first dining saloon is situated forward of the midship section on the upper deck, with a seating capacity for some 300 passengers, and, like the second dining saloon, extends throughout the width of the ship. This saloon, in common with the ship's other public apartments, has been constructed internally from the designs of Mr. T. E. Collcutt, with mural decorations and empanelled frescoes by Professor Moira; it is approached from the decks above and below by a handsome companion staircase, and is lighted from the sides by twenty-two large circular portholes, and from above by an oval well, which rises through the music saloon and is continued to the promenade deck, where it terminates in a large stained-glass dome in the ends and sides of which Professor Moira's pictures are placed. The music saloon is extensive and lofty; the rich but quiet tones of its furniture and carpets and its recessed writing tables give it an air of repose; while at the after end, next the companion communicating with other decks, are the cabinets containing the ship's library.

The "Kaisar-i-Hind" has an electric laundry capable of dealing, *en voyage*, with passengers' needs in the matter of fresh linen, and is fitted with a powerful installation of wireless telegraphy on the Marconi system in charge of skilled operators. At the disposal of the purser's department is a modern refrigerator plant with considerable storage capacity ensuring an ample supply and variety of fresh table provisions during the voyage. The first and second saloon galleys are, moreover, fitted with up-to-date electrical devices as adjuncts to the services of the culinary staff. The new vessel will be despatched on her maiden voyage on the 24th inst., when she is to leave Tilbury Dock, with Bombay as her destination.

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IONIAN BANK'S NEW PREMISES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 28, 1914

The Ionian Bank was installed in its new premises last Monday. The new building is nearer than the old one to the business centres and Stock Exchange, and is fully up-to-date in every respect.

With the exception of the National and the "Popular" Banks, this is the only one which has not taken advantage of the moratorium.

GERMANY AND GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 28.

In consequence of the large increase of orders secured by British, Italian, and American firms since the outbreak of hostilities, to the great detriment of German trade, the German Legation informs the public that 60 per cent. of any orders given to German firms can be executed as usual and shipped viâ Trieste and Venice.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A corn exchange has been opened at Lule-Bourgas.

"White Horse" whisky has been awarded a gold medal at the Anglo-American Exposition recently held in London.

Over 200 of the staff of Messrs. W. and T. Avery, of Birmingham, have joined the Colours.

The new sorting hall and *poste restante* constructed behind the Cairo General Post Office has been opened.

A commercial agency has been established in London with the object of promoting the sale of British manufactures in the rapidly increasing markets of Morocco.

The German passenger steamer "General," which took refuge at the Golden Horn a month ago, has changed her flag, and now flies the Ottoman Star and Crescent.—*Orient.*

At a Court of Directors held on Thursday Mr. Vivian Hugh Smith, of Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell and Co., was appointed Governor of the Corporation, in place of the late Sir Nevile Lubbock.

One hundred and seventeen ships arrived at Alexandria during August and disembarked 8,831 passengers. Fifty-three of these ships were British, twenty-four Greek, and nineteen Italian. Other nationalities show very small figures.

Owing to the extraordinary difficulty of procuring a sufficiency of army boots, the Greek Government has issued a notice (says our Athens correspondent) that in case of mobilization all reservists presenting themselves with a pair of new boots will be indemnified at the rate of 15 frs. per pair.

In discussing trade there is no avoiding figures, and statistics are indispensable to show to what sum German and Austrian exports have recently amounted. The round total of the various products of manufacture was £480,000,000 for 1912; or £337,000,000 in fully manufactured goods, 84 per cent. of it belonging to Germany. Such a trade is in itself an empire. . . . In face of these particulars who will belittle the prospects of obtaining a greater accession of business than any that we have known? The very splinters of such an edifice are gigantic, says in *Mercantile Guardian.*

BANK OF ATHENS

(INCORPORATED IN GREECE.)

CAPITAL FULLY PAID - - Dr. 60,000,000.

Head Office: ATHENS. London Office: 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

BRANCHES.

GREECE: Piræus, Patras, Syra, Calamata, Tripolitza, Volo, Larissa, Agrinion, Carditza, Salonica, Serres, Cavalla, Xanthi, Janina, Chios, Port Vathy (Samos), Canea, Candia and Rethymo.
TURKEY: Constantinople (Galata, with agency at Stamboul), Samsoun, Trebizonde, Kerassunde, Mersina, and Smyrna.
EGYPT: Alexandria, Cairo (with agency in the Mousky quarter), and Zagazig.
SUDAN: Khartoum. CYPRUS: Limassol. HAMBURG: Domhof, Monckebergstrasse 18.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION.

S. E. Franghiadi *(Vice-President and Managing Director)*, J. Bonnier *(Managing Director)*, E. Embiricos *(Managing Director)*, Ch. Wehrung, E. Eugenidi, L. Zarifi, Em. A. Benachi, J. Botassi, Baron André de Neuflize, Marquis de Reverseaux, Em. Rodocanachi, Michel Salvago, D. Stephanou.

Special facilities for Banking, Exchange & Commercial Business of every description with Greece, Egypt, Turkey, Crete, Cyprus and the Levant generally. Most favourable rates for Deposits, Collections, Cable Transfers, &c., on application.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £55,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:

BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T. *(Chairman).*

Sir Jacob E. Sassoon, Bart. — Emile Francqui, Esq.
J. C. Georges Bouillat, Esq. — J. S. Haskell, Esq.
J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. — G. Bromley-Martin, Esq.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nazratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. Barbulescu, Henry Catargy, Th. Capitanovici.
Corneliu Cioranu, G. G. Danielopolu.

CENSORS:

Dr. Cantacuzino, I. Pr. Dumitrescu, C. Krupenski, N. N. Murgaseanu
C. Nacu, J. C. Negruzzi, A. Saligny.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - Ath Moschuna.

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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

Re-opening the Stock Exchange.

The general feeling is that the Stock Exchange will re-open early in November. The Committee have issued a long series of new rules which are preliminary to such re-opening. In future no member can hammer himself, neither can he be hammered. When he finds himself unable to meet his liabilities he must go to the Committee, who will take the matter in hand. Of course, no one knows how this will work out in practice. The clients appear to be very reasonably protected, but here again we are in the dark as to the practical effect of the rules. One thing is satisfactory, that is that no firm can today hammer itself. It would have been scandalous if half-a-dozen big firms had been allowed to shift the whole of their liabilities upon the backs of smaller firms. It would have meant the collapse of the Stock Exchange. For those big firms would have had no choice but to hammer themselves as soon as the House reopened. That has now been avoided.

"Make Believe."

As for the fixed price in the Yankee market that, like the similar rule in the gilt-edged market, was only made to safeguard the moneylenders and others with loans outstanding at the banks. No bank can now close up a loan as it will be unable to sell the collateral. It is not allowed to sell under the fixed price rule. No cover can run off and no rate be forced. Naturally, the effect is temporary, for sooner or later the Stock Exchange must pay off the banks. The idea of "make believe" is quite childish, and I am sorry to say is spreading into other departments such as the Press Bureau and the daily papers.

Fixed Prices.

I do not object so much to fixed prices in gilt-edged stocks, because here the dealings are few and far between, and the present quotation more or less tallies with the price of money. But fixed prices in such gambling counters as Eries, Utah, Steels, Anaconda, is childish. It means the complete stoppage of all business as long as the rule exists.

Short-dated Bills.

The Government continue to borrow on short-dated Bills. But the last issue of Exchequer Bills was much more coldly received, and clearly the Chancellor will have to issue a War Loan. He should have done this when the war began and people hot upon the support of the country. He has in a way chloroformed the investor by the Press censorship, the closing of the House, and the absence of all genuine news. A War Loan must be made. The cost of the Army is enormous, and the Navy is also very expensive, and we cannot go on finding money in short-dated Bills. Such Bills must be met one day, and this may mean a strain upon our resources just when we least expect it.

Armament Shares.

There continues a fair business in all armament shares. Kynochs and their subsidiary in Arklow are full of orders. The Birmingham Small Arms is working day and night; Cammell Laird, Vickers and Armstrong, are hard at work now; in all those companies large profits are now being made. A cheap share is the New Explosives, which has now got out of trouble and is busy in contracts. It should rise during the next few months.

Egypt's Cotton.

The arrangements in regard to the cotton crop are pretty much as we forecasted in The Near East many weeks ago. The crop will be paid for in paper, and the National Bank will be helped by a loan, which, however, will not be offered to the public. The fellaheen will take paper-money when they find that they can get nothing else. We must not forget that the native in India has long been used to paper-money. But in the present case it is "Hobson's choice." It is clearly impossible to ship gold to Egypt, and no other country is at all likely to send any gold or take charge of the crop. Therefore, the fellaheen must make the best of what they can get.

Company Notes.

The Mexican Light and Power and Mexican Trams' reports came to hand after many months' delay. As all dividends have been stopped the figures, though showing steady returns, are not of much use to the investor.

Harrisons and Crosfield's report shows increased profits, but these profits are obtained by disregarding the depreciation of over £50,000 in the securities. Anyone can make profits in this way. The company is in need of funds, and will issue fresh capital.

Dick, Kerr and Co. also ask for more money, and wish the preference shareholders to forego their claims in favour of a debenture issue.

Seaport Selangor once again pays 6 per cent., having made a profit about equal to their dividend. But as the company has ample funds in hand the board may be pardoned.

EGYPTIAN STATE ACCOUNTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 22.

The returns of the State accounts for the first four months of the financial year—i.e., April to July—just issued, are very favourable. The revenue amounted to £E5,358,741 and the expenditure to £E6,380,075, as against £E5,019,052 and £E6,475,955 respectively for the same period of 1913.

It is to be noted that although the revenue shows an increase of £E339,689, it now includes items such as sale of land (£E69,456), and other receipts (£E97,993), that were under the old *régime* passed direct to the Reserve Fund. On the other hand, the expenditure includes outlay on new works, that have always been debited to the Reserve Fund. That outlay during the four corresponding months of 1913 (financial year) came to £E715,149. So altogether the accounts show a very marked improvement.

The chief increases in revenue were:—Customs (£E68,752), Tobacco Dues (£E79,351), Ports and Lights Dues (£E13,924), Railways (£E35,776), Post Office (£E19,742), Sale of Land (£E42,265), and other receipts (£E110,864). Native Tribunals, Telegraphs, and Rents show slight decreases, whilst Land Tax has fallen off by £E62,404.

It must be borne in mind that the four months under review cover the period just preceding the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. The next return will be of greater interest, since it will give some indication of how the crisis is affecting the country, though the true test will not come until October and November.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, SEPTEMBER 28, 1914.

Assets.

Metallic reserve { Gold ..... 153,209,525; Foreign bills payable in gold..... 56,685,926 }		209,895,451
Silver and other coins		634,408
Roumanian and foreign bills		255,653,072
Advances against Government securities ..... 34,426,100; On current account 111,352,400; Unused balance .. 35,777,527 75,574,873 }		110,000,973
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,999,357
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,759,377
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,036,281
Premises		6,732,946
Furniture and printing machinery		1,088,494
General expenses		735,815
Government and other securities deposited		136,864,767
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		254,011,822
Current accounts		32,638,373
Security accounts		22,895,359
Sundry accounts		8,510,976
Total Lei		1,083,731,429

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,203,800
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	543,288,015
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	2,715,614
Current accounts and drafts at sight	30,678,813
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	390,876,589
Sundry accounts	57,631,812
Total Lei	1,083,731,429

Bank Rate, 7 per cent.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.—The National Bank of Egypt notifies that Coupon No. 20 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Three and a-Half per Cent. bonds will be paid at their offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London.

Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum.—Production of crude oil for the month of September, 722 tons. Office note.—It is expected that baling and pumping wells will be restarted shortly.

Bulgarian Five Per Cent. Gold Loan of 1902.—The numbers are announced of 845 bonds which have been drawn for repayment at par on September 14 at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, or Messrs. Stern Brothers.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended September 10 amounted to £E3,923, as against £E5,477 for the corresponding period of 1913.

Egyptian Markets (week ended September 24).—Cattle markets, £298; decrease, £171. General markets, £348; increase, £56. Total, £646; decrease, £115. Total from commencement of year, £35,492; decrease, £1,669.

Greek Four per Cent. Rentes, 1889, and Greek Five per Cent. Funding Loan.—Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, having now received remittances from Athens for the service of the above announce that they are prepared to pay coupons due on October 1. Tickets for coupons already lodged should now be presented at their office.

Khedivial Mail Steamship.—The directors state that the dividend due September 30 on the preference shares has been postponed.

Ottoman 4 per Cent. Loan on the Egyptian Tribute.—The half-yearly coupons for interest due 10th inst. will be paid on and after that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street.

Ottoman Railway.—Receipts for the week ended October 3 amounted to £8,785 as against £13,377 for the corresponding period of last year.

Roumanian Loan Coupon.—With regard to the service of the Roumanian Government 4½ per cent. gold loan of 1913, Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Company announce that, according to cabled advice received by the Roumanian Minister in London, the necessary funds for the payment of the coupon and drawn bonds due on October 1 were duly remitted by the Roumanian Government on the 19th ult., but have been delayed in transmission owing to the prevailing condition of the postal service.

Sudan Goldfield.—September return, 1,203 ozs.

Suez Canal.—Traffic receipts for the 5th inst. amounted to 830,000 frs., and for the 6th inst. to 350,000 frs., against 330,000 frs. and 470,000 frs. respectively last year.

Traian Roumanian.—Cable from Campina, dated October 2:—"Resumed bailing Baicoi. Expect resume other places soon."

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	65,000

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piraeus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, K.C.B., C.S.I., Chairman.
F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).
MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.
MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1869 under Roumanian law, but in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Acts. It is the oldest bank in Roumania, and the only one with a London office.

A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, PARIS, ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT-SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	£1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - -	500,000.
Reserve - - - - -	680,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim.

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بانق عثمانی

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

Head Office: **GALATA**
Branches **- - STAMBOUL and PERA** } **CONSTANTINOPLE.**

ALEXANDRIA. PORT SAID. CAIRO.

London: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C. Paris: 7, RUE MEYERBEER.

Manchester: 25, PALL MALL.

COUNCIL IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr. ARTHUR NIAS, Director-General. Mr. LOUIS STEEG, Director-General-Adjoint.

M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CARTALI, } Directors.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.	PARIS.
Messrs. THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.	Messrs. CHARLES DE CERJAT.
E. W. H. BARRY.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.	GEORGES HEINE.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.	HENRY.
LORD HILLINGDON.	LE BARON HOTTINGUER.
HON. HERBERT A. LAWRENCE.	ALBERT MIRABAUD
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE.	RAOUL MALLET.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, BART.	PYRAME NAVILLE.
	LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
	FELIX VERNES.

London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

EUROPE.
Adrianople
Cavalla
Dedeagatch
Drama
Gumuldjina
Janina
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodosto
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)
Xanthie

ASIA.
Adatia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadine
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
Trebizonde
Tarsus
Van

SYRIA.
Aleppo
Alexandretta
Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
Hodeidah (Arabia)
Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah
Zahlé

EGYPT.
Alexandria
Beni Mazar
Cairo
Mellawi
Mansourah
Minieh
Port Said

CYPRUS.
Larnaca
Famagusta
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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

(Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 180.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The death of King Carol of Roumania has closed a long and most important chapter in the history of that kingdom. Since the day that he arrived, a disguised wanderer in an unknown and almost unheard-of wilderness, he never ceased to labour for the uplifting and improvement of his adopted country. He found a couple of half-ruined Principalities, the playthings of foreign diplomacy, trampled under generations of invasion and warfare, flayed for uncounted years by Phanariots. He built up a powerful, united, and important State, the wealth and military strength of which have caused it to be courted by combinations of Powers, and have earned for it the position of the "Gendarme of Europe." Happy in the moment of his death, the aged monarch was still the master of his kingdom, his policy was still pursued, his orders were obeyed, his kingdom was still at peace. A great figure has passed from the European stage, and has left but the great memory which will ever be associated with the name of King Carol the Founder.

The new King Ferdinand at the moment of his accession finds Roumania at the parting of the ways. Among his subjects there are those who look towards the lost province of Bessarabia, and aspire to the conquest of the area inhabited by their kinsmen under Russian rule, aspirations which are consonant with what is plainly the dynastic policy of a Hohenzollern king. There are, however, also many others who look rather towards Transylvania, where larger numbers of Roumanes live under less favourable conditions than those enjoyed by their cousins in Russia. In the pursuit of the former policy a King of Roumania would expose his kingdom to the hostility of its Slav neighbours, who are so numerous and envelop it so largely. To uphold the second alternative by force of arms would, in the opinion of many, only be to isolate Roumania still more in an encircling sea of Slavs—friendly Slavs, no doubt, and grateful for assistance rendered, but still Slavs conscious of their racial strength, and perhaps eager to absorb the last ethnic barrier which lay between the geographical continuity of the Slavs of the north with their brothers of the south. There is a third path—that of neutrality. But for a State circumstanced as is Roumania to-day neutrality leads but to a diplomatic *cul-de-sac*. Roumania will preserve her territorial integrity and can pursue her peaceful development so far as the disturbance of finance and commerce in neighbouring States will permit. But if the Teutonic Powers win they will treat with scant courtesy a potential ally whose sword was never drawn on their behalf, and Roumania will become a second Saxony. Should the other neighbour prove victorious Roumania would have to face a future of isolation in a Slavonic sea without the benefit of territorial aggrandisement and without that measure of respect and friendship which her neighbours undoubtedly accord to a race which proves itself upon the battlefield.

Such, then, are the courses which lie before King Ferdinand. In Mr. Bratiano the new King has an experienced adviser, and if his own ties of blood draw him in one direction the innumerable European relationships of his Queen, who was born a British Princess, undoubtedly must influence her in the opposite direction. Such being the case, the temptation to remain neutral will be strong, and if King Ferdinand has to lead his troops into action, whether it be into Transylvania or into Bessarabia, we may rest assured that his decision will be based less on personal predilections than on the considered advice of Ministers. With King Carol the Founder a policy might have been affected by the Sovereign's family connections. In the case of King Ferdinand and in the future a policy can only be Roumanian.

The events of the past week in the north-western theatre of war are calculated singularly to impress casual observers. Not only has Antwerp, for years esteemed an impregnable fortress, been taken by the Germans, but a British expedition sent expressly to assist in its defence has failed to prevent its fall, or even appreciably to prolong its resistance. The Germans have won a resounding victory. The casual observers will fail to realise that the victory is, to a certain extent, hollow in that the neutrality of the Scheldt is for the present an effective bar to the use of Antwerp by the Germans for purposes of offence. It may be argued that in the present year of grace neutrality, at best a paper bulwark, is of no great efficacy against a German army. That is certainly true, but, on the other hand, we understand that the Dutch are fully prepared to take the field in defence of their neutrality, which is directly connected with that of the Scheldt. It is possible that Germany may decide that it is not worth while to wage a war with the Netherlands in order to be able to make use of Antwerp as a port of arms against Great Britain.

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As the immediate result of the loss of Antwerp the Kingdom of Belgium as a distinct and independent political unit has ceased to exist. Its sovereign is an exile, its Government has had to find shelter in a foreign land. Courtesy and sympathy, as well as heart-felt admiration for our gallant but unfortunate allies, make it difficult for us to realise the pitiable plight in which Belgium now finds itself. At best, a few square miles of its territory still escape the occupation of the Teutonic invader. Such a triumph readily lends itself for purposes of glorification of German prowess, and in the hands of the energetic emissaries of Berlin who infest Constantinople and other neutral capitals, the fall of Antwerp, and the conquest of Belgium will be most useful weapons against the Powers of the Triple Entente.

In France there appears to have been very little change to chronicle. For the greater part of the distance between the Belgian frontier and that of Alsace, along the whole of which there are almost continuous trenches, it seems that a kind of military stalemate has been reached. There are, however, indications that vigorous action is to be expected at the extreme left of this immense line which may lead to a pronounced change in the geography of the campaign in France.

The German invasion of Poland, in which it is supposed that no less than twenty-eight army corps are engaged, appears to have reached the line of the Vistula between Iwangorod and Sandomir. Warsaw itself is still some twenty miles or more removed from the firing line, and the prospects of a German advance along the right bank of the great river from Thorn through Plock towards the Polish capital are not encouraging to the Teutons, who have failed to expel the Russians from East Prussia and their positions at Mlawa and to the south of it. The recent adventures of the German Army during its hopeless attempts to cross the Niemen and its hapless retreat by way of Augustowo cannot have inspired it with any great confidence in its new task of forcing the passage of a much wider river in the teeth of the opposition of vastly greater forces.

In Galicia the Russians hold the Uzhok Pass, a great gateway into Hungary on the north, and continue to besiege Przemysl, several of the forts of which they claim to have reduced. An attempt on the part of the Kaiserlichs to relieve the place appears to have been repulsed at a point some twenty-five miles to the west. News of the Russian advance into Transylvania is wholly lacking, but, indirectly, it may be assumed to be making favourable progress, as the politicians of Budapest are reported to be now convinced that Transylvania should be autonomous. This death-bed repentance finds a parallel in the Constitution hastily granted by the unfortunate King Francis II. of the Two Sicilies under pressure of the invasion of Garibaldi and The Thousand who deposed him a few days later.

On the Drina the silence which reigns, so far as the outside world is concerned, appears to be that of exhaustion. Montenegrin raiding parties are reported to be in the neighbourhood of Serajevo, but their presence hardly seems to perturb the Kaiserlichs, who are arranging for the opening of the State trial of the men accused of complicity in the assassination plot which led to the death of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the Duchess of Hohenberg. French guns are now believed to be in position on the Lovtchen Mountain which dominates Cattaro, and a naval demonstration before Ragusa induced the Austrian authorities hurriedly to withdraw. Apart from these incidents there is little to record about the progress of the war in Bosnia and the Adriatic; the Kaiserlichs, however, have announced their intention of prosecuting it more vigorously in the near future, and doubtless the Serbian Army will be quite ready to resume operations by that time.

The position of Bulgaria at present is curious. Supporters of the policy of reconstructing the Balkan Alliance are anxious to secure her adhesion, and fully realize that such a step on her part must be paid for. But those of her neighbours who would profit from her co-operation are unwilling to contemplate the price to be paid, which must necessarily be territorial. Yet if the re-settlement of Europe be conducted on ethnic lines, as seems desirable, a certain territorial readjustment in favour of Bulgaria is inevitable. Apparently it is a dread of this impending rectification of frontier at their expense which leads the public organs of certain countries to attack Bulgaria for her present behaviour—in the hope, perhaps, that if she can be proved, by repeated accusation, of having been a danger to the Triple Entente during the war, she may be disqualified from benefiting in any way at the general peace. The method pursued is clumsy. The Government of Sofia has been pressed by the Powers of the Triple Entente to remain neutral. It is attacked in certain quarters for having acted upon that advice and maintained a strict neutrality when requested to forward munitions of war sent from one belligerent State to another. It is attacked in the same quarters for having permitted the passage of munitions of war destined for a neutral State, and is even blamed for having allowed the subjects of one friendly State to cross its territory on their way to that of another friendly State. There have been besides a number of accusations levelled against Bulgaria which are wholly unfounded in fact—some of them being even ridiculous. Yet they are gravely issued from official sources and as gravely printed in certain journals.

From various items of information to hand it appears that the Germans have almost succeeded in starting the Ottoman Empire on its final career down the slippery slope leading to destruction. As directed from Berlin the Porte seems merely to be manœuvring for position—it is anxious to be able to pose as the victim of aggression, and has made several efforts to tempt the patience of the enemies of Germany. Their patience is, however, as robust as that exhibited by St. Anthony of old, and does not give way under constant provocation. Turkey has been thrust into a curious diplomatic limbo of its own. No Power is at war with the Porte, but, if one may judge from certain acts on the part of supposedly responsible officials, the Porte cannot be said to be at peace with all the world. The situation is remarkable, and does not seem likely to last very long. If no one can be found to play the part of an aggressor in declaring war on Turkey, it is probable that the Sultan will be called upon to unsheath the scimitar of Osman against the foes—not of his house or of his Empire—but of his insidious German friends.

Not content with playing the Porte, the Germans, who, as have been repeatedly pointed out in THE NEAR EAST, have endeavoured to arouse Islam from Tangier to Teheran against Great Britain, France, and Italy, are now believed to be intriguing with Christian Abyssinia against its three neighbours. Such a policy can hardly fail to irritate the Italians, whose memories of Adowa have scarcely faded. The Venice correspondent of *The Times* is inclined to think that enthusiasm in Italy for a war against the Tedesco is abating, but it may revive if Berlin seeks to precipitate the legions of the new Negus upon Eritrea.

From Urumiyah comes a report, refreshingly reminiscent of those far-distant days before the war, that Kurds have attacked the Cossack escort of the Russian Vice-Consul. There would be nothing strange in such an adventure were it not that the Kurds in question came from over the Turkish border, and are believed locally to have been instigated by Ottoman officers.

Turkish nonchalance in matters sanitary is traditional, and sad experience has made it difficult to look for any improvement. It is, however, most unfortunate that the Porte should have chosen the Derkos Lake drainage area for an exhibition of its notorious incompetence in this direction. The Constantinople correspondent of *The Times* reports that an epidemic of typhoid is now raging in the capital owing to the fact that the Ottoman military authorities have seen fit to quarter diseased

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troops in the area whence Constantinople draws its water supply.

In such circumstances the moment hardly appears to be well chosen for the supersession of the International Sanitary Commission by a locally appointed and purely Ottoman body. The functions of the former board did not embrace an oversight of the water supply of Constantinople, but the moral effect of the change at this time is not good. Still, there is little to be said in praise of the Sanitary Commission, and if it lies in the power of the Porte summarily to dissolve it in this way it will pass into history unhonoured and unsung.

The triumph of Essad Pasha Toptan in Albania, won by methods mediæval in conception and almost Teutonic in execution, is a triumph also of Italian influence. In the days that are past Italy and Austria both wooed the all-powerful Minister of War—Italian blandishments were the more successful, so the then Mpret was inspired to exile his formidable servant. The Austro-Catholic party, momentarily victorious, collapsed with the dynasty which it had supported, and, for the purposes of the plot, the Young Turks and the Italians for a few weeks saw eye to eye in matters Albanian. This was not really surprising: the Young Turks and the Epirotes had combined before. Now, however, Italy is shaking her finger at the former allies of her Moslem friends, and the latter have turned and rent their Orthodox supporters. Prenk Pasha Bib Doda is reported to have bowed before the storm, and has recognized the new Grand Vizier. Thus the Catholic party, deprived of Austrian support, has made its peace with the rising sun, and the Nationalists, who hoped to be Albanian, rather than Moslem, Catholic or Orthodox, have had to retire into exile. Essad Pasha Toptan is believed to enjoy the countenance of the authorities in Nish, so perhaps the situation will be improved along the Serbo-Albanian frontier. Whether the situation in the Principality itself will be ameliorated is still open to question, as is also the nature of the future relations between Burhan-ed-Din Mpret and his Grand Vizier.

CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, September 30.

Enver Pasha's Activities.

Recent events have by no means improved a situation which was bound to remain unsatisfactory so long as the German officers and crews of the "Goeben" and "Breslau," despite official assurances, remained in Turkish service. The advent of more German fighting men has been followed by the dispatch of officers to the provinces. Limann Pasha is now at the closed Dardanelles superintending the installation of two of the famous 42 c/m. Krupp mortars, and sundry other less formidable but quite modern pieces. But mere armaments are of less importance than are the movements of Turkish ships and regiments. At the end of last week the British Ambassador made strong representations to the Porte concerning the menacing concentration of Turkish forces estimated at 25,000 men, with, in addition, 6,000 Bedouin auxiliaries at and around Gaza, within striking distance of El Arish. A smaller concentration is also reported from Akaba, whither Germans have been sent with the dynamite brought from the requisitioned s.s. "Peter Rickmers." As any such concentration must have the effect of causing us to detain in Egypt troops which will be required for the primary theatre of war in Europe, the Ambassador's protests were necessary. The Porte seems really to have been kept in ignorance of all this by the Minister of War and his Germans. One of the leading officers on the frontier is Mumtaz Bey, Enver Pasha's Aide-de-camp in Cyrenaica, and it is supposed that he was mainly responsible for the propaganda now being spread among the nomads on the Egyptian border.

The Dardanelles Question.

Meanwhile, the Porte had been repeatedly warned that any warship flying the Ottoman flag which attempted to leave the Dardanelles would be stopped by the Allied fleets unless the German staff and crews left Turkish service. Nevertheless, a torpedo boat went out last Sunday, and was stopped and sent back. Thereupon General Weber, who is in command at the Dardanelles, closed the Straits by laying mines across the navigable channel that still remained open. This measure, undertaken it would appear on the initiative of the German officer in question, was confirmed by the Government, which issued a communiqué wherein it was explained that the belligerent British and French fleets off the Dardanelles having stopped and searched merchantmen, and thus caused prejudice to the use of the Dardanelles as a commercial thoroughfare, the Government had closed the Straits, which would remain closed till the departure of the said fleets. Having thus cut off its nose to spite its face, the Porte is now said to be contemplating the communication of a note to the Powers, offering to open the Straits if the British and French fleets retire to Tenedos. Knowing what we do of German mine-laying tactics, it is not to be supposed that the British and French Governments will agree to this unless it obtains very solid guarantees concerning the German contingent now in Turkey!

Work of the Press Bureau.

Meanwhile, the papers are making much capital out of what Russians say is a purely imaginary success scored over Russian frontier guards in the Caucasus by a Persian band of the Somai tribe. There are those who say that the Somai tribe is of Stambuli and Kurd origin, and that its chiefs are the notorious O—— N—— Bey, M.P. for A——, C.U.P., etc., etc., and the Daghestanli Emir Hashmet, long an exile here and a friend of many Russian revolutionaries. The zeal wherewith the Press Bureau has urged the local Press to publish these great tidings is singular indeed. Complaints of England's "odious tyranny" in Egypt, and of the manner in which the Allies are now "trying to force war" upon innocent Turkey, are filling the columns of certain newspapers; and altogether it would seem that the military chiefs are doing what they can to force the Entente Powers to attack Turkey in self-defence. As for Balkan affairs, though articles concerning lost Salonika and its Turcophile Jews continue to be published, and though the Press, as ever, gives excellent advice—from the Turkish point of view—to all the Balkan States, there is not quite the same enthusiasm as was formerly the case. Turkey, instead of preparing an offensive to the North, seems now to be taking a more defensive attitude.

Expiry of the Capitulations.

To-morrow the Capitulations expire, and we come under Turkish law, a prospect which none of us look forward to with any enthusiasm at all, and which is the more gloomy in that at present the military seem to be able to do absolutely what they please, whatever the civil authorities may have to say. When will some manager of the Levantine Folies Diplomatiques arise from the box in which he has long dozed, and shout "Off stage, and quick about it!" to the uniformed comedians who have been trying our patience for the last two months?

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 21.

German Representatives.

The sudden recall of Dr. von Waldthausen, the German Minister to the Roumanian Court, has caused general astonishment and not a little comment. Dr. Waldthausen came here under specially favourable auspices, bearing indeed an autograph letter of introduction from the Kaiser to King Carol. The sudden removal of the German Legation from Sinaia to Bucharest did not cause much remark; for, although the Austrian and German Legations are usually the first to move to the summer quarters each year and the last to return, this year several foreign missions, notably the French and British, did not go to Sinaia at all, while others remained there for but a limited period. But the sudden departure of the German Minister two days after the return of the members of the Legation made people commence to put two and two together, especially when within twenty-four hours his predecessor arrived, "to take charge," it is said, though it is well known that M. Waldthausen will never return to Bucharest.

The reasons for this sudden recall are variously given. On the one hand, it is said that his Excellency objected to doing "dirty work," such as handing to the Press here the fantastic news daily supplied from Berlin; on the other hand, it is openly stated that the King himself requested the Kaiser to recall his representative, who did not hesitate to spread broadcast among his acquaintances the most private statements of his Majesty. And this at a moment when the latter's position has been for some time distinctly a difficult one. According to one of the Sunday papers, what brought matters to a climax was a peculiarly gross breach of confidence on the part of the Ambassador. At one of the very private audiences which he has lately accorded to the Minister, His Majesty declared that "nothing was more disagreeable to him just now than having to receive the representatives of those countries which are at enmity with Germany." And this the indiscreet diplomatist is reported to have lost no time in reporting right and left.

Be that as it may, his substitute, Herr von Busch, has presented his credentials, and has lost no time in taking up a typically German, that is to say, bullying, attitude towards this country. Only two days after his arrival he informed a certain Court functionary that in the event of a Roumanian army entering Transylvania it would certainly meet a German army there, and that not a man of it would return to Roumania!

The War Feeling.

The position at the present time is a very curious one. The army is concentrated and ready for action: half a million men under arms. It and the public generally are clamouring for a declaration of war on Austria and an advance into Transylvania, and this is the wish of the entire Opposition and of a goodly part of the Government as well. On the other side are the King and a very few supporters bent on a continuance of strict neutrality.

Many demonstrations have been made in favour of a bold policy. It is generally known that Russia is ready to guarantee Roumania in the event of her occupying Transylvania (in which case it is held by many people that France and England will also back her effectively). Bulgaria, too, has during the past few days given positive assurances of her strict neutrality. And it is hard, therefore, to see why the country does not move.

Public and Press are somewhat free in their criticisms of the King's conduct. But his Majesty keeps to his bed and refuses all audiences.

Anti-Austrian Feeling.

The extraordinary enthusiasm which anything French or British calls forth is worthy of note. Russia seems to be a somewhat poor third in the matter of popularity. As to all things Austrian and German, they are hated with an intense hatred, and very soon if things go on as they are now it will be dangerous to speak German anywhere in public. The passing through Roumania of ammunition for Austria and of German sailors and officers for Turkey has called forth a veritable storm of indignation in the Press, and the question whether or not this is an infringement of neutrality is freely discussed. Equally so is the fact that German and Austrian agents are buying wheat and other cereals in large quantities in this country, and exporting their purchases by means of German and Austrian trucks sent into the country for the purpose. Roumania is in a position to supply large quantities of foodstuffs. For though this year's crop is slightly below the average, it is more than sufficient to supply the country's wants, and owing to the Balkan Wars having practically put a stop to all trade from the Danube last year, the former season's crops remain ready for exportation. Germany is said to have offered 2,000 covered railway trucks for the transport of grain (i.e., 20,000 tons) from Roumania. To-day, however, comes the news that a number of trucks ready loaded with wheat for sending abroad have been refused by the Roumanian railways; and the Director-General of Railways now announces that all trucks with grain destined for Germany and Austria viâ the Predeal frontier are to be detained. Whether this is only on account of congestion on the line or whether it is an excuse to cut off the supply of grain to the belligerent countries, in response to the agitation in the Press, it is difficult to say. Almost fabulous prices are being offered by German agents, which seems to show the want of foodstuffs in Germany just now; and should the exportation cease for one reason or another, it will be a serious misfortune for the Teutons.

Return of the Albanian Volunteers.

The Roumanian volunteers who set out for Albania some time ago amidst such enthusiasm are now returning in a deplorable state. Most of them are suffering from the effects of starvation. Many are in rags and bare-footed, having had to sell nearly everything they possessed to buy food. And a cheap and roughly made Albanian medal is all they have to show for the hardships they have suffered in their ill-starred adventure. Barely a penny have they received in pay, although a bounty of 300 francs and pay at the rate of 2 francs per day was promised to each man.

CYPRUS AND THE WAR.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—As one effect of the war, some little unpleasantness has been caused here by manifestations of pro-German feeling amongst a few of the Turkish community. This has been in connection with the rankling ill-feeling caused by the detention of the Turkish Dreadnoughts. German anti-British intrigues do not fail to penetrate all parts, and, of course, reach Cyprus, but the Turks in general are too sensible to be likely to act in any manner which would disturb the peace of the island, and local provision is made for any contingencies that might, but are unlikely to, arise.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Nish, September 22.

Prolonged Fighting.

After the brilliant Serbian victory at Tcher and Jadar and after the Serbian troops had crossed the Sava and occupied the enemy's territory—that is, Semlin and the adjacent fortified position, Bezhanija, it was supposed here that in a few days the inhabitants of Belgrade would be able to return to the capital. But the Austrian troops, showing renewed activity, have again crossed the Drina, and for the last ten days desperate fighting has been going on along the whole line, Lioubovija—Lozhnitza, especially in the direction of Krupanje, and to-day the citizens' return to Belgrade appears to be as distant as ever it was . . . . (*Passage excised by Censor.*)

Flocking to the Colours.

Recruits and also men formerly exempted from military service are joining the forces in large numbers. For several days I have seen each day six hundred marching in batches into the fortress at Nish. These, I am told, are recruits from the newly acquired Serbian territories. There has been heavy fighting; the Serbian victories have cost many lives and an immense number of wounded; and not only must these gaps be filled up, but a great many more men are wanted for the advance far into the enemy's territory when the time arrives to join hands with the Russian troops besieging the capitals of Hungary and Austria.

The hospitals of Nish are crowded with wounded, and so are those of Kragujevatz, Valjevo, and other Serbian towns.

Prince George has been wounded for the second time. He received his first wound in the fortress at Belgrade, and this, his second, when leading an assault at the head of his battalion. Although the wound is said not to be dangerous it has been found necessary to transport the Prince to Krupanje.

Charges Against the Austrians.

War always brings with it a tale of horrors, but the cruelties and depredations practised by the Austrians and Hungarians in this war seem almost incredible in this Twentieth Century of advanced civilisation. The following extracts are from some of the Serbian official communications:—

"Constantly when penetrating into the enemy's territory our army becomes acquainted with crimes committed by Austrian officers and soldiers. When the Austrian 64th Regiment marched through the village Trouptzi, in Bosnia, the officer commanding the 1st battalion of these Austrian troops ordered four peasants and a child of Serbian nationality to be executed because they were unable to say whether the Serbian Army was in the vicinity; and the same officer ordered two peasants in another village to be shot because they had in their hands some empty cartridge cases."

This same battalion after a combat, says the report, locked seventeen peasants in a house and caused them to be burnt alive.

Serbian priests were especially cruelly treated. At Rouda the soldiers of the 64th regiment hanged a Serbian Orthodox priest to the clock of the church, and set fire to the Serbian library and to the houses and shops inhabited or owned by Serbians. At Kozlouk a Serbian priest was hanged on the simple denunciation of a woman, who asserted the priest had cried out: "Long live King Peter!"

A Racial War.

I was conversing yesterday with a Serbian military doctor, who remarked to me: "This war is a war of race against race. There are many Croats prisoners, and prisoners who are Austrian subjects of Serbian nationality, and also Bohemian prisoners whom I have taken as hospital nurses, and whose services are appreciated by the wounded Serbian soldiers, but if by chance I take into the wards a Hungarian prisoner or an Austrian prisoner, our wounded men at once cry out: 'Take him away, doctor, and shut the door!'"

Many of the Austrian prisoners of the Orthodox faith relate that they fought against their will, and that the officers, revolver in hand, threatened them with death before going into action, and that the Slavs amongst the Austrian troops were placed in the first line and Hungarians and Germans behind them.

A Serbian Lady's Experiences.

A friend of the wife of a Serbian doctor relates to me that the latter, with her husband, resided at Krupanje before the Austrian troops first crossed into Serbian territory, and that her husband, thinking it unlikely that the Austrian forces would ever enter Krupanje, left her there, whilst he went elsewhere to attend to his military duties. When the Austrian troops entered Krupanje they indiscriminately put to death women and innocent children; and she owed her life simply to the fact that they saw surgical instruments in the house, and learnt that she could be useful in attending to the wounded, bandaging them and aiding in other professional and hospital duties. But the Austrian officers warned her that on the first shots fired by the Serbians, should the Serbian troops approach, she and her child would be put to death. The Serbian forces did attack them, and, in the first hubbub and excitement, she hid herself in the cellar, and in this way saved her life and that of her son. Supplication on bended knee, and the tears and cries of her child were useless, said she, and one Austrian Catholic priest said that it was well to exterminate such vermin.

A wounded Serbian soldier who was at Shabatz, relates that when the Austrian troops took Shabatz they plundered all the shops, and what they could not take away they wantonly destroyed. Private houses and shops were maliciously wrecked. In the vaults of the wine and beer stores the casks were broken and the liquid ran to waste, flooding the cellars with wine and beer and spirits. Many civilians were cruelly treated, some being put to death and some taken away as prisoners. Women were violated and beaten.

Such is a description of the state of civilisation as it exists among the Austrian and Hungarian soldiers who invaded Serbia.

SERBIAN RED CROSS APPEAL.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the late Serbian Minister in London, who is now nursing Serbian wounded at the front, has sent the following telegram to Dr. Seton-Watson, hon. sec. of the Serbian Relief Fund, 22, Berners Street, W.:—

Heartfelt thanks Serbian Relief Committee for noble sympathy and endeavours. People here deeply touched by coming of British Red Cross and Lady Paget's mission. English nurses I brought are doing noble work here. Received with great joy news of the splendid sums being raised in England for sufferers from war, and we pray that if from their abundance something more can be spared for Serbia that you will send us bedding, blankets, pyjamas, dressing gowns, and slippers for wards, and general hospital stores. Every available building in all the towns near the front has been converted into a hospital, and still wounded must sometimes sleep on floors in corridors and sheds. Surgical supplies running short. Often wounds can only be dressed every third or fourth day for want of bandages and gauze. Surgeons are working eighteen hours a day; nurses and local committee are exhausted from strain.

"Rattlin' good game, old man. What?"

"Yes! An' a rattlin' good wind-up with a 'burra' peg of Perfection."

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LETTER FROM SMYRNA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Smyrna, September 24.

Mobilization Hardships.

The measures adopted by the military authorities in connection with the general mobilization are bringing many and real hardships in their train. Up-country districts are denuded of men, and families are starving. Horses, carts, camels, donkeys, and bicycles have been almost cleared out and forwarded by rail to Constantinople. No receipts are given in many cases, and the owners consequently have little or no chance of recovering their property or obtaining any adequate compensation. The Ottoman Aidin Railway Company has recently come in for its share of unwelcome attentions, and three of its powerful main line locomotives have been commandeered and sent to run on the German railway from Haidar Pasha. Three more were seized later on, and it is probable that these half-dozen will not satisfy the Turks. In Europe, in time of mobilization, soldiers are billeted on private householders: here in Smyrna the Turks go one better, and in several cases have ejected whole families and taken over their houses without any compensation. In villages inhabited principally by Greeks, only women and children and old men are left, and great misery prevails.

Abolition of the Capitulations.

The announcement by the Turkish Parliament of the abolition of the Capitulations on and from the first of October was a veritable bolt from the blue, and has caused widespread consternation amongst all classes of foreign residents. At first the news was not treated with much respect, and most people regarded it as a piece of bluff; but the fateful date has almost arrived, and no action has yet been taken by the Powers to prevent the coming into force of the Turkish laws. There is still time, of course, but everything seems to point to the possibility that the Capitulations will be at any rate suspended. The Turks have chosen a moment when the Powers are too busily occupied to be able to devote their attention to Turkish questions, but, unfortunately for itself, Turkey has seldom shown such unfitness to govern as at present. The country is in a state of stagnation and bankruptcy; the bulk of the natives are hard pressed to find food; the soldiers and non-commissioned officers are plundering and illegally levying contributions on poor people; thousands of hard-working labourers and small farmers have been forced to quit the country; and the policy of driving the Greeks out of Smyrna is still being continued under the energetic, although misguided, rule of the Committee of Union and Progress. This state of affairs can scarcely be attributed to the great war raging in Europe. The policy of expulsion began long before the Kaiser thought fit to plunge Europe into strife. The cause is directly due to the bitter anti-Greek and anti-foreign policy being carried out throughout the whole of Turkey.

Smyrna's Trade Paralysed.

Smyrna is dependent on its great export trade. The war has naturally caused a stringency of gold, but, as Turkey is not at war and it is quite against her interests to go to war, the severe restrictions passed by the Government preventing the banks from paying out gold were not necessary; and they could easily be withdrawn, with incalculable advantage to the whole country. This is the season when Smyrna should be working night and day. The fruit crops have been good and cargo steamers are lying in port ready to transport them, but the Government measures prevent the export trade from being carried on. The Austrian and German markets are, of course, closed to Smyrna fruit exporters, but the English and American markets are open and able to take up large quantities of fruit.

This, then, is the time chosen for the abolition of the Capitulations. Is it in any way strange that foreigners should dread the state of affairs likely to result when the safeguards of the Capitulations have been swept away? Primarily, the Ottoman Courts of Justice have always been notorious for their peculiar ideas of justice. The new regime would mean that everyone would be amenable to Turkish laws and Turkish justice. This would be too awful to contemplate. Business, which is already carried on under sufficiently difficult circumstances, would become almost impossible. The answer of the Turk to this is that if the Europeans do not like Turkish justice the remedy is simple, and that they are at full liberty to leave the country. There are plenty of homeless *muhajirs* who would be quite ready to occupy the empty homes.

A Pinprick for the Entente.

The Capitulations in Turkey embrace the foreign post offices. The Turkish Post Office, like the Courts of Justice, has until recently been one of the miscarriages of this country. A short time ago a Christian was placed at the head, and he has succeeded, especially in the capital, in establishing a good service in many directions. Nothing but praise has been meted out to him, but one man cannot conduct a whole postal department, and it is not certain how long his fellow Ministers will allow him to remain at his post. Jealousy was always a strong point in the character of the Turk. The suppression of the foreign post offices would consequently result in chaos for some considerable time. Can the Turks in a fortnight arrange to manage the affairs of the foreign post offices, which have taken years to arrive at their present state of efficiency? The foreigners do not think so, and are not looking forward with complacency to their post offices being closed.

The announcement of the abolition was followed one or two days later by that of the increase of Customs duty from 11 per cent. to 100 per cent. on high-class boots and shoes, cloths, and spirits. It is interesting to note that these come principally from France, England, and Russia. Other articles were added subsequently to the list. To supply these articles native industries would require to spring up, but will it be possible to find any one willing to risk money? For a country whose business has been in a parlous condition for two or three years this sudden increase in duty will be most prejudicial.

THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE.

The following passages are extracted from a letter received from a Jerusalem correspondent, and dated September 26: —

All the Christians of Jerusalem and Palestine, as well as the educated Mohammedans who are not connected with the C. U. P. party, sympathise with the Entente Powers; employees of the German and Austrian Consulates, merchants, and missions, together with most Government officials and the military, side with the Alliance Powers. If it had not been for the proclamation of martial law immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, I believe many societies in this district would have urged the Government to maintain the strictest neutrality.

La Palestine, the best Arabic organ, is among the local papers suppressed by the Government. No editor dares to publish any information concerning the Turkish military measures. The German, Russian, French and Austrian Consulates in the city send copies of war telegrams received by their Ambassadors in Constantinople to the post offices of their respective countries in the city, as well as to the local banks. H.B.M. Consul sends copies of telegrams received by Sir Louis Mallet to the Young Men's Christian Association's Reading Rooms, where the best educated young men assemble. He also sends French copies to the French post office.

There are thousands of soldiers in and around Jerusalem awaiting orders. It is rumoured that Turkey is going to attack Egypt, and that many thousands of soldiers have been concentrated in the southern parts of Palestine. But the whole population of Palestine, with the exception of the military party, are indignant at the rumour. They believe that, if Turkey enters the arena she is going to lose her territories. Rumours have reached Jerusalem this afternoon to the effect that Enver Pasha, the Minister of War, has been deposed, and the general opinion is that, if this is true, Turkey will surely remain neutral

Steps have been taken by the Government to prevent the raising of the prices of food stuffs. For the first few days of last month prices were raised, but the Government has since fixed the prices of food. The export of food stuffs and grain to foreign countries is strictly forbidden, and even their transportation from one district to another in the country has been prohibited lately, but the most trying problem in Jerusalem is the supply of water, for a good deal of water in the city has been consumed by the soldiers, their horses and mules, and unless in a short time the early rains fall, Jerusalem is going to suffer greatly.

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BAGHDAD AND THE WAR.

Mobilization Mania.

Letters lately received in London from Baghdad and Busreh present a gloomy picture of intrigue and incompetence—intrigue on the part of Turkey's self-styled friends and incompetence on the part of her own officials. Writing from Baghdad on August 9, a correspondent who has a long acquaintance with the Baghdad district and knows both Turk and Arab remarkably well, deplores the madness that appears to have overtaken the Turks. In connection with the mobilization, they are, he reports, "dragging the miserable citizens from their homes in thousands, and taking them off to a place in the desert, where they are confined with nothing to eat all day and not even enough water to drink." To add to the folly, the conscripts were being put into winter clothing, although, of course, August is one of the hottest months in Irak, and the intention of the Government at that time was to march them to the Russian frontier! The authorities also seized all available transport animals, but, after holding them a few days, found they could not feed them. The animals were, therefore, returned to their original owners, who had to hold them at the disposition of the military authorities, and to feed them in the meantime. The writer remarks (quite truly, one feels) that such an exhibition of sheer folly and incapacity can seldom have been given, and he adds: "The military value of this rabble is absolutely *nil;* for hardly any of them have had any training, and they are all traders—townsmen who never take any kind of exercise, and could not without extreme fatigue march from here to Ma'adem (about two miles from Baghdad). But the effect of their being taken upon the city and its trade, combined with the European War, has been absolutely lamentable."

A "Holy War."

The Government of the vilayet, he goes on to say, "are entirely C.U.P. men, they are all solidly pro-German, and they are doing their best to make the people so. A violent pamphlet exhorting the people to embark upon a Holy War was discovered in time to enable the British, Russian and French consuls to get it suppressed, but others may appear at any time. The intention is to divert the exasperation of the populace from the Government to the foreigners, and if this kind of thing goes on that will undoubtedly be the end of it. . . . I hope that when the European War is over England will not forget the extremely unfriendly feeling that is now being shown here towards her. This is in the air everywhere, and is undoubtedly inspired from Constantinople."

In a postscript, added on August 10, he reports:—"The position is even worse. We were awakened at midnight last night by messengers proclaiming a state of siege. Military law is in full force. Conscription is going on on every side, and the authorities are persistently spreading the news that there is going to be a Jehad." The only news received up to the time of writing was of German victories, and "Government circles" were "rejoicing," but all the European residents—with the exception of the Germans, of course—were in a state of not unnatural anxiety. "If anything happens to any of us up here," the writer says, "you will know and let it be known who is responsible."

In his next letter, which is dated August 16, the writer reports that the position "is as bad as ever," mobilization is still in progress under the same conditions of inefficiency, and business of every nature is at a complete standstill. "The bazaars are in a worse state than I have ever seen them before, even during the most severe cholera; nearly all shops are closed, and grain prices are rising to famine level, though there is abundance of grain and other foodstuffs in the country."

Financial Chaos.

Such trifles as these are not deemed worthy of the notice of the authorities, who appear to be too much occupied in levying blackmail in the form of fees for exemption from military service. Jews and Christians are described as making frantic efforts to raise money to pay these fees; but even rich men find it difficult, if not impossible, to do so. The writer reports that worthy Jews of his acquaintance, men worth ten thousand pounds or more, have visited him to beg the favour of a loan of £20 or £30. For no bills are being met; the financial machine is at a standstill; and even sovereigns and gold ornaments have hardly any value. The Government will not accept anything but *liras* in payment of the exemption fees; so *liras* are the only coins of real value. "People are offering to deposit gold as security for far over the value required, and to pay 4 and 5 per cent. per month for loans; but even on these terms money is not to be had. . . . Everyone, from the Bank downwards, is hoarding for the worse times that are, it is feared, to come."

Farmers' Fears.

The trouble is felt throughout the surrounding district also. Most of the farmers are in a good position as regards their grain, and so forth, but they cannot turn their stocks into money. With commandeering in full swing, they will, naturally, not risk bringing their goods into the city. They dare not even winnow the grain lest the authorities should seize it, and if it were winnowed they could not get anyone to convey it into the market. This state of affairs, the writer declares, cannot be improved until the Levies are sent away, and commandeering by the Government stops. Unfortunately, at this time, he writes, "the main body of the rabble is still in Baghdad," though small bodies of the troops have been moved to the north.

Stirring up the Tribes.

The fear that the Turks "are on the point of being dragged into war with England by the Germans" is described as being generally felt, and the writer goes on to say that the Mohammedans are being encouraged to submit to the mobilization by the cry of "Jehad"—which is in this instance interpreted as meaning a holy war against England and Russia. The Government, moreover, "is in correspondence with the tribes, writing to them that the time has now come for them to draw the sword for Islam, etc., etc." Knowledge of this fact adds, of course, to the general feeling of insecurity; and upon the whole, one can hardly be surprised to learn that the Jews and Christians are "scared to death."

The writer mentions that all the telegrams that come from Constantinople are strongly pro-German—which will not surprise readers of THE NEAR EAST—and that the German Consul publishes a daily bulletin of "news," so decked out, of course, as to fan the feeling against Great Britain and Russia.

"PEARLS OF EGYPT" CIGARETTES.
A. CHELMIS & CO. *Est. 1870.*
HIGH-CLASS CIGARETTES, Manufactured in Cairo.
London Agents—
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"MILKMAID" BRAND
Sterilised Fresh Milk
Obtainable from all leading Grocers and Druggists in Egypt and the Levant.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FROM EAST TO WEST.*

There are many ways of seeing the world. There is the way of the conventional globe-trotter rushing through ancient cities and gaping to order at the show-places, the way of the journalist adventurer in search of copy with a weakness for Royal personages, high Ministers of State, diplomats, and men of light and leading. Then there is Mr. Stephen Graham's way. He takes his pilgrim's staff and mingles with the crowds of obscure wayfarers. Mr. Graham's way is not the obvious way, but it has the advantage that it leads to the heart of things. In this way he has discovered Russia for us—the real Russia of the mute patient millions, whose voice is heard even now sounding above the clash of arms.

In "With Poor Immigrants to America" Mr. Graham records his voyage in an emigrant ship from Liverpool to New York and his impressions of America chiefly from the immigrant aspect. With a touch as masterly as George Borrow's, but without that writer's diffusiveness, and with an attitude towards life very different from the polemical Lavengro's, he writes of the things he sees, illuminating by a dialogue with a fellow tramp, or farmer, or some chance acquaintance on the road, the manifold life of the New America in the making.

Mr. Graham meets men, women and children of all races of Europe. And in the throng of eager pilgrims to the Western Land of Promise there are types from the Balkans and Asia Minor. Amongst Mr. Graham's interlocutors are Peter Deemeff, Mr. Poledor, the one a Bulgarian, the other a Greek; a Syrian, a family of Roumanian Jews.

To the question, What will the American of to-morrow be? the writer makes a cautious reply. He gives some remarkable examples of the strength with which the American spirit influences these many different types. One we cannot refrain from quoting:—

> Even to-day an American is distinctly recognisable as such on the pavements of London, Berlin, or Paris. You know him by his face; he does not need to speak to reveal his nationality. You can even tell a man who has spent five years in the country; something new has been moulded into his face and has crept into his eyes. I have even noticed it in the faces of Russian peasants returning from America after two years away from Russia, travelling in a Russian train to their little village home.
>
> "You are American?" I asked of them.
>
> "Yes, boss, you are rait," they replied, and smiled knowingly.
>
> Then they began to enlarge on what a wonderful place America was—just like American tourists in Switzerland.

These men are represented in the armies of the Tsar.

After laying this book down the reader will understand why the American is so supremely interested in his own country.

NEAR EAST BOOK NOTES.

We have received as a White Paper, Miscellaneous No. 11, 1914 [cd. 7,626], a translation of the Russian Orange Book. The Government is to be commended for publishing at so reasonable a price (threepence) not only its own case against Germany, but also the important contributions of our Allies to the collection of *pièces justificatives* for our action in the early days of August.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton are publishing Professor Sir William Ramsay's new work, "The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament." In this book the writer sets out the evidence that convinced him that the story told in the New Testament is an admirable statement of historical fact.

Two new books on Egypt by Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge, Keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum, will shortly be issued by Messrs. J. M. Dent and Sons. The titles are "The Literature of the Ancient Egyptians" and "A History of the Egyptian People." The publishers state that the "volume on the literature is the first attempt to place before the public a summary of the principal contents of Egyptian literature in a popular form." The other volume is an introduction to the fascinating study of ancient Egyptian history. The price of the two volumes is 3s. 6d. net each.

Readers of "The Fringe of the East," and of the delightful sketches from the pen of Mr. Harry Charles Lukach published in THE NEAR EAST, will look forward with much interest to the publication of "The City of Dancing Dervishes," announced by Messrs. Macmillan.

Another book of great interest to be issued by Messrs. Macmillan is "Arabia Infelix," by G. Wyman Bury. The book is the result of close study and a long acquaintance with the country, and the author writes of the inhabitants as living men and women, not mere curiosities.

"Gunboat and Gun-Runner" is the title of a boys' book by Fleet-Surgeon T. T. Jeans, R.N., which is in Messrs. Blackie's Autumn list. It is described as "A Tale of the Persian Gulf," and the Gulf affords a capital background for any tale of adventure. As the story is based on "actual occurrences which took place ten years ago," described to the author by participators in them, the book should be good reading.

As vampires are generally supposed to have had their origin in the Near East, it may interest some of our readers to know that a volume entitled "Vampires and Vampirism," by Dudley Wright, is announced (Rider).

"My Lady of the Yellow Domino" is a story of Balkan adventure by Mr. A. W. Marchmont, published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

* "With Poor Emigrants to America." By Stephen Graham. (Macmillan. 8s. 6d. net.)

EXPERIENCES OF A HAIFA VOLUNTEER.

A Haifa resident who wished to volunteer for service in France sends us the following account of his experiences:—

The outbreak of the European war prompted many of the inhabitants of Syria to demonstrate their respective tendencies by volunteering to fight for the nation they side with. Although public feeling in Palestine is distinctly Anglophil, young men wishing to volunteer for the British Army were, of course, practically unable to do so. Despite the fact that volunteers anxious to serve France are required to proceed to that country at their own expense for enrolment, many young men in the midst of the financial crisis that followed the declaration of war willingly made the journey in the hope of being accepted. In this way I myself travelled to Marseilles in order to place myself at the disposal of the French Government, with the request that they would make use of me in any way they chose. The French representative in Haifa encouraged me to a great extent to pursue this course.

On my arrival at Marseilles, in company with numerous other volunteers, I immediately presented myself at the *bureau de recrutement* and submitted my Consular certificate, indicating my desire, where, in accordance with military regulations, I was referred to the Medical Commission to undergo medical examination. I had perfect confidence in my physical efficiency, as in college I was an athlete of satisfactory standing. I noticed, however, that considerable disappointment prevailed among the great assemblage of volunteers because of the French Government's refusal to accept them upon various pretexts. My consternation was intensified when after medical examination I was pronounced physically unfit. My hopes, which had begun to rise, fell below zero. As my other colleagues were also refused I naturally concluded that France had apparently more men than she needed. Alas! we had committed the unpardonable folly of travelling to France—at our own expense, be it remembered—to be met with disappointments that we could not escape. My subsequent efforts to join the Red Cross likewise failed on account of the staff being complete, and on my explaining my situation to the chief of the recruiting office he advised me to return home.

Hopeless and disconsolate I had to leave France, compelled to remain only an onlooker at this Titanic conflict.

Two thousand Serbians from the United States have returned to their native country and have been formed into two battalions for service against the enemy.

W. N. WILLIS'S GREAT BOOK,

ANTI-CHRIST IN EGYPT

It is a vehement appeal to Christian England to save the children of Egypt from the open vortex of degradation and shame permitted—indeed, encouraged—by the Capitulation Laws which govern that country.

The chapter descriptive of Lord Kitchener as a civil administrator will be a revelation to even the most enthusiastic of that great General's friends and admirers.

Every voice that denounces the rampant riot of vice in Egypt will assist **LORD KITCHENER** in his GREAT IMPERIAL EFFORTS.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

According to Mr. Punch, a gentleman in the Antipodes appears to have formed a habit of using Balkan place-names by way of expletives. Many of them are mouth-filling and satisfying—perhaps they are effective—but surely if anyone really wishes to impress a collar-stud, a lost train, or tin-tack, or any other of the objects which are customarily objurgated, he should go to the map of Poland for names which look as though they were cacophonic. Try, for example, the effect of Szczebrzeszyn or Zdziechowice, and certainly the correct pronunciation of Lwow would abash a bargee.

***

The Censor is very obliging; he always does his best for those who collect stories about him. So I must not be too hard upon his professional efforts. On Saturday, it will be remembered, the Admiralty issued a statement about Marines and Naval Brigades, and what they had done to help the Belgians defend Antwerp, and of the disaster which befel them. So far so good. It was duly published in the Sunday papers and, presumably, cabled all over the world. On Sunday night, however, the Censor awoke from his week-end doze. Gallantly determined to earn his pay, he sat down and excised references to the removal of British wounded from Antwerp on the ground that the publication of such news might betray to the Germans the fact that British troops had been operating in Belgium. Pious man, the Censor does not appear to break the Sabbath morn's repose enough to read the Sunday papers—or pay attention to the publications of Government departments other than his own.

***

I have read in one of the papers that the late King Carol found delight in hanging his pictures himself without the help of servants or officials. According to the story, he might sometimes be observed at home perched on a pair of steps and hammering in nails with great satisfaction, just like any householder in humbler walks of life. It may be true. I have not heard the story before. His late Majesty was a great collector of pictures, and spent large sums for the gratification of his taste. At any rate, the story satisfies the longing of ordinary folk to penetrate the mysterious divinity which hedges kings to the core of humanity which they believe it encloses. King Carol was a reserved man, and much respected for his great and rare qualities, but he lacked that geniality which wins popular affection for rulers deserving infinitely less the gratitude of their people. Of this I am sure. If King Carol did hang up his pictures himself, it was purely a private affair, and not for the delectation of a curious populace.

***

The extracts from the letters of a European resident in Baghdad which will be found on another page make melancholy reading for anyone who would like to keep alive friendly feelings for Turkey, and for anyone who remembers how Englishmen have worked for the regeneration of Lower Mesopotamia. But still more melancholy must be the effect they must create upon anyone—if such there be—who fancied that when Enver Pasha went to the Turkish War Office that department would become highly efficient. Unfit Baghdadis dragged from their stalls in the bazaar out to the desert, kept there with little to eat and less to drink, then crammed into winter kit in August and ordered off to the Russian frontier! Could ineptitude farther go? What childishness! From another letter written from Baghdad on August 17 I learn that these invaluable recruits are said to be part of a force to be used against Egypt. The writer of this letter says bluntly:—

> "Wherever it goes this force will be useless. It was marching through Baghdad yesterday on one of the hottest days of the year with heavy winter clothing on. The poor fellows were half dead by the time they got to the North Gate after coming from the Ordygah outside the South Gate, a fraction of a day's march. The route they traverse will be strewn with corpses, sacrifices to the mad folly of——"

And there the letter becomes personal. But really, does it not look as if the "mobilizing" of these "forces" was merely window-dressing, for the benefit of Constantinople and, perhaps, Berlin? "So many thousand Arabs called to the colours" sounds quite pretty. But, as a matter of fact, Constantinople (and Berlin) can rest assured that there is hardly one genuine Arab in the crowd, which is composed of small shopkeepers, Mohammedans, Jews, and Christians, nearly all townspeople, whom the Turkish authorities find it easy to bully.

***

Which reminds me that the real Arab of the Mesopotamian plains is quite as ready to take advantage of the Osmanli's various embarrassments as is the Osmanli to take advantage of the embarrassments of the European Powers. Quite recently a Government convoy was attacked by the Ishmaelites when only some twenty miles from Baghdad, and forty camels that had been commandeered by the military authorities were commandeered again—and found their way back to the black tents of their own tribe. Again, trouble broke out at Shattra, and the Vali of Baghdad thought it expedient to give way all along the line. The chief Sheikh of the Bedouin has since issued a notification to the tribes that so long as they pay to him the dues that they formerly paid to the Government all will be well with them. Which is neat, but not very flattering to the "power" of the Vali and his myrmidons, to say nothing of their German backers. For my part, I should not care to give a sovereign for all the "dues" the Government are likely to get out of the Sheikh.

***

I notice that in one of the excellent articles on the War which he is contributing to *The Evening Standard*, Colonel F. N. Maude refers to "the old reputation of the British infantry, which has endured, whatever the weapon may have been, since we first mastered the long-bow, that we had copied from the Turks even before the Norman conquest." He adds: "The long-bow did not come originally from Wales." I confess that this puzzles me considerably. That the bow is a weapon of Asiatic origin is generally conceded, and the Assyrian sculptures prove that it was in common use in the days when they were worked. But I am curious to know what authority there is for the statement that we took the idea of the long-bow from the Turks—and especially before the Norman conquest! The Arabs, perhaps. But the Turks? It is interesting, however, to note that at the end of the Eighteenth Century some record shooting with the bow was done by the Secretary to the Turkish Embassy in London. Shooting with the wind he sent a light arrow well over 450 yards, and shooting against the wind he sent it over 400 yards. To-day all records with the "long-bow" (modern type) are easily held by General Stein and other Germans.

***

Apparently "news" of the kind that is "made in Germany" is about the only export of the Vaterland at present; and it looks as if the Teutons who devote their energies to this branch of commerce are endeavouring to make up for all their country's losses in other branches. At any rate, to the activities of these gentry and their agents in Turkey there appears to be no end. Complaints regarding the energy of the "deckers out" of "news" reach THE NEAR EAST from all parts of the Sultan's dominions; and, though we may find it hard to believe, there can be no doubt that serious harm is done by them. Here are some extracts from a letter sent by a firm that has an intimate acquaintance with Turkey and the Turks:—

> The anti-British campaign in the local Press is engineered at the German Embassy, and is the most vigorous campaign that has ever been carried on in this country at any time. No nation has ever been vilified by the Turkish Press as the British have been during the last six weeks.
>
> The seizure of the "Reshadieh" and the "Sultan Osman" was taken up by the Press, and for days the Turkish papers poured forth their wrath on England.
>
> As regards the result of the present war, the Turks are of one opinion—namely, that Germany will win. This has been so hammered into them that they cannot see any other point of view or believe that the German Army is not invincible.

There is the point. It is the "hammering it in" that tells with the Turk. And it is a thousand pities that we have been unrepresented by a news agency of our own.

CORSAIR.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

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H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

SERBIAN IDEALS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Referring to the attention given in your recent issues to Serbian ideals and to the spirit of the people as expressed in their national songs and legends, I should like to draw the attention of those who do not know of him to Ivan Mestrovic, the Dalmatian sculptor, whose wonderful work to the glory of the Southern Slavs is too little known here. At Rome, in 1911, round his dominant personality, were gathered the various members of this great race, and a unique exhibition of art was shown to the world in the Serbian Pavilion. At the present International Art Exhibition at Venice is to be seen Mestrovic's model for "The Temple of Kossovo," a monument to those who fell on the unhappy battlefield in 1389, and a shrine for all those hopes so passionately held during weary years, and which, taking new life and significance in the enthusiasm of the younger generation of Southern Slavs, have resulted in deeds which should hasten the coming of that long-looked-for day of victory and freedom. Mestrovic himself is but 34 years of age, and in England, where heroic sculpture is practically unknown, artists, and, indeed, all who seek the revivifying influence of supreme art, would do well to study this Slav, already a master who, as Mr. Dimitrije Mitrinovic has so well expressed it (in *The Outlook* for September 26 last), "has given to the world in the Temple of Kossovo the highest synthesis of the Hellenic-Byzantine and the Slavonic spirit."—Yours, etc.,

ERNEST H. R. COLLINGS.

24, Gorst Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.,
October 9, 1914.

THE PRESENT REGIME IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Turkey is now passing through a very critical period in her national life, and it remains to be seen whether her Government is capable of pulling her through with success.

It is reassuring to note that the outbreak of emotion at the beginning of the war is cooling down. To impartial observers it is very difficult to imagine in what way her rulers expected to profit, whether she took the field on the side of the Triple Entente or on that of the Austro-German Alliance. Just recovering from the effects of the Balkan War, and apparently in a fair way to adjust her differences with Greece, it is difficult to visualise the phase of mind which initiated her recent mobilization. There are no indications that she feared another aggressive war on her integrity; even then an alliance with any of the Balkan group would appear a more rational method of proceeding than to jump into a state of mobilization and create a crisis which is shattering the recovering credit of a nearly bankrupt country.

Has she suddenly become imbued with the Bernhardi view of world power or downfall? Some of her young rulers have undoubtedly drunk largely at the springs of German "Kultur," forgetting that the ancient Oriental culture is far more sound and far more inspiring, stamped as it is with the experience of centuries, and not a mushroom growth of a few years.

The real underlying fact is that her young rulers are too young. The Turk is imbued with respect for greybeards, and though for a time he may be led by the rushing enthusiasm of his young apostles, he will slowly but surely return to his normal ideals, and the present brand-new Constitution will merge into a Senate of older Pashas or the rule of a beneficent autocrat.

Undoubtedly the best form of rule for Turkey would be a federated Empire of large provinces. This, in fact, was the rule under Abdul Hamid, who, although he took great care that the local Governors were his own men, allowed them a remarkable freedom in their own vilayets. And that form of administration was undoubtedly better than the present. The writer, who lived twenty years in Turkey and has been there off and on for twenty-nine, has found the differences very marked in this way since the Constitution. In former times one applied to the local Governor and could get things done. Since the Constitution the local appointments by the Central Government are generally of new men, very zealous, no doubt, but exceedingly afraid of responsibility, who for every little thing have to telegraph to Constantinople for advice. The reason is obvious: the Central Government was unable to find local men of good class who would submit to this grandmothering, and had to fall back on clever but inexperienced young men, in whom the local people had no confidence.

But yet since the establishment of the Constitution a marked improvement in some not unimportant matters has taken place, notably in the welfare of the soldiery and in the extraordinary rapidity of the municipal improvements in Constantinople. Between a visit paid to the country in 1911 and a visit this year in May the transformation, especially of Stamboul, was marvellous. This shows, at any rate, capability, and there is no doubt that with a Government sympathetically adapted to the habits and temperaments of its population, and not a Government too inclined to refer everything to the arbitrament of the sword, the future of Turkey, with its wealthy and as yet hardly populated regions in Asia Minor, should become healthy and flourishing.

Englishmen resident in Turkey are and have been invariably Turcophil, and it is difficult to account for periodic waves of hostility against England, and the writer feels certain that they do not emanate from the vast majority of the Turkish population.—Yours, etc.,

TURCOPHIL.

Holland Park, London, October 12, 1914.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The United States and Turkish Capitulations.

The American view of Turkey's announcement regarding the abolition of the Capitulations is thus expressed in *The Independent* (September 28) in an article, "The Trick of Turkey":—

Turkey has taken the wrong time and the wrong way to rid herself of her treaty obligations in regard to foreigners residing within her territory, and in regard to her foreign trade. It is the wrong time because she has attempted to take advantage of the preoccupation imposed upon the Powers by the Great War to do what she would not have dared to do in time of peace. It is the wrong way because Turkey has no right to put a summary end to the capitulations without consulting the other parties to them.

The Capitulations, says *The Independent*, affect the United States mainly as to the protection given to missions and schools in Turkey, for American commercial relations with the country are inconsiderable. The article concludes:—

The United States has shown in the case of Japan that it will not demand extraterritoriality for its citizens a day longer than is really necessary. The capitulations with Japan were abrogated, by mutual consent, in 1899. But the action was only taken by us when the persons and privileges of Americans in Japan had become secure through the action of the Japanese Government. It is perfectly safe to say that so far as the United States is concerned the capitulations will not remain in force with Turkey a day after American citizens have become as safe there as they are in Japan. It is equally safe to say that we shall not allow Turkey to rid herself.

The Jerusalem Bishopric.

Dr. E. W. G. Masterman contributes to the current *The East and the West* an article upon "The Anglican Bishopric in Jerusalem: Its History and Possibilities," which is full of interest. On the ever-recurring question of proselytism he thinks it probable that there will always be difficulties:—

The non episcopal missions have, not unnaturally, no scruples in attracting all they can to their communities. The Roman Church also finds none, but eagerly gathers in not only individuals but whole communities, dissatisfied—may be merely temporarily—with her priest or bishop. Each successive bishop of our church in Jerusalem has had many opportunities of doing the same, but happily has consistently refused them, to the loss no doubt of numbers, but to the gain of the spirituality of the native Protestant Church, and of increasing goodwill from the authorities of the Eastern churches. Indeed, on several occasions within recent years an Anglican priest has been able to tide over a crisis and actually prevent a final rupture of a dissatisfied Greek congregation from their spiritual mothers.

Towards the close of his article Dr. Masterman mentions a thing which, as he justly remarks, "Many would like to see accomplished":—

Jerusalem ought to become more a centre of study for the clergy of the Church of England, as it is increasingly a place of learning for other communities. The proposed Jewish University in Jerusalem is sure to attract Hebrew students. The American, German, and the French (R.C.) all have institutes for Biblical archæology and allied subjects. England alone is backward in this respect. A great opportunity presents itself to make St. George's College an intellectual centre where theological students or young clergy could reside and, under the direction of the bishop, or some principal appointed by him, could take up some of the many lines of study which residence in Jerusalem and the Holy Land suggests and encourages. Six months passed in study in Palestine should be of enormous benefit to any teacher of the Bible, and the Church of England as a body appears to have been singularly backward in making provision for anything of this kind.

Prince Alexander.

"The Crown Prince of Serbia" is the subject of an interesting note in the current *World's Work*. In the Near East there is very much in a name, as the writer says:—

It is the fashion in the East End of Europe to hang heavily upon historical memories and to build faith on prophecies. When, therefore, it comes to the naming of princes, provision is always made for the fact that they may at some time follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great or Constantine the Magnificent. If the Greeks fully believe that a king of theirs named Constantine will reign once more in Constantinople, so also do the Serbians believe that another Alexander the Great will come out of Macedonia.

So far the young man of twenty-six has served his apprenticeship with great credit, and bids fair to fulfil the promise of his name:—

Prince Alexander's chance came in the two Balkan wars in which his country was involved. Setting out at first with but that titular Commandership-in-Chief which is often bestowed like a decoration on a Royal prince without conferring any power upon its wearer, this young man came home from the wars a very General-in-Chief indeed.

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A German Gadfly.

To the current *Fortnightly* Miss Edith Sellers contributes an article entitled "Austria and the Sons of Zeruiah," which makes interesting if somewhat painful reading. She throws into clear relief the sinister part played by Herr von Tchirsky, the German Ambassador in Vienna, in the events that led up to the Serbo-Austrian War, and through it to the great European War in which we now find ourselves. The late Archduke and Count Aerenthal both thoroughly mistrusted Herr von Tchirsky.

The Archduke, indeed, in his silent, effective fashion, shackled and muzzled him for a time, thus frustrating his first attempt to "capture" the Austro-Hungarian General Staff; while the Count again and again proclaimed aloud the suspicion with which he regarded him. And they were well advised in what they did; of that there was strong evidence before the Archduke had been dead a week. It was not without good reason that so courteous a diplomatist as Sir George Buchanan dubbed him officially a violent Russophobe; or that Sir Maurice de Bunsen, his own colleague in Vienna, wrote of him that he had desired war from the first. Not only had he desired war, but he had worked night and day to bring it about; worked first indirectly . . . and later directly. This is a point on which no Viennese who thinks has now a doubt. . . .

At the very time when the Emperor Franz Josef and his Austrian Ministers were striving their hardest to avert war, straining every nerve to keep the people calm and prevent their clamouring for war, Germany's agents were going about from café to café in Vienna—in Buda Pesth, too, perhaps—deliberately stirring up strife. Wherever men congregated there was always someone or other at hand to excite them, to kindle their wrath against Serbia, to tell them that Serbia despised them and had killed their Archduke in sheer wantonness; to tell them, too, that a war against Serbia would be a mere picnic, a pleasure jaunt; that within a week of war being declared Serbia would be prostrate before them, and their flag would be flying over Belgrade.

While his Excellency's carefully disguised agents were doing this work among the people, he himself . . . was doing much the same work in higher quarters, in society, at the Ballplatz, even at Court, among the Archdukes and Archduchesses.

The Southern Slav.

In the current *Fortnightly* Miss Elizabeth Christitch writes on "The Soul of the Southern Slav" with understanding and insight. The predominant trait, she says, is brotherly love:—

The tie between brothers is the most sacred of family ties. It is quite apart from, and superior to, the parental, filial, or conjugal tie, none of which approaches it, or is expected to approach it, in depth or intensity. The love of a brother for a brother, or of a sister for a brother is the favourite theme of Southern Slav poets, the inspiration of the noblest deeds, the sentiment that awakens most sympathy. Any attempt to gauge the complex soul of the Southern Slav will fail if this factor is not borne in mind. The story of Cain and Abel is still the most horrible that can be conceived by the Slav. The national legends in these parts represent fratricide as a more heinous crime than parricide. The villain in the drama is not he who has betrayed or slain the heroine, but he who has played his brother false. The most touching deeds of devotion and the most daring exploits are always performed for a brother. It is difficult for a foreigner to differentiate the degrees of "brotherhood." The sons of distant cousins are still brothers bound to one another by common blood. From sons of the same mothers—the closest tie—to members of the same family, and finally to men of the same race, there is a fine gradation; but that the humanity of the Southern Slav extends to all mankind is very evident to the stranger within his gates.

The Southern Slavs have a race solidarity which transcends mere political frontiers. In the words of the writer:—

The Serbian "Fatherland" as an entity is not enshrined in the hearts of the Serbian people, nor is the aim of discontented Croatia or Dalmatia mere political independence. The common aspiration is to the reunion of separated brothers. How strong is the flame of persistent fraternity was shown during the arduous conflict with Turkey. Girls came from remote villages in Istria to assist in nursing the wounded, and bands of volunteers for military service managed to cross the Save, in spite of stringent prohibitions. The total of the funds collected in Austro-Hungarian territories for the Slav armies will never be made known. The money was never sent by cheque, but conveyed in bags of gold coin by priests or persons of high social standing. In this and in many other ways was race solidarity made manifest.

Articles to Note.

"Near Eastern Diplomacy," in *The Outlook* (October 10).

"The Neutral Powers," in *The Spectator* (October 10).

"The Future of Turkish Arabia," by Samuel Marinus Zwemer, D.D., in *The Homiletic Review* (October).

THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

British Moslem Society's Resolution.

At a meeting of the British Moslem Society held at the Mosque, Woking, on Sunday, September 20, the following resolution was proposed by its president, Lord Headley, seconded by Maulvi Sadr-ud-Din, and carried unanimously:—

We desire to offer our whole-hearted congratulations to our Eastern brethren now at the front, and to express our delight to find that our co-religionists in Islam are fighting on the side of honour, truth, and justice, and are carrying into effect the principles of Islam as inculcated by the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Serbia and England.

The following is an extract from the message sent by the Nish correspondent of *The Times*, under date of October 10, published in the issue of that journal of October 12:—

The marked expressions of sympathy with Serbia recently manifested in England have greatly touched all classes of Serbians. M. Pashitch has personally conveyed to me the appreciation of his Government, and at the same time voiced the universal desire of his countrymen, that Serbia and Serbians shall become better understood in our country.

The Lookers-On.

The writer of an article, entitled "Neutral Sympathies," which appears in *The New Statesman* (October 3), points out that, in spite of Germany's gratuitous distribution of "news," neutral opinion is on the side of the Allies in all countries save Turkey and Sweden:—

With these exceptions the Allies can look round the world and find that, while no neutral Government thinks of attacking them, no neutral people withholds its sympathy. The unanimity, we think, cannot be explained by any accidental convergence of different national interests. If it were, it would be primarily an affair of the Governments, whereas it is in fact much more an affair of the peoples. This appears strikingly in such interested cases as Italy and Roumania. The statesmen of these countries have obvious difficulty in deciding in which direction to seek their national advantage. Those of Rome are thinking of Tunis as well as of the Adriatic; those of Bucharest, of Bessarabia as well as of Transylvania. And the personal biases of the Marquis di San Giuliano and King Carol have alike been strongly pro-German. What has nevertheless compelled both countries to withhold aid from Germany and Austria, and may even draw both into war on the side of the Allies, is the irresistible current of popular opinion.

He concludes his article:—

The neutrals, the lookers-on who proverbially see most of the game . . . have decided which combatant is fighting the battle of civilisation. Probably no important international part which Great Britain has ever played has evoked such a chorus of approval from civilised mankind (outside the immediate ranks of her enemies) as her part during the past ten weeks has done. After all, neither the sanctity of treaties nor the liberty of small nations are phrases merely. It is not easy to dispute that both of them are at stake in the war, and that if Great Britain fails, or if she had declined to act, both might be injured irreparably.

Lord Headley and Islam.

To the current issue of *The Islamic Review* Lord Headley contributes an article entitled "Comrades in Arms." We quote below:—

If the spontaneous support forthcoming from all the British Colonies has elicited admiration, the equally spontaneous and affectionate outburst of loyalty and devotion from all parts of the Indian Empire has called into being a new consciousness of brotherly love—the somewhat cold and phlegmatic temperament of the Briton being thoroughly warmed to enthusiastic delight by the whole-hearted and noble offers of his Eastern brother. There has been no hanging back, and the spirit which hundreds of years ago animated the Holy Prophet Muhammad when he was compelled to draw the sword in the cause of freedom, truth, and justice now dominates all Britishers and Muslims who are fighting shoulder to shoulder in this war righteously undertaken in defence of right against the might of arrogant oppression.

Rival Influences.

The following extract from a neutral source, *La Gazette de Lausanne* (October 8), gives an interesting sketch of the opposing influences in Constantinople:—

La guerre est loin d'être populaire, car le peuple, après plusieurs années de luttes et de guerres perdues, aspire au repos. Sans doute, le peuple ne compte que pour peu dans les destinées de l'empire; mais aujourd hui, ce peuple simple et bon, moutonnier à l'excès, se voit encouragé et soutenu par le sultan lui-même et par le prince héritier Youssouf Izeddin. Le sultan tremble qu'un acte irréfléchi du parti au pouvoir—de quelques membres, devrais-je dire—ne jette au Bosphore le trône qui symbolise plusieurs siècles de domination toute-puissante.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Shewing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Oct.	1914. Oct.		1332. Julkada.	5675. Tisseri
16	3	Friday	26	26
17	4	Saturday	27	27
18	5	Sunday	28	28
19	6	Monday	29	29
20	7	Tuesday	30 Julhilja	30 Heshvan
21	8	Wednesday	1	1
22	9	Thursday	2	2

We regret to have to chronicle the death of His Majesty King Carol, the Founder of Roumania, which occurred at the Castle of Pelesh on Saturday morning last at 5.30 a.m. in consequence of a cardiac attack.

To-day is the twenty-first birthday of H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Roumania.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.I.H. Princess Wilhelm of Baden, mother-in-law of Princess Maximilian, who was born a Princess of Cumberland.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Adelgunda of Bavaria, grand niece of the late ex-King Otho of Greece.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Réné of Parma, half-uncle to H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Bulgaria.

To-morrow is the birthday of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch of Russia.

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Karl Antoa of Hohenzollern, sister of his Majesty the King of the Belgians and sister-in-law of his Majesty the King of Roumania.

Sunday is the birthday of H.H. Prince Roman Petrovitch of Russia, son of H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Peter, née Princess Militza of Montenegro.

Sunday is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Dowager Duchess of Edinburgh and of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, mother of her Majesty the Queen of Roumania.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Sophie d'Orleans, daughter of H.R.H. the Duke of Vendôme and Alençon and niece of his Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Monday is the birthday of H.H. Princess Adelaide, sister of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany and of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Thursday is the birthday of Her Imperial Majesty the German Empress, mother of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Ludwig Ferdinand of Bavaria, nephew of the late ex-King Otho of Greece.

By command of H.M. the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, the King's Master of the Ceremonies, called at the Roumanian Legation on Monday morning and expressed his Majesty's condolences on the death of King Carol. There were many other callers at the Legation in the course of the morning.

By command of H.M. the King, the Court has worn mourning for his late Majesty the King of Roumania since last Tuesday. The Court is to go out of mourning on Monday, the 26th inst.

The new King of Roumania has replied to the telegram of sympathy sent by Mr. Venizelos in a cordially worded telegram. His Majesty says that his thanks are all the more sincere because the sympathy comes from a country whose friendship for Roumania is based on many common interests.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (September 21):—H.M. Queen Eleonora of Bulgaria passed through Roumania yesterday on her way to the estates of H.M. Tsar Ferdinand in Hungary. She was received at Gingeno by Mr. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister.

H.R.H. Prince George, formerly Crown Prince of Serbia, has again been wounded in action.

We regret to learn that H.H. Prince Oleg Constantinovitch of Russia has died of wounds received in East Prussia. Great sympathy will be felt with the Grand Duke Constantine and his wife, who was born a Princess of Saxe Altenburg, as they have now lost three sons in the war.

The funeral of Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Sir William Carington took place at Folkestone Cemetery on Monday. The King was represented by the Prince of Wales, and the Queen by Prince Albert.

It is notified in the *London Gazette* that the King has been pleased to appoint his Highness Sultan Ali bin Ahmed, Sultan of Al Hauta (Lahej), and his Highness Sultan Ghalib bin Awadth Al Kayti, Sultan of Shehr and Mokalla, to be Honorary Knights Commanders of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Mme. Take Jonescu left London on Saturday last for Bucharest.

We learn from *The Egyptian Gazette* of October 2, just received, that Mr. P. C. Blair, one of the selected Oxford and Cambridge candidates for the Egyptian Civil Service, arrived in Cairo on September 30, and reported himself at the Finance Ministry on the following day. Our contemporary states further that Mr. Blair was born in 1891, and was educated at Fettes, where he became head of the school, and was in the Rugby team there for two years. He was also Cadet Officer in the O.T.C. at Fettes and in the Shooting Eight. Mr. Blair subsequently proceeded to King's College, Cambridge, where he was senior classical scholar and obtained a first-class in the Classical Tripos. He was a Rugby Blue in 1910-11-12-13, and Scotch International in 1912-13. He was also in the hockey eleven at King's.

In the same issue are given particulars of the School and University careers of Mr. R. M. Gent and Mr. O'Donoghue, who are also among the selected candidates for the Egyptian Civil Service, and are arriving later. Mr. O'Donoghue is in the Special Reserve, and is now engaged in drilling recruits in musketry at Dublin Castle Barracks. He was at Trinity College, Dublin, and his speciality is the O.T.C. Mr. Gent was at King's School, Canterbury, where he was head of the school and captain of the cricket and football teams. He was senior classical scholar at Trinity College, Oxford, where he obtained a second in classical moderation and in Greats. He just missed his Rugby Blue, and was captain of the Trinity Rugby Fifteen. He was a member of the Authentic C.C. and a member of the O.T.C.

The Rev. J. H. Molesworth was expected back in Cairo last Monday.

The Egyptian Gazette (October 2) states that Mr. Willoughby, of the Alexandria City Police, has left for England to join the Army, and that Mr. Nelson L. Sutar left for London the previous week with the same object.

Mr. J. E. Stevens left Khartoum for England on September 24 to rejoin his Territorial regiment.

The Halfa correspondent of *The Sudan Times* writes that a committee of Egyptian, Syrian, and native officials and merchants, has been working hard there to raise subscriptions for the Prince of Wales's Fund. Up to the present the collections amount to about £E120.

Miss Katherine Wheatley, who had been asked by the Turkish Government to conduct a nurses' training organisation, is now serving with the British Expeditionary Force.

The engagement is announced of Louis Hall Rickards, of Alexandria, and Winifred, youngest daughter of the late John Picard and of Mrs. Picard, 9, Vicarage Gate, Kensington.

The Egyptian Gazette reports that the inquiry into the circumstances of the death of the late Mr. H. F. C. Parkinson, general manager of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company, on board the s.s. "Kosseir" on September 23, was concluded at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General at Alexandria on October 2, when the Consul-General found that Mr. Parkinson was killed accidentally and by misadventure through his own careless handling of an automatic pistol. All the witnesses agreed that Mr. Parkinson while on board had been very cheerful, and under the circumstances they could not believe that the act was intentional.

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Near the lake, with splendid park.

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In the town and 5 minutes from the station.

Two First-class Family Hotels. High-class Cuisine. French Chef.
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Sofia (Bulgaria).

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For Tickets and further particulars apply to—
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Bucharest, Roumania.

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FAMOUS ROUMANIAN BAND.
Admirably situated in the very centre of the Town.
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The marriage took place on October 3, at Plymouth, quietly, on account of the war, of Lieutenant Douglas Brooke Charles Sladen, R.G.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Sladen, The Green, Richmond, to Miss Eleanor Thorold Dinorbin Hughes, daughter of the late Mr. Percival Hughes, Colonial Civil Service, and Mrs. Hughes.

The marriage took place on October 3, at St. Augustine's, Tunbridge Wells, of Mr. Constantine Carolon, of Athens, to Miss May Elizabeth Chapman, daughter of the late Frank Chapman and Mrs. Chapman, of Beech Hill House, Wadhurst.

The Hon. Sir Charles Fremantle, K.C.B., who died on Thursday of last week, was British representative on the board of the Suez Canal Company from 1896 to 1903. Sir Charles was vice-president of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, on the board of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Company, and interested in many other important commercial and financial undertakings.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Montague Jackson, late of the 88th Carnatic Infantry, of the Indian Army, whose death is reported to have occurred at Arosa, Switzerland, at the age of fifty, served with the Dongola Expeditionary Force as a special service officer in 1896. He was mentioned in despatches, and received the Egyptian medal with two clasps and the medal.

Mr. John Pullen, who was buried with semi-military honours at Camberley on Saturday, served in both the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny. Among those present at the funeral were Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Geary and Major-General T. Bland Strange, veterans of those campaigns.

Admiral Gerald Charles Langley, of Lhassa, Camberley, Surrey, who saw service in the Egyptian war of 1882, and who died April 18 last, aged 65, left unsettled property of the gross value of £1,866.

The will of Mr. William Augustus Gordon Hake, of Brighton, the oldest barrister in England ("called" in 1835), who died aged 103 years, has been proved for £14,732. He was a first cousin of General Gordon.

The will of Lieut.-Colonel Raglan Wykeham Barnes, aged sixty, of The Cottage, Herringstone Road, Dorchester, and late of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who saw service in the Nile Expedition, has been sworn at £560.

Yesterday, at the British Museum, Mr. Banister Fletcher gave a lecture on "Egyptian Temples."

Some interesting particulars concerning the members of the British Naval Mission to Turkey is given in *The Army and Navy Gazette* of last week. Rear-Admiral A. H. Limpus, the chief of the Mission, succeeded Rear-Admiral H. P. Williams in April, 1912, and has thus held the position longer than either of his predecessors, for Rear-Admiral Williams occupied it for two years only, and Rear-Admiral Sir Douglas Gamble for little more than twelve months. Of the staff, Lieutenant-Com. G. W. Hallifax, a torpedo officer, went out in May, 1912, as did Engr. Lieut.-Com. Gerald Moore, but Engr.-Lieut. G. W. Le Page had been in Turkey since April, 1911. The gunnery officer, Lieut. Frank Elliott, has already received an appointment to the new battleship "Agincourt," formerly the "Sultan Osman I.," and as the date of his joining that vessel is shown as August 4, it may be assumed that he was already in her, and had come to England to supervise the gunnery trials. Other officers serving under Rear-Admiral Limpus included Staff Paymr. A. E. Stack and Naval Instr. H. H. Holland. There was a report some time ago that the latter officer was in Germany when war was declared, and has become a prisoner of war. The chief of the staff is, or was, Com. A. L. Ashby, who went out with Rear-Admiral Limpus in April, 1912. Like Lieut.-Com. Algernon Faught, his predecessor, who is now first and navigating officer of the battleship "Monarch," he specialised in navigation.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The appointment of Mr. P. Hadjimischeff is announced from Sofia as Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James's in succession to Mr. Madjaroff, who left on Wednesday last to take up his new appointment as Minister in Petrograd.

Mr. Hadjimischeff, after being First Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation in London for two years, was sent as Minister to Athens in November, 1910. On the outbreak of the second Balkan War he had to withdraw from Greece, and since then has been in charge of a Commission for settling Bulgarian refugees in Thrace, and has acted as Director-General of the Foreign Office in Sofia. The new Minister, who was educated at the Bulgarian School at Salonika and is a Doctor of Law of the University of Paris, has written on the status of the Dardanelles from the point of view of international law. Mr. Hadjimischeff speaks English very well and is married to an American lady.

Mr. A. B. Geary, who had been temporarily transferred from the Alexandria Consulate-General to the Consulate at Port Said, returned to Alexandria on October 1.

Mr. A. C. W. Ware, who has been appointed Assistant in the Consular Service at Port Said, has arrived at his post.

Major-General Zupelli has been appointed Italian Minister of War. He is a native of Istria, in Austria, and was the first Italian to land at Derna in the Tripolitan War.

The German Government has delivered their exequaturs to the following Bulgarian representatives:—Mr. Mandelbaum, honorary Bulgarian consul in Berlin; Mr. Steub, honorary consul at Munich; and Mr. Klœhne, honorary consul at Dortmund.

KING CAROL'S WILL.

The Balkan Correspondent of *The Times*, telegraphing from Bucharest (October 13) says:—

"The late King's will, which was opened yesterday, is a most interesting document. It is dated 1899, with a codicil of 1911.

"His Majesty recalls with legitimate satisfaction the important position to which Roumania has been raised during his long reign, notwithstanding the difficulties which confronted him and the calumnies and suspicions to which he was exposed. He hopes that his successor will adopt the principle which has always guided him, 'all for country, nothing for self.' He thanks all who worked with him for the good of the country and forgives those who calumniated him and threw doubt on his good intentions.

"The King desires to be buried in the undress uniform of a general. The funeral should be simple, prayers being offered both by Orthodox and Roman Catholic clergy, but the last benediction is to be given by a Roman Catholic priest. The bier should be adorned with natural flowers, if in season, otherwise by branches of fir. The coffin when closed should be placed on one of the gun-carriages captured at Plevna, which is to be drawn by six white horses without black drapery. The King's own wish is that he should be interred in the monastery of Curtea de Argesh, and that this should be the future burying-place of the dynasty; but in case the citizens of Bucharest so desire, a mausoleum may be erected in the city.

"The King recommends Queen Elizabeth to the care of the nation. He bestows on her estates producing an annual income of 400,000 frs., together with the use during her life of the Castle of Pelesh and apartments in the Palace at Bucharest.

"King Carol leaves a large number of legacies to various institutions. The total amount of his personal property is stated to exceed 100,000,000 frs. (£4,000,000)."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

WILSON.—On September 18, at Westcombe, Sutton Scotney, Hampshire, the wife of L. W. O. Wilson, Cairo, Egypt, of a son.

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Open all the year round.

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Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

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In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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The Winter Palace. The Luxor Hotel.
The Karnak Hotel.

Assouan.
The Cataract Hotel. The Savoy Hotel.
The Grand Hotel.
Are the Finest on the Nile.

Cairo.

HOTEL D'ANGLETERRE.
Comfortable and Quiet. Near Opera Square.

GRAND CONTINENTAL.
Central Situation. Opp. Esbekieh Gardens.

SAVOY HOTEL.
Most Fashionable Hotel in Egypt.

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At foot of the Great Pyramids.

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Excellent Family Hotel, adjoining Golf Links.

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Splendid view over Cairo.
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Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah. Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1914.

THE DESTINY OF ROUMANIA.

The clash of the mightiest conflict of all time offers an appropriate setting to the death of the soldier-King of Roumania. For seven centuries Roumanian history had been a record of continual struggle, when a true conception of their destiny prompted the people to embark afresh on the work of reconstructing Roumania under a ruler of foreign blood. Fighting was still in store for it, but the country had recognised the need for peaceful internal development and for the advantages of a sober and steady foreign policy. The Roumanians were happy in their choice. By example, even more than by precept, the late King led the nation along the path that was to bring it to the realization of its own strength. How arduous that path has been we may infer from a comparison of the country as it first revealed itself to the new ruler's astonished eyes with the Roumania of to-day. Even though we cannot picture, as Prince Carol saw it, the rude structure that was to serve him as a palace, we need only think of a land with no railways, no good roads, and no industries, and then turn to the modern State which provides Europe with no mean portion of the grain and petroleum necessary to its existence. But to win the heart of a nation schooled in long centuries of conflict, the Prince had himself to be a fighter, and he gave at once an earnest of his qualifications by engaging in a systematic organization of the army. His opportunity was not long in coming. Eleven years after his election as sovereign the storming of the lines and redoubts of Plevna not only gained world-wide recognition for the prowess of the Roumanian army, but among the Roumanians themselves fired a spark of pride in their new ruler which long years of successful economic development would not have kindled. In after years King Carol's judicious direction of Roumania's foreign policy left him and his people free to devote their whole attention to the material progress of the country. The confidence that he felt from the outset in the destiny of the country over which he had been called to rule proved to have been justified. He was proud of Roumania, and before he laid down his task, after forty-eight years of loyal service, the Roumanians had good cause also to be proud of their country and of their elected sovereign. But King Carol's military bearing, no less than his faithfulness to a military uniform, which he always wore, and in which he expressed the wish to be buried, revealed the soldier at heart. It is, therefore, a fitting coincidence that his death finds Roumania once more at a landmark in her stormy history, and even without the remark attributed to him on his deathbed, the nation would feel confident that, while urging prudent reflection, the late King would bid it press on to the realisation of its ideals.

"By ourselves alone" are the proud words engraved on the Roumanian crown, made from a gun captured at Plevna. To King Carol they afforded a guiding principle in national policy, and the spirit they breathe befits a fighting race striving to attain its destiny. It was not to be expected, therefore, that the Roumanians would remain indifferent to the stupendous conflict now raging in Europe. They would, however, have belied both the generalship and the statesmanship which characterized King Carol's direction of the country's affairs if they had rushed into the struggle without the most careful premeditation. The quiet confidence of King Ferdinand's proclamation indicates that there is no real divergence of opinion between the waiting policy of his Government and the warlike enthusiasm of the people. But in preparations for war there is much hidden from the man in the street which the authorities have to take into consideration. With Germany's example before her Roumania will have no wish to hamper her military action with errors of omission or commission on the part of her diplomacy. She will be setting out on her enterprise in no blatant desire for mere conquest, but in the consciousness that in the promised reconstitution of Europe she is called upon to perform a definite task with a view to the establishment of peace on a permanent basis. German militarism has sought to make the existence of other nations dependent upon the will of Germany. Its defeat will secure for the nations of Europe, whether they be weak or strong, the right to an honourable independence, and, in order that this aim may be fully attained, the unwilling subordination of large communities to a foreign Government must be terminated. In the heterogeneous empire of Austria-Hungary are substantial "unredeemed" portions of Italy and Roumania. They have been kept in subjection by the armed might of the Hapsburg Monarchy, and the continuance of existing conditions will always constitute a menace to the peace of Europe. If the task which the Powers of the Triple Entente have set themselves is to be done thoroughly these danger spots must be eliminated. It would prove distasteful to the national prestige of both Italy and Roumania that the work of "redeeming" these stretches of country should be carried out wholly by others. But as no quarrel was at the outset thrust upon them they had perforce to stay their hands until the real significance of the fierce struggle deliberately provoked by Germany and Austria-Hungary had been revealed to the world. That stage has already been reached, and if Roumania still delays to strike we may infer that she is anxious to make sure that her co-operation in the war will not only make for the realization of her own destiny, but will be of practical assistance to the Allies who are indirectly fighting her cause.

The prudence which the late King Carol will have enjoined, and which King Ferdinand will be ready in an equal degree to observe, will have prompted the Roumanian Government to watch with special care the course of events in Turkey. Little help could be given to the Allies, if, after a forward movement to the north, the Roumanian army was called upon to ward off a Turkish attack. The interests of the Ottoman Empire are eloquent in the cause of neutrality, but the actions of the Porte inspire little confidence that statesmanship will obtain a hearing in its Council-chamber. If Turkey were to strike a blow on behalf of Germany and Austria-Hungary, the best service that Roumania could render to the Allies would be to deal with Turkey and leave the emancipation of Transylvania to follow as the natural sequence of the ultimate victory of the Triple Entente. In the light of recent events it would appear that the period of uncertainty regarding Turkey's intentions was about to come to an end. The fall of Antwerp threatens to dissipate the last hope that wise counsels would yet prevail in Constantinople. The "Goeben" and "Breslau"—the borrowed German men-of-war—under German officers and manned by Germans, have entered the Black Sea and an untoward act is already reported in the forcible liberation of two vessels detained in Roumanian waters by order of the Government. The addition of these two units to the Turkish Fleet renders the Roumanian coast particularly vulnerable to bombardment. It would be natural, therefore, on Roumania's part to be unwilling to begin operations on her northern frontier until the menace from the Turkish Navy had been removed. Turkey's action, however, will leave her no alternative to taking up arms on the side of the Triple Entente to free Europe from the spirit of aggression which the evil genius of Germany has represented to the Porte as the essence of statecraft. There may be fresh successes in store for the "Goeben." Turkey may even claim her Louvain and Antwerp, and flatter herelf that she is carrving all before her. But the final word will rest not with the Porte, but with the outraged conscience of civilisation, which will not sheathe the sword until it has written *Finis* over German militarism and—with regret, be it said—the Ottoman Empire in Europe.

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THE THRONE OF ROUMANIA.

ACCESSION OF KING FERDINAND.

The succession to the throne of Roumania, although it has the appearance of being in strict conformity with hereditary right, is in point of fact on this occasion not hereditary at all. The late monarch had no surviving children, as was the case with the first King of Greece, and, possibly warned by the experience of the latter Sovereign and the wearying question of succession which distracted the Court of Athens for years, he decided to provide for the future of the Crown of Roumania in his own lifetime. King Carol the Founder was an elected King, his nephew and successor, King Ferdinand, is equally an elected King, as he reigns in virtue of a special Act of Parliament. His elder brother, now the Prince of Hohenzollern, forwent the opportunity of being King of Roumania, preferring to live as a subject at Sigmaringen, on the head waters of the Danube, to becoming a Sovereign on its lower reaches.

Photo: Exclusive News Agency.

HIS MAJESTY KING FERDINAND OF ROUMANIA.

Prince Ferdinand Victor Albert Meinrad of Hohenzollern thus became Prince of Roumania, with the style of Royal Highness, on March 18, 1889. In January, 1893, he married Princess Marie of Edinburgh, then in her eighteenth year, whose father a few months later became Sovereign Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Their Majesties have six children, the eldest of whom, the Crown Prince Carol, celebrates his twenty-first birthday to-day. Princess Elizabeth has seen her name mentioned in the Press of Europe as the possible bride of almost every marriageable Prince of sufficient rank who is either Anglican, Orthodox, or Protestant. The youngest son, Prince Mircea, owes his name, it is believed, to the fact that Silistria was politically prominent at the moment of his birth, and that tradition ascribes the first conquest of that town to a black ruler of the name of Mircea.

King Ferdinand, as a Roman Catholic, is able to be a Knight of the Austrian branch of the Order of the Golden Fleece, and is also enrolled among the knights of the Italian Order of the Annunziata, the Danish Order of the Elephant, the Swedish Order of the Seraphim, the Russian Order of St. Andrew, the Pressian Order of the Black Eagle, the Bavarian Order of St. Hubert, and the Saxon Order of the Rue-Crown. He is colonel of two Prussian infantry regiments, and of the 96th Austrian regiment, as well as of a Russian regiment.

As will be seen from the genealogical table which is published on another page, the new King and Queen have a wide circle of relations among the Royal Houses of Europe. Between them they are sib with King George, the Tsar, the King of the Belgians, and the King of the Bulgarians. It is curious that King Ferdinand is nearly related to the head of the junior branch of his own family, the German Emperor, only through his Queen, who is a first cousin. The King, like his uncle and the other members of the elder branch of the Hohenzollerns, is a Roman Catholic. The Queen is an Anglican, but the Crown Prince and the other children have been brought up as Roumanian Orthodox, in conformity with the Constitution. Such divisions of religious opinion are not uncommon among the reigning Houses in the Balkans. The late King of the Hellenes was a Lutheran, but his Queen and his children were Orthodox, and the Tsar of the Bulgarians is a Roman Catholic, his Queen is a Lutheran, his eldest son is an Exarchist, and his other children Roman Catholics. In the next generation these differences will tend to disappear, as all Balkan Constitutions prescribe the religion of the Sovereign. King Ferdinand, alone of Balkan rulers, has had experience as a legislator, as since 1889 he has been a senator of the Kingdom of Roumania. This also is part of the Constitution, and the new Crown Prince now succeeds to his father's vacant chair as a senator. King Ferdinand was thirty-three when he became Crown Prince in 1889, but his son, who reaches man's estate to-day, attained his official majority three years ago.

KING CAROL THE FOUNDER.

By J. D. BOURCHIER.

Among the conditions essential to the welfare of the newly liberated States of South-Eastern Europe is the possession of a foreign dynasty. In these democracies, where the restraining force of long-established tradition is lacking and modern culture has not yet been assimilated, no native ruler, however great may be his merits, can hope to emerge unscathed from the political conflict or command the respect and deference which are conceded from the outset to the scion of a foreign reigning house, whose antecedents, education, august relationships, and wider political horizon differentiate him from those around him, convey a guarantee of high impartiality, and invest him with a certain remoteness which in these days must take the place of the divinity which formerly hedged a king. It is hardly an exaggera-

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tion to say that almost all the attributes which go to make a successful Sovereign were combined in the remarkable man who has just passed away; but even his highest gifts of statesmanship would have failed to find a fruitful field for their activity had he not come as a stranger to the land he ruled so well. Once in Roumania he devoted himself heart and soul to the interests of his adopted country. Thoroughly imbued with the patriotic spirit of the nation, he became a Roumanian of the Roumanians, warmly sympathizing with the aims, the ideals, the ambitions of his people. But he was, nevertheless, a foreigner, and to this circumstance he owed in the first instance the high inviolate position which he occupied from the beginning, and which his innate dignity of character enabled him to strengthen and maintain amid the storms and vicissitudes of a long and eventful reign.

Election of Prince Cuza.

In 1848 the wave of revolution which swept over Europe invaded the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, which since 1821 had been under the rule of native Hospodars or princes belonging to the privileged noble or *boyard* class. The Hospodars, though deriving their authority from Turkey as the suzerain Power, were for the most part little more than the puppets of Russia, which had established a protectorate over the Principalities in 1834. The popular movement of 1848, due to the increasing influence of Western ideas, inaugurated the prolonged struggle for political independence; it was suppressed, however, by Russia, and the administration of the Hospodars was placed under the supervision of Russian and Turkish commissaries resident in the Principalities. The situation during the next few years was such as to justify the dictum of one of the ruling princes:—"L'humiliation est la destinée du peuple Roumain." But the dawn of liberty was near. After the Crimean War the Principalities were emancipated from the control of Russia and placed under the collective protection of the Great Powers. Already the more patriotic and far-seeing among the national leaders had arrived at the conviction that the future of the race could only be assured by the union of the two provinces under a foreign prince, whose presence would put an end to the rivalries of the *boyard* families and assure to the new State a place among the nations of Europe. This programme was definitely formulated by the Moldavian and Wallachian Assemblies, known as the *divans ad hoc*, in 1857, but the Powers resolved on the maintenance of the *status quo*—in other words, the continued separation of the provinces under native rulers and the Sultan's suzerainty. Two years later (January, 1859) the elective Assemblies of Moldavia and Wallachia, rejecting the *boyard* candidates, chose one and the same person, Colonel Alexander Cuza, as Prince, and diplomacy, ever fertile in expedients, counselled the Sultan to issue two firmans of investiture, thus ratifying the election, but maintaining the separate existence of the Principalities.

Prince Carol Accepts the Throne.

The union, nevertheless, was practically achieved, but the Roumanians had to wait seven years longer for the foreign ruler whom they so earnestly desired. The united Principalities were governed by Prince Cuza till February 23, 1866, when he was forcibly abducted from his palace and compelled to sign his abdication. Among the causes which led to his fall was the suspicion that he aimed at the establishment of a native dynasty, and had fixed on his adopted son as his successor. During the interregnum which followed the country was fortunately guided by men of sincere patriotism, sagacity, and firmness of purpose, such as Ion Bratiano, Ion and Demitri Ghica, Demitri Sturdza, and others. On the day of Prince Cuza's deposition the Provisional Government, or *Lieutenance Princière*, in order to anticipate all dangerous rivalries, proclaimed as Prince of Roumania the Count of Flanders, who afterwards by a curious coincidence became the brother-in-law of the late Sovereign. But Napoleon III., who had since the Crimean War taken the Danubian Principality under his special protection with the object of establishing the "sister Latin nation" as a bulwark of French influence in the East, objected to the choice. The Count of Flanders refused the proffered honour, and the situation became critical in the extreme. It was necessary to find, and find quickly, a candidate agreeable to the French Emperor and to the other European Sovereigns. The representatives of the Powers had already assembled in conference at Paris, and might arrive at a decision fatal to the national hopes. On March 24 the Provisional Government received a cipher telegram from Mr. Balaceano, who, with Mr. Bratiano, was then in Paris, conveying the name of a new candidate, which, however, proved undecipherable. The Government promptly declared its readiness to accept the unknown candidate (March 25), and next day Ion Ghica read aloud to the assembled Ministers two telegrams from Paris, which were received with cries of joy by all present. One of these stated that Prince Charles of Hohenzollern would be favourably regarded by Napoleon, the other announced that he was the candidate of England. From this moment the situation became clear, and a few days later the news arrived that the Prince had accepted the Roumanian Crown.

Prince Charles Eitel Frederick Zephyrin Louis, second son of Prince Charles Anthony, head of the senior and Roman Catholic branch of the Hohenzollerns, was born at the ancestral Castle of Sigmaringen on April 20, 1839. His father and grandfather maintained the strictest discipline in their households, combined with economy and plainness of living. The family traditions in this respect were afterwards preserved at the Court of Bucharest, which set a useful example of simplicity to an aristocracy notoriously prone to extravagance and ostentation. The antecedents and early training of Prince Charles were such as to qualify him in every respect for the important duties which he was now called to exercise, and it was soon to become evident that his natural qualities were also peculiarly adapted to the task set before him.

On March 30, 1866, Prince Charles, who was then at Dusseldorf, received the offer of the Roumanian Crown from Ion Bratiano. Before signifying his acceptance it was necessary to obtain the consent of King William, the head of his house; this the King, though favourably disposed, felt bound to withhold, inasmuch as Russia and Turkey opposed the election of a foreign prince and even the continued union of the Principalities, and the conference at Paris had adopted their view by a majority. Meanwhile, a plébiscite in Moldavia and Wallachia confirmed the action of the Provisional Government (April 20), and the Prince's decision was finally taken a few days later after an interview with Bismarck, who advised him to solve the problem by proceeding at once to Roumania, after concerting matters with Napoleon and mollifying the Tsar by suggesting a matrimonial alliance with the Russian Imperial Family. The French Emperor, who warmly espoused the cause of the young Prince, offered to place a warship at his service for the voyage to Roumania, but the Prince discreetly resolved on a stealthy journey overland through Austria and Hungary.

An Adventurous Journey.

Accordingly, on May 11, 1866, two days after the mobilization of the Prussian army for the war with Austria, the elect of Roumania left his home, and, furnished with a second-class ticket, a pair of spectacles, and a false passport, reached Salzburg, on the Austrian frontier, on the 16th, accompanied only by Councillor Von Werner and travelling under the assumed name of "Karl Hettingen." Here he narrowly escaped from an awkward predicament, for when asked to state his name by one of the officials he found, to his dismay, that he had forgotten it; Von Werner, with much presence of mind, brusquely interrupted the conversation, thus giving his companion time to glance at his passport and refresh his memory. A moment later several Austrian officers whose acquaintance the Prince had made during the Schleswig campaign entered the waiting-room, but he fortunately escaped recognition. His tedious journey through Hungary by rail and by steamboat on the Danube was protracted by disorganisation of the traffic caused by the mobilization. At last, on May 20, his steamer touched Roumanian soil at Turnu-Severin, where Ion Bratiano was waiting, but until the Prince was safely ashore the Roumanian statesman was compelled to ignore his future Sovereign. As the Prince was about to leave the vessel the captain interposed, asking why he disembarked, as his ticket was for Odessa, but Prince Charles replied that he wished to spend a few moments on shore, and hastily passed up the gangway; Bratiano at once doffed his hat, and with a deep reverence showed the way to a carriage waiting on the quay, while the captain was heard to exclaim, "My God, that must be the Prince of Hohenzollern!"

No time was lost at Turnu-Severin, and the Prince and Bratiano left for Bucharest in a carriage drawn by eight horses, which travelled at a headlong pace throughout the ensuing night. Next morning at Craiova, where the news of his arrival had already been received, Prince Charles met with his first welcome from an enthusiastic crowd of his future subjects. From this point his progress was marked by a series of demonstrations. Before reaching the capital the new ruler made the first exercise of his prerogative by pardoning the Archbishop of Moldavia, who had been condemned for sedition owing to his participation in some recent riots at Jassy, provoked by the Separatist faction and the agents of Russia. The triumphal entry into Bucharest took place on May 22, when the Prince attended a "Te Deum" in the cathedral, and proceeding to the Chamber took the oath "to observe the laws of Roumania and to maintain her rights and the integrity of her territory." Eventually the State cortège drew up at a modest one-storeyed building, before which a guard of honour was stationed. "What house is that?" said the Prince to General Golescu, who sat beside him in the carriage. "That is the palace," was the reply. Scarcely believing his ears, the Prince asked, "Where is the palace?" while the general, overcome by embarrassment, silently pointed to

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HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARIE OF ROUMANIA.

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the humble domicile before them. The interior of the "palace," however, proved to have been comfortably upholstered and furnished; its windows on one side commanded a spectacle still familiar to the less fashionable quarters of Bucharest—a quagmire of deep mud, in which the pigs of a gipsy encampment wallowed.

The task set before the young Sovereign was of no ordinary difficulty. The political situation, internal and external, was full of dangers. The country had been impoverished by the avaricious rule of the Phanariotes and the boyards, or native aristocracy, and desolated by a long series of invasions and foreign occupations. During the first half of the eighteenth century it had been traversed ten times by Russian, Turkish, or Austrian armies. Between 1711 and 1834, when she established a paramount influence in the Principalities, Russia fought nine campaigns in these lands; after the seventh, in 1812, she appropriated Bessarabia; in 1848 her troops again crossed the Pruth; a little before the Crimean War she seized Moldavia and Wallachia as a pledge for the satisfaction of her claims against Turkey. The Phanariote princes, who ruled from 1711 to 1821, were members of wealthy Greek families at Constantinople, who bought their appointments for enormous sums; their term of office was usually short, the Porte being always eager to obtain the price of another investiture, and they lost no time in securing their profits by plundering the wretched population. The native Hospodars, who succeeded them, were no less corrupt and tyrannical; the peasantry, ignorant, degraded, and dispirited, had lost even the desire for improvement; large numbers, finding the conditions of existence intolerable, fled across the Danube to Serbia and Bulgaria, where their descendants still remain, and many of the villages were totally depopulated. A series of reforms had indeed, been inaugurated by Prince Cuza, who emancipated the peasants from serfdom, but the effect of these measures was scarcely yet apparent; disorganization prevailed in every branch of the public service, and corruption and favouritism were rampant. The dominant boyard class was divided into factions; party spirit ran high, and party interests obstructed all genuine improvement. The financial situation was almost desperate, and the treasury was empty. The country, moreover, was scourged by a visitation of cholera in the year of the Prince's arrival, and famine was threatening in Moldavia.

Political Difficulties.

The external situation was equally gloomy. Europe declined to countenance the *fait accompli*, while the Sultan refused to accept the Prince's letter announcing his election, and even declared his intention of asking the sanction of the Conference at Paris for an armed occupation of the Principalities. So threatening, indeed, was the attitude of the Suzerain Power that it was decided to mobilize the Roumanian army, and the Chamber voted 8,000,000 francs for military purposes. The deplorable condition of the national defences then became evident; military stores and ammunition were almost totally lacking, and some of the ill-disciplined troops mutinied and refused to leave their garrisons. In the hope of raising a loan in Paris to meet immediate necessities, the Prince applied to Napoleon III. "In accepting the Throne of Roumania," he wrote, "I knew that the duties devolving on me were enormous, but I confess that the difficulties to be surmounted are even greater than I thought."

Happily a respite was gained, the Powers refusing to acknowledge the right of the Sultan to occupy the Principalities without their previous sanction. Long negotiations with Turkey followed, for the Porte insisted that the princely dignity should be elective, not hereditary, that Roumania should be bound to render military aid in any war which the Sultan might undertake, that she should not have the right of coining money or conferring decorations, and that she should be declared an integral part of the Ottoman Empire. Eventually these conditions were in part abandoned, in part modified, the French, British, and Russian Ambassadors exerting themselves on behalf of Roumania, and the question of Prince Charles's recognition by his Suzerain, and consequently by the Powers, was finally settled on October 20, 1866. The Prince at once proceeded to Constantinople in order to receive his Firman of investiture from the hands of the Sultan. At the first audience, which took place in the Dolma-bagché Palace, the Padishah was seated on a divan, near to which a chair was placed for the vassal ruler; but Prince Charles preferred to seat himself beside his Imperial Majesty. The interview, however, was marked by great cordiality, and exceptional honours were accorded to the Prince during his stay in Constantinople.

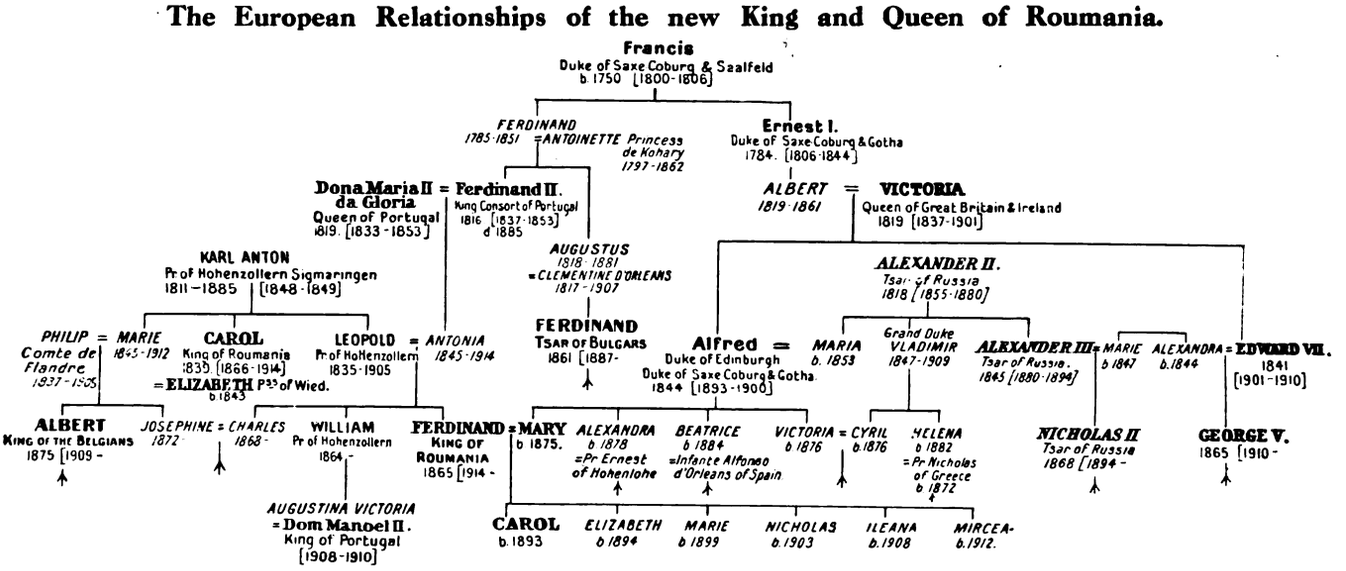
Events from 1866—1876.

The period of ten years (1866-1876) between Prince Charles's arrival and the reopening of the Eastern question, which resulted in the Russo-Turkish War, was one of fruitful activity in all directions, which developed the resources of the country, increased its military strength, consolidated its international position, and thus enabled it to weather the storm which broke over Eastern Europe in 1877.

The national edifice built up during these years of incessant labour was based on the new Constitution, which was voted soon after his accession, and in which he insisted on a Second Chamber—the only Upper House in Eastern Europe—and on an absolute right of veto vested in the Crown. A clause in the draft of the Constitution providing that "religious beliefs shall be no obstacle to naturalisation in Roumania" led to violent anti-Semitic riots and the destruction of a new synogogue at Bucharest, which Prince Charles afterwards rebuilt at his own expense. For many years the Jewish question involved a serious danger to the Prince's position; any tendency of his Government towards liberality provoked furious denunciations at home, especially in Moldavia, where the anti-dynastic party fanned the flame of popular hatred.

The financial situation throughout all this period was grave indeed, and at times seemed almost desperate. "We have not a penny," wrote Prince Charles in 1866, "in the literal sense of the word." It was clear that the economic progress of a country wholly dependent on its agriculture must be contingent on the facilities provided for the exportation of its produce. So deficient, however, were the means of communication that in 1867 only a quarter of the corn and timber intended for export could be shipped from the Danubian ports. The completion of a railway system was of the first importance, but for this the country could not provide the requisite capital. Concessions for railway construction were granted to Austrian and Prussian syndicates in 1867 and 1868, and considerable progress was made during the next few years, but in 1870 Strousberg, the head of the Prussian syndicate, declared its inability to pay interest to the bondholders. The State, which had guaranteed the

The European Relationships of the new King and Queen of Roumania.



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interest, was unable to meet the claim, and the cause of the German bondholders was taken up by Bismarck, who appealed to Turkey as the Suzerain of the Principalities. Intense excitement prevailed in Roumania, where sympathy with France during the war of this year had increased the popular animosity towards everything German, including the "German dynasty," and a storm of obloquy broke over the Prince. In March, 1871, anti-German riots took place in Bucharest, and Prince Charles, who for some time had felt his position intolerable, summoned the members of the former provisional Government and announced his decision to abdicate. Fortunately for Roumania, they succeeded in dissuading him from his purpose.

The troubles of 1871 marked the culminating point of the anti-dynastic agitation; a reaction soon set in, and a period of comparative calm followed. A Conservative Ministry was formed under Lascar Catargi, which, in contrast to its short-lived predecessors, held office for five years. During this interval much solid progress was made in every department of the State, though the financial situation always remained precarious. The tension resulting from various foreign complications also somewhat diminished; the disappearance of Napoleon III. from the field of European politics brought a certain relief; although his protection had been invaluable at the beginning, the vexatious interference of his Government had been a frequent source of trouble. At one time French jealousy was aroused by the employment of German instructors for the Roumanian army, at another by the efforts of the Prince, in accordance with Bismarck's advice, to keep on good terms with Russia. The relations with Austria-Hungary were frequently strained, owing to the sympathy felt in the Principalities for the Roumanians of Transylvania in their efforts to resist the process of "Magyarization" at the hands of the Hungarian authorities, and difficulties also arose with the Porte, owing to the formation of Bulgarian bands in Roumania, where much sympathy was felt for the neighbouring race in its struggle to shake off the Turkish yoke.

Bratiano's Premiership.

In August, 1876, the Liberal party, which, exasperated by long exclusion from office, had formed a conspiracy for the expulsion of the Prince, returned to power after some months of violent agitation, and Bratiano became Prime Minister. That remarkable man was now destined to aid the Prince in the accomplishment of the great work of his life—the realization of Roumanian independence. In this glorious achievement the national army played a brilliant and decisive part. From the day of his arrival in Roumania Prince Charles never failed to look forward to the time when the political existence of his adopted country must be vindicated on the field of battle, and amid all the vicissitudes of party conflicts and the distractions of the external situation he steadily devoted his energies to the task of military reorganisation. Every Hohenzollern is a born soldier; and Prince Charles's inherited instincts, as well as his nine years' early experience of active military life, peculiarly fitted him for the important work of building up the national defences. How he succeeded in the space of eleven years in providing the nation with a military force sufficient to turn the scale in a great campaign cannot now be described; the reforms which he carried out were at first hindered by the prevalence of party spirit and insubordination among his officers, and at all times hampered by lack of the requisite funds. But *labor omnia vincit*, and when the hour for action struck, Roumania was able to mobilize an army of 120,000 men, in no respect inferior to friends or foes in discipline, courage, and endurance.

The reopening of the Eastern question was heralded by the outbreak of an insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1875. This was followed, in May, 1876, by a rising in Bulgaria, which was repressed with hideous cruelty, and in June Serbia and Montenegro declared war against Turkey. Prince Milan, who possessed many family connections in Roumania, urged Prince Charles to make common cause with him in shaking off the suzerainty of the Sultan, but the Roumanian ruler maintained a cautious reserve and inaugurated the Fabian policy which he pursued with such success during all this critical period. Meanwhile, Russia concentrated her troops on the Moldavian frontier, and General Ignatieff declared, in presence of the Roumanian representative at Constantinople, that his Government contemplated the seizure of the Danubian Principalities. It was already clear to Prince Charles that Russia was bent on war, and from the beginning he had made up his mind as to the course to be pursued. Roumania could only side with the stronger, and he determined to conclude a military convention with Russia, and, if necessary, to join her in a campaign against the Turks. But the co-operation of Roumania was not to be had for nothing; the national army must not in any sense figure as a contingent of the Russian, and the country must derive every possible advantage which could be extracted from the situation. It was therefore necessary to proceed with the utmost caution and reserve; to obtain every guarantee from Russia for the independent position of Roumania, and at the same time to avoid a premature rupture with Turkey, which might expose the country to the risk of becoming the theatre of the approaching conflict. A temporising policy was adopted, and the suggestions of Russia were met with evasive replies; in October Mr. Bratiano, who was sent on a mission to the Tsar at Livadia, succeeded in reserving a free hand for his master, notwithstanding the mingled enticements and threats of Gortchakoff and Ignatieff, who aimed at concluding a convention for the passage of the Russian troops through Roumania.

Meanwhile, a conference of the Powers had assembled at Constantinople in the hope of averting war, but its labours came to an unsuccessful close in January, 1877, the Porte having met its proposals with an absolute *non possumus*, and on April 16 a convention was concluded between the Tsar and Prince Charles granting a passage to the Russian troops through Roumania and pledging Russia to maintain the integrity and political rights of the country. On April 23 Russia declared war, and on the same day the Russian troops entered Moldavia. On May 11 the Roumanian Chamber declared that a state of war existed with Turkey. At first the Grand Duke Nicholas demanded the active support of the Roumanian army, and Prince Charles agreed to cover its right flank on the left bank of the Danube, stating at the same time his intention to keep his troops under his own command. Presently, however, an announcement came from the Tsar that "Russia has no need of the support of the Roumanian army, her forces being more than sufficient to achieve the high object the Tsar has in view." On May 27 the Prince superintended the bombardment of Vidin from Kalafat, and his coolness under fire was much appreciated by his troops. On July 20 the Russians sustained their first defeat before Plevna, and they now begged the Prince to occupy Nicopolis and to take charge of the prisoners of war. Prince Charles agreed to garrison Nicopolis, but declined to undertake the police duties assigned to him; "my army," he wrote to the Princess, "is too good for that." At the same time he insisted on a separate base of operations in Bulgaria and the undivided command of his army. Urgent request for help from the Russians followed as the situation before Plevna became worse, but the Prince remained obdurate until the question of the command was finally settled in his favour. At last, on August 20, the Tsar appointed him generalissimo of all the troops before Plevna, and five days later the main body of the Roumanian army began crossing the Danube.

The Plevna Campaign.

The brilliant capture of the Grivitza redoubt on September 11 covered the young Roumanian army with glory. The attack, which cost the lives of 2,600 Roumanians, was undertaken against the judgment of Prince Charles, who held that Plevna could only be taken when the expected Russian reinforcements arrived. This opinion proved correct, for it was not till three months later (December 10) that the gallant Osman Pasha surrendered, handing his sword to a Roumanian officer. The capture of Plevna decided the fate of the campaign, and Prince Charles now laid down his command and returned to Bucharest, when the population of the city turned out to welcome their victorious ruler. But popular rejoicing was soon to give way to bitter disappointment. On January 29, 1878, Prince Charles was informed from St. Petersburg that Russia was resolved to regain possession of Roumanian Bessarabia and that Roumania was to receive in exchange the delta of the Danube and the Dobruja. The decision of Russia was stated to be unalterable, and a few days later General Ignatieff arrived at Bucharest with the object of impressing on the Roumanian Government the necessity of submission. The indignation in Roumania was indescribable, and both Senate and Chamber declared the resolution of the country to defend its integrity by force. Russia thereupon found pretexts for increasing her troops in the neighbourhood of Bucharest, and the Tsar threatened to disarm the Roumanian army. The reply of Prince Charles on this occasion is worthy of record: "The Roumanian army which fought so gallantly before Plevna under the eyes of the Tsar may be annihilated, but will never be disarmed." But he, nevertheless, recognized the futility of resistance to the Russian demand and exerted himself to calm the prevailing excitement.

In the negotiations for the armistice of Adrianople and the peace of San Stefano Roumania was not allowed to take part. When the Congress of the Powers assembled at Berlin, Prince Charles sent Mr. Bratiano to plead the cause of Roumania, though he foresaw that little support was to be expected from any of the Powers. In point of fact, Lord Salisbury and Count Shuvaloff had already agreed that Russia was to annex Bessarabia and Batoum in return for the division of the Big Bulgaria of San Stefano. It was generally understood that Bessarabia was a *sine qua non* for Russia, and the recognition of Roumanian independence was, by Article XLIV. of the Berlin Treaty, made contingent on the cession of that province. Another con-

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dition which was also imposed—the abolition of all restrictions on the attainment of civil and political rights by persons of all creeds (Article XLIV.)—provoked great agitation in Russia, inasmuch as it implied the admission of the Jews to the franchise, and its practical application has always been evaded. The bitter feeling excited by Russian ingratitude has not yet died out in Roumania: "in politics," as Lord Beaconsfield observed at the time, "ingratitude is often the reward of the greatest services."

In February, 1880, the independence of Roumania was formally recognised by England, France, and Germany, and in the following year Prince Charles, at the request of the Chambers, assumed the Royal title. His coronation took place at Bucharest on May 22, 1881, amid universal rejoicing, the crown being made of steel from a Turkish gun captured at Plevna. "May the first King of Roumania," he said, when accepting the vote of the Legislature, "enjoy the same love that has supported the last Prince through all his troubles! The affection of this noble and brave nation, to which I have devoted my whole existence, is more to me than all the greatness and brilliancy of a crown." That prayer was amply fulfilled in the year which followed, for the interesting ceremony marked the final consolidation of his position, and the beginning of an era of peaceful progress comparatively free from domestic troubles and foreign interference. It is true that in 1888 a serious rising among the peasantry, in part due to the prevailing distress, in part to the unscrupulous agitation of M. Bratiano's enemies, and in part to the machinations of Russia, threatened at one time to assume an anti-dynastic form. But tranquillity was soon restored, and M. Bratiano retired from office, having held the premiership for twelve eventful years. Agrarian riots again took place in 1899, when, owing to a failure of the harvest and the improvident financial policy of successive Governments, the country was threatened with an economic crisis which was eventually averted by the policy of rigid retrenchment carried out by M. Sturdza, with King Charles's approval. There can be little doubt that the confidence which the King's rule inspired in the foreign financial world largely contributed to save Roumania from national bankruptcy at this critical epoch. When the financial difficulty was at its height the King gave evidence of his sagacity and calm judgment by refusing an offer for the exploitation of the Roumanian petroleum springs by an American trust, thus preventing the alienation of a potential source of great national wealth. During his latter years King Charles had the satisfaction of witnessing the completion of a great series of public works—the immense system of fortifications defending the capital and the line Fokshani-Galatz, the magnificent bridge over the Danube at Tchernavoda, and the extensive harbour at Constanza.

King Carol's Jubilee.

In May, 1906, King Charles celebrated the jubilee of his accession to the Throne amid great rejoicings. In the spring of the following year a great insurrection of the peasantry took place, due in the main to the causes which had led to the previous risings, as well as to the exactions of a new class of Jewish middlemen. For some days Bukarest was in danger: large bodies of troops were called out, and the revolt was suppressed with ruthless severity. During the Balkan crisis of 1908-9, brought about by the declaration of Bulgarian independence and the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, King Charles maintained a policy of reserve, but the growing strength of Bulgaria, which was regarded with no little jealousy by his subjects, and Greek aggression on the Kutzo-Vlach element in Macedonia alike disposed him to favour a close entente with Turkey, which had recognised the ecclesiastical rights of the Kutzo-Vlachs.

When, however, after formation of the Balkan Alliance, war broke out between Bulgaria and her allies on the one side and Turkey on the other, King Charles, in accordance with his usual policy of circumspection, remained neutral and confined himself to demanding territorial compensation from Bulgaria for the prospective expansion of that Power in Macedonia and Thrace. The question was left to the decision of the Ambassadors of the Powers at St. Petersburg, who adjudged the town of Silistria and some neighbouring territory to Roumania. But after the outbreak of war between the allies, Roumania declined to abide by the award, and the dispatch of her troops into Bulgaria, where they met with no opposition, effectually brought the war to a close. It is no secret that King Charles was deeply reluctant to take this step, but, as he explained in a telegram to King Ferdinand, he was unable to resist the popular demand for military action. The assemblage of Balkan statesmen at Bucharest for the purpose of making peace (July, 1913) indicated the leading position which Roumania had now attained among the Balkan States. Under the Treaty of Bukarest (August 10) a considerable extent of Bulgarian teritory was ceded to Roumania, which practically succeeded to the hegemony of the peninsula, and the triumph of King Charles's policy was complete.

In November, 1869, Prince Charles married Princess Elizabeth of Wied, the gifted "Carmen Sylva," of whose brilliant literary and artistic talents only passing mention can be made here. The union was a happy one, and from the day of her arrival in Roumania the Princess took an active share in her husband's labours, devoting herself to works of charity and taking a keen interest in the intellectual and moral advancement of the people and in the improvement of their social condition. The only child of the marriage, the Princess Marie, died in 1874, at the age of four, and the grief of the bereaved parents was shared by the whole nation. As the succession to the Throne had been declared hereditary by the act of Prince Charles's election, his nephew, Prince William of Hohenzollern, eldest son of his brother, Prince Leopold, became heir, but renounced his rights in favour of his brother, Prince Ferdinand, who in 1889 received the title of "Prince of Roumania" and took his seat in the Senate at Bucharest. In 1893 the heir-apparent married Princess Marie, daughter of the late Duke of Edinburgh, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Trained in the best traditions, with a deep sense of duty, high ideals, a steady purpose, a sober, judicial temperament, much intuitive sagacity, and an enormous capacity for hard work, King Charles was peculiarly fitted by Nature and by education to discharge the great task which fell to his lot. His calmness, his supreme indifference to calumny and even insult, and his unwearied industry shone by contrast among an impulsive, excitable, and somewhat indolent people, in whose character a sensitive *amour propre* is no small ingredient. In private life his habits were of the simplest; he disliked all luxury, show, and ostentation, and there was nothing theatrical in his disposition. He was never more happy than when spending his time in the beautiful woods around his mountain home at Sinaia, where he was able to gratify his fine appreciation of Nature, which was shared by the Queen, and to indulge in his favourite pursuit of forestry. He lived to witness the realisation of the dream of his early life, and to see the people whose destinies he shared leading the march of progress in Eastern Europe. The best record of his long and useful reign will be found in the present condition of Roumania: *si monumentum requiris circumspice.*

We give below a few extracts from the Press on the late King:—

In the person of her first King, Roumania has lost a great ruler and statesman, the real creator of the leading State in the Balkan Peninsula. King Charles has governed her for nearly half a century; he has worn her Crown for more than a generation. Her polity, her internal constitution, her position in the Balkans and in Europe, her Army, her finances, agriculture and trade, her education, and the whole mind and outlook of her people, have been transformed since he came amongst them, and in the transformation he has been the guiding brain and his the controlling hand. —*The Times* (October 12).

For forty-eight years he has governed Roumania as a constitutional monarch, with so much judgment, tact, and decision that during most of that time, and especially in recent years, his ablest Ministers have been the first to recognise that their king was their first and best statesman, ruling the country by the Divine right of being its best citizen.

—*The Morning Post* (October 13).

King Carol of Roumania will need no monument in the country of which he was the first independent Sovereign. Its growth in wealth, prestige, and civilisation is so intimately connected with his leadership and government that his name will ever be the foremost in patriotic memory. His kingly career in a new and strange land might have proved a mere adventure, like some that we have watched in more recent days; but ability and character enabled him to guide Roumania into paths of true development and to leave her a Power of genuine standing and a formidable quantity in the calculations of Europe.

—*The Pall Mall Gazette* (October 12).

The King of Roumania was little known in this country, but there is no man who during the last thirty years has won for himself a more honourable position in the commonwealth of Europe. Born to a position in which he had all the pleasures and advantages but none of the responsibilities of Royal birth, at the age of twenty-five he voluntarily undertook the task of ruling a half-civilized, undisciplined people. It was a position in which few could have expected he would succeed; the best that his friends could hope for him was that he should at least fail with honour. —*The Manchester Guardian* (October 12).

THE PUBLISHER would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST the Cairo correspondent referred to the dealings and doings of German banks in Egypt, and pointed out that, in the case of the Deutsche Orient Bank, a special feature had been to lure small Egyptian depositors by a high rate of interest and by the belief that this generous act on the part of the Teutons "was all done for love of the Moslems." If rumour is right, the bank in question, at the last moment before the outbreak of hostilities, sent an important sum to Germany On the other hand, the latest action of that institution has been to try and wriggle out of the obligations imposed upon it by the moratorium by pretending that the payment made under the first moratorium had to be deducted from the larger one authorised under the extension. From which it is evident that the small native Egyptian depositors have been fleeced by the Teutons to facilitate the bombardment of Antwerp and the sacking of Louvain. In the words of our correspondent, "it is to be hoped that, since his pocket is touched, the Egyptian will at length realise the true value of the Teuton's avowed friendship for him, and that he will draw a comparison between the position of the D.O.B. and the local British and French banks, which have remained open all the time, and have by no means insisted on adhering to the bare minimum imposed by the moratorium."

***

I have lately been shown a recent report sent from Constantinople to a Lancashire firm, in which reference is made to an almost similar attitude on the part of the local German banks, whose treatment of their depositors can in no way compare with that adopted by the British and French banks. Yet it is the Germans who are to-day the rulers at Stamboul, the self-appointed friends and protectors of Islam! But surely they are going the wrong way to show their friendship and protection? I cannot help thinking that the intelligent Turk, like his cousin in Egypt, is beginning to curse the day when the "scraggy Eagle" nested in the Ministry of War overlooking the Bosphorus.

***

But it is not only as regards the banks that the Germans have shabbily ill-treated their friends at Constantinople. The mobilisation of the Turkish Army, its transport and upkeep, together with a hundred extraordinary expenses, have practically depleted the Turkish Exchequer, ruined the shreds of its credit, and coniured away its borrowing powers abroad. For all of which Germany must be thanked. The rotting of ungathered crops, the starving of countless thousands whose food supplies have given out, the misery, black and sinister, of thousands of Moslem peasants throughout Asia Minor and Syria, are other phenomena of the situation for which Germany must again be thanked. The closing of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus, the stopping of all trade between Constantinople and the outer world excepting through Bulgaria, the paralysing of shipping between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean are so many instances of Turkish subserviency to crypto-Prussian militarism, for which the Germans must be thanked, and which are destined still further to ruin Turkey's prestige and to bring up against her not only the Allies, but all neutral States throughout the world. Finally, and as though the above list did not suffice to convince Turks of the folly of their ways and of the isolation which stares them in the face, it must be remembered that Germany's expense in sending, in her own interests, soldiers, sailors, ammunition, and howitzers to Turkey will have to be paid by someone, and that the person to foot the bill will inevitably be Turkey. How this will be done the gods alone know. In the meantime the Ottoman Empire is estranging itself from Great Britain and France, the two great lending Powers, and meekly following the German star—blindly, and without realising that Berlin has no money, and that even for the construction of a railway in Asia Minor the Germans were obliged to borrow—in Switzerland!

***

The whole matter is involved with more serious consequences than I dare think of. From what I know personally of such men as Talaat Bey, Djavid Bey, Djemal Bey, and Bustani Effendi, I am inclined to think that they, in their innermost selves, can be no willing partners to a state of affairs that smacks of the grotesque. They are not the men voluntarily to risk the future existence of the Ottoman Empire for, let me say, a mess of pottage. Financial disaster threatens it, trade dislocation is weaving its meshes around it, foreign sources of capital are closed to it, and, instead of being able to dispose normally of its crops and to send them across the seas under the protection of Anglo-French fleets, they are rotting where they fall, the while interests are accruing and the wherewithal to meet obligations is slowly disappearing. For the sake of what? For the shadow of a friendship that is thraldom, for the ghost of a protection that spells ruin. Surely the Young Turks must realise this? Or must the old adage of none so blind, etc., be applied even to men of Talaat Bey's understanding, to men of the financial perspicacity of Djavid Bey? If so, may the blame lie with them—and the responsibility. But the true friends of Turkey—and their numbers in Great Britain are legion—will regret it, for the sake of the Empire.

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From the business man's point of view, the reports that are reaching this country regarding Turkey's mobilization make extraordinary reading. For, as carried out by the provincial authorities, it seems destined to deal the final blow at the never too robust commerce of the Ottoman Empire. This sounds pessimistic no doubt, but surely this number of THE NEAR EAST contains material that amply justifies such pessimism. What do we find? At Smyrna the fruit trade is at a standstill, and the whole export business is, in fact, in similar plight. In the Mesopotamian region the agriculturists are afraid to take the necessary steps to realise their crops; in Baghdad itself the merchants and shopkeepers are being driven into the ranks, and trade is at a standstill; at Busreh the shipping trade is utterly demoralized; in Constantinople itself "business is dead or dying." And the same story reaches us from every part of Turkey. It is not within my province to inquire into the whys and wherefores of the mobilization. But I would point out to the powers that *ought* to be in Constantinople just now that the richest country in the world could not stand this sort of thing long. And Turkey is not the richest country in the world. With the Ottoman Ministers who desire to put an end to this ruinous state of affairs I must heartily sympathise. For the firebrands who are responsible for it I, as a plain business man, have nothing but hearty contempt.

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Since writing the above, I read that an official communication to the Press announces that foodstuffs imported into Constantinople are to be exempt from requisition for military purposes. Unfortunately I have heard of similar assurances given before now by the authorities at Stamboul, but when the foodstuffs did arrive the order went forth that they were to be requisitioned in spite of edicts, decrees, and standing orders. It is so easy to revoke old decrees. Not that it affects us either one way or the other, because we are not exporting foodstuffs. But, on the other hand, it clearly proves to what depths of economic poverty Turkey has fallen under Prussian guidance to be obliged to publish such a statement when wheat, oats, barley, and other foodstuffs are rotting at home and are not allowed to be picked owing to German interference.

***

There is a scarcity, I read, of oil and rubber in Germany. I predicted as much some time ago, so that it comes as no surprise. Up to the present, however, the Roumanian fields, in which Germans have invested a considerable amount of money, are still open to the Teutons, the oil being sent overland via Austria. As a matter of fact, the most recent issue of the Roumanian *Moniteur du Pétrole* to hand states definitely that there has been a decided increase of oil exports by tank trains to Germany. How long is this going to last? It is difficult to say; but if, as is presumably going to be the case, the Russians link hands with the Serbs across Austria, good-bye to Germany's last source of oil supply. As it is, the path is already a very narrow one, and it is growing narrower. Regarding Roumania, it might be argued that any such happening would seriously affect her own exports. Not so much as is apparent at first sight, because the wells from which Germany draws her supplies are owned and exploited by German companies, and very few other wells send oil thither. So that the loss to Roumania is minimised.

COMMENTATOR.

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War on German Trade.

THE LEATHER INDUSTRY.

In continuation of our series of extracts from the bulletins issued by the Board of Trade, we give this week particulars from the same source of the openings for trade in leather, exclusive of boots and shoes, which present themselves in the Near East:—

GLOVES.

Germany's exports (1912) amounted to £1,621,000, those of Austria (1913) to £1,453,000, and those of the United Kingdom (1913) to £370,000.

[The Near East is, comparatively speaking, a small market, but both Roumania and Turkey are important buyers of leather gloves and glove leather. Austria's exports to the Near East are the most important, Roumania alone taking from the Dual Monarchy gloves to the value of over £10,000 per annum. British-made gloves (for gentlemen) have the best reputation of any throughout the Near East, but their price, on the one hand, and Austrian cheap competition in the same line on the other, act against their more general use. If a British firm sought to make itself known in places like Bucharest, for instance, and made trade terms less onerous for the tradesman, it could easily establish itself.]

The following remarks from the Bulletin refer to Near Eastern countries:—

Egypt.

In his report for 1911 the Austrian Consul at Cairo states, that as regards leather gloves, that all qualities ranging in price from 15s. to 45s. a dozen for ladies' gloves and 25s. to 75s. for gentlemen's gloves are in demand, but the total requirements are not large. The former are almost exclusively of French manufacture, while the latter are for the most part of English origin.

Roumania.

According to a French Consular Report, the trade in glove leather in Roumania is entirely in the hands of Austria-Hungary.

Serbia.

In a survey of the leather and leather goods trade, the German Consul at Belgrade points out that German manufacturers could without doubt secure a greatly increased share of this trade if they sent out their own expert travellers to study the actual requirements of the country, and to obtain information as to prices, terms of payment, etc. By adoption of this method a number of German firms have met with a considerable measure of success in the Servian market.

Leather gloves are stated to be imported principally from Austria-Hungary and Germany.

MACHINERY BELTING.

Germany exported in 1912 machinery belting to the value of £735,000, Austria in 1913 to the value of £23,200, and the United Kingdom in the same year to the value of £1,619,000.

The following leather belting was imported in 1912 and 1913 by several Near Eastern countries:—

	From Germany, 1912.	From Austria, 1913.	From the U. Kingdom, 1913.
	£	£	£
Bulgaria	2,100	4,130	1,200
Roumania	13,000	4,330	11,700
Turkey	3 250	1,150	9,200
Egypt	1,000	—	12,400

The figures for machinery belting of woven hair or cotton are:—

Bulgaria	400	..	70	..	40
Roumania	12,150	..	170	..	2,100
Turkey	1,050	..	—	..	3,800
Egypt	3,150	..	—	..	6,400

The figures for machinery belting of other materials than leather, woven hair or cotton are:—

Bulgaria	700	..	—	..	—
Roumania	2,950	..	260	..	800
Turkey	450	..	—	..	500
Egypt	200	..	—	..	1,000

[The total German and Austrian trade in the countries mentioned above which can be acquired by us is not less than £50,000 per annum. Half of this amount can be taken by Roumania alone—a circumstance that ought to persuade British manufacturers to pay special attention to this market, in spite of the fact that it is beginning to manufacture its own leather belting.]

The following further details are published by the bulletin:—

Bulgaria.

An Austrian Consular report on the Trade of Bulgaria for 1911 mentions that in that year leather belting was imported in increased quantities from Austrian manufacturers, and German firms also secured a fair share of the trade. The consumption increases annually, and manufacturers of leather belting are advised that the Bulgarian market is well worth their attention.

Roumania.

According to a report by the German Consul at Bucharest for 1912, camel hair belting of excellent quality is manufactured in Roumania; consequently the imports of this article, which is principally employed in the petroleum industry, have steadily decreased. The production of leather belting has also become an important industry in Roumania.

Turkey.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Smyrna in a recent memorandum on the leather trade of Smyrna writes:—Belting leather comes mainly from the United Kingdom. France and Germany are only of secondary importance in this article. Prices vary indefinitely with size, but, as examples, a 6-inch single band is sold at 3s. 3d. and a 6-inch double band at 5s. 6d. per foot, with 40 per cent. to 55 per cent. discounts off listed prices according to quality. Usual terms are three to four months' discount.

MOQUETTE TRADE IN TURKEY.

Although there are no precise statistics of the trade in moquette carpets at Constantinople, states *The Bulletin* of the French Chamber of Commerce of that place, the imports of this article are increasing both for use in the country and for export to Russia and Persia. France is the principal supplier. Patterns with a garnet red ground are most in demand. Then come those with a blue ground, whilst carpets of a cream colour are little bought. The principal sizes of these carpets, with their wholesale selling prices, including cost of carriage, customs duties, other expenses, and a small profit for the vendor, are as follows:—Size, 65 cm. by 115 cm., 3s. 2d.; 65 cm. by 125 cm, 3s. 4d.; 85 cm. by 150 cm., 5s. 10d.; 100 cm. by 165 cm., 7s. 6d.; 130 cm. by 180 cm., 9s. 6d.; 130 cm. by 190 cm., 10s.; 138 cm. by 200 cm., 10s. 6d. The following articles in moquette are also imported:—Portières, 150 cm. by 350 cm. and 100 cm. by 325 cm. at 42s. to 67s. a pair, and from 30s. to 50s. a pair, according to quality; cantonnières, size, 65 cm. by 325 cm., at from 25s. to 42s.; cushions sold at 1s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. each, and from 2s. to 3s. each in sizes 55 cm. by 55 cm. and 50 cm. by 70 cm. Moquette is also sold by the metre, 130 cm. wide, at prices from 4s. 6d. to 7s. 10d. a metre.

ENTENTE TRADE LEAGUE.

Under the above title a new organisation has been created, with offices at 2, Broad Street Place, E.C. The Chairman of the Executive is Lord Desborough, and his colleagues on the Council include Colonel Sir J. E. Bingham, Sir William Crawford, Sir John Taverner, Mr. Richard Burbidge, managing director of Harrod's Stores; and Mr. John Lawrie, managing director of William Whiteley, Limited.

ATHENS SAMPLE ROOM.

Writing to *The British Trades Journal*, Mr. C. S. Butler, of Athens, analyses the above scheme, frequently referred to in the columns of THE NEAR EAST, and suggests that, in view of the endeavours now being made to increase the volume of British trade abroad, special attention should be paid to the creation of a show-room at Athens, "where samples of British manufactures could be exhibited and their merits pointed out to local importers, and, what is still more important, to the large number of Greek merchants from Turkey, Asia Minor, Egypt, and the various Balkan States, who at one time or another find their way to the capital of their Motherland." The writer then adds:—

"The obstacles in the way of the development of the plan have hitherto been twofold—firstly, the lack of the proper channels to make it widely known in Great Britain, and consequently in getting a sufficient number of manufacturers to take an interest in it; and, secondly, the difficulty in apportioning the ratio of expense to be borne by each firm desiring to make use of the show-room. Once started, this latter obstacle would be overcome, for the manufacturers or exporters would contribute in the proportion of the benefits derived by them.

"The case may be stated roughly as follows:—Business firms are in the habit of allowing commissions to their agents on orders influenced by them. Now, supposing that Firm A does a turnover of £5,000 in a year, meaning a commission of, say, £150 to their agents, and Firm B does only £200 worth, involving a commission of £6, A and B would contribute, nominally, £150 and £6 respectively to the funds of the show-room. But as the total sum in so-called commissions would probably far exceed the expenses, the balance would be divided up and credited to A and B in ratio of 50 to 2. Thus all exhibitors would pay their fair share of the expenses only; those doing a larger business paying more, and those doing a smaller business less. The advantages derived by the patrons of the show-room are obvious; they would save considerably on agents' commissions, and their samples would be constantly and publicly exposed in a manner that would be impossible in the offices of agents.

"The above is a rough outline as at present proposed, but there would, of course, be other considerations affecting the scale of contributions, such as, for instance, the amount of space occupied by the exhibits of various members. The chief difficulty, as I have already pointed out, lies in the starting of the institution, for no firm would be able to make an estimate of what their proper proportion in the expenses would be, not knowing in advance how much business they would do. It is for this reason that all members would have to contribute for the first year an equal sum, irrespective of their probable profits."

THE SITUATION IN SMYRNA.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud, of Smyrna, in their report dated September 9, review the situation of the local market as follows:—

"The whole situation in the country has been disorganised by the Government utilising for the movement of troops the two railway systems serving our town, and commandeering all forms of transport both in the town itself and all over the interior of the country. The suspension of all mail services practically throughout the month of August, and the severe restrictions imposed on the receipt and despatch of telegrams complete the existing chaos.

"Although the mail services are presently somewhat better organised, there is little improvement to report in the general situation. Gold is scarce, exchange is not negotiable, and where some sight drafts or telegraphic transfers are taken up, the rate of exchange for these operations represents a discount of about 15 per cent., adding thereby proportionately to the sterling equivalent price of commodities.

"Freights have been increased by 50 to 100 per cent. in some instances, and shippers have also to pay high rates for insuring war risks. All efforts to import gold from abroad have so far been fruitless."

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SPECIAL TRADE OPENINGS.

We extract the following items from a list under the heading of Special Openings for American Trade which appeared recently in the *Daily Consular and Trade Reports.*

Athens.—Some of the principal import products include sheet iron, coal, paper, pharmaceutical preparations, dry goods in general, suitings, electrical supplies, hardware; and for Government, military equipment of all kinds, including motor trucks, automobiles, blankets, uniforms, field telephones, horses, matches. Market desired by Greece for sulphur oil, valonia, manganese, marble, emery stone, wines and brandies, silk thread, raw silk, sheep and goat skins, sponges, citrons, tobacco, olive oil, olives.

Salonika.—Market in need of cotton cabot cloth, drugs and pharmaceuticals. Ready for export: Opium, poppy, fennel seed, kid, lamb and sheep skins, wool, leaf tobacco.

The city of Athens probably supports more horse-drawn cabs in proportion to its population than any city of Europe except Paris. The more progressive cab owners have already gone over to motor cars and have profited greatly through the tourist trade. Places of interest in the interior, which formerly could be visited by travellers only by submitting to great discomfort, not to mention hardship, covering several days, are, since the advent of the motor car, merely one-day excursions. Thus far no taxicab companies have begun operations in Athens, although it is currently reported that an English company is about to establish a service. One feature of local conditions that should add to the success of a taxicab service is the distance separating Athens from its seaport, Piræus. A service between Athens and Piræus would contribute greatly to the convenience of travellers, and with the increasingly large number of tourists arriving in this port between the months of January and May should be a profitable venture.

COMPETITION WITH GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

In connection with the campaign undertaken by the Board of Trade on the advice of their Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence to assist British manufacturers and merchants to secure trade formerly in the hands of German or Austro-Hungarian firms, the Board have received a very large number of inquiries for names of sellers or buyers of articles of which the sources of supply or markets have been interfered with by the war. Special arrangements have been made in the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade for dealing with the inquiries and lists are being prepared and circulated of articles which inquiriers desire (a) to purchase, and (b) to sell. The first and second lists were published on August 29 and September 18, respectively; the third list, in which is incorporated the first and second lists, is now ready and may be obtained on application to the Branch. Firms interested in any of the goods mentioned, either as buyers or sellers, should communicate with the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

TRADE WITH TURKEY.

On Friday, at a meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, it was stated that the proceedings of the General Trade Committee included "a letter from the Foreign Office stating that the boycott of Christian traders in Turkey was a political quarrel between the Greek and Turkish Governments, but that his Majesty's representative might be relied upon to see that British trade did not suffer more than was inevitable."

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS.

The following bulletins were published during the past week:—Cotton yarns; straw plait and straw hats; linen manufactures, including yarns; scientific instruments and apparatus (except electrical).

Applications for copies of any of the above or of those published in our previous lists should be addressed to the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

DRUG SHORTAGE IN EGYPT.

In connection with our reference two weeks ago to the shortage of drugs in Egypt, we read in *The Egyptian Gazette* that on September 14 a meeting of Cairo chemists was held to consider what measures should be taken to ensure that Egypt should be provided with a sufficient supply of the most necessary drugs. The following decisions were adopted:

1. To ask the Government to allow Egypt to share with British Colonies the same treatment in respect of the supply of drugs as is already in force in regard to coal.

2. To prepare a list of medicaments, drugs, and other necessaries of which the supply is likely to run short and to make the necessary arrangements for ordering these supplies from England or neutral countries.

There is a great shortage in certain pharmaceutical requisites, says *The Egyptian Mail*, the supply of which has hitherto been almost entirely in German hands, notably glycerine, boracic acid, amidon (starch), etc. As regards glycerine, such firms as hold small stocks are now asking about double the usual price. Importers have turned to Italian chemical manufacturers and these have increased their usual prices by 25 per cent., 15 per cent. of this increase representing the rates of Italian marine insurance. The great British chemical manufacturers have as yet made no apparent effort to secure the trade in these lines which Germany and Austria have lost. The position seems largely to be that, to secure it, the effort will have to come from them. With a present shortage in some lines, and a prospective one in others, local buyers have turned to the source from which they can receive fresh supplies quickest. That source is Italy. British manufacturers desirous of securing the business must canvass it by traveller or local representative.

THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.

As has been rightly said, no section of British manufacturing is more eager to carry the trade war into the German domain of commerce than the electrical industry. The Near East will offer in this respect a happy ground for the expansion of our trade at the expense of the German A.E.S. and the kindred Austrian firms. In the past we were unable to stand up against Continental firms in Turkey, Roumania, Servia, etc., but with a little energy on our part we should soon be able to turn the tables to our own advantage. As *The Times* points out, it is not too much to say that our manufacturers of plant and machinery, cable and accessories, have long looked forward to "the day" when Germany should be debarred from continuing her unfair competition in this market. The knowledge that this was one of the most favoured trades in the eyes of Berlin officialdom; that the greatest electrical factory in Europe was a special *protégé* of the Kaiser; and that its operations abroad were backed by the financial resources of the leading bank and the diplomatic power of the Government made German competition almost hopeless to withstand. With for so many years no practical comradeship among British firms, it was as though each of them had singly to struggle in the market against the determination of the German Empire to dominate this trade. Orders went abroad from public authorities, from factories, rolling mills, collieries, all of which could have been just as well executed at home.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOURNAL.

The current issue of the Chamber of Commerce *Journal*, which consists of forty-six pages of matter, sold at the usual price of 6d., gives interesting particulars as to the possibilities of competing, both at home and overseas, in various lines of goods hitherto supplied by Germany and Austria-Hungary. In this section of the *Journal* there are long and exclusive lists of concrete demands from firms requiring to purchase goods in place of those formerly obtained from foreign sources, as well as offers of home manufacturers to make such goods in addition to their usual lines of manufacture.

These lists can be of the greatest utility to British manufacturers, exporters, and merchants, and we recommend them to study them carefully. The mentioned trade opportunities in Italy and Spain will also be most serviceable.

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The Cotton Crisis.

Proposed Reserve.

There has been considerable activity during the past week in circles interested in the cotton trade. Unfortunately, the irregularity of the mails prevents our publishing this week our customary Egyptian Notes.

World Crops.

In connection with the interview with Sir Charles Macara, Bart., published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, the paragraph dealing with the difference in price between a 12,000,000 bale world crop and 16,000,000 bale crop, had best be illustrated as follows:—The supply of raw material is subject to great fluctuations as is illustrated by the American crop of 1910-11. In that year, as Sir Charles pointed out, the crop was 12,000,000 bales, the value of which in round figures was £185,000,000. In 1911-12, the cotton crop of 16,000,000 bales was only valued at £165,000,000, a falling off of roughly ½d. per lb., or £20,000,000 in the value of the whole crop, even with 4,000,000 additional bales.

Crop Restriction.

We wish again to draw special attention to the letter on "Egyptian Cotton Restriction," published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST. The writer, Mr. J. M. Mezger (by the way, owing to a clerical error, his name did not appear at the foot of the letter) takes up a strong attitude against the Egyptian Government's proposal to reduce the acreage under cotton next year. In this respect Mr. Mezger does but voice the opinion of Lancashire, and more particularly of that section of spinners who are the big purchasers of Egyptian cotton. We, therefore, recommend the arguments put forward to the serious consideration of the proper authorities, the more so, considering that, whatever divergence of opinion there may be as regards Sir Charles Macara's reserve scheme, both he and his opponents agree in condemning the hasty attitude adopted by the Egyptian Government.

AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL.

Sir Charles W. Macara received the following cablegram on Wednesday from Colonel R. M. Thompson, a prominent man in the American cotton world:—

"A movement has been started to take up and store in State-licensed warehouses in the South the surplus cotton of this year's crop, say five million bales, the warehouse receipts being made by legislation absolutely good for the cotton against all claims. The Federal Reserve Board is encouraging the formation of a banking syndicate to advance $150,000,000 on these receipts on the basis of $30 a bale, the cotton to be carried for one or two years. What, in your opinion, is a fair price per pound for the balance of the crop if it can be arranged that the loans be made with option to the lenders to sell cotton for account of borrowers when price advances above an agreed price? Would you favour the movement, and would it be possible to get subscriptions to stock of the corporation that is to stand between the producers and the banks and eventually to sell the cotton on commission?"

To this cablegram Sir Charles has sent the following reply:—

"Heartily support scheme for establishment cotton reserve which since war began have been urging British and American Governments to take up. Schemes to be effective must embrace cotton crop of the world, England being responsible for Indian and Egyptian crops, representing about one-third world's crop, and America two-thirds. England possesses 40 per cent. of the cotton machinery of the world and America about 20 per cent. Both Governments are vitally interested in preventing further serious losses to growers, cotton merchants, spinners, manufacturers, operatives, and distributers of cotton goods. Stable price of nine cents would do this. Cotton organisations, either national or international, could not cope with situation, which can only be dealt with by co-operation of two Governments named guaranteeing minimum price through ordinary commercial channels, with restrictions as to maximum to guard against gambling. Such guarantee would probably result in confidence being restored all round, which is so urgently needed to bring about revival of trade. Again with certainty of extended cultivation of foodstuffs to make up shortage caused by war and consequent reduction in cotton acreage, the reserve would ensure the running of English and American mills during next cotton season."

The Manchester Guardian, analysing the above, opines that the cablegrams will be read with interest by the cotton trade, although they are not likely to meet with general approval. It then argues as follows:—

"Sir Charles says quite rightly that if a cotton-holding scheme is decided upon it must embrace India and Egypt, as well as America, and it must be done by the British and American Governments. We need not point out again all the difficulties there are in the way of Government action, and especially the financial one, for that is obvious. Sir Charles Macara speaks constantly of establishing a cotton reserve. That, however, needs no establishing. The cotton is in existence, and there is bound to be a surplus, or reserve, at the end of the season. The practical question seems to be whether it is desirable to have a share of it here, under our own control, and whether it would be a dead-weight or a steadying influence upon prices as long as it existed. Sir Charles Macara's idea, we understand, is that the two Governments should deal with the crops as the British Government has done with sugar—that is, buy them up and sell what is required through the usual channels, giving those who do the work fair remuneration, but imposing both a minimum and a maximum on prices. His idea of a proper price is 9 cents in America. The idea of the growers is that they should have 10 cents, which would cover their expenses, but would leave little or no margin of profit. There is, as far as we can see, no chance whatever of their getting 10 cents now, and in view of their recent falls in prices in the South it seems very doubtful whether Lancashire spinners as a whole will endorse a scheme which aims at 9 cents as a minimum. There is a great fear, no doubt, of the consequences of heavy depreciation in stocks, but those who are not exposed to that danger will certainly clamour for cheap cotton and will resist the use of a big sum of public money to defeat their object."

THE LANCASHIRE MARKET.

On Tuesday *The Financial Times* devoted its leading article to the cotton trade crisis, from which we reproduce the following extracts:—"The condition of the Lancashire trade seems to be growing worse, and as existing contracts are worked off mills are closing down and the output is steadily decreasing. The position has been complicated by the heavy fall in the price of raw cotton, the quotation for "Middling American" being now over a penny lower than at the outbreak of war, and showing a fall of over 2d. since the beginning of July, equal to nearly 30 per cent. Such a drop is sufficient to disorganise any industry, and while the Lancashire spinners and weavers are sufficiently badly hit by the falling demand, the position as regards the growers in the United States, Egypt, and India is very nearly as serious. In each of these countries petitions have been made for Government aid to help planters over an exceptional crisis. . . . The New York *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* admits the difficulty, but considers that the South ought to be left to work out its own economic salvation. This authority puts the probable total cotton crop in the United States at well over 15,000,000 bales, but even higher figures are being talked of owing to the exceptionally favourable weather conditions. Taking the crop at 15,000,000 bales, the *Chronicle* estimates that there will be a surplus of from five to six million bales of this season's crop to take care of, while the price has fallen from 13 cents to 8 cents. . . . From the point of view of the Lancashire trade the danger is that the crisis may lead to a very large reduction in the area planted with cotton, and that a temporary glut may be followed in a year or two by an equally severe shortage."

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, October 14.

The tone in the market during the past week has continued decidedly flat, and it is impossible to say that the prospects are brighter. The waiting policy which has been adopted by buyers for many weeks is still very pronounced, and no news is coming through which is likely to bring about a change of attitude on the part of our customers. Matters are very irregular with regard to the raw cotton situation, and official prices in this country remain on an artificial level. There is not much alteration in the outlook for supplies in the raw material. Very few offers have been met with in piece goods for export. Inquiry for India has been of quite retail dimensions, any bids put forward being quite out of the question. China has done scarcely anything, and advices from Shanghai are not at all encouraging. One or two of the minor outlets of the Far East, such as Singapore and Java, have provided odd lots. A little business has been mentioned for Greece, but for the Levant and Egypt the position leaves much to be desired. Speaking generally, the home trade is giving more active support at the moment than shipping. From time to time fair Government contracts are placed, and certain manufacturers in this way experience a little relief. There is a tendency for less weaving machinery to be worked, and unemployment is increasing.

ALEXANDRIA REPORT.

The Alexandria General Produce Association in its monthly crop report, dated October 6, says:—

Lower Egypt.—Though not unfavourable to cotton plants the temperature during September has been, however, somewhat irregular, with several cool nights and days. The bollworm is reported everywhere, and in some localities the pink bollworm is reported in large quantities. Some very heavy fogs and mists have also been reported. These various factors caused a certain amount of damage, which seems to be somewhat greater than in 1913. First picking has begun, and should have been as in 1913 had not the general situation caused delay. Results seem to be about equal to those of 1913, but second and third pickings will apparently give an inferior yield to 1913. Most of the ginning factories not having begun working, ginning yields are not yet known, but from information received it seems likely to be considerably less than in 1913.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—Temperature has not been favourable, being colder than usual; frequent mists and bollworm have caused some damage to pods of first and second pickings. Owing to the financial situation first picking progresses slowly, and is therefore later than usual; results seem to be about equal to 1913. As regards second picking it seems it will be of inferior quality, but the out-turn will depend largely on the temperature during October. Owing to the small amount of cotton ginned up to date it is not possible to estimate the ginning yield, but it seems likely it will be considerably less than in 1913.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The Egyptian *Journal Official* of September 22 contains a Decree restricting the area of cotton cultivation to 1,000,000 feddans (about 1,038,000 acres) during the 1915 season. It is explained that this step is taken in view of the present limited demand for cotton, and the possible rise in the price of cereals. Cotton cultivation in the basin lands of Upper Egypt is entirely prohibited. It is forbidden to devote more than one quarter, or, where the land is unsuitable for growing cereals, one-third, of estates to the cultivation of cotton.

The following were the quantities of cotton manufactured piece goods exported to the countries of the Near East in August last, as compared with the corresponding period of the two preceding years:—

	1912. Yards.		1913. Yards.		1914. Yards.
Greece	4,334,000	..	2,424,300	..	1,693,800
Roumania	3,771,100	..	582,800	..	1,127,100
Turkey	47,168,600	..	28,182,900	..	10,082,300
Egypt	20,581,000	..	27,193,000	..	9,812,000
Persia	6,619,000	..	2,378,000	..	1,628,600
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	—	..	—	..	385,60

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Cotton Cultivation in Palestine.

(By Our Haifa Correspondent.)

In connection with the successful experiments for testing the cultivation of Egyptian cotton in various districts in Palestine over a period of three years, it will interest British cotton cultivators to learn something regarding the prospects. The experts who were carrying out the experiments affirm that there are many tracts of land in Palestine quite suitable for cotton growing, and that some of them are similar to Upper Egyptian lands.

The Eastern Ghor lands have been pronounced the best for cotton cultivation, and efforts have been made to form a company with a view to collect the necessary funds to enable operations to be started without delay. Having studied the project thoroughly and collected reliable information from authoritive sources, I propose to deal at some length with the subject in order that readers of The Near East may be informed of the prospective developments of cotton cultivation in Palestine.

Eastern Ghor Lands.

These lands have the advantage of being situated on the Haifa-Damascus Railway line, two hours distant from the former by train. Their northern extremity is the Beesan Station. They stretch about two kilometres southwards beyond the Zarka river, and are bounded on the west by the Jordan river, and on the east by a chain of hills which rise gradually to a mountain. The whole region is about forty kilometres from north to south, and four kilometres in the opposite direction, and is composed of two plateaux. The one which adjoins the hills is larger and varies in width from three to three and a half kilometres. It extends in one plain running from east to west. This is followed by a fall of about 20-50 metres. The second plain runs alongside the Jordan valley. The continuous smooth level of the plateau, however, is broken up by a few ravines and dunes.

Nature of the Soil.

The soil of the higher plain is loamy black and free of gravel. Its fertility is evidenced by the high wild grass and growing wheat, but it is poorly cultivated, not more than 25 per cent. of the area being used for wheat, which, in spite of the shallow ploughing, looks very healthy. The rest of the land is in a state of neglect; it is left for grass which is used for cattle grazing. The lower plain, which forms the borders of the Jordan, is of a black rich soil; very little of it is used for cultivation.

Irrigation.

Four springs emerge from the hills and traverse the region from east to west. They are diverted in some places for irrigation purposes, but if properly canalised would be sufficient for winter irrigation. One-third of the upper plateau can be watered during the summer, and the lower can be watered during the summer in two different ways—viz., by pumps from the Jordan, the lift being from two to three metres, and by gravitation if a dam at a small cost is built in the Zarka river, which commands one-third of the whole area.

The fall of the two plateaux facilitates their draining into the Jordan, which runs down the valley on the edge of the property.

The temperature is favourable for cotton cultivation; it is almost like that of Upper Egypt. The upper plateau, 200 metres below sea level, is cooler and airier; the lower bed is 250 below sea level.

The soil is excellent for cereals, vegetables, and cotton. Cotton has been tried lately and has given satisfactory results. There are cotton crops now near the Jordan river on the opposite side. In the lower as well as in the upper plateau cotton cultivation is being carried on, and in both is doing well.

Labour.

Manual labour is quite abundant. If houses and proper accommodation are prepared and facilities accorded to the ignorant peasants for finding their cattle and cultivation requirements, such labour will greatly increase.

However, taking the country as a whole, labour is rather scarce in view of the continual and persistent emigration of the fellaheen wishing to escape military service. Nevertheless, those who start business on a proper basis will have as many hands as required. The fact must not be overlooked, however, that if machinery is used for ploughing, as will be the case by and by, less hands will be wanted than at present. Wages vary from one to two shillings per day, with about half this sum for boys and girls.

System of Working.

There are two systems for working these lands. The first is to give out the land on the leasing system to be paid in kind—*i.e.*, the peasants provide everything and the landowners take from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. of the annual production.

The second system is for the lands to be worked by their owners, hand labour to be paid partly in grain and partly in cash. Failing this, labourers can always be paid in cash.

Not many houses exist at present. Houses for managers and cottages for labourers can be built on the adjoining hills, where the heat is not so excessive and nights are pleasant.

On the western side of the Jordan the Government owns land, but the lands on the eastern side have a better supply of water. The former are owned by Bedouin chiefs who live on the mountains above the plains.

The whole area of the two plateaux is about 35,000 acres, of which 15 per cent is uncultivable. About 15,000 have been offered for sale. The remaining 15,000 acres are separate, but can be easily acquired if a good price is offered. The Government land domains are in great demand by many companies. They are supposed to be very good cotton lands. It is stated that the would-be purchaser is offering to pay £10 a feddan for these Government domains.

The following table shows clearly the expenditure that has to be incurred to carry the Ghor enterprise into effect:—

	£ Sterling.
Permanent Capital:—	
To complete the purchase of land	20,000
For buildings and canalisation (£1 per acre)	15,000
Working Capital:—	
Price of machinery, etc.....	15,000
Rolling working capital.....	10,000
	60,000
Yearly Net Profits:—	
14,000 acres cereals (£1 10s. per acre)	21,000
1,000 acres cotton (£6 per acre).....	6,000
	27,000

The above is calculated on a minimum average for the first few years only. Revenue will increase yearly, and may come to double the above between the fifth and the tenth year.

For further particulars concerning the Ghor Estate apply to the offices of The Near East.

An agent of the Bradford Manufacturing Company at Mersina, writing under date September 15, states that "there is not an order to be had in the whole place. Further, the Customs will not release any parcels, but keep them for the military."

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RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
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BAGHDAD FRUIT.

"The conditions of climate, abundant water supply, and freedom from insect pests" (writes Mr. F. W. Popenoe, in *The Gardiner's Chronicle*) "Baghdad seems preeminently suited to fruit culture. With its vast undeveloped resources Mesopotamia has much to expect of the future, and in the development of its fruit industries should be given the attention it deserves." The following are particulars concerning some Baghdad fruit as referred to by Mr. Popenoe.

Dates.

The culture of the date is the most important horticultural industry of Baghdad. It has been roughly estimated that there are, in the district contiguous to Baghdad, one million palms. The plantations vary in size from a few acres, or even a few trees, to the immense property of the late Kazim Pasha, seven miles above the city, whose extent the Arab describes by saying that one can enter it at sunrise, walk all the morning, and not have reached the other side by noon.

Water is drawn from the river by means of a primitive contrivance called the *kirid*. In a few of the plantations oil engines, introduced by an enterprising European firm in Baghdad, have displaced the *kirid*, and have made a decided hit with the Arabs.

With the exception of the famous Khalaseh date, produced in the Turkish province of Hasa in Eastern Arabia, the dates of Baghdad are the finest in the so-called Persian Gulf region. Furthermore, there is probably no other region in the world where so large a proportion of all the varieties cultivated are of excellent quality. Zahidi is the most extensively grown of all varieties. It is not a high-class date, and has only obtained its popularity because of the fact that it is extremely productive. It has the advantage that the fruit can be sold either soft or dried; in the soft or fresh state it is called Zahidi Kursi, while the dried fruit goes under the name of zahidi yabis. Next in popularity comes khustawi, an excellent soft date, rather small in size, but of excellent, rich flavour. It cannot approach in quality either sukkari, maktum, or tabirzal, the choicest varieties of the region, but these, with the exception of maktum, are rarely offered for sale. Asharasi, a large dry date, is also popular, and must be classed as one of the finest dry dates in existence.

Oranges.

Next in importance among commercial fruits comes the orange. Baghdad oranges are famed throughout the Persian Gulf. Nearly all grown in Baghdad are produced as subsidiary crops under the date palms. The reason for this is not economy of space so much as the necessity of giving the trees some protection from the occasional sharp frosts of winter. The Baghdad orange—*portugal* it is called by the Arabs—is a brightly coloured, thin-skinned fruit, with few seeds and abundant juice of excellent flavour.

Limes and Lemons.

Several other citrus fruits are fairly common. The most valuable is probably the *lumi hamith*, or lemon, of which the local variety, although rather small and somewhat seedy, is not to be sneered at. The sweet lime or *lumi halu*, a fruit that is absolutely tasteless to a European, while to the Arab it is far and away the best of the citrus tribe; is scarcely as common at Baghdad as it is on the borders of the Persian Gulf. Its large size and bright appearance are very attractive, but the pulp, although extremely juicy, has almost no flavour except an insipid sweetness. In addition to these, one sometimes sees the *narinja*, or mandarin orange, and also the *turunja*, or citron.

Pomegranate.

In late autumn the pomegranate is almost as popular as is the orange during the winter. Most of the fruit sold in the Baghdad bazaars is said to be brought in from the surrounding towns, although the shrub is grown in almost every Baghdad garden. A number of varieties exist, some of them being of good quality, though it is doubtful if any of them are as fine flavoured as the masqat pomegranates. Neither do they show any tendency to become seedless, as is claimed for some varieties both in Southern Spain and Afghanistan.

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Near East Markets.

PERSIAN AND TURKEY PRODUCE.

Messrs. F. W. Bowyer and Bartlett report for the month of September :—

Gum Arabic.

Owing to a sudden demand at the beginning of the month, prices advanced for ordinary Kordofan sorts, and a large business was done up to 60s. per cwt., since which time arrivals of fresh supplies have had the tendency to lower prices, which are now down again to 50s. per cwt. Good white selected and soft kinds have not moved to much extent in price, and can still be bought at 60s., 67s. 6d. per cwt.

Gum Tragacanth.

Although not large, a steady business has been done during the month, and practically all fine and medium grades have been cleared from the market at very extreme prices. The present remaining stocks appear heavy, but the selection and quality is so poor that it does not attract buyers. Stock 10,110 packages

Opium.

Since our last report the Government has endeavoured to assist business by granting permits for the exportation of opium whenever practicable, which naturally has stimulated both buyers and sellers, and whereas last month there were many sellers and no buyers, the position is now reversed. Druggists.—The demand for this description of Turkey opium has been almost entirely from America, and a good business has been transacted at considerably advanced prices—viz., 19s. to 19s. 6d. for 11 per cent.; and 20s. to 20s. 6d. for 11½ per cent. "Soft Shipping." —Owing to the difficulty of obtaining opium from Turkey, there has been a considerable inquiry in this market for this class of opium, but as the small stock is very firmly held, business in consequence is restricted. To-day's quotations are : Good to fine, 21s.; and finest, 22s. 6d. and 23s. per lb. Persian. —Owing to the export of Turkey opium from this country to America, manufacturers here are using Persian for making morphia and its various salts, and in consequence there has been a good demand for 9 per cent. and over; the prices ruling to-day are : 10 per cent. at 18s., 9 per cent. 16s. 9d. and 17s. 3d. and lower 14s. 6d. and 16s. 6d., according to quality.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending September 25 :— Since forwarding our last report of the 5th inst. some 150-160 cases of opium have been shipped to London and New York, mostly on consignment for account of our holders. Some opium, however, has been bought by shippers to fulfil old engagements or fresh orders that may have come now, but for these 24s. has been paid for extra Carahissar selected, and 19s to 22s. for lower grade mixed goods. The export price of opium has advanced owing to the abnormal low exchange existing, which obliges the merchant to sell his London cash draft at a loss of 20 to 25 per cent. The sowings have not began, and owing to the disturbed state of the country no sowings of opium will be carried out this year except what the peasant women and children can do. Anyway, we may from now reckon on a very short crop of opium next year; therefore the article will maintain very high figures, if even the moratorium is off and exchange on London recovers its usual rate. The arrivals are 1,171 cases against 3,025 at same date last year.

The London correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* says that, in spite of the heavy demands for opium for war purposes, there are still large supplies available for general use. There has been no advance in the price of Persian opium, and Turkish opium has only gone up a shilling or eighteenpence a pound. Imports are arriving almost weekly, and a ship due to reach England on Saturday has 118 cases on board, weighing about 160 lbs. each. One of the largest opium brokers in London has about a thousand cases to sell at present.

FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows under date of September 9 :

Sultanas.

Arrivals so far are exceedingly small. It is estimated that barely 1,800/2,000 tons have come to market, mainly from the immediate surroundings of Smyrna Under normal conditions at least 10,000/12,000 tons of fruit should have been available for shipment.

Reports from all districts concerning the outturn of the vines are distinctly unfavourable. A very heavy percentage of the yield at Cesme, Fokia, Caraburnu and Vurla has perished owing to lack of hands. Farmers are everywhere encountering great difficulties in the collection of their crop, and as the vines are also yielding poor results it is feared that the eventual quantity of fruit that will be gathered in will not exceed some 30,000 tons.

Shipments to date have been as follows :—

S.s. "Andalusian," for Liverpool, about 14,000 boxes.

S.s. "Crios," for New York, about 2,500 boxes.

S.s. "Doravore," for London, about 65,000 boxes.

In the above shipments some 10,000 boxes of last season's fruit are included. The s.s. "Antonio" is now loading for London, and it is reckoned that, inclusive of transhipments for United Kingdom outports, Australasia, etc., some 70,000/80,000 boxes will be shipped.

Figs.

First arrivals were timed to reach the market for August 21, but consequent on the unsettled conditions prevailing farmers have been compelled to withhold supplies.

The first figs reached market yesterday morning, consisting of a tentative lot of 1,200 loads. Qualities on the whole show well, a portion of the fruit, however, being tender, having remained in bags some three weeks, pending despatch to market. Comparative arrivals to this date last season amounted to 24,288 loads. So far no business has been done, packers still hesitating to buy owing to the financial difficulties existing. The packing of figs is an expensive process, and unless means can be found to raise cash resources it is to be feared that the few packing houses that will open will before very long find themselves under the necessity of closing down. The bulk of the crop will doubtless have to be slowly exported in bags in a natural condition.

Some 25,000 loads have already been gathered in the various producing districts, but unless farmers obtain more encouragement shipments to Smyrna will be of limited volume and may occasionally be suspended.

Prospects.

The summary we have given above exposes in some measure the difficulties facing shippers and the disastrous conditions with which farmers have to contend. In view of the expulsion from this province of thousands of hardy Greek farmers, the inadequate return which the vines and fig orchards are likely to give to their proprietors, the scarcity of money, and other conditions which are too well known to be enumerated, agriculture and fruit farming are likely to receive a set-back, the consequences of which will certainly be reflected for some years.

Within the first three weeks of the season we have shipped or are shipping a quantity of some 45,000 boxes and cases. Market at present is decidedly firmer, and we believe that prices are likely to advance very considerably before long.

ALBERT SINGER
KHARTOUM SUDAN

EXPORTS OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

Agency for firms desirous of introducing their brands of goods into the Sudan.

Established 1900.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.

London, October 15.

Owing to a feeling of uncertainty as to the course of action with regard to Government sugars, buyers are not operating with freedom, and the market has been rather quiet, with little doing. British refined is still very difficult to secure owing to the Government requisitions. Quotations are :—Tate's cubes, No. 1, 33s. 6d.; Lyle's, No. 1, granulated, 30s. 6d.; No. 2, 30s. Foreign refined in second hands is selling as follows :—W.S.R., R.T., and Meyer's cubes, 33s. 6d. First marks, granulated, 30s. 6d. American granulated, Oct. shipment, 23s. 9d. c.i.f.; Italian crystals shipped sold at 23s. c.i.f.

Coffee.

A very poor demand is being experienced this week. Prices ruled rather irregular, mainly due to consideration of quality, but on the whole there was but little alteration to note. Washed Dumont medium to bold was sold at auction on Tuesday, 54s. to 60s.; unwashed bold, 55s.; Colombian mid. to good mid., 56s. to 66s.

Currants.

In spite of prognostications, no excessive quantity of currants is in prospect of shipment to this country. Arrivals up to the present have been mostly cleared, and only a small assortment is at present on offer on the market. Prices, however, are slightly in buyers' favour, as merchants desire to avoid holding stocks for the present. Provincial is somewhat unsatisfactory, but all other growths fully maintain the first promise of excellent quality. Provincial are quoted 24s. to 25s., Amalias 25s. to 26s., Patras 26s. to 28s., Vostizza 28s. to 36s., Island 28s. to 29s., and Smalls 27s. to 33s.

Sultanas.

There is a good demand, but buyers are cautious. It seems, however, that for the present, at least, no excessive supplies will be received here, as the world's demand, apart from Germany, is active, and only checked by some curtailment of general shipping facilities. Prices, in the meantime, are unchanged, Smyrna from 21s. to 60s., Greek 40s. to 50s.

Figs.

Figs sell somewhat slowly, high prices being asked for the recent arrivals per "Antonio." The market will, however, soon be fully supplied.

Dates.

There is no definite news of new crop being shipped at present. Spot prices continue steady. Persians are quoted to-day 12s. 6d. to 14s.

Seeds.

Linseed market is rather slow; London-Calcutta spot and afloat, also for shipment up to Nov.-Dce., 43s. asked. Rapeseed is quiet, but well held for late rates. Cottonseed has been fully steady; London-Egyptian loading is quoted £8 2s. 6d., and new crop Oct. £8 5s.; Bombay to Hull spot £6, and Sept.-Oct. £6 3s. 6d. per ton.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cake has been in a better demand, and it is generally anticipated that as the winter approaches prices will harden, so that crushers and holders are already demanding a premium for future delivery, while, on the other hand, spot values remain quiet but steady. Best London made £8 10s. to £8 15s.

SERBIA'S UNINTERRUPTED EXPORTS.

A Reuter's message, dated October 14, from Nish stated that the following semi-official communique has been published :—"Austria-Hungary is threatened with famine, and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry have urged the Government to abolish the import duty on foodstuffs of all kinds. On the other hand, the Serbian Cabinet considers that the cattle and foodstuffs in Serbia are more than sufficient to continue to allow the export of cattle in general and of foodstuffs, such as beans, peas, cheese, etc. That shows the inaccuracy of the recent Austrian communique which talks of famine in Serbia."

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE DARDANELLES.

The following is an extract from a leading article, entitled "The Dardanelles Must Be Free," which appeared on October 7 in *The Shipping World*. Referring to the closing of the Dardanelles for "an unstated period of time and for a reason that we are told is genuine," the article states that the reason cannot be commercial, and if it is naval and military, it is suspect. It then asks :—

"What naval and military reasons are there to induce Turkey to take such a step at this moment? The Powers of the Triple Entente have clearly intimated that they will respect her national and commercial integrity provided she observes neutrality. Even during the Balkan War two years ago, when Turkey was a belligerent, the Dardanelles were closed only for a portion of that period, and the waterway was thrown open because of the protests of the neutral world of trade and shipping. Similarly to-day Turkey must recognise at once the necessity for throwing and keeping open such an important artery of oversea trade. The Dardanelles must be free, even in a larger sense than is the Suez Canal. It is a natural channel, and the only one for the seaboards of three or four nations. There is no alternative waterway. As the sole entrance to the Black Sea it should be for all time an international sea route, free to the ships and commerce of every nation

"At the moment Bulgarian vessels may not go from their home ports of the Black Sea to their home ports on the Ægean; and there are greater anomalies in the treatment meted out to Greek and Russian interests The complete internationalisation and neutralisation of the Dardanelles seems to be demanded by every argument that can be adduced; and certain it is that Turkey's genuine reasons for closing the Straits will require to be more definite."

The *Moniteur du Pétrole* (September 20) states that during the past two months only two oil tank steamers were loaded at Constantza: on August 20, the British s.s. "Aral," for France, and on September 9 the Dutch s.s. "Mydrecht," for Egypt. These boats remained several weeks at Constantza, owing to the insecurity of the passage through the Dardanelles. German and British oil tank steamers are not circulating, the former for obvious reasons, and the latter, with the exception of the "Aral," because of the situation in the Dardanelles.

GREEK HULL DAMAGED.

The Greek steamer "Anastassios Coroneos" (says *Syren and Shipping*) is reported to have sustained serious damage during an attempt to float her after she had gone ashore. The point in connection with the accident is whether the claim will fall under general average or particular average. This cannot be ascertained until the surveyor's report and opinion is to hand. The vessel's hull is insured in London for £12,000.

RUSSIAN NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Until further notice a boat will leave Constantinople direct for Odessa every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. A boat from Constantinople will leave every Thursday and Sunday for Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Odessa, and on Tuesday and Friday one will leave for Heraklea, Samsoun, Kerassund, Trebizond, and Batoum.

NEW ELLERMAN LINER.

The steel screw steamer "City of Florence," built at the Hebburn shipyard of Palmers' Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., was taken to sea for her trial trip on Tuesday, says the Newcastle correspondent of *The Journal of Commerce*.

The vessel is about 422 ft. long, and carries a deadweight of nearly 9,000 tons; she is classed 100 A1 Lloyd's, and has a cruiser stern and two complete decks, with poop, bridge and forecastle; water ballast is carried in the cellular double bottom all fore and aft; also in deep tank adjacent to after engine room bulkhead; she has six large cargo hatches to holds and 'tween decks; side girders and built pillars fitted to give clear space for shipping heavy cargoes; accommodation with saloon is provided in large deck house at fore end of the bridge deck, with captain's and chart room in house above; the engineers' accommodation is in the house built around the aft end of the engine room casing on the bridge deck; the petty officers, etc., are in the aft end of the bridge; and the Lascar crew of firemen and seamen are berthed in the poop; Marconi house for wireless telegraphy is fitted on the bridge deck; special attention has been given to the derrick arrangement for the quick handling of the cargo, and the vessel has thirteen steam winches.

She is fitted with triple expansion surface condensing engines of 48 in. stroke.

The steamer was taken for several runs over the measured mile, and carried through a series of circle trials and anchor gear with perfect satisfaction; the engines worked very smoothly throughout, and the trials were in every way successful.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO JEDDAH.

The U.S. Vice-Consul at Dalny, the Japanese leased territory in Manchuria, reports that the South Manchuria Steamship Company has inaugurated a steamer service between Singapore and Jeddah, Arabia, covering about 4,000 miles, principally for transporting Mohammedans travelling on religious pilgrimages. The steamers will be the "Teikoku Maru," 4,997 tons, and the "Hokoku Maru," 5,300 tons. Such service has been maintained exclusively by the British-India Steamship Navigation Company and the Blue Funnel Line, both of which annually carry about 700,000 Mohammedans.

"BRESLAU" IN THE BLACK SEA.

According to a Central News telegram from Bukharest, the cruiser "Breslau" arrived off Sulina on October 12. Her commander, a German, declared, "with a menacing air," that he had come to escort the German steamers "Seresos" and "Leros" carrying materials for Constantinople. Eventually the two steamers left Braila under the "Breslau's" protection. Their departure was reported by wireless to the Russian fleet.

EGYPT'S COAL IMPORTS.

The following are, according to Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., of Alexandria, Egypt's imports of coal from January 1 to October 1, 1914 :—

	Tons.
Welsh	435,922
Newcastle	182,619
Scotch	18,836
Yorkshire	94,801
Other qualities	188,392
Total	1,021,560

as against 1,095,016 tons for the same period last year.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The value of British imports in September was £45,051,937, a decrease of £16,303,788, or 26.6 per cent., as compared with September, 1913; whilst the total exports amounted to £31,948,142, a decrease of £17,329,735. The exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom show a decrease of £15,750,763, or 37.1 per cent., as compared with September, 1913; whilst there is a decrease of £1,578,972, or 22.9 per cent., in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The offices of the British India Steam Navigation Company have been removed to 13, Leadenhall Street E.C. Telephone, 17,377-8 London Wall.

The Russian naval bases in the Black Sea (says the Naval Correspondent of *The Morning Past*) are "Sebastopol and Nicolaieff, in which foreign firms are employed, the British firms being Messrs. Vickers and Co. and Messrs. John Brown and Co. Messrs. Vickers own a concession to establish gun works at Tzavitsyn, in the Volga. The concession is being worked by the Russian Artillery Works Company, which has the sole right to manufacture naval guns and field artillery after the Russian Government." On the other hand, Messrs. Sir W. Armstrong and Vickers, Ltd., have the concession for the Turkish arsenals and docks, as mentioned in another page of the current issue of THE NEAR EAST.

The Alexandria correspondent of *The Morning Post* states on October 8 that a Judge had arrived from England, and was making arrangements for holding a Prize Court in Egypt. The status of enemy ships at Port Said and Suez is under consideration. They received permission to depart, but refused.

At the meeting of the council of the British Cotton Growing Association, held on the 6th inst., it was reported that in view of the present financial troubles, and the low price of cotton, it is feared there may be some difficulty during the coming season in buying and financing the Uganda cotton crop, which is estimated at about 50,000 bales, and a scheme has been drawn up by the Association, whereby all the necessary funds can be obtained, amounting to about £600.000, and which will ensure that the native producers will be able to market the whole of their crop. The scheme has been submitted to the Government for their approval, and is at present under consideration.

We have received a booklet on the subject of "Alternative Benefits for Children," of which the perusal will fully repay the average parent. How best to provide for the younger generation is an anxious problem. The booklet shows the most convenient, safest and most economical method of solving the problem. It is issued by the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company. The exposition of the advantages of the endowment policies offered by this well-known Office and the well-arranged tables setting forth the terms give all the information wanted. As this particular department of insurance business is for the benefit of children the booklet includes a coloured pictorial and rhyming alphabet.

The Commercial Agent for Roumania in London has forwarded to the Board of Trade the following list of articles the exportation of which from Roumania is prohibited according to a communication received from the Roumanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce dated August 28 :—Carriages, carts, automobiles, horses, oxen (vehicles and animals for transport in general); wool; gold coin of any kind; all kinds of packing material; oats, hay and other fodder stuffs; foodstuffs, either amimal or vegetable (except barley, wheat, maize, and the flour thereof, peas, lentils, colza, linseed, millet seed, sunflower seed and bran); residues of petroleum; haricot beans; sulphuric acid; and all pharmaceutical products.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a telegram from H.M. Minister at Bucharest, dated October 3, reporting that the exportation of flour from Roumania has been prohibited.

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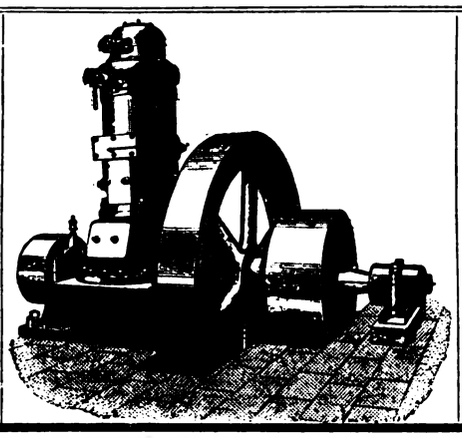

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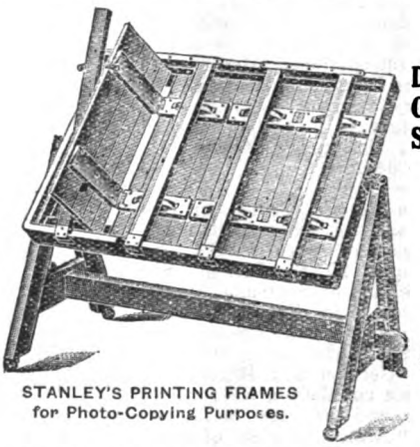

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Engineering Notes.

Board of Trade Bulletins.

In dealing here with the engineering trade, as well as with other trades in the Near East, it is expedient to point out to British manufacturers and shippers that the information given in the bulletins issued by the Board of Trade is based on trade returns during the years 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913. As it happened, these four years have been the most critical in the history of the countries in the Near East; for during that period there has been the war between Turkey and Italy, which was soon followed by the war between Turkey and the Allied Balkan States, which was again followed by another between the Allies. These desperate wars had, of course, affected directly and indirectly all sections of the commercial, industrial, and agricultural communities of the belligerent, as well as their neighbouring, States in the Near East. Yet it is noteworthy that the figures given in the Board of Trade bulletins, as representing the import trade of these countries, although nothing is mentioned of the abnormal state of affairs existing there, have been admitted as very appreciable. With these remarks we wish to suggest that in considering the opportunities of capturing German trade in the Near East, British manufacturers, and especially engineering manufacturers, and shippers should bear in mind that the purchasing power of those markets is much greater than represented in the bulletins which, as mentioned already, are based on returns dealing with abnormal times.

Combustion and Explosion Motors

In stationary combustion and explosion motors Germany has been doing very good business throughout the Near East, but particularly in Roumania, Egypt, and South Russia (districts east of Black Sea). In 1912, when war was going on in the Balkans, we see that Roumania bought such motors from Germany to the value of £96,000; Bulgaria, £14,000; Greece, £8,000; Turkey, £14,000; Egypt, £52,000; and Russia, £452,000. The latter country is included here because we calculate that at least one third of the above sum represents the value of motors which, through the Black Sea ports of Batoum, Poti, Novorossisk, Nicolaieff, etc., went to the inland fertile and prosperous districts of Southern Russia. These districts, which use more engines and machinery than any other part of the Russian Empire, were, in years past, like their neighbouring districts of the Levant, great buyers in the English machinery markets. The same changes, however, that happened in the other countries of the Near East happened also in these important districts. The Germans came upon the scene, and, having found the points at which it was possible to attack the British engineer-manufacturers, were soon able to oust them. Additions or alterations to suit local conditions and designs, allowing a reduction of prices, have helped them in their success. They offered what was required, and they succeeded. In Roumania, for instance, oil engines working on benzine are preferred, while in Serbia, Bulgaria, Asia Minor, South Russia, and Greece, engines burning crude oil or ordinary paraffin are more suitable. Local conditions should be studied by the manufacturer, as, often buyers from those regions, having no technical knowledge, order "an oil engine of such or such power," and leave the details to the maker. Small power engines, from 2 to 20 h.p., are more in demand in Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey-in-Europe, Syria, and the Ægean Islands. In the price of this class British makers are, as a rule, beaten, for they usually built 4-cycle engines, while their competitors built 2-cycle engines up to 20 or 25 h.p., which allows them to sell at much cheaper rates than the British can.

Steam Engines and Boilers.

In this line, again, the Germans have made considerable progress during recent years, and now supply countries in the Near East which have been supplied before exclusively by England. In the class of portable engines for agricultural purposes the question of fuel is of great importance. Coal is very expensive, in some districts costing £1 10s. and sometimes £2 per ton. The arrangement, therefore, of supplying such engines with an enlarged fire-box for burning straw is very suitable for Roumania, parts of Serbia, and Russian districts; while for Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Syria, and the Islands, where the straw is required for fodder, and is as valuable to the farmer as the grain itself, the fire-box should be constructed to burn wood and coal when required. The same may be said for stationary boilers that are to be used in inland districts of the above-mentioned countries. Wood is plentiful and cheap, and boilers constructed for such fuel are much appreciated.

Pleasure Cars in Greece.

We extract the following from a report by the U.S. Consul-General at Athens:—"In the line of pleasure cars American makers have already begun to cultivate the Greek market with some success. Most of the cars, however, are of French, Italian, or German make, and the smaller models enjoy the greatest popularity. One of the favourites seems to be a ten horse-power model recently placed on the market by one of the leading Italian makers. This car is seen in constantly increasing numbers. The predominance of the smaller models of European cars, coupled with the fact that there is not in Greece a large wealthy class, would indicate that there will be in future, especially in Athens, a reasonably profitable market for medium-priced cars. The market should be attacked at once, however. At present it may be said that motoring is in its infancy in Greece. While the Royal family has owned cars for the past five years, it is only in the past two years that the general public has taken up motoring. These two years have seen large sales and convince the observer that history will repeat itself in Greece, as in all other countries where the automobile has penetrated. In fact the motor-car's future popularity in Greece is assured.

TENDERS INVITED.

EGYPT.

Stores, Clothing, etc.—Tenders will be received at the Lunacy Division, Abbassia, Cairo, for the supply of stores, clothing, and other equipment needed for Abbassia and Khanka Asylums for twelve months commencing April 1, 1915, and ending March 31, 1916. November 30.

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY NEWS.

Decreased Receipts.

Writing on September 18, the Cairo correspondent of *Railway News* said:—"The great decrease in railway earnings all over Egypt, largely occasioned by the drop in imports consequent upon the war, continues. The State Railway receipts, about £E10,000 a day in normal times, are said to be about £E4,000 at present. The Fayoum Light Railways are reported in Cairo to be earning less than their expenses, despite great retrenchments. The receipts of the Delta Light Railways are, on the whole, the most satisfactory, as the latest published figures place the decrease since April 1 last at under £E7,000. The energy shown by the management in meeting the situation is at least partially accountable for this. The débâcle will come, of course, if some arrangements are not made to finance the Egyptian cotton crop, from the movement of which the lines of the country derive such a large part of their earnings. Active negotiations to this end are, however, proceeding between the Government, banks, and other interested parties.

Suggested Increase in Fares.

It is stated in the local Press, though as yet no official announcement has been made on the subject, that the State Railways intend shortly to increase all first-class fares by 10 per cent., and second-class fares by 5 per cent. The idea is, of course, to increase revenue, but it is doubtful if this will be the case. The country is too hard up to be able to pay expensive railway fares, and if we are to judge by what has occurred in connection with the State telegraph receipts lately, this will be the case. Shortly after the war started telegraphic charges were doubled, yet the receipts continue to keep below the expenses of the Department.

The Sudan Mail Trains.

The Sudan mail trains are running with only a slightly reduced service. Mails arriving in Egypt by British boats leave Cairo every Wednesday, arriving at Khartoum on the following Sunday. Those arriving in Egypt by French boats leave Cairo every Saturday, and arrive at Khartoum on the following Thursday.

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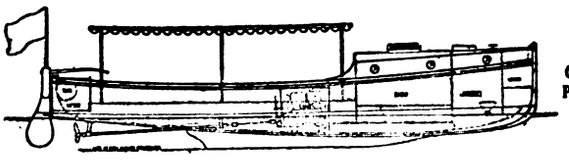
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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

Fall of Antwerp.

There is no doubt but that the fall of Antwerp has completely stopped all business in the City—at any rate for the time being. The newspapers pretend that the surrender was not a matter to make any fuss about. But this is not the view taken by the City, neither, I may add, accepted by the Belgians themselves. To put it in the mildest way, the retreat has complicated still further a situation which is none too rosy.

Fixed Prices.

The fixed prices made by the Committee do not work, because no one can sell, as the dealers are all sellers themselves and will not put stock on their books. We are all wondering what will happen when the Stock Exchange reopens. The tale goes that it will reopen some time in November—as soon as possible after the moratorium ends. But I am very doubtful. No doubt if the news from the front were good the reopening might buck us up. But dealers and brokers alike find all their clients anxious to realise. There is very little buying.

L.S.-W. Issue.

The London and South-Western Railway, through Lloyds Bank and Boulton Brothers and Company, offered a million 5 per cent. 10-year preferred stock at £99 15s. per cent. The issue was subscribed in a few hours. No one could be surprised at this, for 5 per cent. in a trustee security looks remarkably cheap with all other trustee stocks at fixed prices giving only about 4 per cent. to 4¼ per cent. I can find nothing but praise for the clever way in which the railway and the bankers made the offer. The money was urgently needed, and it could only be obtained by offering splendid terms. The main point was that the finance was successful. The business showed keen insight and great courage. I am at a loss to know why the newspapers should have declared that the railway company acted unwisely. The result proves that they showed much acuteness.

Armament Shares.

The demand for armament shares seems to have slackened. But this is still the principal market in the street. Kynochs remain round 12, and wild stories run round of huge contracts both at Witton and Arklow. Birmingham Small Arms are 55s., and do not seem over-priced at this figure. Cammell Lairds are steady at £5. The concern has been badly managed in the past, but it is now full of work, and has some big interests in other large armament houses who are also working day and night. All the Sheffield people are simply smothered in orders. John Brown and Co., Vickers and Armstrongs are going without cessation, and no one should sell shares in these companies as large bonuses must result from the big business they are doing. The New Explosives is also full up for two years, and these shares look cheap at 17s. Nobels are as busy as they can be, and presumably the German branch of this great house is also fully occupied. I think that those who make up an armament trust to-day will probably double their money in two years.

Oils Promising.

There is excellent news from Egypt. The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfield reports big oil from the Hurgada field; this is most satisfactory, and should put heart into holders of Anglo-Egyptians, Suez and Eastern Petroleum. Both the latter concerns have large interests in land which will probably be taken up by the Shell company. Next to armament shares, oil shares appear the soundest purchase, for the combatants are using huge quantities of oil for motors. Work in Galicia and Roumania is almost at a standstill, but in Russia the war has made very little difference. The Ural Caspian report an output for the week ending October 2 of 8.081 tons, mainly from a spouter in Well 23. The Emba Caspian has also struck good oil in Well No. 6, so that holders of both shares should do well. The field has taken a long time to develop, and has not been quite satisfactory, but it now looks like repaying the speculator

Egyptian Market.

There is no business of any kind in Egyptian shares. The cotton crop will be financed on the lines already announced in The Near East. But the share market is dead.

FOREIGN MORATORIA.

Egypt.

Reuter's Agency reports from Cairo, under yesterday's date, that a Khedivial Decree has been issued prolonging the moratorium until November 1 on the same conditions as before, except that all cotton and cotton-seed contracts on the Alexandria Bourse are now excluded and remain solely under the Decree of September 3.

Turkey.

The Turkish moratorium has been prolonged for a period of three months, that is to say, presumably until the middle of January.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN DOCKS.

The legal position of the bondholders of the Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals, and Naval Constructions Company of Constantinople (Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., and Vickers, Limited) is not momentarily affected by the present situation. Principal and interest of the 5½ per cent. guaranteed bonds are covered both by a special and a general guarantee by the Ottoman Government, and the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt is charged with the collection and disposal of the revenues, and has agreed to pay out of such revenues, as and when collected, to the National Bank of Turkey for the service of the loan the amount required for each half-yearly coupon and sinking fund, which will be held for account of the trustees for the bondholders.

Up to the present the Ottoman Government have not refuted any of the stipulations agreed to by them in their contract with the Imperial Ottoman Docks, and therefore the situation from the bondholders' point of view need inspire no uneasiness. Should war break out between Turkey and this country the situation will certainly change, but not necessarily, or definitely, contrary to the interests of the bondholders or the firms engaged in constructing arsenals and docks for the Turkish navy.

Six hundred thousand pounds 5½ per cent. guaranteed bonds, part of a total authorised issue of £1,100,000 like bonds, were issued to the public late in July of this year. The bonds are unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Imperial Ottoman Government, specifically secured by the assignment of an annuity payable from the tithe revenues of the Vilayet of Sivas. They are repayable on or before November 14, 1943, by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 1½ per cent. per annum, commencing forthwith, and to be applied by half-yearly drawings at par or by purchase below par.

The bonds are to bearer in denominations of £20, £50, and £100 each, with half-yearly coupons payable on May 14 and November 14 in each year. They bear the signatures of the Ottoman Minister of Finance, of the President of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, and of a representative of the company, and are countersigned in London by a representative of the Ottoman Government which has granted that the bonds and coupons shall be exempt in the Ottoman Empire from all duties and stamp dues.

NEW COMPANY.

Societe Roumaine du Petrole.

Under the above title a new company has been registered in Bucharest with a capital of 1,600,000 lei in 8,000 shares of 200 lei each. The capital can be increased, wholly or partially, to 10,000,000 lei by the issue of new shares. The latter can only be held by Roumanian shareholders. The object is to acquire and exploit oil properties, to erect or acquire refineries, and to engage in the transport of petrol, etc. The financial year begins on January 1. Profits are to be distributed as follows:—10 per cent. to reserve; a first dividend of 5 per cent. on the capital to the shareholders; 25 per cent. of the remainder to be devoted to various subsidiary funds (15 per cent. to the board), and the balance to be distributed as a second dividend to the shareholders.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.—The numbers are announced of seventy-nine four and a-half per cent. debenture bonds (Series "B"), which have been drawn at the offices of the company and will be paid off at par on November 11.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—Receipts for the week ended October 10 amount to £11,260, compared with £13.045 during the corresponding period of last year.

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts for the 11th inst are estimated at 140,000 frs., against 350,000 frs. corresponding date last year.—Reuter.

Soma-Panderma 4 per Cent. Loan.—Coupon No. 7, falling due on October 1, can be presented daily, excepting Friday and Sunday, at the Caisse Centrale du Tresor, Constantinople.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Limited, has received several telegrams from Gemsah giving information as to developments at Hurghada well No. 1. A cable from Gemsah, dated 12th instant, gives production 1,590 tons (previous week, 1,630 tons); Hurghada, 240 tons (previous week 124 tons) ,and adds: "Hurghada well No. 1 struck oil 1,670 ft. Produced, four hours, 134 tons. Estimate production least 500 tons daily; plugged pending tankage transport arrangements."

Another telegram was dispatched from Gemsah the same day stating:—"Hurghada 1—Oil struck in sand and sandstone. Considerable quantities sand have been ejected. Specific gravity oil, 917 at 62. Forwarding sample this mail.'

On the 13th inst. a further telegram was received from Gemsah which stated:—"Hurghada 1—Broke in again very strongly; ejecting oil sand and stone; gradually destroying casing head fittings. Estimate pressure and production equals 13. Gemsah general manager and additional staff proceeded Hurghada this morning, endeavour control and save production. Will keep you fully advised."

THE CAPITULATIONS.

Writing on September 17, the Constantinople correspondent of Messrs. Irvin and Sellers, of Bootle, refers to the abolition of the *Capitulations* as a "very important and far-reaching move." They embody rights granted to foreigners by which they enjoy extra territorial privileges. Thus:—

"Foreigners pay no income-tax, although this is paid by all Ottoman subjects; foreign mails come to post offices of the respective nationals; legal actions are heard before a mixed court of three Ottoman judges, two assessors of the same nationality as the adversary to the Ottoman subject, and in the presence of a Consular official; no summons can be served except through the Consulates; no judgment executed except by the Consulates; no domicile of a foreigner can be visited except with the consent of and in the presence of a Consular official. All these privileges are now to be swept away. The consequences of the loss of the legal privileges are very far-reaching indeed, as Turkish law is based upon the old cheriat or religious law. Everybody who studies the matter at all must admit that it is gross injustice that Ottoman subjects should pay taxes which the Government cannot apply to foreigners; also that they cannot alter their import duties without applying for permission to do so to the Powers, and also that each of the Powers has its post office here competing with the Turkish Post Office. But while few people wish to refuse the withdrawal of the rights we enjoy in respect of taxes, duties, and post offices, everybody is unanimous in saying that the legal rights we enjoy must be maintained.

"It remains to be seen what the Powers will do in the face of the notice served on them by the Porte. Our opinion is that there will be a compromise. The fiscal and postal rights will be waived, and ultimately the legal rights will also go by the board, but not until Turkey has shown herself better able to govern justly than she has in the past."

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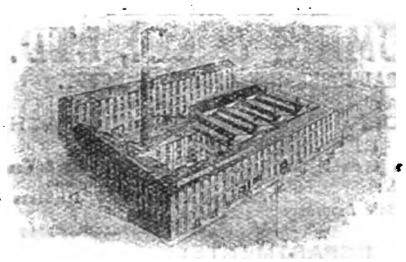
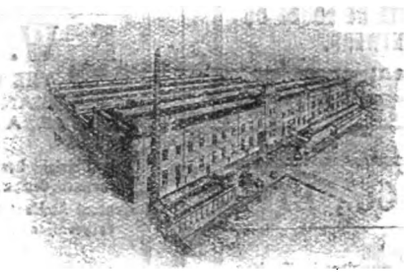

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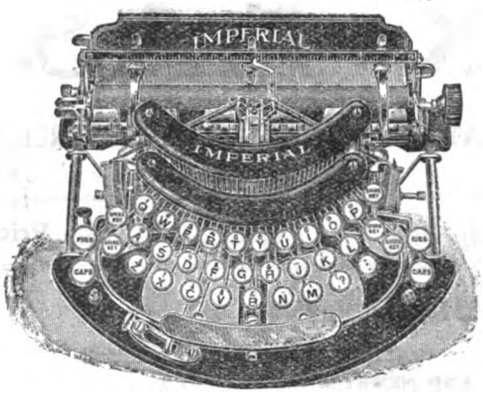

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 181.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The fighting in the West during the past few days has been fuller of incident, and therefore more appreciable by the public than that which occupied so many days in the area of the Aisne. Perhaps, on second thoughts, one should say "fuller of published incident," for we know of many deeds of which the record would have stirred the heart of every reader had they been divulged. But these took place along the Aisne and must as far as possible, by the Censor's decree, be shrouded in inviolable secrecy. In Flanders, however, our Allies have mentioned names of places—towns famous in history have been captured from the foe—it is explained that his front stretches from a point on the coast a little to the south of Ostend to a point just west of Lille, describing a considerable curve eastwards on the way. We learn that the Allies have made a substantial advance in that quarter and that the loudly-announced German advance to Calais has taken the form of a German retirement from positions already held. We were informed that the Belgian Army was definitely out of action for a long time as a result of the fall of Antwerp. We now gather that the utmost efforts of the Teutons have failed to win the passage of the Yser in face of the strenuous resistance of the Belgian Army. We were menaced with an immediate attack on Dover itself by means of guns mounted on previously prepared emplacements near captured Calais. It appears on the contrary that it is the German positions that have been captured, while their artillery has been handsomely handled by British gun-fire from the sea.

Ostend is still under the heel of the invader, but as we write news comes that hints are being dropped near the town by the British Fleet that it were better for the Germans to retire. The occupation of Ostend by the Germans has had a double effect. It has convinced the British public that the Germans really have over-run Belgium, and really are a menace to decent folk, and it has impressed upon the Germans that in case of necessity the British frontier can be found nearer to the Continent than it appears on the map. Naval guns firing from ships have killed a comfortable number of Germans on shore in Belgium, just as the Allies a few miles away on land, have thrust the invaders back into the areas wasted and soiled by their previous advance. The Germans consider it a great achievement to have reached the sea. Having reached it they find but little profit in their new possession and no encouragement to remain.

While the invaders have been unable to retain their positions in Flanders, in Artois and to the south they have failed to dislodge the Allies, and this in spite of repeated efforts. They have made no progress along the Aisne, and on the Upper Meuse near St. Mihiel the French are recovering lost ground with the one hand while they hold the Germans from further advance with the other. The French appear to have recrossed the river in the face of tremendous opposition, and by pressing forward on both flanks have seriously imperilled the enemy's advanced positions, whence he had hoped to break through the "fortified frontier" and march once more into eastern Champagne. It is further understood that apart from the losses suffered in consequence of their numerous unsuccessful attacks in France, the Germans are exposed to the ravages of the various diseases which result from the inadequate sanitation of their positions.

In the Eastern theatre of war the position of the invaders of Poland appears to be highly unfavourable from their point of view. They have failed to force the passage of the Vistula, as they failed to force the passage of the Niemen. They have approached Warsaw only to be rebuffed with such vigour by the Russians that they lost many men and much material in the process of falling back upon fresh positions. In endeavouring to cross the Vistula to the north of Sandomierz they omitted first to clear the left bank of Russian troops, and appear in consequence to have fallen victims to a flank attack at the moment that their advance was being thrown back under Russian artillery fire from the opposite side of the river. Now, having poured immense masses of men into western Poland they find themselves caught by the autumn rains. The country has turned into quagmire, many of the roads by which they advanced have now foundered behind them under the weight of their service communications, and to add to their discomfiture, a defeat in the neighbourhood of Warsaw has disorganized part of their front and thrown it back in disorder.

In Galicia the Kaiserlichs have recovered a good deal of their lost territory, and are making every effort to raise the siege of Przemysl. The Russians, however, continue to hold the line of the San—which, roughly

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speaking, is the boundary between the area inhabited by Catholic Poles and the country of the Uniat and Russian-speaking Ruthenians—and the Austrians have been unable to dislodge them from the high land to the west and south-west of the beleaguered fortress. Like their allies in France, the Kaiserlichs in Galicia are beset by disease, and cholera itself has made its appearance.

In the southern theatre it is, as usual, very difficult to discover exactly what has occurred. Another invasion of Serbia by the Kaiserlichs appears to have failed, and the territory of that Kingdom has once more been cleared of the invaders. Near Belgrade, however, the Serbian offensive has made small progress. A small strip of land just to the south of Semlin is held by King Peter's troops, but from the hills behind Bezhanija the Kaiserlichs still follow their customary occupation of bombarding—if not Belgrade—at least the Save bridge. Serb forces are operating in Bosnia and are believed to be near Serajevo, where the State trial is now in progress. But no siege of the Bosnian capital has been formed, and there is no information to lead us to anticipate such an event in the near future. Cattaro still holds for the Emperor, but the Franco-British Fleet in the Adriatic has cut off access to the Bocche from the sea, while French guns on Lovtchen mountain may at any moment make the place untenable. Thus is history reversed. A century ago British co-operated with Montenegrins to take Cattaro from the French for the ultimate benefit of Austria. Now French and British fight side by side against the Austrians in order to help the Montenegrins win Cattaro for themselves.

The new reign in Roumania has opened with a Crown Council, a natural proceeding in the circumstances. No fresh decision was arrived at affecting the neutrality of the kingdom; however, since the meeting, it was resolved to interdict the passage of warlike stores through Roumania destined for Turkey. This action appears to have led to a protest from Berlin, which is a somewhat sarcastic comment both on the neutrality and the liberty of action of the Porte. The Roumanian action in respect of this consignment of war-material is, moreover, logical, in that as orders for ammunition for Bucharest itself could not be delivered owing to the war, it was only natural that Roumania should object to a favouritism towards Turkey which might well be to her own hurt.

Reports of a rapprochement between the two monarchies of the lower Danube still lack confirmation. Roumania is unwilling to embark upon an aggressive policy of national liberation with a discontented Bulgaria at her back. Bulgaria is not inclined to go out of her way to give satisfactory assurances to a recent enemy for the sheer love of seeing an already formidable neighbour nearly double its size. It is argued in Sofia that if the acquisition of Ottoman territory by Bulgaria a year ago so affected the Balkan balance of power as to make a rectification of frontier in favour of Roumania essential, so does any further aggrandisement of Roumania render a rectification of frontier in favour of Bulgaria even more necessary. In view of the disinclination of the Bulgarian people to do anything either to assist Serbia or Roumania or to distress Russia, it is interesting to see that in a recent issue of the *Russky Invalid*, a Russian military organ, it is expressly recognized that Bulgaria is justified in her present attitude. Such an acknowledgement on the part of a Russian newspaper is remarkable in view of the general attitude of that Press.

The attempt on the part of an Ottoman subject to murder Mr. Noel Buxton and his brother in the streets of Bucharest on political grounds was, fortunately, unsuccessful, and although the ruffian was able to wound both gentlemen we are assured that the injuries are less serious than was at first reported, and that no surgical operations will be necessary. The crime is curiously like that which was perpetrated in Paris a little time ago when General Sherif Pasha also happily escaped the bullet of a would-be assassin. We are inclined to suspect that the two attempts are connected, and that their real authors will never be indicted, although the miserable agent in this case duly suffer. This opinion finds a certain confirmation from the fact that an attempt was made to arrest an individual of the name of Rosenberg, who had been in Braila, ostensibly as being connected in some way with the criminal. Now Rosenberg is also known as Iskander Bey. At the present moment it is undesirable to go into this matter further, and we will content ourselves with wishing the wounded brothers a complete and speedy recovery, a recovery in which they will doubtless be assisted by the touching expressions of sympathy which have been conveyed from all sides, and particularly from their numerous friends in Bulgaria.

In Turkey affairs have not improved, the burthen of complete mobilization is upon the land, and there is no trade. There is as yet no war with any Power, but there is likewise very little neutrality. Parliament has been again prorogued, and will now not meet until the middle of December, and a fresh recrudescence of anti-Greek propaganda, accompanied by persecution and expulsion, has to be chronicled. We regret what is happening within the Guarded Realms, we deplore alike the powerlessness of the Sovereign, who has to see his pacific inclinations set at naught by bellicose advisers, and the fate which has subjected the Sublime Porte to the influence of foreigners who seek to draw the sword of Mahomed Fatih not for the benefit of the Ottomans or of Islam, but solely as a makeweight wherewith they may redress the balance of power when the fortune of war no longer inclines in their favour. The Sultan, it is true, has made an attempt to impose a respect for his person and his throne upon an alien-ridden faction in appointing his Heir to positions of importance in both army and navy. It remains to be seen whether his Imperial Majesty's action has been in time to have the desired effect. Meanwhile, the Dardanelles are closed and uneasiness, to say the least of it, prevails in Stamboul and Scutari as well as in Pera, and it is reported that the Government has invited the Œcumenical Patriarch to withdraw—according to one report—from the capital—according to another—from the Empire.

Essad Pasha Toptan is plainly determined to permit no ideas of regionalism or cantonalism to interfere with his authority in Albania. The energetic Grand Vizier, acting in the name of the absent Mpret, or, possibly, in his own, has notified the Maltsors of the north, Moslem as well as Catholic, that they must "come in" and be his men. The Mirdita may follow the lead of their chief, Prenk Pasha Bib Doda, and rally to the new regime, but there may be trouble with some of the other clans. For the moment the Grand Vizier represents authority usurped it may be, but still authority. If he unites all Albania under his own, or his Sovereign's sway, his authority will be the greater. It is possible that Essad Pasha Toptan may weld Albania into a coherent state with vigour and violence—the mountain principality is perhaps still young for the strong wine of constitutionalism and can only stomach the mild milk of autocracy with which the Grand Vizier and Burhan-ed-Din Mpret are likely to feed it.

Many years ago certain merchants of Amalfi founded a hospital in Jerusalem. From this origin arose the great confraternity of the Knights-Hospitallers of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, which provided accommodation for the sick and wounded, not only at its original seat, but also at Acre and other cities, before transferring its activities to Cyprus, Rhodes, and Malta. In these hospitals Moslems as well as Christians were cared for, and it is historically appropriate that its modern representative in this country should be caring especially for the welfare of our Indian troops now engaged in Flanders. The historical fitness of residents in the Levant contributing to the funds of the Order is abundantly obvious, and no gifts of money at the present moment would be better applied than those sent to the Chief Secretary, at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 5.

The Financial Adviser's Note.

The most important event of the week, since practically everyone in this country depends, directly or indirectly, on the cotton crop, has been the publication of the Financial Adviser's note on the situation, and of the arrangement whereby means are to be found to finance the crop and assist the cultivators. Lord Edward Cecil's note is regarded as a straightforward statement of the situation, and the local tension has undoubtedly been removed by the general announcement made. Very rightly, he warns the taxpayers that they must be prepared to make some sacrifice, if they do not wish the credit of their country to be damaged and far more serious trouble to befall them than that which has faced them since the outbreak of war. There are a certain number of people, some of them sensible, shrewd men of business, who criticise the Egyptian Government for not having done more to protect the cultivator. Whether, as these critics aver, the latter is in the end to be the main loser, time alone can show; but it is only reasonable to assume that if that anticipation shows any signs of realization the Government, which has always manifested such solicitude for the welfare of the agricultural element, will take steps to ensure that the balance is readjusted.

Unquestionably the action of the British Government in consenting to guarantee Egyptian Treasury bonds up to £5,000,000 has saved the situation, and the Egyptians should be very grateful for the timely assistance thus afforded them. After all, the deadlock that threatened is entirely due to the obstinacy and lack of foresight of the Egyptian cultivator, who, preferring a large and immediate return for his money, has, of course, had to take the risk which a high rate of interest always implies. For years, regardless of the advice freely proffered him on all sides, he has persisted in cultivating cotton on a large scale to the increasing exclusion of cereals, which constitute his food, and for the supply of which he has been becoming more and more dependent on foreign markets. The facility with which he effected the exchange of his cotton into wheat and other necessaries strengthened him in his idea that he alone knew what was best, and gave him a false sense of security. The outbreak of war has pricked the bubble, and the Egyptian cultivator finds that as his main source of income he is producing a commodity that for the time being has no value in terms of the articles that are his necessaries of life, which he has been accustomed to import from abroad. But for the opportune intervention of the British Government very real privation would be staring him in the face. As it is, he is now given a door of escape from the dilemma into which his own greed and folly had brought him.

Egyptian Loyalty and Sympathy.

Lord Edward Cecil states that the British Government's assistance should be regarded in the light of an appreciation of the calmness of the Egyptians and of the sympathy and friendship towards Great Britain that they have evinced. One is glad that some official recognition of this attitude should be placed on record; for amid all the publicity given to the demonstrations of loyalty that have been forthcoming from every land where British rule in some form or another exists the part played under trying circumstances by the Egyptian nation has been somewhat overshadowed, and there has been some risk of its being overlooked. Much has been said of the Germanophile tendencies which the Egyptians have been displaying, and the writer himself has drawn attention to them, but, all said and done, this sympathy for the Teuton has been confined to one section, the inhabitants in the towns, principally Alexandria, and the masses have been unaffected thereby.

Determined efforts have been made by Turkish and German agents to undermine British prestige and generally to excite the native mind, but they have been utterly unsuccessful; the mass of the people has not swerved from its loyalty, and has maintained throughout the same calm attitude and self-control that it displayed during the Tripoli and Balkan Wars. This loyalty has, indeed, found practical expression in the generous subscriptions that have flowed in from the provinces. Great difficulty has been experienced in ascertaining for which purpose each subscription was intended. In very few cases was the contribution accompanied by an indication as to its precise destination, the main wish of the donors being evidently to show their sympathy by contributing to a British fund as such. Perhaps the most pleasing features have been the decision of the Egyptians to form their own separate Prince of Wales' Fund and the contribution of £1,000 made to the British Red Cross by the Egyptian Red Crescent. In addition, numerous Egyptian officers, on the active as well as the retired list, have offered their services to the British authorities, and have declared themselves ready to serve anywhere. All these facts should suffice to silence any lies as to the disloyalty and discontentment of Egypt that are being propagated by the German agencies.

German and Austrian Residents in Egypt.

Apropos of the remarks anent the German and Austro-Hungarian colonies that have appeared in this correspondence in previous weeks, Lieut.-General Sir John Maxwell, in his capacity as General Commanding the British Forces in Egypt, this week issued an order to all German and Austro-Hungarian subjects resident in the country to register themselves at the chief town in the district of their domicile before the 10th inst., under pain of being arrested by the military authorities. This step has given great satisfaction, and has afforded intense relief to the British colony, as well as to the Entente and neutral element. Considerable surprise, even in native circles, had been expressed at the free manner in which Germans and Austrians were being allowed to circulate in the country, and the frequent rumours of the detection and arrest of persons of these nationalities suspected of spying added thereto a certain feeling of alarm. It has also appeared somewhat extraordinary that German and Austrian Government officials should be allowed to retain their positions. The Egyptian situation is, however, a complex one, and many factors not present in other countries have always to be considered before any decisive action can be taken. In this instance the authorities were fully cognisant of what was going on, and have taken steps to regularize the position at the earliest opportunity. German and Austrian Government officials have in some cases been put on pension, or, owing to their absence, have been considered as having resigned, and in the remaining cases they have been removed to posts where they can do no harm. If events prove the necessity, the order to register will be followed by one restricting the liberty of circulation, but it is hoped that the attitude of the German element—the Austrians have given little cause for anxiety—will not force the authorities to take this step. It is worthy of note that the order to register is addressed to those "born of German and Austro-Hungarian parents." It has evidently not been considered necessary to include "protected" subjects.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

The first ceremony in connection with the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca was held under the pre-

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sidency of the Regent on Saturday last. After mature deliberation the Egyptian Government has decided, after all, to send the Mahmal to the Hejaz this year, but only to Mecca. At the same time, after consultation with the Grand Mufti, who declared that there existed no objection to such an action, the Ministry of the Interior issued a circular recommending the people not to make the pilgrimage this year, and insisting on the payment of a heavy deposit by all those who, despite the warning, persist in proceeding to Mecca. The Government's reasons for discouraging pilgrims are, first, that there are insufficient steamers to transport them to and from Jedda; secondly, that it is exceedingly difficult to send provisions to that part; thirdly, that for financial reasons the necessary sanitary precautions cannot be taken by the Government; and, fourthly, that for the same reason it has not been possible to take adequate measures for the protection of the pilgrims from attacks by the Arabs. The latter is a serious consideration, and it is to be hoped that very few pilgrims will venture to Mecca this year; for the Arabs, who have not received their usual tribute, will certainly be on the look-out for plunder.

The Question of the Foreign Post Offices.

One result of the abolition or modification of the Turkish Capitulations will presumably be the disappearance of the foreign post offices which operate at Constantinople and elsewhere. This will be a serious matter for foreign residents, and even some Ottomans, for these post offices were the sole means of getting letters and papers into and out of Turkey without the control of the Ottoman authorities, and consequently were the sole channels through which accurate information on internal events could be obtained. It will be interesting to see whether the French post offices that still exist at Alexandria and Port Said, as the sole outward sign of Gallic influence on the banks of the Nile, will follow the example of their prototypes in the Levant.

The Mixed Courts.

About the middle of October the Mixed Courts resume work. So far, no decision has been come to as to the manner in which they will proceed, but it is understood that work will be carried on just as usual. The only difference that will be made will be that the Austrian and German judges will not resume their seats. The quinquennial period comes to an end early next year. It is too soon to talk about whether the mandate will be renewed. All will, of course, depend on the progress and result of the war. If it is not ended, or if no decision as to Egypt's status has been come to, the mandate will have to be renewed presumably for a short period.

On Tuesday the Court of Criminal Appeal dismissed the appeal of Seham Yousry, who claims to be an Egyptian princess, against a sentence of six months' imprisonment passed at the Old Bailey for criminally libelling Major Connolly, late of the Egyptian Army. The prisoner, it will be recalled, had asserted that she had lived with the Major in Egypt as his wife, which was denied. She came to England, and wrote a number of letters of a libellous character. The ground of appeal was that there had been a misdirection of the jury, and misreception of evidence. Mr. Justice Coleridge said the Court agreed that counsel for the prosecution had made use during the trial of a document which was irrelevant, but, in spite of that, the jury could not help bringing in a verdict of guilty. Therefore, there had been no miscarriage of justice.

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THE POWERS AND ALBANIA.

(From an Albanian Correspondent.)

Italy's Changing Policy.

For some time past the attitude of Italy towards Albania has been the subject of remark amongst the friends of the latter country. At the beginning of the Balkan War, Italy was in close agreement with Austria, and was, in a way, one of the creators of Independent Albania; but little by little her enthusiasm has cooled down and fresh interests have claimed her attention. And at last she has come to see in the Albanian question nothing but the question of Valona, a port that would assure her a position of very great strength in the Adriatic. Thus, while in the north Albania was evacuated by the Serbs and the Montenegrins, in the south the so-called Epirus suffered from Greek intrigues, groaned under the so-called Epirote Government, and was devastated and ruined. Italy remained an indifferent spectator of all this, although at the Conference of Ambassadors in London she had raised the question of the Straits of Corfu and had obtained the extension of the Albanian frontier as far as Cape Stylos. A little later she seemed bent on deliberately stirring up discontent amongst the Albanians by the protection she offered to, and the sympathy she showed for, Essad Pasha, who was generally regarded as an adventurer pure and simple. At the same time she left no stone unturned to discredit the patriots and the Nationalists, affecting to regard them as the tools of Austria.

Essad's Acknowledgments.

And now Italy rejoices to see Essad at Durazzo. The Minister Aliotti and Captain Castoldi hastened to salute him, to acclaim him; and Essad himself has declared that it is to Italy that he owes everything, and that it is thanks to her that he has been able to return once more to Albania—where he has nothing but enemies.

But what is far more serious is that Italy at one time was seriously considering the question of a landing at Valona. The advance of the so-called Epirotes towards Berat and Fier was not unrelated to this Italian plan. The Italians wished to find out how the land lay; for though a landing at Valona had a great attraction for them, they had no wish to find themselves embarked upon another Tripoli adventure. Therefore they have lately been sounding public opinion in Albania; their consuls have been extremely busy; and the result of their enquiries has gone to show that Italian action at Valona would result in very unpleasant consequences for them.

A Lost Opportunity?

Many people in Albania are of opinion that Italy is letting slip a splendid opportunity of securing a preponderant position in Albania. To secure such a position she ought to have acted in the best interests of Albania, beginning by obliging Greece to evacuate the southern part of the country and to put an end to the sorry Epirote comedy. She ought, moreover, to support the Nationalist party frankly and sincerely, breaking with the reactionary party.

Essad Pasha Toptan, who has returned to Durazzo, as your readers will doubtless have learned long before this letter reaches you, was accompanied by a band of followers recruited in Serbian territory, and in the pay of Serbia. He was wise in his way to secure such an escort, for he would never find sufficient supporters in this country. He need no longer wear a mask; his intrigues with Slavs and Greeks are no longer unknown to the public; but Heaven only knows what the future has in store for us, what scenes and quarrels we shall have to witness.

The Epirote Raid.

The pseudo-Epirotes, the Zographists, have made a raid as far as Berat and Fier, marking their progress with their usual excesses. But their triumph was short-lived, for the enraged populace rose and drove them out, with considerable losses in men and material. This action of the Greeks has led to a return towards patriotic feeling. The reactionaries are already beginning to see their mistake, and doubtless they are not without some feelings of regret. And this fact, added to the feelings of the mountain folk of Hasi, Luma, Dibra, and Mati, strengthens the patriotic and legitimist party.

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A Pawn in the Game.

I cannot conclude this letter without referring to the feelings aroused here by the great European War. These feelings are decidedly mixed; for if the Albanians have a marked aversion against Russia and France, the protectors of the Slavs, and the Greeks—that is to say, against the natural enemies of Albania—they have, on the other hand, a great respect for the British people and the British Government. But again, while they know little of Germany, they cannot regard the fate of Austria with entire indifference. For latterly Austria has been the only Power really interested in Albania.

What everybody recognizes is the harm that has been done to Albania by the outbreak of the great conflagration and the suffering that has come upon the Albanians as a result of the jealousies of the Great Powers. In fact, Albania, newly-born, could not grow in a normal way by reason of the rivalries of the Powers, who, in order to annoy their rivals, could find nothing better to do than to bring about the destruction of a nation by creating all manner of difficulties for it, by fostering all kinds of intrigues against it, and by supporting the monstrous and iniquitous pretentions of its greedy little neighbours.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 7.

Statement by Mr. Venizelos.

The new session of the Chamber began last week without any Speech from the Throne. The President of the Council, however, gave a brief sketch of the situation of the country in regard to its foreign policy. The Government, said Mr. Venizelos, has declared that Greece will remain neutral during the European War, but at the same time it has not lost sight of its treaty of alliance with one of the belligerents, Serbia. Greece had contracted obligations, which she intended to fulfil faithfully if a *casus fœderis* should present itself; that is, that she would go to the assistance of Serbia if the latter were attacked by one of the Balkan States. "It goes without saying," he added, "that above all things Greece hopes that such a case will not arise, since she does not wish that the terrible conflagration that is sweeping across Europe should spread to the Balkan States, whose people, tried by two wars, feel the need of rest. Therefore, in as far as it depends upon Greece it may be regarded as certain that nothing of the sort will happen, and if the other peoples of the Peninsula are inspired by similar feelings, we may rest assured that peace will be maintained in the East until the finish of the European War."

With regard to Greco-Turkish relations, and more especially as to the Islands, the President of the Council announced that, while regarding the question as definitely settled from the international point of view, not only by the treaties of London and of Athens, but also by the arbitration, so to say, of the Powers, Greece had nevertheless expressed its willingness to give Turkey satisfaction to a certain extent, in order to establish good relations between the two countries on a solid foundation. It would have been a *sine qua non*, however, that the Islands should continue to be occupied, ruled and administered by Greece in the same way as other provinces of the kingdom. But the breaking-off of the negotiations by Turkey had left the question undecided.

Finally, Mr. Venizelos deprecated the attitude of certain journals, "which, not content with expressing the sympathy that is so natural, have given way to violent outbursts against some of the belligerents" (meaning, of course, the Germans). He exhorted these journals to refrain from such attacks in the future.

These declarations have served to reassure the public, who, seeing the military preparations that the Government was pushing forward as a precautionary measure, were under the impression that we were on the eve of a general mobilization. It has now been made clear by the declarations of Mr. Venizelos himself that the engagements entered into with Serbia form the basis of Greek policy at the present time, and that this country will only abandon its neutrality if it is forced to do so by others, in order to defend its own interests. Such an attitude is natural enough in the circumstances, since Greece has little to gain by taking any part in the great European conflict. Having done fairly well in the way of conquests during the two Balkan Wars, she ought to devote her chief attention to keeping what she has gained. Besides, it is considered certain here that if the Triple Entente emerges victorious from the war, Greece will receive Northern Epirus, and will be guaranteed in the possession of her islands. Such a reward, it is pointed out, would be well merited by the services she has rendered to the cause of peace in the Orient. For, had she not let it be known as soon as the Austro-Serbian War broke out that she would defend Serbia against aggression on the part of any of the Balkan States, her ally would have been attacked (it is said) by Bulgaria, probably in combination with Turkey, in which case Roumania would not have been able to maintain her neutrality as she has done so far.

The Turkish Attitude.

From all this it is clear that what Greece will eventually do depends upon what the other Balkan States may do; which leads up to the query whether any action on the part of Turkey—which seems to-day very probable—would cause her to abandon her neutrality. The ministerial *Patris* replies to this query by stating that everything depends upon the circumstances, and explains the situation as follows:—If Turkey is content to attack Russia alone, the attitude of Greece will depend upon the manner in which the attack is made and the attitude of the Entente Powers. But if Turkey, instigated by Germany, should become aggressive against Russia and Roumania simultaneously, or against the latter alone, with a view to prevent Roumanian action against Austria, it seems tolerably certain that Bulgaria would mobilize for action either in Roumania or in Turkey; and in that case Greece also would be compelled to mobilize her army. Thus, it would seem, the attitude of Greece really depends in the long run upon the attitude of Bulgaria.

As for the intentions of Turkey towards this country, it is still thought here that Turkey will not think of attacking Greece at the same time, at any rate by sea, since she will have need of all her naval forces—Turkish and German—for service in the Black Sea. She will, it is thought, be content to follow the systematic war against Greece that she carries on by means of persecution of the Greeks within her borders.

The Refugees Question.

Replying to the Turkish protest against the installation by the Macedonian authorities of Greek refugees in the properties abandoned by the Ottoman emigrants, the Cabinet reminds the Sublime Porte that the Greek authorities have acted in conformity with the spirit of the Turkish proposal to exchange the properties abandoned by the refugees from the two countries, and that they are acting just as the Turks have done in Moslem Thrace and in Asia Minor. This notwithstanding, the Greek Government declares itself ready to abandon the properties occupied by the Greeks if Turkey will undertake to allow the Greeks who have had to emigrate from Asia Minor to return to their homes.

The Turco-Greek commission which had been constituted in Smyrna to study this question and fix the amount of indemnities to be paid has done nothing at all up to the present. It has just been transferred to Constantinople, where, directly under the supervision of the Ottoman Government and of the Greek Legation, it may probably achieve something.

Proposed Army Increase.

Amongst the Bills before the Chamber is one providing for a series of reforms which aim at rounding off the reorganisation of the army. By the measures proposed, the effective forces will be very considerably increased.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, September 29.

The Weariness of War.

The fugitives from Belgrade are ill at ease. Day after day and week after week pass and still the prospects of their returning to their homes are as distant as ever. Summer has passed. During the last few days it has been continually raining, the chills of winter are beginning to be felt, and the weather is gloomy, bringing no cheer to the weary refugees here. Rest and peace are idle words for those whose fathers, sons, brothers and other kindred are away fighting for the protection of their native land, and exposed to the inclemencies of this bleak weather as well as to the fierce attacks of a heartless and relentless foe.

At one time the prospects of an immediate return to Belgrade seemed to be very bright, the Serbian Army having captured Bezhanija and occupied Semlin. But, alas! the small force which had accomplished this fine feat of arms was required on the Drina to aid in repelling the invader, and this, unhappily, enabled the Austrian troops to reoccupy these neighbouring positions. Hence the prospects of an early return to the capital faded away as the warmth of the fast-passing summer has faded.

Serbian Steadfastness.

As to Belgrade, which unfortified town the enemy's artillery has so pitilessly bombarded and ruined, the Austrian commander had the audacity to think he could take possession of the place simply on the strength of demanding its surrender.

On September 22, in the afternoon, Major-General Gustave Golfe, commanding the troops at Semlin, sent a flag of truce with a letter addressed to the Commander of the Belgrade garrison, of which the following is the text:—

In order to obviate the bombarding and total destruction of Belgrade, you are invited to surrender the town, in which case the officer in command of your garrison, with his entire Staff, accompanied by representatives of the Belgrade Municipality, must present themselves at the river quay at Semlin before the expiration of an hour—that is, at the latest at six o'clock this evening.

The reply to this demand was a steady artillery fire directed upon the Austrian warships, and a few shots at Semlin. The only explanation of this Austrian manner of proceeding is that, beaten by the Russian Army in the East and by the Serbian troops on the Bosnian frontier by the Drina, the Austrian Major-General tried to obtain by bravado what his troops could not acquire by force of arms. It must certainly be painful to Austrian *amour propre* not to have been able to vanquish the army of a small state like Serbia, and the possession of Belgrade, whether by capture or by surrender, would have compensated in some measure for the numerous defeats of the Austrian army, and the ill-success of Austrian diplomacy.

Evidently the Austrian commanders believe that the failure of their army is due to incapacity on the part of its officers; for among the dead of those troops that had endeavoured to cross into Serbian territory over the Sava, in the vicinity of Belgrade, were those of Austrian officers on whom documents were found in which the Austrian commander blames his officers for want of energy and activity, and accuses them of incapacity. In effect, the result of the battles on the Drina shows that more than once the defeat of the Austrian troops ended in a panic, the officers having lost all control over the soldiers.

Slav Solidarity.

Late in the afternoon of September 16 the sound of rifle and machine-gun firing was plainly heard on the Serbian side of the Sava, and as there were then no Serbian troops in the region whence it came it gave rise to much speculation at the time. But later the mystery was cleared up. A prisoner, belonging to the 26th Regiment of the Austrian Landsturm, relates that, after the Serbian troops had evacuated Srem, the villages whose population was of Serbian nationality were burnt, and the people ill-treated and many of them killed. This was done, it is asserted, by order of the Hungarian officers, and it so incensed the Austrian soldiers of Serbian nationality that a conflict between them and the other soldiers broke out.

The Serbian troops who, after several battles, had got to Vishegrade, and from thence were marching towards Serajevo, the capital of Bosnia, were, after passing Rogatiza, joined by the Montenegrin troops, who had also fought their way up to that point from another direction. The further advance of these allied troops was a triumphal march, the Slav population of Bosnia receiving them with immense enthusiasm, and joining their ranks in considerable numbers.

Nish, October 6.

A Gallant Feat of Arms.

In my last letter I informed you that General Golfe, commanding the Semlin troops, had invited the Commander of the Belgrade troops to present himself at the river quay at Semlin and to surrender Belgrade. The Austrian invitation was too flattering to be refused. The Serbian Commander accepted it in his own way. He sent his troops over to Austrian territory and drove the Austrian troops out of Semlin and out of their positions near that town at Bezhanija. The enemy's heavy artillery was dismounted and rendered useless, and the smaller pieces were triumphantly taken away. The Serbian troops then returned to their positions. This was a more agreeable proceeding than allowing the Austrians to continue the bombardment. As to surrendering, if the Austrian would-be host had remained at home to receive his guests as he had proposed, it would have been he that would have had to surrender.

The Return to Belgrade.

The Serbians have taken all the precautions necessary to ensure the safety of Belgrade, and the Serbian authorities have given permission for the inhabitants of that city to return to their homes. The day before yesterday, yesterday and to-day, that permission has been thankfully made use of, and thousands are returning from Nish and from other provincial towns. But for some time it will not be the Belgrade of former days. Many buildings have been injured, and some houses totally destroyed. There will also be a scarcity of firewood, and winter is approaching, and the days here are already chilly. Then, too, the water supply must be put into thorough order, the electric lighting will have to be reinstalled, and the tramcar service reorganized. But the saddest difference will be in regard to the people, for the flower of the male population will still be on the field of battle.

The Government is likely to remain at Nish, and the sittings of Parliament will also continue here for some time yet. In short, as regards the official world, Nish will still be the capital, possibly until the close of the war.

Serbia and Great Britain.

News of the proposals to raise a subscription in England for Serbian sufferers and wounded has been received here with gratitude, and the speech of Mr. Lloyd George has created a very favourable impression throughout the whole of Serbia. That part of the speech referring to Serbia has been translated into the Serbian language and was published yesterday in the official *Gazette*.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, October 5.

The Capitulations.

In The Near East of September 4 it is said that the Hellenic Government is to be congratulated upon the action of Great Britain in recognising its annexation of the new territories, in consequence of which the Capitulations come to an end, and the Hellenic authority is fully established throughout the whole of the territories acquired from Turkey after the Balkan war. Yes, the Hellenic Government is rightly to be congratulated on this recognition, whereby the area of Greece is nearly doubled, and Salonika is acquired with a larger population than has Athens itself. As a matter of course, the Capitulations come to an end, as they were never in force in Greece; but whether the alien element and people of other religious faiths in the new territories are to be congratulated time alone will show.

Judging from what, during the last two years, we have seen of the methods of government of the different Balkan States we are disposed sometimes to wonder whether any one of these small States is sufficiently experienced to rule unaided over alien races. That there are enlightened statesmen in each country is undeniable, but it would seem as though they have not the necessary trained and capable men under them to carry out a pacifying and progressive policy.

A Press Trial.

What we have seen here of the vagaries of the war has not been calculated to inspire us with great confidence. For instance, there was recently concluded the case of Mr. Arditti, the editor of the Judæo-Spanish paper *Avanti*. Some four months ago he was arrested and imprisoned for venturing to question the right of the police to order the closing of shops, etc., on the King's "Name Day," a charge of thereby insulting the King forming part of the indictment. In vain did some of the most eminent Jews in the town, even the Grand Rabbi himself, affirm that there was nothing in the article, properly translated, that could be construed as insulting the King. Mr. Arditti was kept in prison, notwithstanding very large bail being offered for his temporary release. Finally, his arms bound to his body with cords, like a common malefactor, he was walked through the streets to the railway station and taken to Serres for trial. This trial came off about a fortnight ago, the Grand Rabbi and others going to that town to give evidence; but everything was unavailing, and it ended in a verdict of guilty, and a sentence of a year's imprisonment.

According to a law promulgated by the present King on April 14 last the statutory holidays are Christmas Day, the Annunciation, and Easter Monday; so this unfortunate Jewish editor was really condemned for criticising the action of the police. A feature of the trial was the evidence of the editor of the Greek paper *Nea Alithia*, who, on his examination in court, had to own to publishing in his paper recently a somewhat violent article against the King, whom it accused of "Germanism." Yet he was in court as a free man, while Mr. Arditti, not having written anything against the King, was being tried as a criminal. Is it surprising that the Jews are convinced that there is one legal balance for the Greek and another for the Jew? And if there are two balances in which of them will other aliens be weighed?

Police Regulations.

Then with regard to the police: here again there seems a complete dearth of intelligent subordinates to carry out the various orders issued. From time to time the head of the police administration elaborates and publishes some excellent regulations for the welfare and comfort of the public in general, but the greater part of them are stillborn. Take, for instance, our tram service. A long document in Greek and French, signed by the Minister of the Interior himself when Governor-General of Macedonia, has for months been posted up in the cars, forbidding, under pains and penalties, the getting on and off the cars when in motion, overcrowding, talking to the drivers, smoking, spitting, etc., every separate article of which is a complete dead-letter. So it is throughout, and these police regulations, admirable in themselves, are scoffed at and disregarded because, apparently, it is nobody's business to see they are enforced.

With the Capitulations go, of course, the foreign post-offices. Well, that is only just and right; but, unfortunately, even now the postal administration has difficulty in meeting the requirements of its present limited service. What the situation will be when all the foreign mails pass through its hands is a subject one does not care to contemplate. If the authorities are wise they will keep on, under their own supervision, the foreign offices with their present staffs, allowing the latter to carry on the work in their accustomed way, until suitable buildings are constructed, capable men trained, the whole service reorganised on modern lines, and all the streets named and numbered.

Wounded Serbs at Ghevgheli.

Many Serbian wounded are being brought down and taken straight on to Monastir, but 30,000 wounded and sick are talked of, and so, we hear, a large hospital encampment is to be formed at Ghevgheli, the first Serbian station from here after passing the frontier. Several hundred Russian reservists have lately been arriving, and more are on the way, in steamers of the Russian volunteer fleet, en route for their own country, viâ Nish, the Dardanelles being again closed.

THE ATTACK ON THE MESSRS. BUXTON.

A dastardly attempt to assassinate Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and his brother, Mr. Charles Buxton, was made by a Young Turk on Thursday last week in Bucharest. Fortunately, Mr. Noel Buxton's wound, though serious, is not dangerous, and his brother has escaped with only a slight wound. According to the account of the incident given by the Balkan correspondent of *The Times*, the brothers had taken their seats in a motor-car with Mr. Gueshoff, son of the former Bulgarian Premier, for the purpose of making an excursion in the country, when the would-be assassin approached the car and fired five shots with his revolver. Mr. Gueshoff had a marvellous escape, one bullet penetrating his hat without wounding him. The criminal was immediately overpowered and disarmed by the chauffeur of another automobile named Damian, and arrested. The attack took place at the moment when King Carol's funeral procession was starting from the Palace, and information was conveyed to the members of the Government on the arrival at the station. After the arrest the prisoner stated that he could not tolerate the propaganda of the Buxtons in favour of a *rapprochement* between the Balkan States and England and a revival of the Balkan Alliance to the detriment of Turkey. He gave the name of Redjib, but his passport and visiting cards bore the inscription "Hassan Tahsin Effendi, Journalist, Salonika." He appears to have come from Constantinople to Sofia, where the Messrs. Buxton were staying, subsequently following them to Bucharest, where again he took quarters at their hotel. He was well dressed, and, apparently, amply supplied with funds. His passport was issued at Galata. On Friday morning the Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs called on the Messrs. Buxton for the purpose of expressing the regret of the Government for the odious crime of which they have been the victims. Later reports state that a man called Rosenberg, a presumed accomplice of the Young Turk, has been arrested.

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BEYROUT LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Beyrout, September 26.

The Capitulations.

This is perhaps the last letter that I shall be posting with a feeling of security, for the delay granted by the Ottoman Government to the Capitulatory Powers for the abolition of their administrative, judicial, and financial privileges expires on October 1. All the Ambassadors have already protested, but as the Consuls here have so far received no further instructions from Constantinople it is believed that if there be any opposition at all it will be of a platonic nature and confined to a maintenance of the protest, and that, therefore, the foreign post offices will be closed under protest. In notifying the post offices here of the Government's decision the Director of Posts and Telegraph clearly intimated that, in case of opposition, armed force will be resorted to.

As regards the "temettu," the European case can scarcely admit of any pleading. It is elementary justice that foreigners transacting business in this country and feeding on the fat of the land should at least contribute, like the native, to the Government's revenue, more especially when this Government is in sore need of revenue. But, on the other hand, the judicial side does not present the same irrefutable argument in favour of the Ottoman case. Perhaps opposition on the part of the European Powers in this connection may prove salutary, inasmuch as it may stimulate the authorities to greater efforts to purge the judicature of its evils.

From the Ottoman point of view, the Capitulations are admittedly a humiliation that cannot well be tolerated by a Government that aspires to rank among the civilised nations. Moreover, as all the Powers seem determined to turn this great War to their own profit, the Turks, who are still smarting under the effects of the last wars, and eager to efface the disastrous impression created thereby, are naturally not going to be behindhand in getting their share. This explains the noise and flourish with which they made the announcement to the populace through the Committee. To flatter national pride, long trodden down, the Committee had to declare that the Capitulations were privileges that had been granted as favours and acts of grace to Europeans, who, however, in course of time, came to look upon them as rights and obligations lawfully due. The humiliating position resulting from such an abuse could no longer be considered compatible, they said, with the dignity of a constitutional Government. The population was enjoined to celebrate this proud and glorious day with great rejoicings, and the local authorities, having received the advice late at night on the 11th instant, hastened to communicate the message to the inhabitants the same night. Women joined in the demonstration, and their shrill singing of "Zalagheet," coupled with the pistol firing of the men, caused at first some alarm among the inhabitants, who were asleep, and were abruptly awakened by their womenfolk, scared by the idea that a massacre was at hand. On the next day a rather undignified procession, consisting mainly of the rabble, made a demonstration before the foreign post offices, when the German and Austrian flags were exhibited, and saluted by frantic acclamations from the crowd. The procession shouted out a popular ditty expressive of admiration and love of the Germans, and of gross abuse of the French.

The Lebanon.

Unfortunately, some fanatical allusions were made to Christians and to the imminent reversion of the Lebanon to Ottoman rule. The ignorant masses interpreted the abolition of the Capitulations as involving also the suppression of all foreign concessions, such as railways, harbours, tramways, and even the privileges of the Lebanon. The question of the Lebanon has, for some time, been the burning topic of the day. The fact of a large number of those called to the colours having taken to flight thereto, and of mules, horses, and carts having also been passed into Lebanese territory to escape commandeering, was calculated to cause no little irritation to the Ottoman authorities; and for some time wild rumours of a Turkish invasion of The Mountain were being freely circulated, until the climax was reached when a drunken man is said to have trodden under foot one of the Ottoman flags displayed on the occasion of the Sultan's birthday, in a village where the Vali of Beyrout is spending the summer. The Lebanese authorities were summarily called upon to deliver the offender to the court martial at Beyrout within 48 hours, failing which, strong measures would be taken against the Province. The Governor-General of the Lebanon acted, however, with coolness and wisdom, and replied to the Mushir, who is said to have made the demand at the request of the Vali, that as both derived their authority from Constantinople the matter had to be referred thereto. The tension was relieved when the reply came from headquarters that the Lebanese tribunals were competent to judge the case. The extreme penalty provided by the law governing such offences was applied; the man was condemned to three years' imprisonment; and the Lebanese question at last became normal again.

Mobilization Troubles.

It is to be hoped that the much more important question of the general mobilization, and the great unrest it has caused, will similarly have a peaceful solution as soon as the crisis caused by the abolition of the Capitulations is passed. But it is rather difficult to suppose that the affair of the Capitulations alone has determined a measure that has bled the country to such an extent.

Unfortunately, requisitioning is said to have been allowed to degenerate in certain cases into practical pillage, women's silk stockings, children's shoes, and such like articles having been taken from the shops. Of course, these may be only minor offences committed by subordinates without the knowledge of their superiors. But if such things have happened under a Vali energetic, wide awake, and well-meaning as the present one, what may not have happened in other vilayets, less favoured in the matter of their governors?

When all the facts are considered, one cannot help fearing that the Government has further designs, and that it is too far committed to Germany. To all well-wishers of the Turks this would be a matter of deep regret. German influence seems to be still paramount. It is said that there are about 500 German officers in Turkey. At one time the publication of the official communiqués sent by the embassies of the Allies to their respective consulates here was prohibited, and the local papers could only publish the war telegrams of the "Agence Syrienne," which is another name for the German Wolff agency. Fortunately, such unwarrantably strong measures have been quickly withdrawn.

Beyrout, October 6.

A War Panic.

Contrary to expectation, October 1, on which date expired the delay granted for the closing of the foreign post offices, passed off quietly and without even an attempt at popular demonstration. The only incident that challenged attention was the posting up of a notice on the doors of the French post office to the effect that the offices were temporarily closed. The local authorities, however, were quick to have this notice removed. But, contrary to expectation again, Thursday was far from marking the end of popular anxiety and excitement. The news of the transfer of the registers and staff of the Kaimakamliks of Tyre, Sidon, and Haifa into the interior was calculated to perturb the public mind here considerably, and the nervousness culminated in a panic when it was known that preparations were being made at the Serai here for the eventual transfer of the archives and staff of the Beyrout Vilayet headquarters to Ain Sofar, in Mount Lebanon, and when the military authorities were said to have received instructions from Constantinople to hold themselves in readiness for departure at short notice. The Moslem population, anticipating a foreign occupation of the coast, and still labouring under the false belief that the French soldier and sailor do not respect the Moslem

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woman's privacy, sent all their womenfolk into the interior. The women themselves were seized with such unreasonable fear that, in order to make sure of room in the crowded morning trains, they spent the night huddled together at the station. The panic soon spread to the Christian element when a mischievous rumour was circulated that the exodus of the Moslem women was the result of preaching in the mosques, and was meant as a preparation for setting the whole town on fire. The educated and enlightened classes finally succumbed to the epidemic when they learned that the German subjects in Beyrout were advised also to leave. The Christians fled to the northern part of the Lebanon, which is inhabited almost exclusively by Christians, because it was feared that the presence of Turkish troops in those districts partly inhabited by Druses might lead to trouble.

The Vali's Action.

It must be mentioned in this connection that the Vali, a few days ago, paid visits to the neighbouring villages in the Lebanon, and appealed to the loyalty of the people, assuring them that the privileges of the Lebanon will be respected. It is said also that His Excellency counselled the people of Beyrout to desist from such light-headed behaviour, and to further reassure them brought down his family from the Lebanon; but in such circumstances nothing but an official proclamation and the exercise of mild official pressure can stop the wild panic. This wholesale exodus resulted in the temporary arrest of the commercial life of Beyrout, and has especially caused serious material harm to the lower classes, already on the verge of destitution. It is said that some carried away with them the portable part of their merchandise of appreciable value, and that some poor people, in order to procure cash to travel with, had to sell their chattels at iniquitously low prices.

It seems that at Latakia the panic assumed no less serious proportions. The crowd of panic-stricken people eager to fly to Cyprus was so large that the Khedivial steamer, then in port, found it desirable to change its regular itinerary, and proceed to Larnaca instead of to Tripolis and Beyrout. There might be a shadow of justification for the panic at Latakia, owing to the proximity of the wild Ansairi tribes. In Beyrout, however, the panic was all the more unwarrantable as, be it said to the credit of the Vali, public security was all along perfectly preserved.

Continued Mobilization Troubles.

Still, the persistence of the Government in the general mobilization cannot fail to cause a feeling of uneasiness in the most phlegmatic. On Sunday the return from the railway station to the barracks of a quantity of furniture, such as bedsteads, bedding and blankets, etc., made the public conclude that a partial demobilization was imminent, but this soon turned out to be the result of a mistake on the part of the captain of what may be termed the Cadet Company. He is said to be now on trial, although he pretends that the copy of the general order enjoining readiness for departure at short notice reached him so mutilated as to convey the meaning of immediate departure to Damascus. The requisitioning of stuffs for military hospitals continues as vigorously as ever, and it is said that, apart from the quantities of medicines and surgical instruments which the pharmacists of the town have already contributed, the whole existing stock is now to be further requisitioned, leaving for the pharmacists only a two months' supply. In the face of such activity on the part of the military authorities one cannot help asking: What next?

U.S. Warship's Visit.

It was stated yesterday that following strict orders from the military authorities the families of all Government officials have to return immediately to Beyrout. This is expected to lead to a restoration of public confidence. Meantime the presence of the American warship "North Carolina," arrived from Alexandria the day before yesterday, is exercising a calming influence, and if, as it is said, she is to be stationed here permanently during these critical times, it will materially help towards a large influx into Beyrout of its now scattered inhabitants.

PROGRESS IN TABRIZ.

By MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

TABRIZ.

Medical Practitioners.

Acting on the advice of the Russian Consul-General, Shuja-ed-Dowleh lately decreed that nobody should practise as a doctor unless he held a proper medical diploma. Before that time, from time immemorial, and all over Persia, the pharmacist acted as doctor and the doctor as pharmacist, indifferently; barbers were surgeons, and butchers were even called in to replace dislocated joints and bind up fractures; and old women who had been mothers of ten children were authorized to act as midwives.

True, during the days of Mashroota the Anjuman made a similar order to that just referred to; but in a month or two it was a dead letter, and the barbers, butchers, and watchmaker-dentists were as busy as ever.

Let us hope that Shuja-ed-Dowleh's order will not fall into oblivion also. Meantime, it reminds me of the following incident, which occurred in the days of Mashroota, at the rooms of the Anjuman. That body had appointed a committee of the native "doctors" to examine all the 400 or more doctors and surgeons of Tabriz, and to grant a special certificate to those who had a medical diploma authorizing them to practise.

The president of this august body was a native "doctor," who had "studied his profession" by serving a Russian doctor as a pharmacy clerk for some years; who had never been inside a hospital one single day; and who never dissected even a cat. But this is by the way! European doctors also were compelled to attend, and to bring their diplomas, and the large room was filled with grave-looking medicos, native and foreign.

In due course a doctor with a foreign M.D. presented his sheepskin, written in Latin. The President looked at the document, turned it upside down, tried it every way, but could make nothing of it. At last, turning to the owner, he asked:

"Doctor, is this in the French tongue?"

"No," replied the doctor.

"In English?"

"No."

"Then in what tongue is it written?"

"In Latin."

"I know of no *Firenghi* nation called 'Latin.' Will you leave the document here until our next meeting. Perhaps we can get the President of the Anjuman to read the Latin tongue for us."

The doctor, however, declined to part with his diploma, and left the hall declaring that if the examiners could not read a diploma they ought not to ask for one.

Opium Smoking.

The Government has forbidden the use of morphine, but opium smoking is spreading like a plague. Even the ashes of the once-smoked opium—called "shira"—are collected in the smoking houses and sold to special officials, who in turn sell them to the "morphine fiends" at a much higher price than the opium itself. This "shira" is, so to say, the essence of opium, and has the power and strength of pure morphine. Hence it costs more than opium, and is bought and smoked by the most abandoned victims of the habit.

The "Idarei Sélasé" is the name of the department which was created by Yeprem with the object of heavily taxing opium and alcohol. Every year that tax brings in more and more, and consequently the use of alcohol and of opium becomes less restrained and more openly recognized. And yet the Government forbids the use of morphine, because "morphine is harmful to the health of the citizens"!

Yeprem, it may be remarked, created the Idarei Sélasé in order that his *fedais* might be employed in this branch of Government service when the whole country had been pacified and peace and constitutionalism reigned everywhere. They would thus have been in receipt of fat salaries, and able to live in luxury. But fate has willed it otherwise; Yeprem is dead, his *fedais* scattered; and the department now employs men who used to serve in public coffee houses or gambling saloons.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

"A SERBIAN LADY'S EXPERIENCES."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—As one who knows something of "Austrian" priests and more particularly those splendid Serbian patriots, the Croat and Dalmatian Catholic clergy, I protest against the silly story of your Nish correspondent's "doctor's wife's friend," which carries its own refutation in line after line. That any priest would have said, "It is well to exterminate such vermin," of a mother and child, will not be believed by sane minds; and the statement that "supplication on bended knee and the tears of the child were useless" is contradicted by the fact that the narrator survives to tell the tale. This story is on a parallel with the bogus one of the Scotch nurse "mutilated by Germans," calculated to discredit the real grievances of the Serbian frontier folk, plundered and massacred by the invading Huns. The calumniation of Catholic priests no longer serves any good end now that Serbia's rightful claim to lands which are mainly Catholic is about to be crowned by victory.—Yours, etc.,

(Madame) ELISABETH CHRISTITCH.

TURKEY AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—If the Concert of Europe had shown a united front against Serbia, and if pressure had been brought to bear upon her the Powers would not only have saved themselves from an ignominious war; but would also have saved Austria from being humiliated by a minor state like Serbia. If the Powers had been true to their words and if the *status quo* had been maintained as it was proclaimed, the semi-savages of the Balkans would not have had the moral courage to flout the Concert of Europe. The Epirotes, assisted by Greece, had the audacity to violate the neutrality of Albania and perpetrate the most heinous crimes before the very eyes of the consuls of the Powers. As long as the "unspeakable Turk" remained in the Balkans he was flouted and harried; and as long as the Crescent flew over Macedonia there was equilibrium in the Balkans. Even the severe critics of Turkey cannot help admitting that the state of Macedonia and Albania is worse than it was under the Turkish yoke

Poor Prince William has proved his incapacity to rule the highlanders of Albania; and how could he be expected to govern the hardy Albanians when Turkey herself had experienced the greatest difficulty in governing them? What the Albanians demand is a Moslem prince, and no one can deny that their claim is just and reasonable; and no Moslem State other than Turkey is strong enough to rule Albania. If the Albanians chose one of their chieftains as their ruler, Italy and Austria would thwart his rule. Now that Serbia is involved in a life and death struggle with Austria, Turkey might be tempted to retrieve her lost possessions and prestige. In that case, she will have to confront not only Greece and Serbia, but also Italy, who is only waiting for an opportunity to kidnap the "foster-child" of Europe. Turkey is neither strong enough, nor would she be well advised if she were to avail herself of the opportunity left to her.

The best and wisest course for Turkey is to maintain strict neutrality, since she is not bound by treaty obligations to assist either Germany or Great Britain. It is true that the Turk can hardly remain a passive spectator when his co-religionists are butchered and ill-treated in Macedonia and Albania. But unless he himself governs his rayahs properly and puts an end to the wanton ill-treatment and expulsion of the Greeks, how can be expect Greece or any of his Christian neighbours to treat their Moslem subjects with equity? The unwise and unstatesmanlike attitude which the Porte has assumed towards the Greeks in Asia Minor will reflect very much on its sincere intention to carry out reforms in Armenia. The Turk is noted for his kindness to strangers: let him prove more humane and hospitable than his Balkan rivals.

Clouds threatening a heavy tempest are gathering on the Armenian frontier, and there is no knowing when it will burst. The flower of the Ottoman chivalry having been annihilated, the newly enlisted soldiers, who are raw and ill-disciplined, cannot withstand the onslaught of the Cossacks, the Treasury is practically empty, and the Armenian is ever discontented. Armenia is an open door to Russian invasion, in that it is devoid of railway communications and modern fortification. Worst of all, the Ottoman Navy, which was compelled to take shelter in the Dardanelles by the Greek Fleet, would melt away before the fire of the Russian warships. Taking all these things into consideration, how could the "Sick Man" embark on a scheme of aggression or *revanche*? Of late the relation between the Turk and his powerful neighbour has much improved, probably owing to the existence of the Russo-Turkish Association. Statesmanship, rather than sentiment, demands that he should maintain good relations with his neighbours; and this could be attained only if he maintained the strict neutrality he has already declared. If the Turk adhered to the very letter of his neutrality and governed his rayahs properly he could count upon, nay, claim, the sympathy and succour of not only Great Britain but also of Russia.

Neither Great Britain, France, nor Russia has any political aspiration in Albania; hence Turkey could court their assistance to regain Albania for herself. If Dame Europa restored her foundling to the proper guardian, she would not only relieve herself of a heavy responsibility but also save Italy and Austria, the two rivals, from cutting each other's throats. Now that Italy has deserted her allies, Germany would be only too glad to assist Turkey to secure Albania for herself. The fact that the Albanian insurgents demanded that an Englishman should be chosen to mediate between their Sovereign and themselves goes to prove that not only India and Egypt consider Great Britain as the greatest Moslem Power, but also other Mohammedan countries. Almost all the Moslem countries know that Germany, unlike Great Britain, is guided by motives of self-interest, and that the Kaiser of Hindustan has a better claim to be the champion and protector of Islam than the Kaiser of Germany. The arbitrary attitude of Russia in Persia and the lukewarm interest taken by Great Britain in Turkey has tended greatly to lower the prestige of Great Britain in the Near East. Germany has taken advantage of Great Britain's indifference, and pretends to be the champion of Islam. If Turkey has shown any sympathy towards Germany it is not because the Chauvinists at Constantinople are pro-German, nor because the policy of the Porte is anti-British, but because of Great Britain's hostile attitude towards Turkey. How sad it is to recollect that the efforts to bring about a *rapprochement* between Turkey and her traditional ally have been frustrated on account of the bellicose attitude of a certain section of the British Press! Great Britain has alienated Turkey by showing undue sympathy towards Greece. To make matters worse, she has forcibly taken over the two Dreadnoughts which were purchased by Turkey despite her financial straits. However, Turkey has not deserted her traditional ally and joined Germany, showing thereby that she still entertains best regards and gratitude towards Britain.

In conclusion, let it be admitted to the eternal credit of Great Britain that it was with the greatest reluctance she took part in this Continental warfare. In sooth, the sword was thrust into her hand by Germany, who, in the height of her audacious pugnacity, has not only menaced the peace of Europe, but also violated the neutrality of the minor states of Europe. Britannia rules the waves, and may she also rule Europe! Not as a dictator and oppressor like the Kaiser, but as the champion of law and liberty!—Yours, etc.,

A. HAMID.

Calicut, September 24.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

An enthusiastic optimist writes to ask what are the arms of Trent and Trieste, as he thinks some change in the sovereignty of those cities is imminent. The latter can certainly be esteemed as being within the purview of THE NEAR EAST, but what about the former? Still, one should always try to be polite. The shield of Trent is a simple *silver, a black eagle displayed armed, and guttée as to the body gold, langued gules.* Trieste proclaims how Austrian it is in every charge upon its shield. *Party per fess, in chief gold a double-headed eagle sable crowned of the field in base Austria, gules a fess silver charged with a fleur-de-lys gold.*

***

I learn that a Turkish comic journal is about to be started in Stamboul with the highly appropriate name of *Nasr-ed-Din Hodja.* If it prove to be as witty and as funny as its eponymous hero it will be assured of circulation and prosperity, and I suggest that the editor regale his readers from week to week with some new Hodja story—a complete collection of which (in the original *bien entendu*) would be a perpetual source of laughter. Turkish humour has a fine savour of its own, and I hope *Nasr-ed-Din Hodja* will be true to its name in dealing with the rich native article and in eschewing thin and doubtful foreign importations.

***

According to *L'Opinion*, a Salonika journal, it is reported in Persian circles in Constantinople that the Shiite hierarchs at Kerbellah and Nejef have issued a manifesto to the Persian nation and the tribes declaring that the time is ripe to deliver Persia from the Russian yoke. Sardar Malik Khan was also reported to have crossed the Russian frontier at the head of the Shahsevand tribes and to have advanced along the coast of the Caspian as far as Kizil Agatch, north of Lenkoran. The report goes on to say that the German Embassy is working hard to bring about a rupture of the Anglo-Russian-Persian accord. The latter statement at least I have no difficulty in accepting.

***

The mention of Persia reminds me that we have heard little or nothing about the doings of the Turco-Persian Frontier Commission for a very long time, the latest mention of it that I saw in the Press being a somewhat inaccurate account of an attack by Kurds upon certain members of the party and the wounding of Mr. Hubbard, the secretary to the British Commissioner. As a matter of fact, the Commission completed its labours some weeks ago. The work of the Commission was not exciting after all, but it was of real value, and the fact that it was done so quick-

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ly reflects much credit on all concerned. A Persian correspondent informs me that the Turkish and Persian Commissioners could not agree on any single point officially, and that everything was consequently "submitted to arbitration" on the spot; so the British and Russian Commissioners were kept busy. But all is well that ends well, and if only Turkey and Persia can persuade their unruly subjects in the frontier districts to respect the boundary now marked out, another step towards real progress in the Near East will have been taken. I would urge the Shah and the Sultan to set a good example to their brother monarchs in the West.

***

Nowadays we get our news in very roundabout ways—hence delays which might even strike our ancestors of the pre-electric days as odd. For example, we may gather from an Amsterdam reproduction of a Berlin Agency telegram from Rome that a Bucharest journal learns from its Constantinople correspondent that it is being currently reported in Cairo that a neutral resident, recently arrived from Tangier, was informed at Algeçiras that the German Ambassador in Madrid had heard from his wife's uncle in Vienna that severe fighting was supposed to be in progress in Russian Poland. Or we may be told in a French official communiqué that the Germans have lost many guns in Belgium owing to British naval gun-fire—and we are not allowed to report it for fear the Germans may thereby learn that they have been engaged on the coast of the North Sea when they really believed that they were operating against the Serbians in Northern Anatolia, and were upon the point of occupying Dongola, instead of Dunkirk.

***

The Censor is rapidly becoming a national institution, and as a natural consequence shares in the obloquy which a nation of grumblers accords to its most valued possessions. We carp, we criticise, we complain—of course, nothing that can be said or written can any more affect the Censor than it can the House of Lords or the Nonconformist Conscience—and without doubt many are unreasonable in their accusations. For instance, I am told in tones of horror that there is a Censor in London who has a German wife and two sons now serving against Our Sovereign Lord the King in the field. Well—what of it? Are we not inhabitants of a free and tolerant country which has been brought up to love its enemies and let its own sons starve rather than do a poor foreigner out of a job which no Englishman would do for the pay? But perhaps the plaint has no foundation in fact—I merely refer to the matter to show how captious the public has become under the privation of the latest betting, all the winners, and foreigners from Europe. Why, we shall actually be hearing complaints next because the Censor has seen fit to employ an able-bodied alien enemy in a position of trust and emolument!

***

One of the most respected of our evening contemporaries this week published the statement, for which the authority of a Reuter's telegram was alleged, that the Crown Prince of Bulgaria had been promoted to the rank of captain on the occasion of his twenty-first birthday. As Prince Boris was born in January, 1894, he must still wait more than two months before he is twenty-one. To amend the text, for Bulgaria read Roumania. I cannot guess how the error originated. Perhaps it is another case of "my illegible handwriting"—the plea which was put forward by the Naval correspondent of a contemporary in extenuation of a geographical monstrosity which crept into one of his daily columns last week. If I remember rightly, Sumatra was removed from its home and placed at the entrance to the Red Sea. But, apart from *lapsus calami* and bad caligraphy, I can suggest nothing else. There is, however, a pit into which the unwary may fall owing to the identity of the names of the sires of the two young Crown Princes—a complication of the Balkan situation which has not, to my knowledge, been pointed out. The existence of two Ferdinands as Sovereigns of neighbouring Balkan States should provide plenty of confusion until we get accustomed to distinguishing them.

***

Although they cannot, naturally, expect a particularly good season, I am glad to see that both Egypt and the Sudan are maintaining that cheerful spirit which, we are told, is of such great value in time of war. One of the leading hotel-owning companies announces that it has already received so many inquiries for accommodation from old patrons that it will open five of its hotels in Cairo and its neighbourhood; and there is good reason to suppose that several parties are going to the Sudan on sporting trips. This is all to the good, inasmuch as it will help both countries over a trying period. German and Austrian visitors may be conspicuous by their absence, but Americans will be as welcome as ever in the Nile Valley, and our own country is likely to be fairly represented, though young men will doubtless be less numerous than usual.

CORSAIR.

THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Needs of the Serbian Wounded.

A dispatch from the correspondent of *The Times*, at Valievo, under date of September 25, published in its issue of October 18, gives a mournful picture of the miserable plight of the Serbian wounded. The urgent need of our gallant ally is a sufficient reason for quoting at some length in the hope that the appeal may reach those who are in a position to help, and that the writer's concluding sentence may be falsified:—

And in the streets—what misery! The lamed, the halt, the maimed. Men with damaged leg or foot hopping along painfully by the aid of a friendly bâton; men nursing broken arms or shattered hands; men with bandaged heads; men being carried from operating shops to café floors; men with body wounds lying on stretchers—all with ragged, blood-bespattered remnants of what once were uniforms. One sees little of the glory of war in Valievo. The Serbian medical staff, deprived on this occasion of outside assistance and short alike of doctors, surgeons, nurses, and material, is striving heroically to cope with its task. Where they have been able to equip hospitals the work has been very creditably done. One building is almost exclusively devoted to cases where amputations have been necessary. It is clean, orderly, and the patients are obviously well cared for. Here, when I entered a ward of some thirty beds in which every man lay with a bandaged stump where his leg should be, I think I saw the Serbian spirit at its best. They had been newly operated upon, their sufferings must have been great, and for them all the future is black with forebodings. There is no patriotic fund in little Serbia. Yet amidst all the pain of body and uncertainty of mind that must have been theirs they did not complain. All they desired to know was whether the Schwaba (Austrians) had been beaten out of Serbia. But it is when one leaves the organized hospitals and wends one's way through the crowds of wounded who block the pavements, and enters a lower-class café, that the appalling tragedy of it all fills even the spectator with a sense of hopelessness. There, like cattle upon their bed of straw, lie sufferers from all manner of hurts. They remain mute and uncomplaining, just as they have been dropped down from the incoming oxen transports. Their wounds—three, four, or five days old—have yet received no attention save the primitive first-aid of the battlefield. Blood poisoning is setting in; limbs that prompt dressing would have saved are fast becoming victims for the surgeon's knife. Most of them know the risk they run, for this is their third war—often, too, their third wound—in two short years. Yet the doctors cannot come, because every man of them is already doing more than human energy allows. It is a heartrending sight to look down upon this helpless mass and to realize that many of them have been sentenced to painful death for mere lack of primitive medical attention. One wonders whether, now that half Europe has been transformed into a vast slaughter-house, appeals for sympathy can be other than in vain.

The Turkish Grievance.

How deeply the grievance which has arisen out of the action of the British Government in taking over the two Turkish warships rankles in the Turkish mind may be judged from an outburst of the *Tasvir-i-Efkiar*, one of the most nationalist organs of the C.U.P. party, in its issue of September 16. A correspondent has sent us a translation of the article in which our Turkish contemporary relieves its feelings:—

Just at this moment the fiercest and most terrible of storms which has ever been recorded in the history of the European nations rages in Europe. The Ottoman Government, whilst declaring its neutrality, is, however, taking all military measures necessary to be able to face any emergency. It is, however, painful to note that, without our having yet taken any steps towards mobilization, England has already dealt us a first blow in laying an embargo on our Dreadnought ("Sultan Osman"). Great Britain had taken some steps towards preventing the breaking out of the international war in Europe, but would it not be a mistake to believe that wars may be prevented when such acts as that of the seizure of our Dreadnought, which we can call by no other name than piracy, can be committed? It is not the first time we have been the victims of such arbitrary action and usurpation, but we must acknowledge that it falls to very few to be swindled in the same ungenerous manner as we have been by Great Britain.

In our opinion England has, before even declaration of the general war, descended to the lowest depths of debasement, because of which we, who as a nation having nothing to do with the war, find ourselves the victims of one of the most dastardly decisions of the British Government. . . . It is certain the seizure of our Dreadnought will raise the greatest hatred among the Ottomans and Mahometans against the British, and the fact that the English had not even the least right to make this seizure will make us eternal enemies of the English. . . . The British Government stated that the value of our Dreadnought would be paid. Would it not be better for the British Government *not* to pay also that money, and so commit a double rascality?

The article continues in the same strain for another half-column.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Oct.	1914. Oct.		1332. Julhijja	5675. Hesvan
23	10	Friday	3	3
24	11	Saturday	4	4
25	12	Sunday	5	5
26	13	Monday	6	6
27	14	Tuesday	7	7
28	15	Wednesday	8	8
29	16	Thursday	9	9

To-day is the birthday of H.S.H. Princess Marie of Hohenzollern, niece to His Majesty the King of Roumania.

To-morrow is the birthday of Her Catholic Majesty the Queen of Spain.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the wedding at Schwerin in 1896 of H.R.H the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, nephew of the late ex-Queen Amalia of Greece, to H.H. the Duchess Elizabeth of Mecklenburg.

Sunday is the anniversary of the wedding at Rome in 1896 of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Italy.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Waldemar of Denmark, brother of Their Majesties the Queen Mother and the Empress Marie of Russia and of H.R.H. the Duchess of Cumberland, and uncle of Their Majesties the King of Denmark, the King of Norway, and the King of the Hellenes.

Tuesday, being 7 Julhijja, is the birthday of H.H. the Azud es Sultan, son of the late Muzaffar ed Din Shah and uncle to His Majesty the Shah of Persia.

Tuesday is the anniversary of the wedding in 1328 of H.I.H. Shadieh Sultana, daughter of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan and sister of H.I.H. Burhan-ed-Din Mpret to Damad Fahir Bey.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Blanche d'Orléans, sister-in-law of Her Majesty the Queen-Dowager of the Two Sicilies and of the late Empress of Austria.

Wednesday is the anniversary of the wedding at Athens in 1889 of Their Majesties the King and Queen of the Hellenes.

Wednesday is also the anniversary of the wedding at Petrograd in 1867 of Her Majesty Queen Olga to the late King of the Hellenes.

Wednesday, being 8 Julhijja, is the birthday of H.I.H. Mediha Sultana, daughter of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan and wife of Senator Damad Ferid Pasha Bushati.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.H. the Salah-ed-Dauleh, son of the late Muzaffar-ed-Din Shah and uncle to His Majesty the Shah of Persia.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Marie, second daughter of His Majesty the King of Roumania.

At noon on Sunday, at the conclusion of the ordinary service in the Greek Church of St. Sophia, Moscow Road, Bayswater, a solemn Requiem Mass was sung for the repose of the soul of his late Majesty King Carol of Roumania. The service was conducted by the Great Archimandrite, Dr. Constantine Pagonis, assisted by the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis. H.M. the King was represented by Lord Sandhurst, the Lord Chamberlain, who was accompanied by the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies. T.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein and Princess Henry of Battenberg were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Francis Colborne. Captain Ralph Glynn was present on behalf of H.R.H. Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll. Sir Edward Grey was represented by Mr. Walford Selby, and Sir Walter Langley attended on behalf of the Foreign Office.

H.R.H. Princess George of Greece has sent from Denmark, where she was at the time, to Mme. Poincaré the sum of 50,000frs. to be equally shared between the Society for the Help of the Wounded and the Union of the Women of France.

It is reported from Amsterdam that H.R.H. the Duke of Brunswick, eldest son of H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, has been taken prisoner. No confirmation has as yet been received.

It is reported that H.H. Prince Maximilian of Hesse, nephew of her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes, has been killed in action.

The death in action is announced of H.S.H. Prince Wolfrad Friedrich of Waldeck and Pyrmont, half-brother of her Majesty the Queen-Dowager of the Netherlands and of H.R.H. the Dowager-Duchess of Albany.

H.H. Prince Arsene Karageorgevitch, brother of the King of Serbia, has arrived in Petrograd to join the Russian Army, in which he fought during the Russo-Japanese War, when he was present at the battles of Mukden and the Shaho.

El Mokattam learns, "on the best authority," that H.H. the Khedive has not left Constantinople, nor does he intend to leave for Europe this year. The rumours of his departure are all groundless.

We are informed that H.H. Nasr-ul-Mulk, ex-Regent of Persia, is now in London. We understand that the visit is strictly a private one.

Sir Francis Elliott has returned to Athens.

We understand that Sir Percy Cox will shortly be returning to Bushire.

Mr. Hadjimischeff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James', will arrive in London shortly. Mr. Constantin C. Mincoff, First Secretary, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

We understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has received a telegram from a number of influential Serbians, thanking him for the generous references to their country in his recent speech at the Queen's Hall.

At the Royal College of Physicians, on Monday, Major Sir Ronald Ross was presented with the Bisset Hawkins Memorial Medal, in recognition of his researches on malaria.

We understand that Canon MacInnes, the new Bishop in Jerusalem, expects to leave England for Egypt at the end of November, and to stay there for three or four months.

A meeting of the officers of the 1st Infantry Battalion of the Egyptian Army was held on October 6, at the Continental Hotel, Cairo, to say farewell to Kaimakam C. Little Bey, the Commanding Officer, who has been promoted Assistant Adjutant-General at Khartoum. A speech was made on behalf of the officers by Yuzbashi Sabet Hassan.

A correspondent writes:—The many friends of H.E. Yacoub Pasha Artin and Mme. Artin are glad to know that he reached Egypt safely after a trying journey. He was at Leipsic at the time of the ultimatum to Serbia, and at Munich when war was declared by Germany against Russia and France. After this no trains were available from Munich, and it was necessary to hire a motor-car. Armed with a pass from the military authorities, he made a start, but the pass was lost by the chauffeur. The party, after obtaining a fresh pass, was detained at various places, losing much time. They were, indeed, stopped forty-five times during a distance of 250 kilometres. Finally they reached Italy, and were able to secure passages to Egypt from Naples after a delay there of twelve days. Artin Pasha was due to reach England in September. Professor Sayce was expecting him on a visit at Edinburgh early in the month, and his friends in London were hoping to see him here soon after for a visit of some duration.

Major-General Hubert Ion Wetherall Hamilton, C.B., D.S.O., who has been killed in action, served in the Egyptian campaigns of 1897-9, including the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, being three times mentioned in despatches and receiving the D.S.O. After the South African war he accompanied Lord Kitchener to India as his military secretary.

We regret that by an oversight we referred to Mrs. Elizabeth Christitch as Miss Elizabeth Christitch in our last issue. The error is the more inexcusable seeing that Mrs. Christitch has a son in command of a cavalry squadron, fighting with the Serbian Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Blewitt, late of the 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps, who has been selected to command one of the new batta-

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lions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, served with the Nile expedition in 1896, when he took part in the action of Abu Hamed, was mentioned in despatches, and awarded the Egyptian medal with two clasps. In 1898 he again saw active service in the same region, including the battles of Atbara and Khartoum. Twice mentioned in despatches, he received a brevet-majority and two clasps to the Egyptian medal. In the following year a third clasp was added to his Egyptian medal.

On Friday, September 25, the Egyptian officers were at home at their club to entertain Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace and the officers of the 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment before their departure to the front. His Excellency the Governor-General, with H.E. Colonel Bernard Pasha, El Lewa Drake Pasha, El Lewa Smyth Pasha, V.C., El Lewa Bray Pasha, El Kaimakam Symes Bey, El Kaimakam Kennedy Bey, El Kaimakam Karrol Bey, and El Bimbashi Edward, arrived at the club, together with Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace and the officers of the Suffolk Regiment. Ahmed Bey Fakin, the president of the club, after welcoming the guests, read an address to which Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace replied. His Excellency the Governor-General also addressed the Egyptian officers in Arabic. Tea was then served in the club gardens.

It is understood that the Marchese Imperiali, now Italian Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, may succeed the late Marchese di San Giuliano at the Consulta. It will be remembered that the late Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs was himself formerly Italian Ambassador in London.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place very quietly on Monday afternoon next, at half-past two'clock, at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, between Grace Mary, eldest daughter of T. Morgan Martin, M.B., of Sydney, Australia, and Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Plunkett, Military Attaché, Sofia, Athens, etc., son of Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. Plunkett, C.B., of Belvedere Lodge, Wimbledon.

The marriage took place on Tuesday, by special licence owing to the War, in St. Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington, by the Rev. C. S. Durham, between Henry J. Higgs, Egyptian Irrigation Service and Special Reserve of Officers, R.E. (2nd Field Company), son of Joseph Higgs, barrister-at-law, of Indiana, U.S.A., and Gladys Winifred, daughter of J. Rawlings, J.P., of Hughenden, Hartlepool.

Owing to the dislocation of the mail service, letters and papers from Egypt are somewhat belated. From copies of *The Egyptian Gazette* just to hand we glean the following items of personal news :—

Up to October 3 no news had been received in Egypt since August 7 from Mr. Leysbeth, the Belgian Consul at Alexandria, when he wrote from Louvain, of which city he was a native.

Mr. and Mrs. Carton de Wiart arrived in Cairo on September 28 after their prolonged stay in Austria. Having secured a pass ensuring their safe crossing of the frontier, Mr. and Mrs. de Wiart motored from Trieste to Venice and joined the Italian steamer, arriving in Alexandria on the following night.

According to a recent issue of *The Egyptian Gazette*, about twenty-five British officials of the P.W.D. are either at the front or preparing to join the Army for active service in one capacity or another. Mr. Cooper, Director-General of the Blue Nile Barrage Projects, has joined the Flying Corps for service at the front. Mr. J. H. Scott, of the Law School, has been given a commission in the Scottish Horse. Mr. McLoughlin, of the P.W.D., has resigned from the Government and joined Lovat's Scouts. Mr. Stevenson, son of the Director-General of the Telephone Company, has joined the same corps. Messrs. A. G. Mitchell, E. A. W. Plumptre, and T. P. Williams, all of the Ministry of Education, have temporarily resigned in order to join the Army. Mr. H. Skil, of the Survey Department, has left Cairo to enlist in the French Army.

A meeting of the members of the British community in Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman was held on Tuesday evening, September 22, at the Skating Rink, in connection with the Prince of Wales's Fund. His Excellency the Governor-General presided, and was supported by Mr. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., the Legal Secretary, Colonel Bernard, C.M.G., Financial Secretary, Colonel Smyth, V.C., Colonel Drake, Colonel Bray, Mr. More, the Governor of Khartoum, Mr. Job, Mr. McGillivray, and the Rev. A. Lee-Warner. His Excellency and others spoke, pointing out the duty of the community to help the Fund according to their ability. As a result of the meeting a general committee was appointed with Colonel E. E. Bernard as chairman.

We regret to record the death of Judge A. J. Wakeman Long, which took place at Meadi, near Cairo, on the 7th inst., from a hæmorrhage. The late judge had been consumptive for the past two years, and some time ago he had a breakdown in health, since which he had never really recovered. Mr. Long was a judge of the Native Court of Appeal; previous to that he was on the bench at Tanta, where he was extremely popular. He was first appointed to a judgeship in 1905, before which he practised as a solicitor at Alexandria.

The death of General Neshat Pasha, one of the defenders of Plevna, is announced from Constantinople.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Keith David Erskine, C.I.E., of the Indian Political Department. His last appointment was as Consul-General at Baghdad, whence he was invalided home last July.

The death occurred at Newlands, Ware, Herts, on Saturday, of Admiral Sir Henry Frederick Nicholson, K.C.B., aged seventy-eight. Sir Henry, who entered the Navy in 1849, commanded the "Têmêraire" at the bombardment of Alexandria.

The late Colonel the Hon. Augustus Murray Cathcart, who saw service in the Crimea with the Grenadier Guards, left £185,484.

Le Messager d'Athenes learns from The Hague that M. Goekop, the well-known Dutch archæologist and philhellene, has died from the effects of an accident. The late M. Goekop spent large sums in the interests of archæological research in Greece, and furnished Dr. Dörpfeld, director of the Archæological Institute of Athens, with the financial support necessary to make investigations at Leukos in connection with his theory identifying the Ithaka of Ulysses with Leukos. The Netherland Red Cross Mission to Greece during the Balkan wars was equipped at M. Goekop's expense. When his death was announced, Mr. Venizelos at once telegraphed to Baron Lehman, Consul-General of Greece at Amsterdam, to convey the condolences of the Greek Government to the bereaved family.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

H.I.H. Yussuf Izz-ed-Din Effendi has been appointed Generalissimo of the Imperial Ottoman Army and Navy.

Cardinal Gasparri, the newly appointed Papal Secretary of State, was for some ten years—from January, 1898—Titular Archbishop of Caesarea, in Palestine.

Mr. Cooper, Director-General of the Sudan Irrigation Department, has been transferred to the Irrigation Service in Egypt, and will act as Inspector of the Gizeh Irrigation Works. The Sudan Department has suspended its works for the time being, owing to the war.

Mr. E. T. Brown has been appointed Director of Customs at Port Said in place of Goldstein Bey.

Mr. P. Tchernaieff, the recently appointed Bulgarian Consul at Serres, has, according to the *Journal des Balkans*, resigned his post.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

GILBART-SMITH.—On October 14, 1914, at Kasr-el-Dubara, Cairo, to the wife of Claud Gilbart-Smith, Ministry of Education—a son.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1914.

PAN-GERMANISM AND ISLAM.

When Ulysses found himself in danger from the sirens he took the precaution to have himself bound to the mast and ordered the ship to maintain a straight course. Turkey's good ship of State has come within the sound of the siren voices of Germany, but instead of imitating Ulysses' example and binding itself to the mast of neutrality, the Government takes on board a German pilot and proceeds to steer an erratic course in dangerous waters. The sirens, meanwhile, assume many shapes, and their voices flatter as never before. On the one side it is a group of great siege guns which offer assurances of brilliant victories; on another a million sterling opens up vistas of full pockets to the unpaid crew nominally in charge of the unfortunate vessel; and all the time the siren voices tell of German successes, and hold out the promise of rich rewards for those who will throw in their lot with Germany. If flattery had not dulled the Turkish perception the country would be asking itself why the Germans had adopted this altruistic attitude. In former days Germany was ever ready to profess her friendship for the Ottoman Empire, but she preferred that the outward visible sign of such friendship should be lucrative concessions placed by the Porte in German hands. Now she offers Turkey two men-of-war on loan, with officers and men to man them, while throwing in as unconsidered trifles guns and a round million of money. Amid such protestations of friendship Turkey has forgotten to inquire why she has suddenly become the object of Germany's unwonted generosity. If it is because she shares with her the same high standard of *Kultur*, then we know that any victories won by Turkish arms will also follow in the wake of Louvain and Termonde as boons and blessings to mankind in general. If, on the other hand, Turkey is asked to strike a blow in her own interests, it must seem strange that Germany should be solicitous of Turkey's welfare at a time when her own line of battle has been flung back from Paris and the Austro-German armies have to acknowledge failure in every part of the vast theatre of hostilities. Clearly war has its disappointments, and it may be that Turkish hopes will be as rudely shattered as those of Germany on the Marne or Austria-Hungary's in Galicia. When the aim is high, failure, it is true, if it be not overwhelming, may bring its consolations. But we doubt whether the aims which the military clique in Constantinople has in view would seem lofty enough to good Moslems the world over to compensate for the penalty that would have to be paid for failure—the humiliation of the Khalif and his expulsion from Europe.

This war of the nations is the inevitable outcome of Prussian militarism, which has found a useful ally in Pan-Germanism. The objects of the latter are manifest. They are to impose the will of Germany on an unappreciative world in order that she may gratify her love of power and pose as the fountain-head of civilization. As the process requires the elimination of France, the subjection of Great Britain, and the crippling of Russia, it may be questioned where in the scope of German hegemony room will be found for the Ottoman Empire in any way commensurate with the present display of Germany's disinterested friendship for it. In the history of German dealings with Turkey we see little to justify the supposition that the Emperor William is prepared to admit Moslems into the German monopoly of the attentions of Providence. Of the attractions which the various Moslem communities of the world exercise upon the mind of the German Emperor we have abundant evidence. No Moslems, however, owe him allegiance, and for this reason the attraction cannot be explained merely by Imperial solicitude for their well-being. These same Moslem communities, on the other hand, do owe allegiance to the British Crown or to the French Republic, or, as in the case of the Ottoman Empire, are from geographical reasons brought into very close relations with one or other of the Powers of the Triple Entente. The Emperor William's interest in the Moslem world, therefore, will be found to spring much more from his international preoccupations than from altruistic concern for the welfare of Mohammed's followers. With Islam, indeed, Germany has nothing in common; but if its warriors can be induced to pick German chestnuts out of the fire, the Emperor William is ready to offer them every encouragement. Moslems, therefore, throughout the world are being incited by Germany against the very Powers whose direct interests in Islam mark out each of them as a true friend. How this incitement has been received in the majority of countries we know from the examples of India and the Senussi. The fact that only in Turkey have German intrigues found favourable ground prompts the question whether the destinies of the Ottoman Empire rest at this moment in good Moslem hands. What are the conditions which differentiate Ottoman interests from Moslem interests in all other parts of the world that the Porte alone should be hostile to the great Mohammedan Powers? We believe that there are none, and that the reason for the Porte's attitude must be sought in the potency of German gold over considerations of Moslem interests.

The danger that threatens Turkey is of her own contriving. "When Othman falls Islam falls," is the Mussulman belief that has done much to secure the dominion of the Ottoman clan, and so is responsible for the vitality of the Ottoman Empire. Othman has not yet fallen in the sense in which the old faith accepts the word; but the "Sultan of the Sky" has been shorn of much of the power of the Amuraths. Long years of misrule had prepared the people for the theory that any régime must be an improvement upon the terrorism of an Abdul Hamid. To-day, in conformity with the constitutional doctrine, the Sultan effaces himself behind his Ministers. When the system has worked long enough to ensure that the Ministers shall be the chosen representatives of the people, the country has only itself to blame if it feels that it does not possess the Government it deserves. But when in their inexperience the people allow their representatives to nominate themselves, there can be no guarantee that one despotism has not been exchanged for another. The new system may make for the better administration of the Ottoman Empire. With his temporal authority, however, it may happen that the Sultan has sometimes to delegate the functions of the Khalifate. His Cabinet may comprise exemplary administrators, but is there the same guarantee that their concern for the welfare of Islam will be as vigorous as that of the Padishah himself? In the military surroundings of Potsdam Mussulman fervour may cool and appreciation of Mussulman interests become blunted. We look in vain behind German siege guns and the German crews of ex-German men-of-war for solidarity of feeling in the Moslem world. It is as if the empire of the Othmans were to be sacrificed to the ambitions of a few who have eaten German salt and handled German money The Sultan is known to favour peace. His Ministers—or some of them—hanker after war. In this difference of opinion lie the destinies of the Moslem world, and the opinion of good Moslems alone should decide. While they ponder the issue and make their fateful choice, the siren voices of Germany will fade far into the distance, and who can doubt what the verdict will be?

CYPRUS HIGH COMMISSIONER.

In a letter written from Larnaca last month a Greek gentleman pays a well-merited compliment to the High Commissioner. He writes:—

"Cyprus owes a debt of gratitude to Sir Hamilton Goold Adams, its High Commissioner, for the efforts he has successfully made to save the Island from a financial crisis. He is always accessible, and no previous High Commissioner has ever displayed such keen personal interest in the agricultural and business affairs of the Island. Cyprus is fortunate to have at the head of its Administration such a man at the present juncture.

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TRÖODOS IN WAR TIME.

By MARGARET BOVILL.

On Tröodos a handful of English people look down on the placid sea which circles the Island, straining their eyes to see the ship which will bring them news of the outer world. The weekly mail-boat from Egypt has ceased to run, and telegrams from Aden contain but meagre information about the war. This letter will in all probability be carried across in a sailing vessel.

A blue sky shines like a burnished mirror; the pine trees stand in maddening, quiet serenity, their dark foliage glowing in the sunshine; birds twitter and call; the woods are green aisles of peace. But Armageddon has cast its shadow! Startling rumours fly about, though Cyprus is under martial law, and a strict censorship exists. A wild-eyed Turk whispering in the kitchen tells of how the German fleet has been annihilated; the Greek cook implores the Panayia (Mother of God) to send victory to the arms of England; all the servants concur. Boy scouts, with red bands round their necks, are having a lesson in first aid; babies of six and seven learn how to tie up an artery; they go about with serious, important faces, and childish games are forgotten. The huts lie hidden among the trees, and twice daily a zaptieh rides along the winding paths which compass them. In his satchel he carries the latest telegrams; perhaps those in England, certain of their evening papers and their special editions, cannot realise how eagerly they are read. Though all hearts are strung with anxiety, a ladies' cricket match is taking place, played on the parade ground of the camp, where the company of British troops is quartered. Rows of spectators look on, dressed in flannel, white dresses, and gaily trimmed hats. If here and there a few detach themselves to talk in lowered voices, who can wonder? Through the tension, the anxiety, there is a great calm bred of the sense of the righteousness of the war, of the sailors and soldiers who will uphold it. Up to the sweltering plains a car rushes past, bringing Government officials who have been sent down on special duty to the port towns; later, as a violent sunset stains the sky blood red, a string of mules patters round a curve of the precipitous road. They are laden with tents and camp baggage belonging to one who has been away in the forests. Buried in inaccessible valleys, he has known nothing of the events which have stirred the world. Everyone gathers round him, telling him the great news. To a mind tinged with memories of calm streams bordered by vistas of pink oleanders, of blue-branched cedars, such news is overwhelming. The pine needles rustle, as a chilly night air rises with the gathering mists, and the crowd, shivering, disperses and melts away.

Two weeks ago it was a joy to wake on Tröodos, to watch through an open door how the pale sunlight filtered through the trees; to hear the wood pigeon's melodious coo; to watch a thousand spiders' webs draping the bracken in silver mail. Now the mind is jerked back into reality by the stern rein of memory, and struggles helplessly with the impossible idea, until the sunshine and the bracken become a mirage, the birds' song a funeral dirge and smiling nature a ghastly phantom. Such waking is a nightmare, a nightmare that does not fly, scared, back into the darkness from which it came. Soon the brain adjusts itself, and the immediate necessity is to dress, to see the start of the half-company which is being sent down into the plains. Away they go laughing and joking, a little band of khaki-clad soldiers infinitely small in numbers, caring nothing for the heat they will have to endure, delighted at having something to do. A film of dust hides them, and those who watched return home; the women to work, to read, to write, to do anything which will fill the time profitably.

The road which traverses the hill-top is more than usually full of natives leading donkeys carrying vegetables and fruit. For the war news has spread rapidly in the mysterious Oriental manner, and they are anxious to bring their produce to the best market. Glossy green apples are sold at six to nine piastres an oke (2 4-5 lbs.), melons, plums, almonds, and grapes show lusciously in the depths of cane baskets. They are bargained for by housewives, surrounded by fair-haired children, and for these the swarthy Cypriote, be he Turk or Greek, has always a smile. Galloping hoofs throw the yellow dust high as an orderly from Government House hurries past. For a moment bargaining ceases as the native mind dully recalls the fact of war (so much less important than the half piastre he hopes to gain). And the Englishwoman gathers the children closer and faces the future with a smile.

Two more scenes:

On the slope of Olympus is a small hotel, standing where the steep descent leads downwards to the capital. Built of tin and wood, it is exposed to every wind that blows, but the view from its verandah is one of the most beautiful in the Mediterranean. Facing east, the spectator can seen the sun rise from a dense bank of humid clouds, can see it slowly scale the heavens and disperse the drifting mist wraiths. Here, every moonlight night, a panorama is unfolded; where the hilltops drop gradually towards the plains, their scarred summits pointed defiantly towards the serene stars, the vague distance lost in purple obscurity. Lights shine in the dining-room. And at small tables are cosmopolitan groups: English, Germans, Greeks, Turks, Russians, Austrians, domiciled in Cyprus, or who have come to spend the summer on Tröodos. Scraps of conversation fly about:—"Good soldiers the Germans, but never been tried," "Remember Alsace and Lorraine," "The North Sea trawlers free to fish again," "No news from the Austrian frontier," and so it goes on; there is no animosity between any nationality. Perhaps war is sometimes necessary; this one, we know, was not sought by us. The fact remains, English, Germans, Russians, are good friends here while it is raging; let us hope that they will be still better ones when peace is declared.

In a far-away Greek monastery, built in the eleventh century, service is being held at nightfall. The *iconostasis* which spreads like a glittering shield before the "Holy of Holies" is blazing with light, gilded icons stare down from their jewelled frames, swinging silver lamps, dedicated to Orthodox saints, shine with faint lustre. The church is in semi-darkness, and black-bearded priests in rich robes of scarlet and purple intone the office; rows of monks line the narrow wooden stalls; some natives in coloured waistcoats, loose breeches, and long boots stand reverently in the body of the church. They are travellers from one village to another, halting with their animals for a night's rest. The whole building is strong, massive; heavily barred windows set into walls three feet thick stare across miles of wooded mountainous country; within, long stone corridors worn by countless feet, lead into a labyrinth of cells and offices. An unshaven acolyte, his lank hair bunched into a long coil, hastens with a telegram in his hand towards the abbot's chamber. Telegrams are unusual in such mediæval setting, and the acolyte holds it as if it were alive. It is! It contains the news of England's refusal to allow the violation of the neutrality of Belgium. Instantly the monastery is awake, throbbing with unbridled excitement.

So the great tide of war stirs the remotest corners of lands under the protection of the British flag.

NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Prayers have been offered in Greek churches for the success of the British arms. At Platres the Bishops of Kition and Papho officiated. The High Commissioner, being unable to attend the service, sent a letter to the Bishops, which gave great gratification. On September 27, at the great fair of Omodhos, another service was held at the Church of the Cross, which was attended by the High Commissioner. Greek feeling is strongly in favour of the Allied Forces.

Turkish feeling has become pro-German, but the proclamation of martial law and the proclamations issued by the High Commissioner have had the desired effect, and any open disloyalty would be at once suppressed. A Turkish Zaptieh has been sentenced by court martial to a year's imprisonment for using disloyal language.

All Commissioners of Districts are now Provost-Marshals, the Presidents of District Courts being assistants. The Commissioner of Limassol, Major Bolton, acted for four years in a similar capacity in South Africa.

The tariff which has been established for most of the necessary articles of foodstuff has given great satisfaction. Some fines have been inflicted upon tradesmen selling goods above the prices fixed, and some heavy penalties have been imposed on persons convicted of obtaining permission to export cattle under false pretences.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Pierre Loti's Appeal to Enver Pasha.

The Egyptian Mail in a recent issue gives a translation of a letter written to Enver Pasha by Pierre Loti. We quote some extracts below:—

. . . . I well divine, alas! the pressure exerted on your dear country and on you by the abominable being in whom all the tares of the Prussian race are incarnate—ferocity, vanity and trickery. He must have abused your fine and glowing patriotism in enticing you by illusory promises of revenge. He has certainly known how to prevent the truth reaching you, for without that your loyal soldier's heart would have turned from him. He has known how to persuade, you as well as a part of his people, that he was forced into these butcheries, which on the contrary with an infernal cynicism were so long premeditated. He has succeeded in giving you faith in his victories, whilst he knows, with all the world, that the triumph will end by being ours. And, moreover, if the impossible happened, and we had to succumb for a time, Prussia and its dynasty of wild beasts would no less remain for ever fixed in the most shameful pillory in human history.

In conclusion, the writer says:—

I keep an unshaken faith in our final triumph. But on the day of our deliverance how my joy will be veiled with mourning if my second oriental country lies buried beneath the ruins of the hideous empire of Prussia.

A Southern Slav State.

In *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, of October 16, a report is published of a lecture on "Austria and Serbia," given by Dr. R. W. Seton Watson, at the Victoria Hall, Sheffield, on the previous night, in connection with the series of weekly lectures arranged by the University. We quote an extract:—

Serbia was essentially a "self-made man" among States—with, as a curse, the rivalry of three native dynasties. The history of the southern Slavs for the last century had been a slow movement towards national unity, sometimes hastened and sometimes paralysed by the rivalry of Austria and Russia for the hegemony of the Balkan Peninsula. Even if every man in Serbia were willing to prostrate himself before the Hapsburg throne there could be no real peace until the internal problem between Austria-Hungary and the southern Slavs was solved. We were witnessing the birth-throes of a new nation, the rise of a new national consciousness, the triumph of the idea of national unity amongst the three southern Slav States. Fate had assigned to Britain and to France an important share in the solution of the problem, and it was our duty to insist that this solution should be radical and permanent, based upon the principles of nationality and the wishes of the southern Slav races. "The old Europe," said the speaker, "has gone beyond recall. Let us bravely meet fate half-way and say 'We will have it so.' After this we want a new and a better Europe, and I ask you to join with me in welcoming the new Southern Slav State and wishing it a worthy place among the nations of a free Europe that is to be."

"El Gemel."

An amusing article in *The Globe* (October 12), in which "An Old Campaigner" gives a sketch of "El Gemel" as he knew him in the Sudan, will doubtless interest the large number of our readers who have met that useful but unlovely beast. He says:—

It is not easy to love a camel. Indeed, I should defy even the secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League to take a camel to his sympathetic bosom. Kindness is absolutely wasted on a camel. He does not understand it, and regards it merely as a sign of weakness and a direct encouragement to turn and "savage" you. A camel's bite is a very terrible thing. Strictly speaking, he chews rather than bites, but what matter his method of attack when, with his enormously muscular lips, he can quickly reduce a man's shoulder to pulp.

Here are some more of his amiable qualities described:—

In regard to work, the camel is a born trade unionist, and a firm believer in an eight hours' day. Although for ever filling the air with the most hideous lamentations, wheezings, and groanings, a camel will travel contentedly enough for eight hours at a stretch, during which a fast naga (a riding mare camel) will cover from 80 to 100 miles, but ask him to work overtime and he will kick. If he cannot take it out of you personally he will revenge himself by dying. Certain Orientals are credited with being able to shuffle off this mortal coil at will. This may or may not be true, but the camel certainly has the power of dying whenever he wants to. Annoyed, he will just lie down and prepare to die, that is unless you are quick to peg his neck down in the sand so that he cannot twist his head away under his left flank, this being the position in which every self-respecting camel must die. After a while a camel thus pegged down will give in, and with frightful moanings and gruntings intimate his willingness to continue an existence into which he wishes he had never been born. Eight hours for work, eight hours for food, eight hours for rest, that is the camel's daily day. A camel never plays. his nearest approach to human weakness is his love of tobacco. After a camel has been fed his driver will hunker down beside him, and lighting a pipe, strong enough to kill at forty rods, puff the pungent smoke into the nostrils of the camel, who for once in a way ceases his eternal plaints.

"Sketching in Morocco."

The October *Studio* contains a charming letter, under the above heading, by Miss Hilda Rix, a young Australian artist, in which she relates her experiences during a recent visit to Morocco. Here is an example of Arab courtesy:—

Often in the heat of work I am not conscious of the ring of people until with a snap a pencil breaks, and I hear a chorus of gentle groans of sympathy—and when I dropped a pencil the other day an Arab picked it up, and, seeing the point was broken, whipped out his large knife and sharpened it and presented it to me with a beaming smile.

But sometimes her sketching excited suspicion. She describes with a lively sense of the humorous how the owner of a camel that she wanted to sketch tried to foil her efforts, as he feared the effect of the "evil eye" on his property:—

So he planted himself in front of the beast, and a friend, looking equally fierce, joined him; the two of them, holding out their wide jelabas, succeeded in blocking out my entire view. Well, I looked pathetic for an instant, saying "La, la!" (No, no!) But finding them adamant, I went away amid much heated comment and laughter. Instead of going quite away, however, I made a little detour and returned to that corner of the Soko, but on the other side of the camel, and stood on a two-foot-high wall, from where I got a splendid view of my game. I proceeded to draw feverishly. Presently the crowd spotted me, and caught on, laughing; this caused the two angry men to look up, and seeing me at it again unbaffled, one of them again placed himself in front of the camel's head. In spite of this and the excitement around me, I managed to get the whole squatting body of the beast. But the owner's rage was at fever heat when my merry audience called to him that I had potted his camel. He jumped up, hoisted the loads on to its hump, untied its folded knees, and prodded it to get up and run. They ran—but so did I, drawing all the way while running, with a torrent of laughing, cheering Arabs beside and behind me. Oh, such fun! I chased them right up the hill, my pencil flying at work, head bobbing up and down—dodging squatting people, and laughing with the joy of the sport as I ran, until my game vanished round the corner up the hill. But I had won my point and got my camel's head, midst cheers and roars of laughter from the crowd of onlookers who had been intently watching my exploits. The owner's friend, who had been so furious before, came behind me and said, "Mizziaan! mizziaan!" which means "splendid."

Article to Note.

"A Proposito dell' Abolizione delle Capitolazioni in Turchia," by Dr. Giovanni de Benedetti Cerruti, in *L'Esplorazione Commerciale* (Milan, September 30).

FOR WOUNDED INDIAN SOLDIERS.

The determination to bring wounded soldiers from his Majesty's Indian Expeditionary Force to England will be a disappointment to many people in Egypt, but in the case of a man wounded in the north of France it is inhuman to subject his shattered frame to the torment of a long train journey to Marseilles for the sake of sentiment. The hospital accommodation in England is every whit as good as any which could be prepared in Alexandria, and the wounded Indians will find numbers of friends in this country to prove to them that they are not forgotten strangers in an inhospitable land. It is, indeed, highly probable that there are more men here who can from long experience cheer them with conversation in their own language than could be found even in Egypt. In view of what may be said by our enemies, we hasten to assure our readers that there is nothing "political" in this revision of arrangements. It is entirely due to the difficulties of railway transport, it being plainly impracticable while sending British wounded from Flanders to the nearest coast to dispatch Indian wounded to the furthest coast over lines congested by the service of supply, or understaffed on account of the absence of so many railway servants at the front.

W. N. WILLIS'S GREAT BOOK,

ANTI-CHRIST IN EGYPT

It is a vehement appeal to Christian England to save the children of Egypt from the open vortex of degradation and shame permitted—indeed, encouraged—by the Capitulation Laws which govern that country.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The announcement made yesterday by the Press Bureau, and quoted at length elsewhere, to the effect that the Egyptian Government are taking steps "to remove from the Suez Canal all enemy ships which have been long enough in the canal ports to show clearly that they have no intention of departing in the ordinary way," is excellent news, and will, I am sure, be heartily endorsed both at home and in Egypt. At last, it seems, we are beginning to realize that we are really at war, and not at war with a chivalrous foe, but with an unscrupulous enemy capable of taking the meanest advantage of any dodge, however low, that will act as a means to an end. In the circumstances it is only right and proper that that enemy's merchantmen, having sought a delightful and comfortable haven of rest in the Suez Canal, where peacefully to spend the winter and to escape falling into the hands of the British Navy, should be obliged either to come out and pay for the "Emden's" acts or else remain where they are—the nucleus of Egypt's future mercantile marine!

***

We reproduce on another page the Egyptian Government's official communiqué concerning the new loan, together with our Cairo Correspondent's comments. Inquiries in the City yesterday elicited no further information, as details of the scheme, more particularly of that relating to the £3,000,000 issue, as additional to the £5,000,000 issue already announced, have not been received from Egypt. The impression is that £5,000,000 will be placed in London, not by a public issue but by means of Treasury bills, and that £3,000,000 will be placed in Cairo. It is not thought likely that the loan will be issued to the public in the ordinary way, either here or in Cairo, but that both operations will be covered by an issue of Treasury bills. No date is mentioned in connection with either of the above operations.

***

The report of an earthquake in the Smyrna district has unfortunately proved true, though, I am happy to state, it appears that the news published in the Press has been greatly exaggerated. Inquiries at the offices of the Ottoman Railway yesterday elicited the information that the earthquake occurred on the morning of the 4th inst. The strongest tremor seems to have occurred between Isparta and Burdur, and the damage done is considerable. The Ottoman Company's rails were wrecked for a distance of about three miles, and the damage done to both rails and buildings is estimated at about £10,000. The line has, however, already been repaired, and trains are running normally. The amount of damage done to the whole district cannot be estimated, but it appears to be heavy, and the consequent misery will be great. Conditions in the interior have been bad enough as it is, and now, what with mobilization, the prohibition of exporting crops, and the terrors of an earthquake, the inhabitants will be in a pitiable state. By the way, I read that the Ottoman Government has gone a step further in its servitude to German rule, and has closed the Gulf of Smyrna to warships. There is no confirmation of the statement, but if it is true it will be deplored by all friends of Turkey. The question they all ask themselves is: Where will it all end, and how? Poor Turkey!

***

I have received many letters from correspondents in connection with the political activities of the Deutsche Orient Bank, about which frequent mention has been made in these columns, more particularly in connection with its doings in Egypt. These letters contain specific accusations against the bank of a nature which precludes our publishing them. For the time being, at any rate, the institution is under strict Government supervision, and, according to *The Egyptian Gazette*, its books are regularly examined by a Government official. Therefore, it will have little scope to pursue its Anglophobe tendencies at present. Later on, doubtless, the Government will introduce appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence of past tendencies.

***

I read with some surprise in the papers during the week that Germany had forwarded to Constantinople nine tons of gold bars to the value of £T1,000,000. I have received no official confirmation of the report, and, frankly, am inclined to doubt it. Should it be true, however, it will mean a corresponding pinch at home in Germany, and one that cannot be easily remedied. It will also be the last gold to be exported by Germany for many a long day. This being so, it is not likely that it will be rapidly spent, either by the Germans, for whose uses it is doubtless intended, or by the Turks, should they by any chance be favoured with a few crumbs.

***

Since writing the above, a correspondent who is intimately acquainted with Turkey, and who has just received letters from Jerusalem stating that after "the wholesale looting of the shops for the support of the thousands of recruits the city is practically penniless, and, indeed, the whole country is ruined for some years to come," adds that it is just probable that the Turks "may now turn round and pocket the £1,000,000 just sent through to the Porte and give Germany the slip." Though I am afraid that Germany's grip is too heavy for Turkey to escape it just yet, I hope, as do all who know and love the East, that the day is not far distant when Turkey will show sufficient will-power, independence, and sense to send the truculent Teuton home to his Vaterland.

***

The Sudan report published elsewhere makes inspiring reading. Events are following each other with such lightning rapidity on the Continent, new crises and developments are bursting forth upon us day by day with such intensity, and the curtain of horror, suspense, and sensation is so frequently lifted in front of our eyes, that the glare of these things blinds us to the fact that, in spite of them, "Empire in the making" is progressing to the south of Egypt in its own quiet way, and that, practically undisturbed by the commotion of shells in France and Belgium, the Sudanese fellaheen are sowing and reaping in peace and in plenty under British administration. The basins, canals, and other irrigation works are playing the part for which they were created, and the outlook is a good one. Wheat evidently is to be sown in quantities which may come in handy if the war is protracted, and the cultivation of cotton, though temporarily postponed on the gigantic scale proposed, is increasing steadily.

***

So far the effect on the Sudan of the war has been practically limited to the gum trade. In normal years Germany imports about 3,000 tons of gum from the Sudan, or about 20 per cent. of that country's total gum export. This market is now closed, and the Government is doing its utmost to have it replaced. In this connection I should like to refer my readers to the offer of "every assistance possible" that will be given to any persons connected with "this or any other branch of the Sudan export trade" quoted on our Sudan page, which contains, moreover, extracts from a valuable article which appeared in the September issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce. The country's exports are excellent in every way; besides, a more model corner of our great Empire it would be difficult to find, and it is therefore deserving of our most assiduous attention.

***

Our Belgrade correspondent on the following page makes an appeal for a greater participation by the British in Serbia's trade. It is a matter which I have been advocating for years. Until Serbia obtained a *soi-disant* port at Salonika, intercourse between Great Britain and that country was perforce limited, and even the creation of that port had not improved matters much before the war broke out. Now all that will change. The fact is that when hostilities are over, in the course of which the brave Serbs have been fighting on our side against the common foe, Serbia will get her littoral on the Adriatic, and our ships will be able to reach her port, or ports. The market, it must be remembered, is an excellent one in its way; besides, our imports from Serbia can be considerably increased, so that there is no question of lack of cargo for returning bottoms. In this connection I strongly recommend to my readers the special articles which appeared on "Serbian Trade Opportunities" in THE NEAR EAST on June 5 and June 19 of this year, and in the meantime should like to point out two facts: the first is that many citizens having returned from Nish to Belgrade, the Austrian attack must, in spite of Austrian denials, be regarded as no longer effective, and the second is that Austrian statements regarding a famine in Serbia have received an official denial. The harvest has been an exceptionally fine one, and, as there have been no exports this year, it stands to reason that there can be no famine.

COMMENTATOR.

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War on German Trade.

STONE, EARTHERN AND CHINAWARE.

In continuation of our series of extracts from the bulletins issued by the Board of Trade, we give this week particulars from the same source of the openings for trade in stone, earthen and chinaware which present themselves in the Near East:—

Germany's total exports in 1912 amounted to £3,556,900, those of Austria to £872,700, and Great Britain's to £2,527,000.

The Near East is one of Germany and Austria's most important markets. Thus, in 1912, Roumania imported from Germany to the value of £39,000, the largest item being table services of all kinds (£16,000); Turkey's imports amounted to £32,500 (table services £21,500), and Egypt's to £22,400 (table services £16,000). Germany's total given exports to the three above-mentioned countries amounted to £93,900, to which must be added her exports to Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and other Near Eastern countries.

Austria's exports to the Near East show the following figures:—Bulgaria, £5,000; Greece, £3,900; Roumania, £28,000 (of which £17,000 represents ornamental and painted chinaware); Serbia, £5,000; Turkey, £28,600; and Egypt, £9,300, or a given total of £79,800, which, added to Germany's figures, gives a grand total of close on to £200,000. This represents, roughly speaking, the trade which can be acquired by our exporters.

As it is, our exports to Servia and Bulgaria, among the countries mentioned above, are nil. For the other countries the following statistics are given:—Roumania, £1,000; Greece, £5,000; Turkey, £6,100; and Egypt, £18,200, or a total of £28,300, which does not even represent Germany's exports to Roumania alone in one year!

The following further particulars are given concerning the Near Eastern market:—

Egypt.

The Belgian Consul at Alexandria states in his report for 1912 that there was a falling off in the imports of earthenware and chinaware amounting to about £E20,000. Germany headed the list of countries from which these goods were imported, her share amounting to £E20,402, as against £E28,938 in 1911; Austria was second with £E19,466, and Belgium third with £E15,370. The imports from the United Kingdom and France were comparatively small. Germany supplied chiefly china of medium quality and cheap coffee cups; Austria, crockery, china and earthenware tea services and coffee cups, plates, and vegetable dishes; Belgium, faience ware; France, fine chinaware. The relatively small imports from the United Kingdom consisted principally of high-class crockery. Lately Italy has competed in the supply of chinaware."

Roumania.

According to a Belgian Consular Report for 1913, Germany supplies the greater proportion of household crockery, china and earthenware and majolica ware imported into Roumania.

Bulgaria.

The Austrian Consul at Varna states in a recent report that in his district German chinaware is in considerable demand, and competed successfully with the Austrian product; in 1911 the imports of china from Hamburg into Bulgaria amounted to 73,150 frs.

Greece.

A report received from H.M. Consul at the Piræus towards the end of 1913 states that the trade in earthenware is carried on with French, Belgian, Italian, German, and British firms, but principally with French firms. Trading terms are usually credit for six months. If paid in cash a discount of 5 per cent. is made. If a client purchases in a year goods of 10,000 frs. value a discount of 5 per cent. is allowed, if 15,000 frs. 12½ per cent., if 20,000 frs. 15 per cent. Customs and municipality duty is charged according to weight, and it is therefore advantageous for the plates to be as light as possible.

British manufacturers do a good trade only in plates made of granite, white and coloured, table services, and wash basins. They could, however, do a large trade in all kinds of earthenware, but they fail to do so, for the following reasons:—

(1) The delay in executing orders (six to eight months).

(2) Prices are a little higher (but not so high as to make it impossible to compete) owing to the difference of the freight and packing. The cost of packing is borne by the manufacturers.

The names of importers of earthenware in Greece may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The following information is taken from trade reports drawn up by the Consular officers of Belgium, France, and Austria:—

Salonika.

The imports of china in 1912 showed a large decrease as compared with those of the previous year. The bulk of the trade was supplied by Germany, while Austria supplied a certain amount of better class goods. Earthenware, consisting chiefly of plates, dishes, bowls, etc., was imported from Belgium, Germany, France, and Holland. Earthenware milk bowls find a ready sale, but the imports of all kinds of earthenware goods show a tendency to decrease by reason of the increased use of enamelled ware.

Uskub.

The cheaper kinds of crockery are imported from Holland through the medium of wholesale merchants in Salonika, but small quantities of high-class goods are drawn from England and Hungary.

Damascus.

In this district there is a large consumption of china and earthenware, the value of the imports in 1910 from Austria and Germany amounting to £3,000 and £800 respectively. Manufacturers and merchants desirous of securing a share of the trade should be careful to study local tastes and requirements. The chief articles imported are small coffee cups and saucers.

Trebizond.

Imports of crockery, earthenware, and chinaware in 1910 amounted to 7,500 kilos, the principal suppliers being Germany and Austria. For purposes of economy, earthenware is used more than chinaware. White earthenware goods are preferred to the coloured, and flowers and leaves enter principally into the designs. These goods are sold by the dozen, not by the set, and the usual shapes and sizes are in demand. White plates with a blue border find a ready sale. Coffee cups are put in cardboard boxes and then packed in cases; other articles are wrapped in paper and packed in straw in cases. Prices are usually quoted c.i.f. in French currency, and the trade is usually done through the medium of agents in Constantinople, payment being made either at four months or for prompt cash, with from 3 to 5 per cent. discount.

BOARD OF TRADE BULLETINS.

The following bulletins were published during the past week:—Brewing and distillery machinery and apparatus; aluminium and aluminium wares; feeding stuffs (oil cake and bran); stationery (writing material, notebooks, etc.); and agricultural machinery.

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CYPRUS TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Larnaca, September 28.

For the past six weeks the import trade has been almost at a standstill, and with the moratorium, which was extended until October 13, and the prohibition of the export of specie, business has been well-nigh impossible.

Importers and commission agents are showing great interest in the efforts of the English merchants to capture the German and Austrian trade, and are most anxious to get in touch with English firms. The majority prefer doing business with English houses, but a great drawback has always been lack of credit facilities and want of knowledge as to where to obtain in England the goods they require. English firms, once they are satisfied they have obtained the services of a thoroughly trustworthy and reliable agent in Cyprus, might give more facilities as regards credit, acting, as do the German and Austrian firms, on the advice of their local agent as to how far they may safely go in this direction.

GREAT BRITAIN AND SERBIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Belgrade, October 6.

The result of this war ought to improve the friendly relations between this country and Great Britain, and business with Serbia will doubtless expand, if British manufacturers will only come forward and meet the Serbians half-way. If all the facilities the Germans gave cannot be given, something more should at least be offered than hitherto, in order to meet the wants of this country.

THE SITUATION IN BEYROUT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Beyrout, September 26.

The commandeering of all mules, horses, and camels has been so complete that the agricultural produce of the country, which is its main, not to say its sole, resource, has been immobilized, and runs the risk of its being washed away by the first autumnal rains where no depots are found, more especially as railway tonnage has been exclusively required for military purposes. Apart from this, enormous quantities of the country's produce, as well as of imported foodstuffs and textiles, have been requisitioned from native and foreigner alike, and this, coupled with the merciless collection of the military exoneration tax, even from those who, according to the last Imperial decree, are not liable thereto—since they had already acquitted the tax in the shape of fees, according to the pre-constitutional régime—and with the levying of war contributions at a time when money is most scarce, has left the country, never very flourishing, in a state of utter misery and ruin, from which it may not recover for years.

Serious Loss to Government.

The situation is bound to mean a serious loss to the Treasury. Already the effect of the mobilization is revealed in the tremendous falling off of the Custom House receipts, which, from the respectable figure of about £2,000 per diem in normal times, have dropped to between £10 and £30. Of course, with practically all the able-bodied men called to the colours—all the classes up to the age of forty-five having been called—and with the prohibition of the export of such produce as may be left after the wholesale requisitioning, trade, the only resource of the country, has been brought to a standstill. The import trade is, of course, also paralyzed, as the purchasing capacity of the population has been almost completely destroyed, and it will not be matter of surprise if soon it is discovered that a large part of the population cannot pay the Government.

With reference to the prohibition of the exportation of all alimentary products from Egypt, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that authority will be given by the Egyptian Government for the exportation of eggs in a quantity not exceeding each month one-half the quantity exported in the corresponding month of last year.

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Sudan Crop Prospects.

Bountiful Harvest Expected.

The Monthly Report (August) issued by the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government has just been received and makes most gratifying reading. Weather conditions have not been far short of ideal, the outlook is excellent, the cultivation of wheat promises to be a future aid to the abnormal situation created by the war, and, in spite of the latter, the development of our valuable possessions to the south of Egypt continues along favourable lines. The following extracts from a valuable report prove that though little is heard of British administration in the Sudan in these stirring times, progress in the country is steady and uninterrupted. The following summary, appended to the report, will be read with interest :—

General Position of Affairs.

"From the reports received it is clear that sufficient rain has fallen to secure a bountiful harvest throughout the whole of the country. The food supply of the native population is thus assured. They will have also sufficient grain to enable them to accumulate reserves for use in any future times of scarcity. As regards the food supply of the European population, there have been no difficulties up to the present time, save in one or two isolated instances, which have been dealt with, resulting from the war in Europe. Prices have, of course, risen to some extent, as was to be expected, but steamer services to Port Sudan have now been resumed, and at any rate for the time being there is no cause whatever for alarm.

Gum.

"The cessation of imports from Germany and Austria into the Sudan should have practically no effect on the general situation, nor will the stoppage of trade between the Sudan and these countries materially affect Sudan exports, with the exception of the export of gum. In the year 1913, 15,129 tons of gum were exported from the Sudan. Of this quantity 2,983 tons were exported to Germany. It is of great importance to find fresh markets for the gum that Germany has hitherto taken, and this office will be glad to exchange information with any persons interested in the trade. Every assistance possible will be given to any persons connected with this or any other branch of the Sudan export trade.

Cattle and Wheat.

"Owing to the closure of foreign sources of supply as a result of the war, the demand for cattle and sheep by Egypt from the Sudan should be considerable. Its amount will depend very largely upon the fortunes of the Egyptian cotton crop.

"It is to be noted by those interested in cultivation, especially in view of the coming winter season, that wheat will probably prove a valuable crop owing to the circumstances created by the war."

The following further particulars are extracted from the report in question :—

Grain.

"In the Nuba Mountain Province the Nubas who kept back a reserve supply of last year's grain till they could see what sort of a harvest they might expect this year are beginning to dispose of small quantities.

"In Khartum Province certain seed loans have been issued to the various districts, and the prospects are so far excellent. The grazing is also excellent. Similar conditions prevail in Sennar Province, where it is expected that after a month and a-half new supply of dura will be put on the markets. There was a scarcity of grain last year in the latter province as in those of the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Red Sea."

Rainfall and Cultivation.

Kassala Province.—The Gash reached Kassala on July 5, commenced to rise rapidly on the 9th, and on the 12th it was at its highest. As the water last year reached the outskirts of the Morghania Quarters of the town, two earth banks were erected this year, one to the south and the other to the north of the town, but, unfortunately, both were washed away and the water ran up to the main Halenga road. The flood throughout the month and the heavy rainfall all points to a fine crop. Reports during the month from the various districts are most satisfactory, and all expect an exceptionally good season. The rain crop in the various districts and around Kassala and the basins under the irrigation canal are excellent.

Mongalla Province.—In July good rains fell everywhere and crops were doing well. Cultivation was extensive throughout the province. In August the crops were reported good from every district.

Halfa Province.—The river rose very rapidly during the first three weeks of August. It reached its highest on the 24th, when the reading was 8·26 metres, since which date it has been falling gradually. In consequence of the high level reached water has entered the old canal at Debeira and Surra for the first time for many years. Part of the Koka basin in Mahas district has also been flooded for the first time since the inlet canal was made. The prospects of the autumn crop are very favourable, with the exception of certain places in Mahas district where the flood has covered land already sown and washed away the seed.

Bahr-el-Ghazal. — The rainfall generally seems later than usual. Indian corn which should ripen in July to carry natives over the interval before the reaping of the dura crop, is still green in ear, and round Wau "ful sudani," which is just ripening, is the staple food of the natives at present. At present there is reason to hope for a big crop, and excellent reports have been received from Rumbek district.

Kordofan Province.—Really good rains fell in August, and as far as the weather is concerned, all that is required to ensure really good crops is one good fall of rain in about a fortnight's time. Given either that or a continuance of light rains during the month, there is no fear except of pests, of which none have been reported to date. Later.—Crop prospects everywhere excellent.

Khartoum Province.—The month of August was inaugurated by heavy rain during most of the day and night. There were also considerable rains on the 4th, 8th, 11th, and 31st. Sowing was briskly carried on, and prospects of a crop are excellent, many areas being well watered which had not been cultivable for many years.

Dongola Province.—The Merowe Khor was "in flood" on July 29 and 30, and also on August 2, 7, 9, 16, and 22. During the latter month heavy torrents of water poured down the Khor. The irrigation bank, which was this year constructed across the Khor, has proved to be a great success. The water has been diverted on to low lying lands stretching from Merowe to Tangassi, a distance of seven miles. It is estimated that some 1,000 to 1,500 feddans have been flooded.

Red Sea Province.—The third good flush came down to Tokar early in the month and was of great benefit. Owing to its volume, a certain amount of water broke away from the Shereit and Eastern channels, and it was impossible to prevent this. After this flush sowing became general. It is reported that the area irrigated is a good deal larger than last year, and with normal climatic conditions the crop should be well up to the average. Rains on the hills have been very frequent during the month and all khors south of the railway line have received water. There should be much dura grown this year and grazing should be excellent.

Nuba Mountain Province.—Excellent rains are reported throughout the Province. The Khors in the neighbourhood of the station have not stopped running since the end of July, and this is always a sign that abundant rain has fallen. The prospects are excellent throughout the Province.

Berber Province.—The summer sakia crops have been good throughout the Province. The rains in Shendi district have been excellent. Practically all the Atmurs have been watered, most of them several times, and the prospects of good rain crops are excellent. Rains in the Butana and up the Atbara have also been good. The water entered the Kelli canal on August 4 and the basin was full by August 26. If the basin is to be a permanent success, it will probably be necessary to divide the basin into sections and to run the feeder canal right through the basin. As things are, no red water reaches the land except at the very beginning of the basin. This is not important this year, as the soil is good and has not been watered for five years, but it must be remembered in the future. The Fadalab basin has also been well watered, but the same remarks as to the red water not reaching the land apply to it. Cultivation prospects south of Atbara excellent; north of Atbara moderate, and areas small; Shendi areas unusually extensive.

White Nile Province.—The Province is green from end to end, and there is every prospect of a good rain crop. Unfortunately, considerable areas must go uncultivated owing to the lack of seed. Even in this month the distress has been very severe, but the critical time has passed now; grass has sprung up everywhere, the animals are returning from southern grazing grounds, and milk is obtainable. The certainty of food in plenty by November 1 enables natives to use up their last supplies of food, and the large quantities of Indian dura sold to the three northern districts has gone far towards saving the situation. There is no doubt that the arrival and distribution of this foreign dura has made a great impression, but very few individuals could be persuaded to drop their conservatism and experiment with it as seed.

THE SUDAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE SITUATION.

In an article in its September *Journal* the Sudan Chamber of Commerce admits that the commerce of the Sudan has been temporarily affected by the situation in Europe, and the consequent closing of many markets where the produce of the Sudan has previously found a ready sale, and then adds : "The sea routes are now open, the shipping service to and from the Sudan has already been resumed, and it is hoped that before long steamship companies will be able to announce the arrangement of regular sailings. The news from the provinces is most encouraging, and the coming season's dura crops promise to be plentiful in most parts of the country; this should lead to increased purchasing power on the part of the native and consequent encouragement to those merchants engaged in the import trade.

"Events show that exporters must accept the fact that several European markets hitherto of great importance to the Sudan will not be open for business for some months to come and in all probability not until the next gum season is over. New markets must consequently be found for the produce which would in the ordinary course have been destined for those ports now closed.

With this in view, the Chamber of Commerce strongly urges all those engaged in the export trade promptly to take steps to get into touch with new markets where Sudan produce is required, and also to find new buyers in those markets which are already in touch with the Sudan."

SUDAN COTTON.

The monthly report (August) of the Sudan Economic Board contains the following reports :—

The Board of Trade has been notified by cable by the Sudan Government Commercial Intelligence Department that inquiry is made by local traders for the names of United Kingdom importers desirous of receiving supplies of gum arabic, sesame, earth nuts, ivory, hides and skins, tanning pods of "acacia arabica," vegetable ivory nuts, senna, millet, and dars. Further information may be obtained by United Kingdom importers on application to the Director, Imperial Institute, S.W., or to the Sudan Railways Office, 5, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.

Cotton at Zeidab is doing well (August), and picking of the early planted American is just beginning. The natives who take water from the company finally planted 380 feddans of American cotton.

Many chiefs in the Mongalla Province have become enthusiastic over cotton cultivation. The reports on the cotton sent down from Mongalla and Rejaf from last year's crop are most satisfactory in spite of the failure of the rains at the most important time of the year.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS CROP.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Larnaca, September 28.

The carob crop appears to be much heavier than was expected except in the Kyrenia district, and the crop should far exceed that of last year, which was about 160,000 cantars; in some quarters it is hoped that it will approach 300,000 cantars. Several steamers have already left for the United Kingdom with full cargoes and other are expected. The prices are very good at present. There is also an awakening demand for terra umber, due no doubt to the paint manufacturers being desirous of laying in large stocks of this article ready for the termination of the war, when without doubt there will be an enormous and pressing demand for paint; 1,000 tons are being shipped by the "Trojan Prince" from Larnaca this week to Liverpool, and other shipments have been booked.

The prospects for raisin exports appear to be very bad, since most of the Cyprus raisins are exported to Roumania, which means passing through the Dardanelles. The export will probably in consequence be small.

Stocks of sugar and coffee in the Island are being rapidly exhausted, but there appears to be no fear of scarcity in any other articles of food.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East:—

Beyrout. September 1.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for August:—

The cereal crops this year are good; but unfortunately the requisitions of the Government have prevented supplies of wheat and barley from coming on the market. For the most part the crops remain in the country districts as the owners fear to send them to the market.

In consequence of the war in Europe business has practically ceased. The weavers have in the majority of cases been obliged to cease work owing to the money stringency prevailing; in fact only some of the most important master weavers continue their work, and unless the situation improves it is feared that even they will have to stop.

GREEK FIGS.

The U.S. Consul at Kalamata, writing on August 21, stated:—

Conditions for figs are worse than those for currants, as the principal fig-importing markets of Austria and Russia are closed on account of the war. At present no other market is open for figs except that of the United States. Up to August 22 indications were that the quality would be better and that the quantity for this fig year, ending October 1, would be about 10 per cent larger than that for the last fig year; but the storm considerably damaged the quality, so the exportable fruit available will be about 20 per cent. smaller than was expected prior to August 22, or about 10 per cent. smaller than that of last fig year. The average market price at present is about 1d. per pound, with little indication of increase, while the average price in the past was about 1½d. per pound avoirdupois.

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CURRANT REPORT.

The following are extracts from Burlumi's annual report on currants, dated October 15:

The shipment of currants from Greece during the year ended August 22, reached 118,000 tons. To the retention stores of the Privileged Currant Company there were delivered 28,000 tons; about 12,500 tons of fresh and dried currants were used for wine-making and other industrial purposes in Greece, and it was estimated that about 4,000 tons of old fruit has been carried over to the new season, making a total of 162,500 tons. Deducting 1,500 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season of 1912-13, we find the crop of 1913 to have been 161,000 tons against 167,000 tons in 1912 and 157,000 tons in 1911.

The 118,000 tons shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows:—To the United Kingdom and New Zealand, 65,500 tons, against 65,000 tons in 1912-13; to the United States and Canada, 17,700 tons, against 17,500 tons in 1912-13; and to the Continent of Europe, 34,800 tons, against 38,500 tons in 1912-13. Owing to the war difficulties of all sorts in exporting the new crop had been apprehended, but they have all been overcome and shipments for the United Kingdom and the United States commenced early in September. The s.s. "Cypria" arrived in Liverpool on September 18, and the new fruit found ready buyers at 25s. for Pyrgos in quarters and 27s. 6d. to 29s. for Patras.

The clearances for home consumption in the United Kingdom from August 1, 1913, to July 13, 1914, have been 63,016 tons, against 63,690 and 60,942 in the twelve months ended in July, 1913 and 1912 respectively. The clearances in the first two months of the new season have been 8,154 tons against 8,679 in 1913. The small decrease is no doubt due to the lateness of the arrival of new fruit. The universal consumption outside Greece has been about 116,000 tons, against 132,500 tons in 1912-13. The visible universal stocks at the end of August last were estimated at 2,500 tons, excluding stocks in Greece, against about 500 tons in 1913 and 2,000 tons in 1912.

The new crop would have been one of the finest but for the unfavourable weather during the harvest time. It is estimated that barely 70,000 tons have been secured sound and in a dry condition; the rest has been badly damaged by rain, and the bulk of it is considered unmerchantable. Both the Government and the Privileged Company are taking measures to prevent the shipment of this class of fruit, and their efforts are well seconded by the shippers themselves. The high retention creates a sufficient outlet for the unmerchantable quantity, and there is no excuse for any of it to be shipped to countries using currants for food. The area of currant vines uprooted in 1913-14 has been only 3,427 stremmas, equal to 857 acres, and the compensation paid to the owners amounted to £13,000, equal to £14 per acre.

The greatest sufferers from the rains have been the districts of Pyrgos, Amalias, Zante and Cephalonia. It is computed that the saved three-fourths of these crops have been, for the greater part, ruined in quality, while the other fourth has been washed away altogether. The estimates of the yield vary as usual; we put it at about 140,000 tons, including the unmerchantable portion. There is a great variety of opinion about the universal requirements under the present political conditions. There can be no question of a decrease in the consumption of the United Kingdom and of the Colonies nor of the United States. It is also expected that Holland, the largest consumer of currants per capita, will import her usual quantity. The doubtful consumers are of course Germany and Austria, and possibly Belgium. Their total together averages 20,000 tons annually. If we leave this weight out altogether, the world, outside Greece, will require about 100,000 tons, and the exportable weight of the new crop is barely that. A considerable quantity of new fruit had been sold to Germany in June and July c.i.f. Hamburg and Rotterdam for shipment in September, but, of course, not an ounce of it has been shipped so far.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, October 22.

Sugar.

On Monday a supplement of the *London Gazette* was issued containing an Order in Council varying the existing Orders regarding exports from the United Kingdom. The Order withdraws the prohibition upon the following articles:—Molasses, invert sugar, and all sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be completely tested by the polariscope. It also withdraws the prohibition of the export to all destinations of sugar unrefined, and of sugar refined, and candy, established by the same Order of Council so far as regards exports to the following destinations:—The Channel Islands, Malta, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, St. Helena, the East Africa Protectorate, British West Africa Colonies and Protectorates. The market is unchanged. American granulated, to be shipped this week, was sold 22s. 9d. c.i.f. London.

Coffee.

A fair supply was offered at auction this week, and a moderate demand ruled at steady prices. Costa Rica, good bold, sold at 74s. 6d.; Colombian, good mid., 61s. to 62s.; washed Dumont, mid., 54s. to 63s.

Currants.

There is a moderate demand, and values are unchanged. According to reports from Patras, the attitude of the foreign shipping agents there is causing great indignation. They have formed a trust, fixing the freight for London at 37s. per ton, but when Greek steamers appeared and were taking cargo at 19s., which is the normal rate, the trust reduced the freight to 27s. 6d. per ton. Even that was considered exorbitant. In the meantime, all those who shipped on Greek ships were marked by the foreign agents' trust, and as a punishment they were asked 40s. freight per ton. The currant growers and merchants made an appeal to Mr. Venizelos, the Premier, who at once telegraphed to the Prefect of Patras to call the agents and ask them "to discontinue such improper conduct, otherwise the Government will be obliged to take legislative measures." The agents, however, having strict orders from their steamship companies in London, cannot change their attitude, and it is to be seen what the Greek Government has decided to do.

Sultanas.

There is only a moderate demand, and prices are practically unchanged.

Seeds.

Linseed is maintained, with a better demand, at 41s. 9d. for London-Calcutta, spot and afloat. Rapeseed is inactive: Hull, Ferozepore, 51s., Sept.-Oct., is asked. Cottonseed is quiet: London-Egyptian, loading and Oct., is quoted £7 7s. 6d. per ton. Haricot beans: A few Hungarian and Danubian are still obtainable at 85s. to 92s. 6d. Canaryseed is dull, and offered at recent reduced rates.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes: A check to the supplies of foreign descriptions has been noticeable during this past week, and, with apparent reserve of home manufacturers to effect sales, the market is well supported. Best London made £8 10s. to £8 15s. Cotton cakes: Only a very limited quantity of Egyptian is available, which commands full prices of £5 8s. 9d. to £5 10s., but at the same time there are sellers of October shipments at £5 6s. 3d. to £5 7s. 6d., ex ship. Bombay is quoted £4 15s. Decorticated cotton cakes are not offered at present, but some meal can be obtained at £8 5s. for present delivery, and £7 5s. for Oct.-Dec. shipments.

OPIUM MARKET.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report for the week ending October 2, 1914:—The sales this week on our market amount to 11 cases extra Carahissar talequale at ps. 255 per oke, which, calculating ps. 95 the best possible exchange per £ sterling for cheque on London, is equivalent to 21s. per lb. Very little opium, however, is available, as the bulk of the Smyrna stock is deposited with the banks, and they will not part with it unless all the advance they made is returned in liquid money, very little of which is now in circulation on our market. The arrivals to date are 1,203 cases, against 3,136 at same date last year.

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Egyptian Cotton Problem.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 25.

After long deliberation and study the Egyptian Government has decided that, in view of the present crisis in the world's commercial affairs, the area under cotton cultivation must be restricted next year. A decree was signed and promulgated on Tuesday last limiting the area that can be cultivated with cotton next year to 1,000,000 feddans. Cotton cultivation is entirely prohibited in the basin-lands of Upper Egypt, and no proprietor or tenant may cultivate an area exceeding one quarter of any one estate in cotton. Under certain circumstances the proportion of an estate free for cotton cultivation may be increased to one-third, if that estate is recognised as unfit for cereal cultivation.

The object of this restriction is, as the preamble of the decree says, to maintain the price of Egyptian cotton at a reasonable figure and also to increase the cereal production of the country, so as to obviate the necessity of heavy imports, which have been a feature of the past, and save Egypt from having to pay the high prices that this commodity will command. In addition, it is hoped, that if the area under cereals is sufficiently increased Egypt will be able to export and benefit by the above-mentioned high prices.

From what can be gathered this decision has met with general approval, for whatever may be thought of the details—i.e., the proportion limited to cotton, the principle is admitted to be absolutely sound. It is believed that now that the cotton crop for 1915 has been limited, no difficulty will be found in financing the present crop, since the restriction means about three million cantars less on the market.

It may be interesting to note the area under the various crops this year :—

	Feddans.		Average Yield per Feddan.
Cotton	1,750,000	....	4·27 kantars
Wheat	1,250,000	....	4· 6 ardebs
Barley	350,000	....	5· 2 ,,
Rice	35,000	....	5· 7 ,,
Maize.....	1 690,000	....	6· 8 ,,
Millet.....	240,000	....	7· 0 ,,
Sugar.....	48,000	....	446 kantars

From which it may be seen that the decrease in the cotton area will substantially effect the output of cereals, of which 355,000 tons were imported in 1913.

Reference to the financial operations connected with the Egyptian cotton problem will be found on our financial page (page 813).

The limitation of the area to be sown with cotton in 1915 has caused a great feeling of relief, writes the Alexandria correspondent of *The Pall Mall Gazette*. The crop now nearly ready for market may possibly not turn out quite so large as was expected, owing to bollworm ravages at the last, and also to delay in starting picking. It may be put at 7,500,000 cantars, and, allowing for spinners' needs, there may be 4,000,000 cantars in stock in August, 1915. The reduction in the 1915 acreage is about 45 per cent. The 1915 crop, when on the market, should then raise the amount in sight to 8,500,000 cantars, about the position in normal years. The action of the authorities in limiting the 1915 production is wise. It will facilitate finance, tend to keep prices up, and, above all else, will force the fellah to alternate cotton with other products, which he ought to have done all along.

EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL CIRCULAR.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has published a circular, stating that, in view of the probable depression in the demand for textile raw materials on the Continent of Europe in 1915, it is considered expedient to restrict the cultivation of cotton in Egypt and to recommend cultivators to substitute, to some extent, cereals and other food crops to meet the enhanced demand for those commodities which will occur, especially in the countries of the belligerents. As it is urgent that the sowing of the necessary crops be made as soon as possible, merchants and institutions in those countries where supplies are needed are asked to indicate clearly what kinds of food crops among the list given in the circular would be most in demand in their particular markets. Touching the question of cotton in particular, it is hoped that the restriction of cultivation referred to will enable holders to dispose of the surplus of this year's crop during the latter part of 1915, although it appears certain that lower prices will have to be accepted. In any case, it is evident that in the meantime cotton cultivators will have to pass through a very difficult period.

EXPORTS FROM EGYPT.

When the war started, says *The Egyptian Gazette*, the Government had decided to prohibit the exportation of all Egyptian products, including cotton.

However, this last article was made the subject of certain restrictions. In order to export any quantity of cotton certain regulations must be complied with. Certificates must be produced to the Customs authorities as regards the declination of shipments. This measure kept back the shipping of cotton to be sent abroad, as often the ship left the port before the required formalities could be terminated.

The Government, giving due consideration to the complaints of merchants and shipping companies, has just authorized the exportation of Egyptian cotton, nevertheless maintaining the former system adopted by the Customs regulations.

COTTON CONTRACTS.

At a meeting of the commission of the Bourse held on October 2 at the National Bank, Alexandria, it was decided to recommend the Government to issue an *arreté* ordering the payment of differences on the basis of $16 for November contracts, the last difference having been paid just before the beginning of the war at $17.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. J. A. HUTTON

Discussing with a representative of *The Manchester Guardian* the cotton situation, Mr. J. A. Hutton said :—

"So far as I can judge from our experience in business, unless something is done the bulk of the mills in Lancashire will be stopped very soon. In considering what we need to enable us to keep on doing business, four things are important—finance, insurance, a free market, and telegraph codes." Referring to finance, he said : "We need satisfactory finance, although it must be said that some of the Manchester banks and some of the Eastern banks are doing all that can be asked, and, indeed, they are going further. I know that some of them are giving credits which they would not give under ordinary circumstances."

Concerning the facilities for trading in cotton he pointed out that it is essential we should have a free cotton market. "It does not matter much what the price is. So long as our customers feel that cotton is in any way on an artificial basis they are not likely to buy. I do not think it is very material whether the price is 5d. or 3d., so long as it is felt that it is really a natural price and not an artificial one. I certainly think that everything possible ought to be done now to open the Liverpool market. The Liverpool Cotton Association have probably been perfectly wise in the steps they took during the early part of the war, but the time has now come when we really must have the market open. Trade would not, of course, become active at once, but many employers would have confidence to go on working to some extent. The alternative to the opening of the market is, I am convinced, the closing of the mills."

On going to press we learn that Mr. William Tattersall, former secretary to the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and a recognised expert in the cotton industry, died yesterday at Hale, near Manchester. Mr. Tattersall was often consulted by the Government in relation to the cotton industry.

MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Oct. 21.

It cannot be said that any distinct improvement has shown itself in the market during the past week, but perhaps in some quarters in small lots a little more business has been done. Buyers are not at all disposed to anticipate future requirements, and the transactions have been of a sorting-up character. There continues much discussion as to raw cotton prices, and the artificial situation remains in Liverpool. It is thought that much difficulty will be experienced in establishing a cotton futures market here. Advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop are somewhat irregular, and the ultimate yield is very uncertain. Not much interest is being taken in the progress of the American crop, it being realised that supplies will be more than sufficient to meet the needs of the world. In piece goods suitable for Egypt very few offers have come through, and mail advices do not encourage exporters to anticipate future requirements. The shipments against old contracts are being more interfered with. The Levant is no better, and there are plenty of goods in Manchester waiting to be shipped when the position is more encouraging on the other side. Occasional lots have been put through for the Mediterranean outlets. A little more demand has been experienced for China, chiefly in best shirtings. India buyers still lag behind, and owing to increasing stocks in Bombay and Calcutta there is not much expectation of any immediate revival of demand. Useful orders have been secured from day to day in goods suitable for the home trade. Makers of drills have met with fair lines. Owing to higher dyeing prices coming into force at the beginning of next month, there has been some disposition to arrange business so as to get in at the old rates The curtailment of production in all weaving districts is on a large scale, and tends to increase. At the end of last week prices in home American yarns slumped, but now appear to be grounding somewhat.

It cannot be said that there is any real improvement in the situation, and yet it is impossible to say that there is not a little, says *The Daily Dispatch*. Whether it will develop or not remains to be seen. Shippers to India continue to put a damper on any suggestions that they may possibly be in a position to move, say, some time towards the end of November. They have sufficient supplies—dear, of course—to enable them to look on. They would be glad to get rid of them, no doubt, at a time when it is possible to purchase probably 20 to 30 per cent. cheaper. The proposed action with reference to codes is naturally welcomed. Any modification of existing restrictions in this direction will be a convenience.

CYPRUS COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Larnaca, September 28.

The cotton crop is excellent both as regards quantity and quality. The crop should be about 6,000 bales. It will probably, as usual, all go to Greece, since so long as it is impossible to sell in the English market except on consignment there is no better market in Europe to be found, and the cost of transport is slight.

COTTON STATISTICS.

The Liverpool Cotton Association has published some statistics relating to the cotton season ended August 31. The total imports into Great Britain compared with the previous year show a decrease of 108.263 bales American, 21,744 bales Egyptian, 3,533 bales West Indian, and 3,181 African, and an increase of 84,020 Brazilian, 63,265 Peruvian, etc., and 127,903 East Indian, the total increase being 138,467 bales. The average weekly consumption of Great Britain for the year amounted to 81,360 bales, a decrease of 2,200 bales per week, or for the whole year of 114,682 bales. The total weight of cotton consumed in Great Britain was 2,077,289.597 lbs., against 2,177,955,889 lbs. in 1912-13. The total stock held by spinners is estimated to be 99,000 bales less than last year. The highest price of American cotton during the season was on September 29, 1913.

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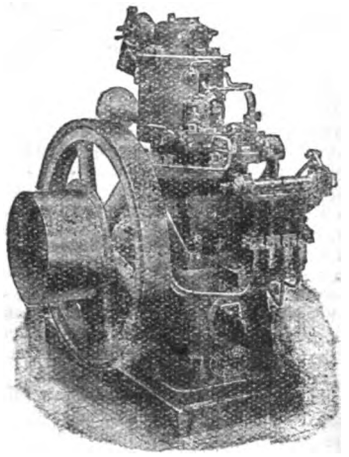

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Engineering Notes.

Board of Trade Activities.

The prompt efforts of the Board of Trade in rousing British energies, and pointing out in a practical way the opportunities of capturing German trade, are having satisfactory results; for there is already evidence of activity in several branches of industry, and particularly in the engineering and iron trades. According to the Board of Trade returns issued some days ago, the trade shows a marked improvement, and we hear that the engineering and hardware exports of Birmingham during the last two or three months were better than those of the corresponding period of last year. Birmingham is doing large business in the Near East, and we presume that other engineering and iron trade centres are also busy for those markets.

Implements and Tools.

The Board of Trade bulletin tells that in 1912 (when the Balkan troubles had not yet ended), Roumania bought from Germany and Austria £189,450 worth of agricultural implements and tools, and only £300 worth from England; Serbia £2,300 from Austria, and nothing, or next to it, from England; Bulgaria, £46,100 from Germany and Austria, and little or nothing from England; Greece, £1,400 from Austria and £8,500 from England; Turkey, £24,800 from Germany and Austria and £800 from England; and Russia £636,100 from Germany and Austria and £2,300 from England. Of the above Russian purchase we can safely calculate the half as from Southern Russia. The apparently insignificant share of the trade in agricultural implements and tools which England holds in the above markets may be attributed to a certain extent to the cheapness of the German articles compared with those of English manufacture, but that cheapness is due to the fact that the Germans studied the local conditions and requirements, and produced implements which were giving satisfaction to the buyers, besides being cheaper than the English, which made, as a rule, on designs suitable for use in England and her colonies, were either unsuitable or not quite suitable for agricultural use in the Near East, and also much dearer. English ploughs, for instance, are fully appreciated and bought, where they suit the soil, as in some parts of Thessaly and Macedonia, in Greece, in some parts of Roumania, and in low-lying parts of South Russia; but in Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey in Europe, most of the Roumanian and Greek districts, Syria and the Islands, where, as a rule, the soil is hard, stony, and, with very little exception, very uneven, a light plough is needed, one-handled, and suitable for a small and inferior class of animals. Swing ploughs have no demand except in some parts of Roumania. Drills and harrows are also required lighter and of simple construction. Axes, hatchets, and choppers of English manufacture are preferred in Serbia, but the difficulty of obtaining such in the hilly districts gives good opportunities to local German and Austrian agents to supply their articles at a price very little differing from that asked for those of English manufacture.

Pumps and Pumping Machinery.

As we have stated before, pumps and pumping machinery are in constant demand in almost every district in the Near East. In this line, again, Germany and Austria are in advance on sales, but England could undoubtedly secure a better position if manufacturers would pay more attention to the particular types that are needed. For quality and efficiency British pumps are preferred, but orders given by inexperienced agents or buyers have often caused disappointment to the latter and made others cautious, which would not have happened if manufacturers would take the trouble to ask full particulars, and to satisfy themselves that what is ordered is really suitable to the requirements of the buyer. Roumania is a big buyer of pumps and pumping plant from Germany, and this may safely be attributed to the energy of the local German agents and the conspicuous absence of agents or travellers of British firms. The same may be said with regard to Serbia and Bulgaria. Pumps of the simpler kinds are in great demand in Asiatic Turkey, long handles and stroke preferred. Centrifugal pumps are generally ordered from Greece, Syria, Turkey in Europe, and Serbia for irrigation purposes, while on the Tigris and Euphrates a great number are at work for the same purpose. In the Russian Black Sea region and the interior a large business is done in pumps of more or less small and medium size by Americans. A competent British representative could secure large orders.

Motor Wagons for Greek Army.

It is announced from New York that the Greek Minister to the United States has, on behalf of the Greek Government (says *Motor Traction*), placed a contract with an American concern for the supply of 2½-ton motor wagons. The vehicles, which are stated to be intended for use in the commissariat department of the Greek army, are standard in every respect and fitted with 4-cylinder engines rated at 36 h.p., the bore and stroke being 4½ ins. by 5½ ins. The vehicles, which have a wheel base of 11 ft. and a track of 4 ft. 9½ ins., are being equipped with a standard staked platform body.

Cars in War Service.

The U.S. Consul at Salonika states:—There are at present fifty to sixty motor-cars and trucks here owned by the Greek Government, and three cars in private possession. The Government-owned cars are being used for military purposes. Moreover, the Government maintains an automobile corps and repair shop here, and another at Janina. It is stated that it is so well satisfied with the results attained by the automobile service of the army during recent military operations that it has decided to equip a complete battalion of expert chauffeurs with 400 lorries. The Minister of War at Athens is the competent authority in all matters relating to army supplies. The motor lorries at present employed in the army service are of about 2-ton capacity and can make about 40 kilometres an hour. Cars are being used for carrying mails and for military traffic between Salonika and several points in the interior. A regular automobile service (private undertaking) is maintained between Cavalla and Drama in the tobacco-growing districts. Several other private lines are in operation in other parts of Macedonia. The cars in Government service are the Fiat, Benz, Renault, Itala, Ford, and Piccard-Pictet. The Fiat has so far been given the preference by the Hellenic Government for army purposes. Fore tires are plain and rear tires studded. Owing to the unsatisfactory state of the roads of the surrounding country and the rolling topography of Macedonia it is essential that motor vehicles for this market be durable and not of too light weight, and so far as cars for pleasure purposes are concerned, cheapness is a requisite. Under present circumstances only such vehicles as would have a commercial use would find a demand.

Trade Conditions.

"The best system of introducing goods of this class would be by sending large photographic prints for the use of agents, and catalogues published in the French language for general distribution. Terms of sale constitute an important factor. Until the present, European houses have been inclined to grant very liberal credit, but owing to the present business depression terms are now more stringent. Cash against documents, or part cash with order and balance against documents, are the customary arrangements at present. Salonika merchants prefer c.i.f. quotations. Too much care cannot be exerted in packing, as freight is subject to very rough handling before reaching Salonika."

THE CAIRO MOTOR CO., Ltd.
The Largest Motor Depot in the Near East.
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Head Office: RUE SOLIMAN PASHA, CAIRO, EGYPT.
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EGYPTIAN RAILWAY AFFAIRS

The Cairo correspondent of *The Railway Gazette*, writing on September 23, says:—

"There are probably few countries in the world, outside of the immediate area of the war, the trade of which has been so hard hit by the conflict, as Egypt. Import and export traffic has practically ceased, a state of affairs sharply reflected in the receipts of the different railway systems. Those of the State Railways and the Delta Light Railways have, these being the largest two concerns in the country, been most affected in point of magnitude of drop, though the pinch of the situation is being felt much more by the Fayoum Light Railway and the Basse Egypte Railway.

Increase in Fares.

"From the day before yesterday all State Railway passenger fares were increased by 10 per cent. in the first and second-classes, season ticket rates being similarly treated. Also all return tickets at reduced fares and cheap week-end tickets have been abolished. These new regulations are drastic, and there is considerable doubt among railwaymen locally as to whether any benefit in the way of increased revenue will accrue as a result.

Service Reduction.

"There has also, of course, been a considerable reduction in the train services on both main and branch lines. About half of the usual Cairo-Alexandra expresses have been cancelled, and one-third of the trains on the Pont Limoun-Mataria-Marg suburban line. The Cairo-Helouan Railway has halved its services, as have, more or less, the Delta Light Railways their services in Lower Egypt. The sleeping and restaurant car trains to Upper Egypt, with the Soudan connection, now run three times a week in either direction, leaving Cairo for Luxor on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and Luxor for the north on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays."

Prospects.

At present, continues the writer, there is great activity in connection with the movement of troops, and he concludes by saying:—"So far as prospects in Egypt are concerned, matters are now probably at their worst, and railway revenue will pick up gradually as trade tends to return to the normal. This, however, all depends upon the success of the arrangements now being made to finance the cotton crop which is ready for picking. If these mature, and the lint is transported as usual, the gain to the railways of the country will be appreciable. It is also very nearly time for the resumption of imports of coal, while flour and wheat also should shortly be coming in in large quantities, probably from India."

Up to the present 20 per cent. of the employees of the British Aluminium Co. have joined the King's Forces. Their places are being kept open and their dependants supported.

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P. O. B. 1095. Te'g.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

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Shipping Intelligence.

ENEMY SHIPS IN SUEZ CANAL.

The Press Bureau announced yesterday that his Majesty's Government have issued a notification in the following terms to the Representatives of Foreign Maritime Powers in London, and have asked them to communicate it to their Governments : —

"Since the outbreak of war certain ships of enemy countries have remained in the Suez Canal.

"Some of these vessels were detained by the Egyptian Government on account of hostile acts committed in the Canal; some because there was reason to apprehend that they contemplated hostile acts; others, though perfectly free, have refused to leave the Canal in spite of the offer of a free pass, thus disclosing their intention to use the ports of the Canal merely as ports of refuge, a measure which is not contemplated by the Suez Canal Convention.

"His Majesty's Government do not admit that the conventional right of free access to and use of the Canal enjoyed by merchant vessels implies any right to make use of the Canal and its ports of access for an indefinite time to escape capture, since the obvious result of permitting any such course must be greatly to incommode and even to block the use of the ports and Canal by other ships, and they are consequently of opinion that the Egyptian Government are fully justified in the steps which they are taking to remove from the Canal all enemy ships which have been long enough in the Canal ports to show clearly that they have no intention of departing in the ordinary way, and that they are putting the Canal and its ports to a use which is inconsistent with the use of the Canal in the ordinary way by other shipping."

Writing on October 5, our Port Said correspondent gave the following particulars concerning German and Austrian ships in the Canal:—

As there seems to be a misunderstanding in home shipping circles as to the position of the German and Austrian steamers in port here, it may be of interest to give the following particulars regarding these vessels, the majority of which have been here since the outbreak of war.

In the first place, the steamers, with one exception, are not prizes of war, or even forcibly detained. They remain in port of their own free will, and fly their countries' flags and their own house flags.

As long as the Suez Canal and its ports remain international these vessels are afforded the same protection as in a neutral port, but certain necessary measures have been taken by the Egyptian authorities to enforce the strict neutrality of the Canal, and to prevent wilful interruption of its traffic.

The one exception referred to is the North German Lloyd steamer "Derflinger," which has been temporarily disabled by the removal of her steam pipes.

The wireless apparatus of all these vessels is dismantled, but otherwise they are not interfered with.

A large proportion of their European and native crews has left, but the captains and some of the officers remain, and may be seen in solemn groups at the various cafés, seeking solace with large mugs of lager beer.

A host of inquiries has been received from British firms interested in cargo in these vessels, and for the information of such firms the following conditions are imposed by the captain and agents of the steamers :—

1. Payment of full amount of freight to destination (provided freight is not prepaid).
2. Surrender of complete sets of bills of lading.
3. All expenses incurred in discharging the cargo, and shifting other cargo if necessary to be borne by the receivers; also the cost of replacing cargo removed and cost of repairing any damage caused to other cargo during discharging operations.
4. An average deposit of 10 per cent. must be made on the value of the cargo taken and average bond signed.

There is considerable doubt as to the legality of Clauses 1 and 4, and the formidable array of charges specified in Clause 3, which the agents estimate will average about 5s. per ton, may be sensibly modified by combined action on the part of owners of cargo and their representatives here. Steps are being taken to form a syndicate, so that on the arrival of complete documents the discharging can be carried out with a minimum of delay and expense.

CYPRUS STEAMER SERVICE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Larnaca, September 28.

Now that the Mediterranean is clear of hostile ships and confidence has been restored, things appear much brighter than they did at the commencement of the war.

Khedivial Steamers.

Owing to many of the Khedivial steamers being required for the transport of the Indian troops, the only regular steamship service has been the weekly subsidized Government mail boat from Egypt, but once the transport work has been carried out it is hoped that the fortnightly line to Constantinople viâ Smyrna, will be resumed, which would enable exporters of raisins and lemons to get rid of their stock, which otherwise may be held up indefinitely, and it also provides an opportunity to passengers from the Syrian coast and Berout to reach Cyprus in a few hours instead of by the tedious and expensive route viâ Egypt.

Messageries Maritimes.

Hopes are also entertained that the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes company will be able to resume their service, now that they have re-commenced their line from Marseilles to Alexandria. Cyprus has always regretted the loss of the Italian steamers which, since the Turkish-Italian War, have ceased to call at the Island. The present moment would be an opportune one for them to resume their line to Cyprus viâ Rhodes, afterwards calling at Mersina and the Syrian coast.

S.S. "BELGIAN KING."

The steamer "Belgian King," which foundered shortly after leaving Trebizond for Constantinople, has had a long and varied career. She was built in 1881, and traded as a French liner for some years (says *The Mariner*), and was then bought by Mr. R. M. Hudson, of Sunderland. Under his ownership she "sailed the seven seas," being well known as the "Connemara." More recently, although still retaining her British registry, she has been trading between Constantinople and the Black Sea ports in the line managed by Mr. Gumuchdjian, of Constantinople.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Board of Trade are informed that the exportation from Cyprus of pack, saddle, and draught animals suitable for use in war to any place not being part of the British Empire is prohibited.

The National Bank of Egypt announces that it is about to issue banknotes for PT50 of a new design, which will circulate concurrently with those of the old design.

According to *L'Opinion*, Mr. Kantos, Inspector of the Greek Railways, Mr. Mouret, representing the Société des Batignolles, Mr. Masson, director of the works of construction, accompanied by Mr. Pizanis, chief of the engineering department, and by Mr. Aravandinos, Director of Public Works for Macedonia, left on October 5 to inspect the work of constructing the line Papoulia Ghidia between Papoulia and Plati. They intended subsequently to inspect the work on the branch line from the great bridge of the Vardar to Topsin.

During August 292,669 kilos of gum, valued at £8,546, were exported from the Sudan viâ Port Sudan.

By order of his Excellency the High Commissioner in Council, the Currency Commissioners of Cyprus are authorised to issue £5 and £1 notes to the maximum total value of £17,000 and £18,000, respectively.

Twenty-two Swedish steamers, totalling 31,836 tons, called at Malta in 1912-13, and six Swedish steamers were sighted off the island during day time.

Mr. Fred Swift, of Liscard, manager of the Ellerman Line of Steamships, died August 29 last, left £12,913 gross and £7,037 net.

Mr Henry Boutigny has acquired two Greek papers in Alexandria, the *Omonia* and *Tachydromos*. He recently acquired the *Ephimeris*, likewise an Alexandria Greek paper.

A daily express service between Constantinople and Budapest has been organised. It goes viâ Philippopolis and Rustchuk to Giurgevo, and links up with the Bucharest-Predeal service.

At the request of the Serbian authorities a conventional train service has been provided between Nish and Salonika, in addition to the ordinary train service.

The American Consul at Trebizond reports that merchant vessels of the belligerent Powers (exclusive of British bottoms) no longer stop at the port, and that the continuation of the Italian fortnightly service is also uncertain.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Railway Gazette* states that the Jaffa-Jerusalem line has stopped its services owing to lack of locomotive coal.

The Board of Trade are informed that in future no vessels will be allowed to enter the harbour of Mudros (Lemnos) by night.

Mr. Peter Bullough, J.P., has been elected a member of the council of the British Cotton Growing Association to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. A. H. Gill, J.P.

CAVALLA OCTROI.

H.M. Acting Consul-General at Salonica reports that, according to information received from the Acting Vice-Consul at Cavalla, octroi dues are levied in that town as follows :—

On all goods imported (with the undermentioned exceptions)—1 per cent. *ad valorem* (the value for octroi duty purposes being the invoice value of the goods plus Customs duty).

On sugar and coffee—½ per cent. *ad valorem* (the invoice value of the goods being taken as the basis of the assessment of the octroi duty).

On tobacco—50 lepta per bale.

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

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The Egyptian Loan.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 4.

The British Government's guarantee will enable the Egyptian Government to issue in London Treasury bonds to the value of £5,000,000. A further arrangement has been made according to which an amount of £3,000,000 will be placed at the disposal of the Egyptian Government in London against the securities of its Reserve Fund, which on April 1 this year amounted to £E4,500,000. Under these circumstances, the total amount that will be available to meet the temporary revenue deficiency and help more the crop will be £8,000,000.

The extra currency necessary locally for financing the cotton crop will be provided by means of an issue of bank notes secured by other Treasury Bills deposited in Egypt; the amount of these bills is never to exceed the figure of which the Government can dispose in London. As and when the local currency becomes redundant the Government will be able to withdraw notes from circulation against its drafts on London, and a proportionate amount of local Treasury Bills will be cancelled.

The bank notes will be issued by the National Bank of Egypt, which is now empowered to hold the above-mentioned local bills in guarantee of the extra issue, instead of, as is usual, having to hold part of the value of the notes in gold. The financing of the crop will be done by the National Bank of Egypt, entirely through the ordinary banking and commercial channels, and it should be clearly understood that, beyond arranging for the supply of extra funds, the Egyptian Government has nothing to do with the actual moving of the crop.

The Egyptian Government has published the following communiqué:—

The Egyptian Government will shortly issue Treasury bonds to the value of £E8,000,000, £E5,000,000 of which will be guaranteed by the British Government, and the balance by the Egyptian Government's reserve. The bonds will be redeemable from a period of three to six months, the latter being the maximum date, but are renewable if necessary. They will be issued in London and Cairo, preference being given to which of the two places is the more favourable, but as far as possible the decision of the Council of Ministers to issue five millions in London and three millions in Cairo will be carried out. In no case will the unit of eight millions be exceeded. The bonds issued in Cairo will be paid by the Government in National Bank notes, printed specially for the purpose; those issued in London will be paid in gold or notes of the same value.

The Egyptian Gazette of September 26 says:—"We understand that arrangements are being made between the Government and the National Bank which will settle the question of providing currency for moving the cotton crop. Pending the conclusion of these arrangements, the National Bank has already started making advances on cotton and other securities. In order that the funds now at their disposal may be as widely distributed as possible these advances will, for the present, be only on a small scale as far as each individual is concerned."

On October 3 the same journal adds:—"We are now in a position to state definitely that the Government is arranging to supply funds to the National Bank, which funds will be used for financing the crop.

EGYPTIAN PRIVILEGED AND UNIFIED DEBT.

The Egyptian Government announces:—

The coupons of the Privileged and Unified Debt, amounting to £E1,600,000, fall due on the 15th instant and November 1 next respectively, and this sum is ready for despatch to London and Paris at a suitable moment. However, once the Treasury bonds have been issued by the Bank of England the Egyptian Government will undertake to pay these coupons and will take delivery of the £1,600,000 deposited in the Caisse de la Detta.

EGYPTIAN MORATORIUM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 8.

As was anticipated, the general moratorium of commercial affairs, proclaimed on August 8 and extended from September 15 to October 1, has been further extended under the same conditions as the last extension until October 15. It is quite possible that on that date a final extension with more concessions to depositors, etc., will have to be granted till November 1, as the moratorium in regard to negotiable instruments proclaimed on August 4 does not expire until that date. Of course, the general position may permit of the cessation of the commercial affairs moratorium on October 15, but it would seem only logical that the smaller banks, who hold bills that cannot legally be cashed until November 1, and who, possibly, have not sufficient floating funds to pay deposits in full, should be afforded some protection in the meantime.

The moratorium for commercial affairs, expiring on October 15, has been extended to November 1. Cotton and cottonseed contracts are especially excluded, and the liquidation thereof in Alexandria, which was, says *The Times* Cairo correspondent, indefinitely postponed, is now fixed for October 31.

TURKISH MORATORIUM EXTENSION.

(Special to "The Near East.")

The following is an exclusive translation of the extension of the Turkish moratorium referred to in the last week's issue of The Near East:—

Article 1.—The payment of all debts, pecuniary liabilities, and deposits in banks payable on July 21/August 3, 1330/1914, date of the publication of the first law respecting the moratorium, and of such as have become due between that date and August 20/September 2, 1914, and which have been carried over to September 20/October 3, in accordance with the law of August 18/31, 1914, is delayed by three months from September 21/October 4, 1914.

Nevertheless, debtors are required to pay—apart from the instalment of 5 per cent. payable in accordance with Article 1 of the law of August 18/31, 1914, and which has not yet been paid—an instalment of 10 per cent. on their debts due, and half of this 10 per cent. is to be payable as from September 21/1330/October 4, 1914 and the remaining half as from November 1/14, 1330/1914.

Article 2.—Payments effected since the promulgation of the law of July 21/August 3, 1914, will be deducted from the above-mentioned instalment of 5 per cent. Nevertheless, creditors of joint-stock banks shall have the right to encash from such banks the sum of £T10 as from September 21/October 4, 1914, and a further amount of £T10 on or after November 1/14, 1914, no matter what withdrawals they may previously have made, and even if the 5 per cent. of their credit be less than the sum of £T10.

Article 3.—The maturity of the debts due between August 21/September 3, 1914, and September 20/October 3, 1914, and extended for a month in accordance with the decree of August 18/31, 1914, is likewise extended to December 21, 1914/January 3, 1915. Nevertheless, debtors must pay, apart from the instalment of 5 per cent. to be settled in accordance with the law of August 18/31, 1914, a second instalment of 5 per cent. one month after the falling due of the debts, and a third instalment of 5 per cent. two months after such due date.

Article 4.—As regards debts falling due within the first month from the date of application of this law, 5 per cent. is to be payable at the due date, 5 per cent. at one month later, and the balance to be extended to December 21, 1914/January 3, 1915.

Five per cent. of debts maturing in the course of the second month after the entry in force of this law is to be payable at maturity, and 5 per cent. one month later. The payment of the balance is adjourned to December 21, 1914/January 3, 1915.

As regards debts falling due during the third month after the date of application of this law, 5 per cent. is to be payable at the due date, and the balance carried over to December 21, 1914/January 3, 1915.

Article 5.—The provisions of Article 4 of the law of August 18/31, 1914, relating to interest are to remain in force.

Article 6.—In accordance with the laws on the moratorium protests on bills and commercial paper must be made within eight days of their due date. However, a decree of bankruptcy may not be pronounced against a debtor until fifteen days after the expiry of the delay fixed by these laws. A fresh protest may not be made on bills already protested.

Article 7.—The moratorium does not apply to debts due to the Public Treasury.

Article 8.—Persons having bank deposits and who owe the Public Treasury in respect to dues and taxes must give cheques drawn in the name of the officials of the Treasury. Banks must pay the whole of the amounts of such cheques without deducting them from the sums due* to the depositors. The deposits of the Eykaf and of the "Caisse dez Orphelins" are not subject to the moratorium.

Article 9.—Fifty per cent. of rent due per month is to be payable. Allowance to be made for payments made in accordance with the law of August 18/31, 1914.

Article 10.—The provisions of this law do not apply to debts, contracts, or engagements contracted or entered into since the promulgation of the law of August 18/31, 1914.

Article 11.—This law is to take effect as from September 21/October 4, 1914.

Article 12.—The Ministries of Justice and the Finance are entrusted with the carrying out of this law.

BULGARIAN 5 PER CENT. LOAN, 1914.

The following figures are from an official communiqué published recently by the Bulgarian Public Debt Administration in the *Echo de Paris*.

On July 20 the Diskonto Gesellschaft, as an advance on the Bulgarian 5 per cent. Loan, 1914, placed *en disponibilité* to the credit of the Bulgarian Government, the net sum of 53,500,000 francs, after having reserved, as per arrangement, the sums of 27,000,000 francs and 30,000,000 francs to cover respectively (1) Bulgaria's liabilities with the Banque d'Escompte and others at St. Petersburg and (2) sundry Vienna banks.

Out of the sum held *en disponibilité* the Diskonto Gesellschaft placed immediately to the credit of the National Bank of Bulgaria, to be paid over to the Bulgarian Treasury, the sum of 41,250,000 francs. The balance of 12,250,000 francs has been made use of by the Public Debt Administration to meet successive liabilities abroad, and still has to its credit with the Diskonto Gesellschaft the sum of 1,000,000 francs.

EGYPT'S FINANCES.

On October 7 a special supplement of the *Journal Officiel* was issued containing a statement of the revenue and expenditure from April 1 to August 31. The total revenue amounted to £E6,114,750, as against £E6,036,898 for the same period last year. The following table shows the main sources of revenue for the period for 1914 and 1913:—

	1914.		1913.
Land tax	1,331,483	..	1,444,410
Custom dues	772,143	..	768,549
Tobacco	739.605	..	681,930
Railways	1,407,305	..	1,412,304
Posts	128 744	..	1 6.415
Mixed courts	351,912	..	368,829

The total expenditure over the same period was £E7,540,786, as against £E8,043,790 for 1913. There had been hardly time by August 31 for the stringent economies being made by the Government to have had much effect. In the next statement, says *The Egyptian Mail*, of accounts we shall see a considerable change in this direction.

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* Under the Turkish Moratorium laws.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

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THE POSITION IN THE CITY.

(By Our City Editor.)

Re-opening the Stock Exchange.

There is much talk of reopening the Stock Exchange. But the bulk of the members are not sanguine. They believe that if the House reopened a flood of selling orders would bring about a complete *débâcle*. The dealers are not in a position to put stock upon their books, and the banks are not inclined to increase their advances. Indeed, some of the banks consider that they have loaned too much already.

Business Done.

A certain amount of business is done each day, but it is done under great difficulties, and no one can understand why the committee does not reopen a portion of the House unofficially and as a shelter. There is always a fair supply of buying orders whenever the news is good and the weather fine, but when it rains or when the outlook is gloomy not a bargain is done.

Bills v. Loan.

The Government succeeded in placing another batch of Treasury bills, but the rate was almost 3¾ per cent. There are now £86,600,000 outstanding, and the bulk of this money will have to be found in the first three months of 1915. It will be almost impossible for the Chancellor to continue borrowing upon short-dated bills. His revenue is falling away very rapidly, and his commitments increasing with each week the war continues. The banks cannot go on financing for ever. They like "floaters" in good times, but in days like the present they dare not lock up too much money unless they see a definite certainty of the bills being repaid at maturity. It is a thousand pities that a big War Loan was not made as soon as the war broke out. This could have been done if the terms of payment had been made easy and if the banks could have been provided with funds on less onerous terms than those exacted during the panic. Everyone lost their heads then, and the nation must now pay the penalty.

Brazilian Funding Scheme.

The Brazilian funding scheme issued by Rothschild's is clear and simple. It provides for the issue of £15,000,000 5 per cent. bonds which will be paid to the holders of Brazilian bonds in exchange for coupons. The smallest bonds are £20, but fractional certificates will be issued and will be saleable when the house reopens. The bonds will be secured as a second charge upon the Rio de Janeiro Customs. The scheme is similar to that adopted in 1898, and although it does not provide for the small investor who may have £100 bond, he can, at any rate, sell his fractional certificate, or buy more to make up the £20. Brazil only needs time and economy to put her finances in good order. She possesses immense natural wealth, but she is extravagant and unbusinesslike.

South American Rails.

The South American Railways are all doing badly. Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Central Uruguay, its extensions, and even the prosperous San Paulo, all issue bad reports and are compelled to reduce their dividends.

Armament Shares.

Armament shares have been dull. Most of the companies just manage to hold their quotations. That is the best that can be said. The Birmingham Small Arms are down to 53s. 6d. A very moderate price considering the large business now being done both in the armament and motor-car departments. These are working night and day. John Brown are called 27s. 6d., a rise of only 2s. 6d. since war began. Cammell Laird are £4 15s. ex div. Kynoch ordinary are a shade weaker at 11⅞. Vickers look cheap at 34s., for they made up at 35s. 3d. before the House closed, and the whole of the vast works are working continuously on splendid contracts. Armstrongs are actually 38s. 6d. ex div., which makes them appear cheap as compared with the pre-war price of 40s. Those who have any spare money to invest can hardly go wrong in buying armament shares to-day.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Company.

The Egyptian share market is quite dead, and I cannot find any real business in any direction. The arrangements made by the British Government would appear to be most satisfactory. But naturally the demand for cotton has fallen away, and the fellaheen will feel the pinch severely. The one bright spot in Egypt is the very satisfactory developments at Hurgada. The Anglo-Egyptian Oil Company struck a big well, which gave 6,000 tons in a single week. That well has now been got under control, and further wells are likely to be brought in soon. The public does not seem to realise what the large Hurgada output means. It proves an immense oil-bearing area, as anyone who looks at the map can see. It means that the Anglo-Egyptian, after many disappointments, can now rely upon a big output, steadily increasing. The shares are very cheap at 11s., a purely nominal price. There are many buyers about, and hardly any sellers. Shells have the largest interest in Anglo-Egyptians. They must be finding great difficulty in securing supplies, as neither Russia nor Roumania can now export oil, and they have to rely upon their Far East fields. In Mexico and California reports from the oilfields speak of great depression.

DEUTSCHE ORIENT BANK.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 4.

It is generally wondered whether the Deutsch Orient Bank will open its doors when the moratoria are declared at an end. One of its managers has been allowed to proceed to Europe to arrange for funds, but under the circumstances his mission would appear to have not much chance of success.

THE PRIVILEGED CURRANT COMPANY.

Extracts from Messrs. Burlumi's Report.

The Privileged Currant Company received during the season in their warrant stores 10,500 tons of currants, of which 9,000 tons have been withdrawn and 1,500 tons have been carried over to the new season. They have bought for wine-making a quantity of fresh currants equivalent to about 9,000 tons of dried fruit. No dried fruit had been offered to the company by the growers for sale, as the market prices were higher than the convention limits before war had been declared. On the declaration of war the company's obligation to buy the surplus currants was suspended, as stated below, and the 1,500 tons of currants, on warrant, together with about 2,500 tons in private hands have been brought over to the new currant year. In their retention stores the company received 23,000 tons, making 38,000 tons with the balance brought over from the previous season. The land tax in kind on 180 millions of Venetian pounds exported has absorbed 30,000 tons, and the balance of 8,000 tons, represented by retention certificates in circulation, has been carried forward to the new season. The retention currants and the fresh fruit purchased by the company have been sold as usual to the Wine and Spirits Company and to local distillers. The total quantity of fresh and dried currants used for industrial purposes in Greece during the season has been 66,000 tons against 59,000 tons in 1912-13, and 46,500 tons in 1911-12. The stock of retention currants in Greece was, at the end of August, about 25,000 tons, against 50,000 tons at the same time last year.

The Privileged Company distributed to its ordinary shareholders a dividend of 4 per cent. for the year ended August 22, 1913, and the chairman of the board stated lately to a deputation of shareholders that the balance-sheet for the year ended August 22, 1914, shows profits sufficient to pay the whole statutory dividend of 6 per cent. The Wine and Spirits Company have paid 13 per cent. for the year 1913, and an interim dividend of 5 per cent. for 1914.

The declaration of the European war, and the unsettled political situation in the Balkans gave rise to serious apprehensions both to the Board of the Privileged Company and to the Greek Government. A panic might ensue amongst the currant growers, who would then naturally offer most if not all of their new crop to the company for sale on the terms of the convention, an obligation which the company could not possibly find the money to meet. To avoid such a catastrophe the Government consented to grant the company a sort of moratorium suspending the operations of certain clauses of the convention, and notably those binding the company to purchase currants and retention certificates. A legislative Royal Decree was issued to that effect on August 15. The obligation of the company to advance money on currants deposited with the company on warrants was modified by the reduction of such advance to drachmas 45, 50, and 55 per thousand Venetian pounds, according to the categories of quality specified in Article 10 of the original convention. The force of the decree, which is subject to parliamentary sanction, was to terminate on October 13, but it has, of course, been prolonged by a new decree, and it will be further prolonged as the case may require. By another Royal Decree the land tax on the currants exported after October 8 has been raised by 15 per cent. This additional retention is for account of the Treasury, in part payment of war risks and other outlays undertaken by the State for the benefit and protection of national products, and for facilitating their export to the foreign countries of consumption. To limit any possible rise in the price of currants by this additional restriction of the exportable supplies, the decree empowers and enjoins the Privileged Company to sell to the trade for export retention currants at 145 drachmas per thousand Venetian pounds, equal at the present price of retention and exchange to 22s. per cwt. c.i.f. London in quarter cases. The retention currants produced by the additional tax of 15 per cent. cannot be used for any other purpose except for the production of alcohol, and this alcohol cannot be sold for home consumption. The land tax in kind has been collected at the rate of 40 per cent. on the fruit of the Ionian Islands and at 35 per cent. on all the rest, up to October 8, and it is being collected at 55 and 50 per cent. respectively after that date.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Roumanian.—Week ended October 10, 307 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week 1,600 tons (previous week 1,590 tons), Hurgada 6,020 tons (previous week 240 tons).

Egyptian Markets.—Week ending October 9, £649 (decrease, £116); aggregate to date, £36,756 (decrease, £1,831).

Egyptian Delta Light Railway.—Receipts for the ten days ended September 20 amounted to £E3,665, a decrease of £E3,246 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Egyptian Markets.—In view of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in Europe and Egypt, the directors have decided to postpone the payment of the usual interim dividend on the ordinary shares.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—Receipts for week ended October 17 amounted to £10,198, a decrease of £1,802 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Piræus-Athens Peloponnesus Railway.—Receipts for the month of August amounted to 612,473 drs. (decrease 203,751 drs.); aggregate from January 1, 5,358,864 drs. (increase 247,628 drs.).

Suez Canal.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 18th inst. amounted to 90,000 frs., against 500,000 frs. last year.

Thomas Cook and Son (Egypt).—The coupon due November 1 next on the Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures will be paid by the London County and Westminster Bank, Temple Bar branch, on and after November 2.

The London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company announce that as from October 19 their London office address will be 155, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Their old premises in King William Street have long since been outgrown, and the new building in Leadenhall Street will permit of the concentration of the staff, many members of which had been housed in temporary premises.

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 182.—Vol. VII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1914.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The fighting in Flanders—the Battle of the Road to Calais, as it has been termed—has been of such a nature as to resemble, in places, a butchery. Numbers of raw levies have been thrown against trained British and Allied troops. They have been slaughtered in droves. Soldiers of the first line, the best men that Germany could produce, had been unable to break or obliterate the Allied line stretching from the mouth of the Yser in Belgium to Arras in France. It was a hopeless enterprise to hurl forward second and third-rate troops for the purpose of accomplishing what the others had been unable to do. Something seems to be lacking in the German system. The Osmanli Sultans in the old days used to exhaust their foes by driving up second line troops to the first assault. The Janissaries followed, and, matchless in their freshness and discipline, gave the *coup de grâce* to a wearied enemy. The Germans appear to have reversed the process and to have exhausted their Janissaries before bringing up their *Kanonenfutter*. The result of this strategy is apparent; they have been unable to reach Calais, and, at the moment of writing, the line of battle, which has swayed backwards and forwards across some twenty miles of country, is in a less favourable position for them than was the case some days ago.

In connection with this fighting, which, at a grievous price to the Allies, has yielded a mighty harvest for the Valkyries and the Valhalla which our enemies in their almost Pagan pride have revived in their ideals, it is with the greatest pleasure that we can regard the achievements of our Indian brothers-in-arms. At one time critics were not wanting to assert that the Native Army would never stand shell-fire, would never face white troops, and that it was a form of folly akin to madness to reckon upon Sepoys as a factor in a European campaign. The fears of the alarmists were wholly unfounded. The Indian troops treated shell-fire as a form of evil, perhaps, but with a fine contempt. So far from Sikhs and Gurkhas being unable to face white troops, it was the white troops who fled before the Native infantry. The upstart pride of Germany was not strong enough to hearten her sons to the pitch of exposing the fronts of their Hunnish hides to the immemorial steel of militant Asia. In the China expedition the Teutons were taught to look upon Indian troops as "coolies," and to think and speak of them as "niggers." Part of that insult has now been wiped out in blood, and the legions of the War Lord have done little in the process to persuade their new adversaries that they were mistaken in believing that the Germans are "Sweepers" and no Sahibs. If the Germans have made no progress in Flanders, and it is difficult to learn exactly what is happening along the Aisne and on the upper waters of the Meuse, it is at least satisfactory to gather from French official statements that the invaders have been driven clean out of French Lorraine. Hitherto the Allies have had no occasion to make use of their siege trains against a German fortress, and the enemy has been able to build a fine reputation upon the invincibility of his attacks on permanent works in France or Belgium. Now, however, the position of the French is such that an attack on Metz is no longer a dream of the distant future.

In the Polish theatre of war the great advance which was to have secured Warsaw as winter quarters for the German Army and Poland as a new realm for the Saxon King has completely failed. Even the attempt to make the middle Vistula a bulwark against the Russians has collapsed in disaster and retreat. The Russians have thrown back the invaders from the neighbourhood of the Polish capital, and the latest news to hand indicates that they have cut the main German line of communication with the base at Breslau by capturing Lodz, more than seventy miles from Warsaw, and with it the control of the railway. Just at present the autumn rains, coupled with the unaccustomed traffic, have so impaired the value of the Polish roads that the loss of so important a railway must be a more serious blow to the Germans in that quarter than would be the destruction or surrender of an army corps. If all that we hear about events in Poland be true, the retreat from Warsaw may well rival that from Moscow as one of the great military disasters of history.

In Galicia the unhappy Austrians have failed to relieve beleaguered Przemysl, although apparently they now wage war under the personal direction of German strategists and the supreme command of the German Emperor. That the successor of the Cæsars should be so humbled as to be compelled to allow his troops to

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fight at the dictation of the heir of the Margraves of Brandenburg is, from historical reasons, more bitter than the defeats in Lombardy or the disaster at Sadowa. The Austrian Empire had always bid fair to go proudly to meet any doom which Heaven might decree against it—if it went down before Napoleon, it at least sank with colours flying—Austrian and *schwartz-gelb* to the end. Now it appears that the Hapsburg Dynasty may pass into the night of history as the henchman of the Hohenzollern. The subordination of cholera-stricken Vienna to Berlin, of Austria to Prussia, is the servitude of a conquered country, not the proud co-operation of an ally.

The progress of the Bosnian campaign seems to indicate that the Serb kingdoms have almost fought themselves to a standstill. Courage and enterprise are not lacking, but fighting men must now be few, and the material of war is sadly worn by excess of service. The fighting, we know, has been desperate, and the measure of Serbia's success has been already greater than could well have been expected even by her warmest friends. For so small a State it is a magnificent achievement to have rid her territory of a formidable and, at first sight, almost overwhelming invasion, and to have repulsed for weeks every attempt on the part of a vastly more numerous enemy to reverse the earlier verdicts of the campaign. But we must not expect the Serbian Army to maintain the uneven combat indefinitely. There are times when the quill of a Foreign Secretary can do more to achieve a victory than the bayonets of an army corps, and such a moment is now at hand. The Government at Nish has it in its power to deal a shrewder blow to the Kaiserlichs with pen and paper than is now in the power of the General Staff at Valjevo with the remnant of its war-worn army.

"With the Powers at bay the Porte will play." At least that appears to be the current Ottoman misquotation of the proverb. The Capitulations have been "abolished," the Consular post offices wound up and now we learn that the famous scheme for the better government of the Six Vilayets in Turkish Armenia has been annulled. More than that, Turkish soldiers in uniform, repining possibly over the recently accomplished demarcation of the Turco-Persian frontier, have invaded Azerbaijan and done their best to lay it waste. The Russian troops in that Persian province once more justified their presence in Urumia by restoring order, in which process they killed at least three Ottoman regulars as well as a number of Kurdish auxiliaries. We are fully aware that from time immemorial the existence of a frontier has been an irritant to a Kurd's pride rather than a check upon his action, and no one will seek to make a diplomatic mountain out of a frontier molehill. Still, the presence of Ottoman regulars among the raiders is disquieting, if only as being indicative of the general spirit which seems at the moment to sway the politicians of Stamboul.

The action of the Porte is not limited to these instances of its newly revived aggressiveness. We understand that submarine mines are being transported by way of the Hejaz railway for ultimate immersion in the Red Sea. When pious Moslems subscribed throughout the whole Dar-ul-Islam towards the expenses of building that railway for the benefit of pilgrims to and from Mecca they little thought that it would be put to such uses. In any case it is not to be wondered at if, in such circumstances, we should have taken a necessary precaution in sending a vessel to remove British residents from Baghdad, and in retaining a warship at Mohammerah, in spite of inspired Turkish protests. Whether there is any truth in the statement that an Ottoman Mission has set out for Kabul to plead the German cause in the ear of his Majesty Habib-Ullah Khan is at present doubtful; if there is not it will not be from any lack of will to undertake such an enterprise.

The fitness of the Ottoman Navy for war depends upon its steaming as well as its fighting capacity. If Germans have been introduced to improve the latter, our Constantinople correspondent points out that in the former the Turkish Fleet is not so fortunate. It appears that steam-coal is even now lacking, and is likely to be almost unobtainable in the near future. Men, gold, even aeroplanes in parts and submarines in sections, can come by rail to Turkey if neutral neighbours feel inclined to interpret their neutrality in a favourable sense, but coal is quite another matter by reason of its bulk. The expense of moving coal across half Europe by rail and river is considerable, moreover, the supply at the disposal of the Teutonic Powers is almost as limited as is the carrying capacity of the only available railway.

The offer of the Roumanian Prime Minister to resign fluttered many a journalistic dovecote, but the offer, possibly purely formal in view of the change of Sovereign, has had no political consequences, and has led to no reconstruction of the Cabinet. It is indeed difficult to understand why it should have done so. The parliamentary situation is not so precarious that the existing Ministry would be eager to sacrifice some of its members in order to win the support of the Opposition by the distribution of their portfolios. The majority of which Mr. Bratiano enjoys the support in the Lower House is immense, and the traditions alike of his family and his party are to stand on their own feet and eschew expensive and unsatisfactory political entanglements in party politics. As a result Roumania stands where she stood. A certain nervousness about the Danube restrains her for the moment from looking beyond the Carpathians, but it is possible that with goodwill the memories of Bucharest in 1913 may be so far obliterated as to permit King Ferdinand to think of Ardeal without having at the same time to observe his namesake to the south.

If to be feared is an attribute of national greatness, then Bulgaria has recovered much of the prestige which she enjoyed before the Second Balkan War. On the one hand we hear that the Turks are afraid to join the Teutonic Powers unless they provide a comparatively formidable force to protect the Thracian frontier against the victors of Lule Burgas; on the other, it is asserted that Roumania is still nervous about plunging into war as an ally of the Powers of the Triple Entente for fear the Bulgarians might seek to revise the Treaty of Bucharest *vi et armis*. These apprehensions are mutually irreconcilable, but there must be something peculiarly menacing in the quality of the neutrality of Bulgaria if it can exercise so considerable an influence on the divergent policies of her neighbours. Serbia alone pays no heed to the susceptibilities of Sofia, and in that, as we point out in another place, we believe that she consults the best interests neither of her Allies nor of her own future.

The action of the Powers of the Triple Entente in requesting the Egyptian Government to remove the German shipping which was cumbering the ports of access to the Suez Canal was, in spite of the "neutrality" of the Canal, an act foreseen and provided for in the Convention of Constantinople which governs the status of the Canal. That instrument, having prescribed the neutrality of the great highway of commerce, very wisely details the method whereby that neutrality may be enforced and the Canal kept clear of warfare and its effects in order that commerce may not suffer. Sheltering under the neutrality of the Canal certain German ships remained at Port Said, and apparently intended so to do indefinitely. The fact that Egypt was at war had no bearing on the case, but the fact that these vessels misused the Canal, built for transit only, as a port of refuge from the war raging outside was in itself, if not a breach of neutrality, at least an act likely to interfere with the free passage of other ships through the Canal. As such it was resented, and the Egyptian Government, as the internationally appointed policeman of the Canal, has "moved on" some maritime undesirables. They doubtless paid the penalty of their nationality when once they were beyond the three-mile limit, but that is another story, and has nothing to do with the neutrality of the Suez Canal. The fact remains

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that the Canal was built for the transit of ships, and objection has very properly been taken to an attempt to turn it into a dock for laying up ships for an indefinite period.

The action of the Hellenic Government in announcing its intention of reoccupying Southern Albania was to be expected. Observers of Albanian affairs considered that such a step was the inevitable consequence of the election of Burhan-ed-Din Mpret and the resumption of power by Essad Pasha Toptan. It is indeed logical. Greece withdrew from South Albania at the request of the six Powers who had made themselves responsible for the formation and future of the Albanian State. The Epirote insurgents, officially discouraged from Athens, although they enjoyed the countenance of the Hellenic world, agreed to become Albanian subjects inasmuch as the Prince was a Christian and the six Powers would permit neither their union with Greece nor their independent existence. Wide privileges tending to the maintenance of their racial and religious separatism were guaranteed by the Convention of Corfu and everyone hoped for the best under the joint rule of the German Mpret and the International Commissioners of Control. These dreams vanished at the rude awakening which followed the vigorous propaganda of the Young Turks in favour of the establishment of a Moslem Mpret, and the unceasing rivalries of Italy and Austria-Hungary, who, in seeking to shape Albania to their own ends, undermined any authority which the Prince might have enjoyed had he been left to himself.

Now the Christian Mpret, like James II., has abdicated the throne by withdrawing himself from his realm, and a Moslem Grand Vizier reigns in the name of a Moslem successor. That alone is enough to inflame the scarcely reconciled Epirotes of Southern Albania into renewed activity. There has been plenty of fighting and raiding, and the re-occupation of the country up to the Gramala Line will at least put an end to civil war in those regions. It will also irritate the Italians. The reoccupation is announced as being temporary, but it will probably last until the end of the war, and it is highly probable that Europe, when faced with a *fait accompli* will, when the time for settlement comes, wash its hands of Epirus and regularize the action of the Government of Athens in return for some territorial concession elsewhere which may then be useful for assuaging the ambitions of another state which may be deserving well of Europe at the time. The Moslem Monarchy may establish itself in the north, and if Albania has finally to acquiesce in the loss of her Southern Provinces she can truly set them down as the price paid for Italian and Young Turk support in getting rid of her German dynasty.

The State trial at Serajevo has ended, as was to be expected, in a verdict of guilty against no less than sixteen of the defendants. The methods of the prosecution in Austro-Hungarian State trials of Jugoslavs have sometimes been curious, but in this case, as no political end could any longer be served, there is no reason to question the justice of the decision arrived at. The actual murderers of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and of the Duchess of Hohenberg, being under age, have escaped the death penalty, which will be inflicted on five of the conspirators—and have been sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude. Murder is murder all the world over, and it is to be hoped that political considerations will not in the future be invoked on behalf of these assassins on the plea that they were tyrannicides, not murderers.

CONSTANTINOPLE LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, October 11.

Marking Time.

There has been no great change in the situation during the past week. The Fleet continues to pay short visits to the Black Sea; the Army, thanks to continued requisitions, is being gradually supplied with what it requires—and its requirements are considerable—and the Government seems inclined to mark time, and if possible obtain concessions from belligerent states. It is said, though it is difficult as yet to guarantee the truth of this statement, that the Porte has decided to reply to the British Government's representations concerning the concentration of the 8th Army Corps on the Egyptian border that Turkey, having certain rights and interests to defend in Egypt, cannot withdraw its forces from the proximity of the frontier without concessions. Whether the Foreign Office is in a humour to submit to *chantage* of the nature indicated and whether the Porte has really taken this decision will be seen in a few days' time. For the rest, it need only be said that the retreat of the Russian armies towards the Vistula is interpreted here as a great success for the German arms, and that the Germanophiles have gained ground through the capture of Antwerp, which has produced a great impression in military circles here. Otherwise there is no great change for better or for worse.

An Unsatisfactory Situation.

The South of Anatolia has been devastated by a disastrous earthquake, which has wrecked the towns of Isbarta and Burdur and caused the death of at least 4,000 persons. Ismail Djumbalat Bey and other prominent officials have been sent to the affected area to undertake relief operations. The situation in Thrace is, from the economic point of view, most unsatisfactory. The whole adult population from twenty to forty-five years of age has been called out, with the exception of the *muhadjirs*, and nearly all the horses, ploughing and draught oxen, buffaloes, and mules have been requisitioned, with great quantities of supplies. In some cases, according to certain Europeans, even seed corn has been requisitioned. Here, too, commerce is at a standstill, and prices are high. Sugar especially is scarce.

Coal and the Navy.

The available coal supply is estimated at most as 15,000 tons of steam coal and the 150 tons per diem of Eregli coal, which is being mined under difficulties, the majority of the labourers employed there having been conscripted. Whether it will be possible to keep up even this supply as long as gold is tight and labour scarce is doubted in some quarters. In any case the operations of the Ottoman Fleet, should it undertake any, are likely to be seriously hampered for want of coal. The "Goeben," German officers and all, cannot do more than 15 knots on Eregli coal, and the "Breslau's" speed will be reduced by 50 per cent. if she is compelled to fall back on this source of supply, while Germany and Austria cannot send any large quantities of steam coal here by rail.

Press Puerilities.

The Press continues to spread the most extraordinary stories concerning the war and kindred matters. Thus we are gravely informed that only 1,000 Indian soldiers have reached Egypt, and they are, so a local sheet informs us, of such delicate constitution that they fall fainting on parade. Furthermore we are told that the Russian

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Black Sea fleet may be expected to mutiny at any moment, in consequence, we may suppose, of the burning of Odessa by revolutionaries. It is certainly a singular thing that the many British, French, Russian, and even German travellers who have passed through here from Odessa of late should continue, with crass obstinacy, to deny the truth of the Gospel according to Wolff.

The Dardanelles.

The Porte has thus far given no sign as to its intentions with regard to the Dardanelles, which remain closed. The principal Allied Powers are not in the least likely to accept the six miles limit suggested by the Sublime Porte in a recent note, nor will they withdraw their squadrons from outside the Dardanelles as long as a single German officer remains on board the Turkish fleet. Letters and imports now reach us through Dedeagatch—Kuleli Burgas, while German and Austrian mails, with artillery and occasional officers, come by way of Sofia and Adrianople. It is too early yet to form any opinion as to the workings of the Post Office as regards foreign mails. If Oskian Effendi has a free hand there is nothing to fear, but one dreads the "Cabinet Noir" and the military Censors.

The Turks' Neighbours.

The death of King Carol of Roumania is the subject of much comment in Turkey, where the deceased monarch, despite the part he played at Plevna, has always been regarded with respect. It is, however, thought here that the Roumanian Government will not alter its policy for the present, but will mark time for months yet, hoping to obtain all it wants without having to fight. Fear of Bulgaria is also given as a reason for the recent "deconcentration" of numerous classes of reservists. In Bulgaria, in spite of the concentration of imposing Turkish forces in Thrace, less than 40,000 men are actually under arms. News from Macedonia gives the impression that the Serbs, though capable of defending their country with success, are too exhausted to undertake an offensive campaign with much vigour. Their losses have been heavy, as have those of their opponents.

The Greek population of Eregli has "emigrated of its own free will." The Metropolitans of Smyrna and Ephesus have been also induced to emigrate to Constantinople by His Excellency Rahmy Bey, Vali of Smyrna.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE VOLUNTEERS.

In the following list are given the names, with their ranks and regiments, of the Constantinople Volunteers:

Thomas Atkinson, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
Sydney Bond, Trooper, Royal Horse Guards.
A. Warden Baker, Lieutenant, 7th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers.
G. Brooks, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
R. Bond, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
H. H. Binns, Driver, Royal Field Artillery.
Alfred Cuming, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
Isaac E. Colley, Trooper, Royal Horse Guards.
J. Crawford, Private, 7th Battalion City of London Fusiliers.
C. T. Davidson, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.
F. Fromant, Private, Grenadier Guards.
J. Higgs, Carabineer, 6th Dragoon Guards.
H. A. Keyser, Private, 7th Battalion City of London Fusiliers.
Hugh La Fontaine, Private, 7th Battalion City of London Fusiliers.
C. G. Michen, Royal Field Artillery.
G. Parker, Trooper, Royal Horse Guards.
T. Trenter, Trooper, Royal Horse Guards.
Arthur Whittall, Private, 7th Battalion City of London Fusiliers.
K. E. Whittall, Private, 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.
Roland W. Whittall, Private, 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.
C. Gont, 2nd Lieutenant, King's Oown Yorkshire Light Infantry.
G. M. Atkinson, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery.

Messrs. N. Cumberbatch, A. Duckering, and W. Hume have also left Constantinople, but the correspondent who forwards us the list has not yet received information as to the units to which they are attached.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, October 10.

Increasing Sympathy for Britain.

Considerable satisfaction seems to have been caused by the intervention of the British Government in the arrangement made by the Egyptian Government for the settlement of the impending financial crisis. The Council of Ministers requested the Prime Minister to convey through the British Agency the Egyptian Government's sincere thanks, and H.E. Rushdi accordingly called on Mr. Cheetham this week for this purpose. Turkey's military and other activities are attracting no little attention in the vernacular Press, which has adopted a most satisfactory attitude. Papers of such varying politics as *El Mokattan*, *El Moayad*, *El Ahram*, and *El Misr* proclaim as with one voice their recommendation that Turkey shall maintain her neutrality, and shall do nothing that might affect the friendly relations that exist between England and the Porte. In fact, the swing of the pendulum to which reference has been made in my last few letters has steadily continued in the direction of sympathy with Great Britain, and the Egyptian Moslems have evidently seen the wisdom of falling into line with their co-religionists in other parts of the world. Such being the case, *El Moayad* is right in considering the gift from the Egyptian Red Crescent to the British Red Cross "as a symbol of harmony between Islam and Egypt . . . and as a deed crowning the many manifestations of loyalty shown by the Egyptian nation towards England in these days."

During the past few days, as chance would have it, I have come into contact with a number of native officers, some permanently in Cairo and some on leave from the Sudan. One and all are keenly disappointed that their offer to serve side by side with British troops at the front has not been accepted. It has been in vain that the authorities have pointed out the peculiar difficulties that lie in the way of an acceptance of such services outside Egypt and the Sudan; they all persist in their request, which it would appear is prompted by a desire to testify to their friendship for England and also to give complete contradiction to the statements circulated as to the loyalty of the Egyptian Army.

We have been amused out here, and at the same time not a little annoyed, by the exaggerated and in many instances wholly untrue accounts that have appeared in Europe as to the situation in and around Egypt. Our annoyance has been concentrated on certain Home papers that should have known better; whilst our amusement has been derived from the German and Austrian Press, which has pictured Egypt in a seething state of unrest, and has reported divers acts of violence committed by the unemployed mob and the rebellious natives! The latter is, of course, but part and parcel of the German publicity programme, and consequently its continuation must be expected, but the offenders in the Home Press—and also certain individuals nearer at hand—should bear in mind that the exportation of irresponsible rumour is no less reprehensible than the propagation of designedly untrue versions of occurrences which they have been foremost in condemning in our German foes.

The Mixed Courts.

The Government has come to a definite decision as to the treatment to be meted out to the German and Austrian judges of the Mixed Courts and the Commissioners of the same nationality on the Public Debt Commission. It may be remembered that in recent letters I reported that German and Austrian Government officials were either being treated as having resigned, if they had not returned from leave, or were being gradually put on pension or otherwise dismissed; while their services were retained in some few cases, in positions where no harm could be done. The German and Austrian judges and Public Debt Commissioners are being dealt with on a much handsomer scale. The former are being granted leave of absence until the expiration of their contracts at the end of January next, and the latter for an indefinite period, all of them on

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full pay. Although no official explanation has been given, it is understood that the reason for this exceptional treatment is the fact that these functionaries were nominated to their present posts by their respective Governments, though why, in existing circumstances, that should be an argument for preferential treatment is not quite clear.

It is to be noted that the date of the expiration of the Mixed Court judges' contracts is that of the completion of the quinquennial period for which the Tribunaux de la Reforme were renewed in 1910. As yet no negotiations have been opened up with the Powers for a further extension. Usually pourparlers are started much earlier than this owing to the necessity of obtaining the consent of the various Chancelleries to the reforms that the Egyptian Government wants to introduce from time to time. This year there were no such questions outstanding, and it was understood that the diplomatic negotiations were to be taken up this month. The present European situation has no doubt prevented action being taken, and it would not be at all surprising if when the negotiations are actually opened up a somewhat different basis of discussion is found to be submitted.

The Legislative Assembly.

According to the new Organic Law promulgated on July 21, 1913, the Legislative Assembly has to meet on November 1 every year, and the first session, which came to an end in June last, was prorogued until that date. This year November 1 falls in the middle of the Feast of Courban Bairam, so a postponement must take place. In view of the existing exceptional circumstances it is understood that the decree ordering the postponement will not for the opening of the second session until January 1, or perhaps later.

CAIRO, October 17.

The Holy Carpet.

The ceremony of the handing over of the Holy Carpet to the Emir-el-Haj took place on Monday amid the usual festivities, and by now the Mahmal is well on its way to, if it has not already reached, Jeddah en route for Mecca, where it should arrive about the 27th inst., in time for the celebration of the Feast of Courban Bairam. The Government's circular and the exaction of a heavy deposit have evidently had the desired effect; for although no actual figures have been published, it is understood that practically no one has applied for permission to proceed to the Hejaz. The restriction imposed this year will be beneficial, for while minimizing the risk of epidemics being introduced by returning pilgrims, it will relieve the Egyptian Government from the usual heavy expenditure in connection with the quarantine precautions. The news that cholera —presumably of the Asiatic type—is spreading in Galicia, and that a bad outbreak of typhoid is reported from Constantinople, seems to indicate that the above-mentioned economy effected by the Egyptian Government will be but a temporary one, since if, as is quite likely under war conditions, a cholera epidemic breaks out in Central Europe, more stringent quarantine regulations will have to be introduced on our Mediterranean seaboard. We in Egypt view the future, in so far as an epidemic in Europe affects us locally, with perfect equanimity; for the International Quarantine Board at Alexandria has such an efficient organization that there is little likelihood of the epidemic, whatever its nature, spreading to this country. During years when cholera and plague have raged at our very doors Dr. Ruffer and his able staff have kept us absolutely immune; and Egypt, if the worst happens in the West, should be one of the safest countries in which to reside during such a crisis.

German Intrigues in Egypt.

The ungrateful manner in which the leniency of the Egyptian Government towards German residents has been repaid is illustrated by the following case, the details of which, although known to a privileged few, have only just been made public. It appears that shortly after war broke out a German member of the Alexandria Police Force, named Mors, obtained leave to proceed to his native country—it is understood on full pay for the period of ordinary leave to which he was entitled under the regulations. On September 19 he suddenly returned to Alexandria viâ Constantinople, his explanation being that he had been rejected as unfit by the German military authorities. On the face of it his story appeared highly suspicious, as he certainly had not the appearance of a sick or delicate man, and his chiefs decided to place him under arrest. In the course of the subsequent search that took place, he was found to be in possession of incriminating plans and documents, and to have brought over with him a certain quantity of explosive material. A very extensive and careful inquiry has been made into this case, and although no information is available for publication as to what Mors' intentions were, there appears to be no doubt as to its serious nature, since he is to be tried before a British military court very shortly.

This is but one illustration of the cases of German espionage and suspicious actions that have come to the notice of and been handled by the authorities of late. The German and Austrian residents have been heard to complain of the order forcing them to register and of the subsequent placing out of bounds of many of the bars, restaurants, and other places of resort owned by subjects of those nationalities; they should, however, address their recriminations to those of their fellow countrymen who, like Mors, have by their actions been in the main responsible for the change in the attitude of the authorities towards enemy-subjects in Egypt.

The "Terriers."

Ever since its arrival the Territorial garrison has been hard at it, training and taking full advantage of the exceptional opportunities which Egypt offers for that purpose. The men are as keen as anything on their work, and are shaping exceedingly well. Those who have watched them are quite surprised at their progress, and on the almost daily occasion of their route-marches through the town many of us have mistaken them for "regulars," so smart has been their appearance.

In connection with the "Terriers" I may, perhaps, be pardoned if I draw attention to one not unimportant point. The free manner in which regular officers and men associate on the playing-fields without the slightest prejudice to discipline in barracks, on the parade ground, or on the field of battle has ever excited the envy and admiration of foreigners, who willingly admit that such things could not possibly be in their armies. The "Terriers" are now affording us a similar example, though from what one might call the opposite side of the medal and from a far more trying standpoint. Many of the rank and file come from the same social class as the officers; many of the latter but three months ago were calling the former by their nick-names on the cricket field, and were meeting at the same club table. To-day all that intercourse is at an end, and there has intervened the inexorable dividing line set up by military custom, which prohibits the meeting on equal terms of officers and rank and file or their frequentation of the same social institutions. At home or on the field of battle this barrier, owing to the surrounding circumstances, would not be felt, but out here in Egypt, where social amenities are the sole means of sweetening life, and constitute the only compensation for exile from family and friends, it is bound to touch those most concerned very closely. It is, indeed, but in keeping with the traditional British character that not a murmur is to be heard from those to whom the lines have not fallen in such pleasant places as to their comrades, and that an exceedingly strong spirit of discipline pervades all ranks. Nevertheless I feel that tribute should in this respect be paid to the "Terriers" now in Egypt.

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THE LAW AND STATUS OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

On October 29, 1888, Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey signed the Convention of Constantinople, which was ratified on December 22 of the same year. This defined the international status of what had hitherto been regulated as a purely domestic affair between the Sultan and his Egyptian vassal. The first Article prescribes that the Canal

> . . . sera toujours libre et ouvert, en temps de guerre comme en temps de paix, à tout navire de commerce ou de guerre, sans distinction de pavillon. En conséquence, les Hautes Parties Contractantes conviennent de porter aucune atteinte au libre usage du canal en temps de guerre comme en temps de paix. Le canal ne sera jamais assujetti à l'exercise du droit de blocus.

The next two Articles refer to the Sweet Water Canal, which is equally exempted from the area of possible hostilities. In Article IV. it is laid down that as the Canal is to be open for traffic, even in time of war

> . . . aucun droit de guerre, aucun acte d'hostilité, ou aucun acte ayant pour but d'entraver la libre navigation du canal ne pourra être exercé dans le canal et ses ports d'accès, ainsi que dans un rayon de 3 milles marins de ces ports, alors même que l'Empire Ottoman serait l'une des Puissances belligérents. . . .

The Article concludes with provisions governing the use of the Canal by belligerent warships, which are to pass through the Canal as fast as is permitted by the ordinary regulations and may not remain in either of the ports of access for more than 24 hours. Article V. provides for the neutrality of the Canal so far as the embarking of troops or war-stores is concerned, but it allows a troop-ship, in the event of accident while in the Canal during war-time, to land its troops, with their equipment, provided that not more than 1,000 be landed at one time. Article VI. subjects prizes-of-war to the rules which apply to the warships of belligerents, and Article VII. permits Powers, while at peace, to maintain guard-ships, to the number of two apiece, at Suez and Port Said.

Article VIII. provides for the enforcement of these regulations and definitely makes the Egyptian Government responsible to the Signatory Powers for the maintenance of the freedom of the Canal. Although open to the shipping of all nations the Suez Canal is in no sense extra territorial—as by Article IX. of the Convention of Cairo concluded on February 22, 1866—before the Canal was built—between the Khedive Ismail and the Suez Canal Company, and confirmed by Imperial Firman of Sultan Abdul Aziz Khan on March 19 following, the Canal and its territory, is specifically subjected to the control of the Egyptian police.

> Le Canal maritime et toutes ses dépendances restent soumis à la police Egyptienne, qui s'exercera librement comme sur tout autre point du territoire de façon à assurer le bon ordre, la sécurité publique et l'exécution des lois et règlements du pays.

Thus it was logical that if Egypt was responsible for its ordinary police work, she should also be the natural guardian of the international rights and privileges of the Canal. Accordingly, it is laid down in Article VIII. of the Convention of Constantinople

> . . . En toute circonstance qui menacerait la sécurité ou le libre passage du Canal, ils [les Agents en Egypte des Puissance Signataires du présent Traité] se réuniront sur la convocation de trois d'entre eux et sous la présidence du Doyen, pour procéder aux constatations nécessaires. Ils feront connaître au Gouvernement Khédivial le danger qu'ils auraient reconnu afin que celui-ci prenne les mesures propres à assurer la protection et le libre usage du Canal . . .

This action is made obligatory on the Egyptian Government in Article IX.

The Convention is inspired throughout with the realization of the necessity for keeping the Canal free for traffic, and the prolonged stay of any vessel in the ports of access tends to infringe the spirit which guided those who drew it up. Thus it is obvious that in invoking the powers specifically accorded to the Egyptian Government in Articles VIII. and IX., and in directing them against German ships in the Canal, the Powers of the Triple Entente are in no way infringing the freedom of the Canal as laid down in Article I., but are preventing German ships from incommoding traffic by reason of their unduly protracted use of its waters. Even Germans cannot be allowed to obstruct the passage of the world's commerce through the Canal because they fear to come out on to the high seas. Suez and Port Said are not ordinary harbours. They are ports of access to the Canal. Had they been ordinary harbours German shipping would have been seized when Egypt first announced that she considered herself to be in a state of war with Germany. The action of Egypt in expelling these ships was rendered imperatively necessary, as in certain cases their commanders went so far as to commit hostile acts in the Canal. In such circumstances the German Press renders itself more ridiculous than usual when it accuses the Egyptian Government of violating the neutrality of the Suez Canal.

PORT SAID IN WAR TIME.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, October 10.

"An Armed Camp."

During the past few weeks Port Said has presented the appearance of an armed camp, while its narrow harbour has been crowded with British and French warships, transports bound for France, and empty troopships outward bound for another living cargo. The large open space near the Gouvernorat is covered with army tents full of disappointed soldiers chafing to get away to the front, while the Canal banks are alive with defenders. Since the outbreak of war the Turkish menace has been with us in more or less acute form. Interminable rumours fill the air, and our tough little divisions are waiting—ready for any emergency.

Six Turkish torpedo boats passed through the Canal recently, and after coaling here proceeded into the Mediterranean. While they were in port a courteous exchange of visits between the commander of the flotilla and the captains of the British and French cruisers took place.

Precautions in the Canal.

On the 4th all traffic was stopped in the Canal, and it was not resumed before the morning of the 5th. The only reason given by the Canal Company was "orders from Ismailia," but it is generally supposed that the presence of mines was suspected, and that vigorous sweeping operations were carried out. Nothing is left to chance.

A Busy Time.

A large number of British troopships has recently passed through in convoy and proceeded to the north-west under escort of British and French cruisers. Those whose business takes them on board the troopers cannot fail to be impressed by the striking efficiency of both the troops and those controlling them, and of the steamship companies, who at the shortest of notice have fitted their fleets to carry men, guns, horses, equipment, and stores a long journey under semi-tropical conditions the greater part of the way. Still more remarkable is the fact that men and horses have enjoyed the best of health, and appear to be in the pink of condition. The Indian troops are tough-looking warriors, who, one feels sure, will give a good account of themselves.

The hotels here are crowded with British officers, some of regiments stationed here or close by, and others of Indian regiments on their way, and from troopships in harbour.

The Native Attitude.

The local native behaves with commendable docility, although there have been a few displays of hooliganism among the very lowest class. These, however, are confined to the Arab quarter, and are easily dealt with by the police. Several thousand coolies engaged in coaling have been sent up-country recently owing to the lack of work. There is now sufficient work to keep employed all those engaged in discharging colliers and delivering bunker coal, and so long as the men have work to do they do not trouble much with other concerns.

The general attitude of the residents here is one of waiting and watching. Business is carried on by all firms except the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, the North German Lloyd, and the Austrian Lloyd Agencies. These, however, are still represented by a few haggard officials.

The neutrality of the Canal is being strictly preserved with the invaluable assistance of British troops and warships.

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NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, October 8.

A Disappointing Season.

The summer season at Mt. Troödos is about to end. The Government offices will move down in the course of a few days, and the High Commissioner is expected to return to Nicosia about the middle of the month. Families are leaving the hills daily. The season has been a disappointing one as regards visitors, and hotels have suffered accordingly.

Popular Agricultural Shows.

An agricultural show on an extended scale is to be held at Famagusta on October 31. Very good entries are anticipated. The High Commissioner will, it is hoped, attend. The prizes, of which there will be a large number, may perhaps be presented by Lady Goold-Adams. The organization of these agricultural and industrial shows in the different districts is unquestionably giving good results, and they are now very popular.

Taxation Problems.

There is some little difficulty in the collection of taxes. In consequence of numerous complaints, which are echoed in the Press, a special inquiry is being made by Government in the districts of Kyrenia and Nicosia into local circumstances, with a view to dealing leniently in the present time of hardship where any need exists. In a poor country like Cyprus there must inevitably be increase of distress in face of the financial situation. The position of the collectors, a very hardworking and deserving body of men, is no easy one; for while the payment of taxes must of necessity be enforced in the case of the well-to-do, it is often extremely difficult to ascertain to what category particular taxpayers belong. The High Commissioner, who, it is fully realized, has the welfare of the peasantry—and of all classes—sincerely at heart, will no doubt give such directions as will meet the difficulty.

The Island and the War.

Considerable numbers of fugitives continue to arrive from Syria and neighbouring coasts, the state of things being again lamentable. Turkey is regarded as practically dominated for the time being by Germany, and as "having no will of its own," but being blindly led to reduce its ill-fated provinces to further exhaustion for military purposes. One object is naturally supposed to be the invasion and "recovery" of Egypt.

It is anticipated that various articles of food will become scarce. The Greek papers continue to express ardent hopes for the success of the Allies, and all regard the war as a struggle in the cause of freedom, of respect of treaties, and of small States.

A Larnaca correspondent writes:—

On Saturday, October 3, the Khedivial s.s. "Tewfikieh" arrived at Larnaca with about 150 Christian refugees from Latakia. All the Christians in Syria are very nervous about the intentions of Turkey, in Syria in particular. They report that numbers of German officers in mufti are in all the large inland towns, who help with the anti-English propaganda, spread false war news, and are in close touch with the Turkish troops all over the country.

On Wednesday, October 7, the Khedivial s.s. "Prince Abbas" arrived from Beyrout with about fifty-one refugees. Many more had packed up and were ready to come, but the arrival of an American warship had restored confidence, and at the last moment many postponed their departure.

Once more Cyprus is proving a harbour of refuge for Christians in distress, as was the case in 1880 and on the occasion of the Armenian massacres. Fortunately, food is plentiful and living is cheap, and every effort is made to assist the refugees and recompense them for the discomforts to which they have been put in leaving their homes and belongings so hurriedly.

Messrs. Macmillan have issued at 6d. "The Austro-Servian Dispute," a paper reprinted from the Special War Number of *The Round Table*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

SERBIAN IDEALS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Referring to my letter of the 9th inst., Ivan Mestrovitch is even younger than I thought. He was born in 1883. Also, by a slip, I put a hyphen instead of a comma between Hellenic and Byzantine.—Yours very truly,

Ernest H. R. Collings.

24, Gorst Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.,
October 25, 1914.

"BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN SALONIKA."

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In The Near East of the 25th ult. Mr. George N. Lionda makes the statement, as an example of my *mentalité spéciale*, that in my letter of July 25 I condemned certain steps taken by the syndicate of the insurance companies in Athens. As a matter of fact, I never did anything of the kind, for why should I? Neither the syndicate of the insurance companies in Athens nor in Salonika has any power to impose taxes, their sole mission being to watch over the interests of their companies and to see that the orders of the Government and of the authorities affecting them are conformed to. What I did say was that "Article 9 of a new law imposes . . . a tax of 2 per cent. on the premiums for the maintenance of a fire-brigade which does not exist here." But just before I mentioned that, according to our local newspapers, the Athens syndicate had written to ours in Salonika inviting the latter to impose a surtax of 5 per cent. on the present premiums, the proceeds of the same to be paid to our municipality, as in Old Greece, which invitation was acted upon, and the insurance companies began to collect this 5 per cent. from their customers on July 14 last. I have now, however, some reason to believe that our newspapers were then in error, and that the 5 per cent. really includes the 2 per cent. for the fire-brigade; but the matter is not quite clear. According to Mr. Lionda's *mentalité spéciale*, my "second point" is "also pitiful"; nevertheless, I do happen to know that, either directly or indirectly, fire-brigades have to be paid for by somebody. Although I am not an authority on the subject, I believe this is usually done, at least in England, out of the municipal rates, and I never heard of a Governmental tax being levied in that country to keep up local fire-brigades. Now, one of the first things our new municipality did was to put heavy octroi dues on almost every article that comes into the place, both from inland and abroad, plus licence duties on carters, porters, cabdrivers, pedlars, shoeblacks, etc. All this money was to be for the proper maintenance, and especially for the beautifying, of the town; but surely it is not unreasonable to think that some part thereof should be applied to objects of prime necessity, such as, for instance, the forming and maintaining of a fire-brigade for the protection of the property that already exists. To my mind it would be far wiser to spend this money on what is absolutely necessary and urgent rather than on costly parks, boulevards, etc., which most certainly are not at present, and may never be at all, needed, especially, too, in view of the dire distress and commercial stagnation prevailing throughout the country. It amounts to this: for the purposes of the town unnecessarily heavy octroi dues were first imposed by the municipality, for which object is also being collected from insurers, by virtue of a new law, an extra 3 per cent. (at least) on the premiums, plus an additional 2 per cent. for a fire-brigade.

Mr. Lionda's third paragraph is so vague and rambling that I pass it over, except that part about Salonika having no need for using any Latin characters at all. I suppose Mr. Lionda would quite scout the idea that both the Greek alphabet and the Greek calendar are altogether out of date and sadly need reforming. Mr. Lionda hails from the "Passage Benroubi." Now I doubt very much that the sound of the second syllable of the first word could be at all exactly represented by Greek characters, and it seems to me the second word would have to be written by the Greek equivalents of our Mpenroumpe. I wonder how Mr. Lionda would write "bon jour" in the Greek character? The first word would certainly have to be the equivalent of mpon, and the sound of the second could not be expressed at all. We now see some queer signboards in Greek, among them being "Splentit Palas," which is the nearest approach that can be made to splendid palace, owing to their being no d sound in the Greek alphabet. How many of the hundreds of millions using the Latin character would at the first glance recognize "Kiounar Lain" as Cunard Line? We have an "Agglo-Elliniki" Company, about which, at any rate here, there is nothing Anglo except a mutilated name; and I could cite scores of similar examples, English and French, to prove what I say.

As for the calendar, it has varied a whole day in the last few years, the 1st of January having been, not so long ago, our 13th, whereas it is now the 14th, the other days having jumped accordingly. And so, as Old Father Time passes on, the Greek Christmas would come to be celebrated at midsummer—but very many strange things will happen before then.—Yours, etc.,

Your Own Correspondent.

Salonika, October 14.

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THE NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

TURKEY A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

It is the custom of certain of our journals to reproduce each day extracts from their issues of a hundred years ago; and, with all due respect to the resourceful reporters, the enterprising correspondents, and the learned leader-writers who deal with current events, these records of the past are frequently the most interesting thing in the paper—or were before the outbreak of the war. In the same way, while modern books of travel in the Near East are numerous and often excellent, the reader with a contemplative turn of mind will often find more pleasure in the perusal of some long-dead traveller's reflections and reminiscences than in the most up-to-date volume of the kind. We are indebted to a reader of THE NEAR EAST for the opportunity of reading one of the most entertaining and suggestive of these old volumes; and though it will be impossible to do justice to the charm of the work in a short article, it can hardly fail to be of interest to many of our readers to reproduce some of the author's impressions.

The full title of the work referred to, as set out on its title-page, with customary variety of type, is:—

"The Present State of Turkey; or A Description of the Political, Civil, and Religious, Constitution, Government, and Laws of the Ottoman Empire; the Finances; Military and Naval Establishments; the State of Learning, and of the Liberal and Mechanical Arts; the Manners and Domestic Economy of the Turks and other Subjects of the Grand Signor; etc., etc. Together with the Geographical, Political, and Civil, State of the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. From Observations made, during a Residence of Fifteen Years in Constantinople and the Turkish Provinces, by Thomas Thornton, Esq."

The second edition, with which we are concerned, "with corrections and additions," was printed in London "for Joseph Mawman, 22, Poultry," in 1809. It is worthy of note that the volume contains a really good map of the Turkish Empire, prepared by W. W. Macpherson.

The title-page seems to give at once some idea of the comprehensive nature of the work and of the author's qualifications for undertaking it. "A Residence of Fifteen Years in Constantinople and the Turkish Provinces," it must be granted, is no bad preliminary to writing such a book; and persual of his work leaves the reader with the impression that "Thomas Thornton, Esq.," was a man of sound judgment and sincerity of purpose, painstaking in research, and gifted with no mean literary ability. He took himself very seriously indeed; but that is a fault we can readily pardon him. In fact, if certain other writers on Turkey had only the same degree of conscientiousness it is very probable that English people to-day might be better instructed with regard to the Turk and his country than is actually the case. That he himself was acutely conscious of the harm that may be wrought by inaccurate statements, hasty generalisation, and the passing-on of mere heresay, is clearly indicated on the first page of his preface, where, referring to the "great number of books which have already been written on the Government and institutions of the Turkish Empire," he writes:—

> The accounts of different authors are, however, so various and discordant, that it appears no less difficult to reconcile, than impossible to credit, their relations. . . . Some travellers have avowedly neglected any research into the peculiar customs, manners, and opinions of the Turks, while others, less ingenuous, having observed them superficially and even falsely, have guessed at what they have not understood, and have described rather what they have imagined than what they have beheld.

It is to be feared that travellers of this class are by no means extinct yet!

In the Ottoman character the author found occasion for considerable comment, and his impressions, based on the curious mixture of apparent contradictions which composes the homogeneous Turk, are summarised in a striking passage:—

> We find them brave and pusillanimous; gentle and ferocious; resolute and inconstant; active and indolent; passing from devotion to obscenity; from the rigor of morality to the grossness of sense; at once delicate and coarse; fastidiously abstemious and indiscriminately indulgent.

Some aspects of the Ottoman he criticised in no uncertain terms, pointing out that opium smoking was largely indulged in, while certain types of the Turks set the tenets of Mohammed with regard to wine openly at defiance:—

> The practice of drinking wine is generally reprobated; but as drinking a large quantity entails no greater curse than moderation, those who have once transgressed, proceed without further scruple to perfect ebriety. Busbequius saw an old man in Constantinople, who, when he took the glass in his hand, summoned his soul to take refuge in some corner of his body, or to quit it entirely, and thus avoid the participation or pollution of his crime. I have frequently observed an habitual drunkard carefully remove his moustaches from defilement, and, after a hearty draught, distort his face, as though he had been taking medicine.

The mystical side of the average Ottoman's life according to Mr. Thornton was freely blended with sorcery and superstition, which in fact pervaded every phase of Turkish life at that period. The doctrine of predestination in no way deterred the Ottoman from seeking supernatural guidance, and the Sultan himself had the assistance of the Chief of the Astrologers, whose advice was sought on all important occasions. "This phantom," says the author, "still influences the public councils and interrupts the private happiness of all classes in this nation." Apart from the adventitious aid of soothsayers, omens and dreams greatly affected the Ottoman mind. In the most trivial occurrences omens were sought for and found. The first words of a Sultan on ascending the throne were listened for with the utmost eagerness, since the belief prevailed that his earliest utterances would afford a clue to his reign. Murad III. filled his subjects with terror at his accession by remarking:—"I am hungry, let me have something to eat"; for they foresaw famine and desolation indicated. Even the medical profession was not free from the prevailing taint of superstition, and medical practitioners were expected to possess superhuman foresight. One physician gained a great reputation through ascertaining the nature of a patient's food by the beats of his pulse; and in general the profession had recourse to the weirdest remedies, sometimes with successful results. One of the author's stories of a cure is well worth reproducing:—

> A pasha had honoured a European merchant with his intimate friendship: the merchant had a fit of the gout; the pasha had studied a little physic, and desirous of curing his friend, directed two of his domestics to give him fifty blows on the soles of his feet . . . . it soon effected a perfect cure.

This we can readily believe; but the heroic cure is not one that the gouty patient of to-day is likely to adopt.

One final instance of the fatalistic tendency of the Ottoman is worthy of narration. The author's house had been burnt, and a Turk paying a visit of condolence, said:—"A misfortune was predestined to you. Thank God! It was directed against your head; but it has fallen only on your property."

Turning to literature, we find that Mr. Thornton's inferences coincide in the main with those of other well-informed authorities. The literature of the period apparently bore the deep impress of Persian culture, and poetry was immeasurably superior to prose. While extreme grace and workmanlike technique permeated the poems, ludicrous exaggeration and obvious artificiality detracted largely from their merit. Turkish prose somewhat resembled the English heroic play, being generally bombastic and overflowing with unnecessary quibbles. The well-grounded reasons actuating the author's stringent criticisms of Turkish literature can only be understood after a perusal of his remarks concerning the level of education in the Ottoman Empire:—

> If we call the Turks an illiterate people, it is not because learning is universally neglected by individuals, for, on the contrary, the *ulema*, or theological lawyers, undergo a long and laborious course of study; the Turkish gentlemen are all taught certain necessary, and even ornamental, parts of learning; and few children, at least in the capital, are left without some tincture

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of education. It must be acknowledged, however, that the objects of Turkish study . . . . do in reality only remove men further from real knowledge. . . . The telescope, the microscope, the electrical machine, and other aids of science, are unknown as to their real uses.

No consideration of the state of the Ottoman Empire would be complete without some reference to the constitution and the provincial administration. With respect to the former it is sufficient to say that Mr. Thornton rightly regarded it as of a rigid type, and therefore analogous to the constitution of the United States. Every student of comparative politics is familiar with the disadvantages of a rigid constitution, and it is inadvisable therefore to labour the point. The author viewed the provincial administration as an odious mixture of maladministration and peculation. "Governments of every description are sold at the Porte; they are held for the term of one year only, and at the ensuing *bairam* the leases must be renewed or transferred to a less parsimonious competitor." In point of actual fact the condition of affairs was precisely similar to that which conduced to the discontent in the Roman Empire. It was, however, possible for the inhabitant of Rome's provinces to appeal against the too-obvious misgovernment of a pro-consul, while in Turkey such an appeal would have been out of the question. The annual market at the Porte, where constantly increasing prices were realised for popular administrations, led to an unparalleled state of oppression in the provinces.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I have referred on previous occasions to the special needs of Serbia at this time. Her soldiers are nobly enduring the terrible hardships of modern warfare without the considerable alleviation which an adequate medical service provides. It is pitiful to think that life or limb are lost in so many cases simply because the Red Cross workers are so very few and their supplies of surgical necessaries and drugs so miserably inadequate. It is therefore satisfactory to learn that a Red Cross unit of some forty or fifty members has just been despatched from Southampton, together with the equipment of a hospital of 250 beds. This detachment has been organised by the Serbian Relief Fund, with the assistance of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and is under the superintendence of Lady Paget. The Admiralty have made arrangements for the transport of the detachment to Malta en route for Salonika and Nish. I wish its members a safe and speedy voyage, and I hope that means will be found to equip and send out additional units in the near future.

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With reference to the army order issued by the Crown Prince of Bavaria urging his men to take reprisals upon the British "for the cunning of the enemy and for all our sacrifices," I remember that the young man in question is held by some romantically minded folk in this country and in Scotland to be the heir of "the Queen over the water," for they assert that the Queen of Bavaria, as heir-of-line to King Charles the Martyr, is entitled to the Thrones of the three kingdoms, and that her son is *de jure* Duke of Cornwall and Rothesay. It is indeed a tragic destiny which makes a Jacobite the supporter of "a wee, wee German lairdie." The Kaiser talked about "restoring" the Saxon dynasty in Poland, until the Russians gave him something else to think about. Is he now contemplating a restoration of the Stuarts in this country? Even Louis XIV. could not do that.

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Talking of restorations, I hear that the ingenious gentlemen in Berlin who have been negotiating with Italy have offered, very kindly, to recognise the dynastic claims of the House of Savoy to the Lusignan Kingdom of Cyprus. That really would be a restoration, as the Lusignan Monarchy barely survived the close of the Middle Ages, coming to an end in 1489, when the last Queen surrendered her crown to the Republic of St. Mark.

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"Is Bulgaria still on the face of the earth, or has the whole country been swallowed by an earthquake?" writes a cheery correspondent. The reason for his query is, of course, the non-arrival of his letters. But perhaps by the time these lines appear in print he will be happy; for on Monday I received a batch of letters and papers from Bulgaria, and some were dated as recently as July 28.

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I like the announcement made in the *Jeune Turc* that the notorious Salar-ed-Dowleh, who *had been in Germany*, had arrived at Kasr-i-Shirin *provided with arms and funds*. The *Jeune Turc* adds artlessly:—

> Salar-Ud Dovleh n'a pas cette fois l'intention de faire du mal à la Perse. On assure qu'il veut soulever des difficultés contre les Russes qui l'ont trompé à mai ites reprises.

The "cette fois" is delightful. After all, the ex-Shah's brother is evidently a good patriot. Poor Persia!

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The Great War has been responsible for a good many ridiculous rumours, but none more ridiculous than one which has reached me from Syria. Where it was hatched I cannot say, though its stupidity and lack of real imagination lead me to suspect the Kaiser's deckers-out of telegrams; but the correspondents who have informed me of it report that it is generally believed by the rabble. It is to the effect that the Turkish Government is well prepared to block the Suez Canal, and regards the task as a very easy one. And this is how it is to be performed: "About 37,000 camels loaded with sand-filled bags are to be kept without water for three days, then driven to the eastern side of the canal, when, drawn by the sight of the water, the thirsty ships of the desert may be easily hurled therein." How simple it all is, to be sure. The forethought displayed in providing the 37,000 camels with sand-filled bags so well in advance deserves especial praise. But may I suggest that while they are about it the useful beasts might be utilised for drinking the canal dry, and thus making it possible for the Sultan's troops to emulate the example of the children of Israel—only, of course, travelling in the other direction?

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Portents and prophecies are now in fashion. In the materialistic West the writings of mystical monks, old gipsy wives' warnings, apocalyptic combinations of numbers are studied with a simple faith unknown in ante-war times. Even in the East, where signs and wonders have a perennial significance to the native mind, the crop of strange sayings and portents is abnormal. One curious example comes from Egypt. According to the *Ahram*, widespread consternation prevails in the Mellawie district, and the general impression is that the end of the world is at hand, owing to the fact that a mule has given birth to a quadruped half mule and half donkey. The alarm seems out of proportion to the cause; for though it is extremely rare that a mule should bring forth young, the case is not unique. Not long ago the Cyprus correspondent of THE NEAR EAST reported a case in that island.

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"It is," as a profound philosopher observed, "an ill wind that blows nobody any good," and if only the Turks have sense enough to keep Enver on chain until the Big Trouble blows over they ought to do very well out of the business. So far they have received as reward for not joining in the chorus of reprobation of the Kaiser and German *Kultur*: One large armoured cruiser (damaged), one small protected cruiser (more damaged), some large guns and ammunition (which—this time—may be what it seems, as the Germans fondly hope that it will be used against the enemies of the *Vaterland*), and some nine tons of gold. And the fact that they have been clever enough to secure all these things while Germany was still in a position to supply them argues that they have not yet quite lost the skill in driving a bargain that has characterised their statesmen for so long. But even so, I much doubt whether the gains can compensate for the presence in Turkey of some 3,000 of those "square-headed, snub-nosed, sentimental, parade-ground-drilled Teutons," of whom Sir Mark Sykes writes in his "Dar-ul-Islam." And now that the ineffable Baron Kuhlmann has arrived in Constantinople, I should think all decent Turks must be eager to return the guns and boats and all the rest of the bribes.

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For some inscrutable reason, the landlord, like the mother-in-law, is usually regarded by the public as a fit target for ridicule and abuse, but just now the Press in Egypt is busy patting him on the back. And he seems to deserve it. For I learn that in Alexandria several landlords have notified their tenants that during the war they may pay their rent when and as may be convenient to them; while one has actually announced that any of his tenants who are out of employment need not pay during the whole time the war lasts. Such public-spirited action merits the fullest recognition, and I am not surprised to learn that a delegation has waited on these gentlemen to express the admiration and thanks of the townspeople for their generosity.

CORSAIR.

The proprietors of *The Financial Times* have arranged for an original competition. Briefly, competitors are required to trace on a specially prepared outline map of Europe the lines of the frontiers of the European States as fixed at the conclusion of the war. The first prize is £25, and other prizes are also offered. After satisfaction of the prizes, the balance derived from the sale of the maps will be handed to the Prince of Wales's Fund. The competition will afford an interesting occupation for long winter evenings when nothing better can be done, and competitors will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are contributing to a patriotic object.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Bulgaria and Italy.

The Special Correspondent of *The Morning Post* in a communication dated Milan, October 23, published in its issue of October 23, makes some severe comments on certain diplomatic manœuvring in the Balkans. He says:—

In the meantime, that the poison of Austro-German diplomatic methods, once instilled, is hard to eradicate is proved by the efforts of some circles in Bulgaria to involve Italy in the Balkan diplomatic game and to play her off against Serbia and Greece. What backing, if any, the newspaper talk of an Italo-Bulgarian entente has in representative quarters is not clear, but it is certain that there is some reluctance to cease hankering after Kavala and Monastir, and to be content with the prospects of the Dobrudja and of the Kotchana and the Ishtip districts of Macedonia. Austro-German diplomacy, despite the German Emperor's vaunted affection for Greece, has notoriously been trying to ensnare Bulgaria with the bait of Kavala, and it seems doubtful whether even now the lesson of the second Balkan war has been thoroughly taken to heart; in any case the Consulta does not require to be told by Bulgarian any more than by English newspapers what Italy's interests are, and it is probably mildly amused at the attempts to involve her in trouble with Greece in order to help Bulgaria to retrieve the results of her own past errors.

In *The Morning Post* of October 26, a long article from the same Correspondent, under date of Milan, October 16, provides a comprehensive survey of the whole of the Balkan field. The various influences and rivalries at work are clearly explained.

Montenegro at War.

The Special Correspondent of *The Standard*, in a communication dated Nish, October 16, published in its issue of October 26, gives some account of the work being done by Montenegro. We quote below:—

In order to be able to appreciate the extent of the strain which the present war is making upon the resources of Montenegro, it is sufficient to adduce some figures. The whole population of Montenegro, including the regions which have been reannexed to it, only numbers 430,000 souls—i.e., the number of inhabitants of a middle-sized city. The troops of this miniature nation have many and difficult tasks to perform during the present conflict. They have to fight on the Dalmatian sea coast, they have to defend their southern frontier against a possible attack by the Albanians, they have to lead important operations in Herzegovina, and, finally, in combination with the Serbians, they have to act in Bosnia. And everywhere the heroes of little Montenegro gain victories of no mean order.

The Battle of Lemnos.

Mr. James Elroy Flecker, whose sympathies are well known to most of our readers, contributes to *The New Statesman* of October 24 an amusing article entitled "Forgotten Warfare." He describes as a spectator on the fringe of hostilities in the Levant during recent years certain warlike episodes. Here, for example, is a reminiscence of the Battle of Lemnos—"the one great effort made by the Turks to secure the mastery of the Ægean":—

A pretty sight it had been that morning to pass the Turkish fleet, cleared for action and lined across the entrance of the Dardanelles, while a little destroyer spluttered up from the west to give them news of the foe. It was one of those indescribable winter days on the Ægean, with a hot sun and a piping breeze: the water was all laced blue and silver, and the windmills of Tenedos whirled fit to break. "Tenedos dives opum," quoted to me the new Armenian Governor of Lebanon, to my great pleasure; yet how can the place ever have been rich? I agreed it was strange—that little windy rock looks as if it had never produced anything more planturous than stonecrop since the Creation.

We were near Mytilene when we heard the guns. Thrilling enough it was to me—fired with the glory that *is* Greece—this fight against the Unspeakable for that Greek and Christian sea. Not so, however, to the trio of American ladies aboard—for all that they were on their devout way from Athens to Jerusalem. Impossible to make these pious folk understand that Greece and Christianity were no mere phantoms of the past, but were still alive and, with excellent guns, even kicking.

At last, in despair of awaking interest and hoping to horrify, I said to one of them: "But men are killing each other over there, you know."

She put up her eyeglass at me.

"*Nonsense!*" she said, and walked down to lunch.

The article concludes as follows by suddenly jerking the reader forward from the past to the present:—

To think that it was with cheerful anecdotes like these that I had hoped, a white-haired elder, to impress my grandchildren! Now there's not a peasant from Picardy to Tobolsk but will cap me with tales of real and frightful tragedy. What a race of deep-eyed and thoughtful men we shall have in Europe after the war—now that all those millions have been baptised with fire! But for my little memories I can keep at least this distinction—the unearthly beauty of the East. I mean the adjective. A man may find Naples or Palermo merely pretty; but the deeper violet, the splendour and desolation of the Levant waters is something that drives into the soul.

Turk and Persian.

The Orient of October 14 translates from the *Ikdam* some observations regarding Persia, which will doubtless be of considerable interest to our readers:—

The events taking place to-day in Persia show that the Persians are determined, cost what it may, to free themselves of Russian domination in their country. Henceforth the Persian Government will not allow them to set foot in Meshed, the most sacred place in Persia, nor to curtail the powers of the Government in the control of internal affairs. In fact, the note sent by the Persian Cabinet to the Russians is very clear on this point. The object of the Persians is to get the Russians out of Iran, leaving that country to its rightful owners. The presence of the Russians constitutes an obstacle to the progress of Persia. The population has had its religious and national feelings very much hurt by seeing foreigners interfering with the internal affairs of the nation. The Persians saw in such interference a menace to their independence, and nobody could doubt that the country would one day be partitioned. For this reason the true patriots have been awaiting a favourable opportunity to save their country.

Between the Ottoman Empire and Persia there is community of religion and of interests. No one can deny that a free and independent Persia, not under foreign influence, is in the interests of both countries. Foreign intervention in Persia constitutes a menace to the existence of Turkey. The Ottoman Empire and Persia must mutually defend one another for these religious and political reasons.

It is, perhaps, rather late in the day for Turkey to discover the "community of religion and of interests." Perhaps she did so prior to the late Balkan wars, when her troops were credibly reported to have penetrated far into Persian territory. Of course, we do not suggest that that fact constituted any menace to Persian independence. But neither would we suggest that the substitution of the Turk for the Russian would assist "the progress of Persia," regarding which the *Ikdam* is suddenly so solicitous. As THE NEAR EAST has frequently pointed out, of the value to Great Britain of a strong and independent Persia there can be no doubt. But the *Ikdam's* platitudes in some subtle way bring to mind thoughts of the immortal Pecksniff. Perhaps the Persians may consider that a free and independent Turkey "not under foreign influence" would be more to their interest than a Turkey so obviously under the thumb of the Teuton, and that respect for her frontier would be more to the point than some of the humorous remarks of the Constantinople journal.

Turkey's Misfortune.

Giving expression to his "Thoughts on the War" in *The Winning Post* of October 24, Mr. F. G. Aflalo provides an explanation of all Turkey's extraordinary doings of late—her "bogus neutrality, this so-called 'purchase' of runaway German battleships, this coming and going of German officers and troops, this departure of Admiral Limpus and his English colleagues, and this mounting of heavy German guns at the Dardanelles." Briefly, Mr. Aflalo considers that it lies in the "nobbling" of the Turkish Press by the Germans, the extraordinary "make-believe" character of the Government, and—Enver Pasha. Readers of THE NEAR EAST

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will not be disposed to differ from him. As to the Government, he writes:—

This is by no means easy to explain to readers accustomed to one or other of two recognised forms, monarchy or republic. The difficulty lies in finding some word to describe a Government that is a blend of monarchy and republic, with the iron rule of a military dictatorship over all. For it is something of this sort that has conducted the affairs of Turkey ever since Abd-ul-Hamid was pulled off the throne of Osman and his mantle fell on the Committee of Union and Progress, with its strong leavening of political soldiers of the Enver type. For a time things went very well. The Constitution satisfied millions of Ottoman subjects who had not the vaguest notion what it meant. . . . In short, it satisfied everyone except the old Sultan himself and such of his German friends, including the Kaiser, who had everything to gain by the indefinite continuation of his tyranny.

So all went merrily. The new Government made wonderful promises which, though the impossibility of fulfilment was obvious at the time to impartial observers with some knowledge of Turkish politics, augured well at any rate for honesty of purpose. And all might have gone merrily, even now, but that the new Sultan, whom I last saw on the day of his investiture at the Eyub Mosque, soon became a mere cipher in the hands of a military camarilla. So long as this was presided over by the veteran Generalissimo, Mahmud Shevket, no great harm was done even by a form of government so undesirable for a free country. But Mahmud Shevket was assassinated. It is a way that straightforward statesmen have in that land. From that time on, the councils of Turkey have been poisoned by dreams of adventure which were sedulously fed by Germany through her military and other agents at Constantinople. The chief offender has been Enver Pasha, a man in no way remarkable, but destined by his youth and energy and predilection for everything German to overrule saner counsels and lead his country by the nose, as the Kaiser has led him ever since he served his time in a German regiment.

Movement of Troops in Palestine.

The Cairo Correspondent of *The Railway Gazette*, writing on September 23, says:—

In a country very adjacent to Egypt also, the railways have been moving considerable bodies of troops—we refer to Syria and Palestine and the troops have been Turkish levies. From all accounts, however, there has been a distinctly comical side to this movement. Distracted between the German pressure being exercised at Constantinople, and the varying fortunes of the conflict in Europe, mostly favourable to the Allies, however, the Turk has changed his mind a dozen times. At one moment the troops were to invade Egypt, and they were all hurried down to Jaffa. Then they were intended to operate against Greece and were packed off from Jaffa. More recently we have heard that they have gone away north via Damascus. Railway transport was "paid" for by means of I.O.U.'s of highly problematical value, and, in this connection, the report just to hand that the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway has stopped its services, owing to there being no locomotive coal, is amusing.

THE WAR.

PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Our Debt to Serbia.

In a leading article under the heading of "Help for the Serbians," *The Times* (October 24) urges the strong claims which the Serbians have upon us. Referring to their pressing need of medical supplies and assistance, the article continues:—

The Serbian peasants are a hardy race, and with proper medical treatment a high proportion of their wounded would make a good recovery. But the want even of the most elementary necessaries for such treatment is very great. Serbia at the best of times is poor. She is suffering now from the financial exhaustion caused by two successive wars. She cannot procure these necessaries herself. She wants blankets and sheets, hot-water bottles, flannel shirts, and slippers, to say nothing of bandages, lint, and other simple surgical appliances for such hospitals as she can improvise. She asks wealthy England to assist her in saving her soldiers from the avoidable pain they have now to undergo. On the ground of humanity alone she deserves a liberal response. But she is also entitled to our aid in virtue of her services in the field to the Allies. She has materially assisted them by the highly effective diversion she has made in their favour.

By sending gifts and subscriptions to the Serbian Relief Fund something can be done towards paying the debt.

The Slav's Fight for Freedom.

In an article entitled "What Russia Wants," contributed to *The Westminster Gazette* of October 20, Mr. Neville Forbes says:—

The war against Germany and Austria is thoroughly popular because the Russian people dislike and mistrust the Germans and the Austrians. Nobody likes being exploited, and Germany has always exploited Russia, politically and financially; the Russian people, even the peasants, know this, and resent it. Russia's fight in defence of Serbia is really the answer of the Slav to centuries of exploitation by the Teuton. Germany and Austria have always shut off Russia from free communication with the rest of Europe; it was in their interest to do so, and it was also in the interest of the ruling class in Russia to permit it, but the time has arrived when it is in the interest of the ruling class to let in the light.

Turkey and Islam.

An article under the heading of "L'Islam et la Triple-Entente," in the *Gazette de Lausanne* of October 16, aptly turns the tables on the *Hablul Matin*. After quoting from an article in that journal of an extremely pro-German character, in which is drawn "a sinister picture of French, English, and Russian oppression in Morocco and Algeria, in Egypt, in Persia, in Turkestan, in the Caucasus, and even in India," the writer says:—

La thèse du *Hablulmatin* paraît toutefois difficile à soutenir en ce qui concerne ce dernier pays. N'est-il pas absurde de parler du régime draconien imposé par le gouvernement britannique aux Indes alors qu'un article aussi violent que celui du *Hablulmatin* a pu librement paraître. Nos lointains confrères du *Hablulmatin* devraient venir exercer leur profession en Europe, dans les pays belligérants ou même dans les autres. Ils auraient affaire à un contrôle autrement rigoureux.

Further it is pointed out in a spirit of gentle banter:

L'*Hablul matin*, au surplus, n'est pas encore le khalifat. Jusqu'à présent la pression exercée par l'Allemagne sur Constantinople afin de décider les chefs spirituels de l'Islam à décréter la guerre sainte n'a pas abouti. L'entrée en campagne de la Turquie obtiendrait peut-être ce résultat. La Triple-Entente en serait certainement atteinte, sinon très sensiblement empêchée. Mais encore une fois, les choses n'en sont pas là. Un soulèvement générale d'Islam n'est pas à craindre pour l'avenir immédiat. On est trop prudent à Constantinople pour risquer une si grosse partie avant d'avoir des chances sérieuses de la gagner. Et les opérations guerrières n'ont pas donné jusqu'à présent des indications assez précises ni dans un sens ni dans l'autre pour que les grands manitous de l'Islam se décident à brûler leurs vaisseaux.

A Guilty Conscience?

In the *Gazette de Lausanne* for October 16 the state of mind of the German public is commented on as follows:—

Il est difficile pour des neutres, restés de sang-froid, de comprendre l'état d'esprit qui règne actuellement en Allemagne. On constate une nervosité, une susceptibilité, un hérissement qui présentent plusieurs caractères de la suggestion collective, de l'hallucination, pour ne pas dire plus. Toute parole d'improbation, toute critique si légère, si modérée soit-elle, sont ressenties outre-Rhin comme un outrage ou un acte d'hostilité et y provoquent instantanément l'injure et la menace.

The Victim.

The Outlook for October 24 has a leading article, under the heading of "The Humbling of Austria," which is well worth reading. The article shows how the Dual Monarchy has been sacrificed by the Wilhelmstrasse throughout. The following is an extract:—

The wooing of Turkey, the Bagdad railway, were all part of the grandiose scheme of Teutonising the Near East and reviving the fertility of the Euphrates valley for the greater glory of Prussia. The Austrians might share in the fleshpots no doubt, but it would be at the pleasure of their masters, and as part of the Germanic Confederation. This, we hold, is the best that Austria-Hungary could anticipate—loss of independence in exchange for freedom from responsibility and from economic embarrassment. Final defeat means the same thing without the advantages. Beggared in power and purse, shorn of all her non-German elements, Austria from very impotence must enter any regrouping of the German States upon which the conquering Powers may agree. That is the logical conclusion if the war is fought to the bitter end. Austria as an empire will have ceased to exist. Her land forces will have become indistinguishable from the Kaiser's. There will be no discrimination in apportioning the blame, the penalties, and the indemnities. But should the dupe suffer in the same degree as the instigator? Is this supreme and useless sacrifice necessary on the part of an historic Power which has never shared in the blind hostility of Prussia towards us, and certainly never sought to quarrel with us?

LONDON SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

The reconstruction of the London Institution and the erection of a new block (opening into Eldon Street) for the London School of Oriental Studies will, we are informed, shortly be commenced. That this work should be proceeded with now, in spite of the war, is highly satisfactory, and all concerned are to be congratulated. The appeal for an endowment fund has been somewhat overshadowed by the war. Substantial support has been given and promised both to this fund (£100,000), and to the £14,000 a year required for the school's upkeep. The Government has promised £4,000 and the Indian Government £1,250 a year respectively. The London County Council Educational Committee recommend an annual contribution of £2,000, while the City Corporation has promised £1,250 and the Mercers' Company £1,000, payable respectively in sums of £250 and £200 a year; and smaller sums have been promised by Sir Montague Turner (chairman of the Mercantile Bank of India) and others.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian. New style.	Julian. Old style.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1914. Oct.	1914. Oct.		1332 Julhijja	5675. Hesvan
30	17	Friday	10	10
31	18	Saturday.....	11	11
Nov.				
1	19	Sunday	12	12
2	20	Monday	13	13
3	21	Tuesday	14	14
4	22	Wednesday	15	15
5	23	Thursday	16	16

To-day is the birthday of H.I.R.H. the Archduchess Helena of Austria-Tuscany.

To-morrow is the birthday of her Majesty the Queen Dowager of Denmark, sister-in-law of her Majesty the Queen-Mother and of the late King of the Hellenes.

Monday is the birthday of the Lady-Abbess of the Convent of Martha and Mary in Russia, widow of the late Grand Duke Serge of Russia, and sister of her Imperial Majesty the Tsarina, of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, and of H.G.D.H. the Princess (Louis) of Battenburg.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. the Duke of Brabant, eldest son of his Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princes John Constantinovitch of Russia, the recently widowed daughter of his Majesty the King of Serbia.

We deeply regret to record the death, from wounds received in action, of H.S.H. Prince Maurice of Battenburg, youngest son of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenburg, brother of her Catholic Majesty the Queen of Spain, and nephew alike of the First Sea Lord and of the late Prince of Bulgaria.

H.S.H. the Prince of Carolath-Beuthen, who is an officer in the 3rd Uhlans, is reported to be wounded.

A telegram from Teheran says that the Shah, accompanied by the Vali Ahd and the Russian Minister, is now at the summer residence of the Russian Legation.

According to reports received from Salonika, the silver wedding of the King and Queen of Greece was celebrated with the utmost enthusiasm throughout Hellenic Macedonia.

Mass was celebrated in Berne on Saturday for the late King of Roumania, and was attended by the President and other members of the Swiss Government and by the Diplomatic Corps.

H.E. the Serbian Minister, who has lately been confined to his room through illness, was much better at the beginning of the week, and able to go out.

We regret to learn that Mr. Guerguieff, a Democratic deputy to the Sobranje, has been assassinated at Strumitza.

The Orient (October 14) reports:—
According to the *Tasfir-i-Efkiar*, the Khedive of Egypt will prolong his stay in Constantinople, and for this reason 150 cases of household effects from his palace in Cairo have been sent here under the direction of the commandant of the palace.

Lord Kitchener has telegraphed to Prince Mohamed Ali Pasha thanking him for the gift of £E1,000 the Egyptian Red Crescent has made to the British Red Cross.

Sir Alexander Baird is still actively engaged in recruiting, and in addition to his various duties in London is spending much energy in and about his Scottish home, where he is raising men for the Naval Brigades. His daughter, Mrs. Clarke, who is a fully qualified hospital nurse, is in charge of No. 18, Cadogan Gardens, which has been lent by Lady Mount Stephen to the Government. Miss Nina Baird, Sir Alexander's only unmarried daughter, is devoting her time to organising and lecturing work.

A Red Cross medical and surgical unit, under the superintendence of Lady Paget, left Southampton yesterday by the steamer "Dongola" en route for Malta, whence it will proceed to Salonika and Nish. Professor Morrison, senior surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, is surgeon-in-chief of the expedition, which consists of some fifty members. The Serbian military authorities have assigned a hospital of 200 beds for the work of the unit. Lady Paget is accompanying the party.

Mr. Alexandre V. Georgevitch, Secretary of the Serbian Legation, London, who has been confined to his room by indisposition, is stated to be much better.

Judge Cator, of H.M. Supreme Consular Court for the Dominions of the Sublime Ottoman Porte, was expected to arrive in Egypt on the 19th inst. from Constantinople.

Mr. Hadjimischeff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister in London, is expected to arrive shortly in London.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. Horace L. A. Hood, C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., who is in command of the naval forces operating on the Belgian and French coasts in support of the Belgian and Allied Forces on land, served with distinction on the Nile during the operations in the Sudan, 1898.

The ceremony of consecrating the Rev. Rennie MacInnes as Bishop in Jerusalem was performed on Wednesday in Westminster Abbey. There was a large congregation. Among those taking part in the service were the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Chichester, the Bishop of St. Albans, the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Bishop of Barking, Bishop Taylor-Smith (Chaplain-General to the Forces), Bishop Montgomery, Bishop Welldon, and Bishop Ryle (Dean of Westminster). The Bishop of London, in an address, paid a tribute to Bishop Blyth, and said that they believed the new Bishop to be singularly fitted to carry on the work.

Professor and Mrs. Panaretoff paid a short visit to Sofia at the end of last month, where they received an ovation from former members of Robert College. They returned to Constantinople on October 11.

Prior to his departure from Khartoum for the front, Miralai Grant Bey was entertained by the officers and employees of the Military Works Department at a tea party held at the Egyptian Officers' Club.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Rickards, whose marriage was celebrated in London on the 6th inst., have arrived in Alexandria this week.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank continues to add to its Roll of Honour.
Colonel the Hon. H. A. Lawrence and Major Viscount Goschen, both now on active service, are directors of the bank.
During the week Mr. James Proctor, manager of the bank's Manchester office, and Mr. Frank Fisher, of the London office, have been approved for commissions in the King's Royal Rifles. Mr. H. D. Murrane, of the 6th Battalion Royal Lancashire Regiment, was recently gazetted Second Lieutenant. One member of the Egyptian staff has already joined here for service abroad, and two others are on their way home from Egypt for the same purpose. In addition, seventeen men of the London office have joined the Colours, and another member of the London office, Mr. Armand Garreau (erstwhile Captain of the London-French Rugby Football Club) reports himself as "well, but tired," in the trenches in France. This is quite a creditable Roll of Honour.

Mr. F. S. Smith, chief cashier, and Mr. J. B. Kiddell, chief stock accountant, of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Cairo, are amongst the volunteers who have answered to Lord Kitchener's call.

Among other Egyptian Government servants who have been seen lately in khaki and in England awaiting their summons to the front have been Colonel Garner, of the P.W.D., who is anxious to rejoin his old friend, Colonel Sloggett, in Paris, and Mr. F. Newhouse, of the Irrigation Service, who has joined the Intelligence Department of the Expeditionary Force.

APPEAL FOR THE WOUNDED.

We have received from Nurse Wheatley, formerly in charge of the Turkish Nurses' organisation, and at present at the front with our Expeditionary Force, an appeal for newspapers, cigarettes, and matches for British wounded. Readers of "The Near East" can either send contributions to the Editor, "The Near East," Devonshire Square, E.C., or to Nurse Wheatley, No. 5, General Hospital, Overseas Expeditionary Force, Army Post Office, G.P.O., London, E.C.

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Mr. Hill, Chief Inspector of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, is mentioned as a likely successor to the late Judge Wakeman Long as Judge of the Native Court of Appeal.

The Rev. Thomas Edward Wilkinson, formerly Bishop of Zululand, and for twenty-five years Bishop-Coadjutor of London for Northern and Central Europe, died last Friday at Khartoum, Sudan, where he was attacked with dysentery. Bishop Wilkinson was making a journey from Cape Town to Cairo. He was aged seventy-six.

General Sir Charles Douglas, G.C.B., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, who died last Sunday, served in the Sudan campaign of 1884-85.

Major Peter Martin Connellan, who has been killed in action, served with the Delimitation Boundary Commission in the Aden hinterland.

Major Ronald Anthony Markham, who died in hospital at Boulogne on October 25, served with the Nile Expedition in 1899, and took part in the first advance against the Khalifa, receiving the Egyptian medal with clasp.

Major Paul Alfred Charrier, who has been killed in action, was present during the operations in Somaliland as special service officer on the staff, 1903-4, and received the medal with clasp.

Captain Norman Jerome Beauchamp Leslie, Rifle Brigade, who has been killed while serving with the British Expeditionary Force, was A.D.C. to the General Officer Commanding in Egypt from 1908 to 1910.

Among the wounded in the casualty lists of October 1 is Captain P. A. Kennedy, of the Rifle Brigade, who will be well remembered in Egypt.

Captain Harry Holdsworth Kelly, Royal Engineers, whose death in action is announced, was employed with the Egyptian Army from November, 1903, to November, 1913. In 1910 he was present at operations in the Atwot region and had the Sudan medal.

Mr. R. W. E. Hampe Vincent has died in Switzerland at the age of seventy-four. In 1883 Mr. Vincent was Deputy Inspector-General of Police in Egypt. From 1893 to 1899 he was Commissioner of Bombay Police.

Our Cairo Correspondent, writing under date of October 10, pays the following tribute to the late Judge Wakeman Long, whose death we announced last week:—

"Universal regret was expressed at the sudden death this week of Mr. R. J. Wakeman Long, Councillor of the Native Court of Appeal. Judge Long had been ailing for some time, and his demise was not altogether unexpected. He was one of the best-known and most popular residents, and before being raised to the bench he had been for some time in practice as a solicitor in Alexandria. Judge Long was one of those men whose personality and sound judgment are an invaluable asset to whatever service they may belong and in whatever sphere they may move. The few years he spent in Tanta, before coming to the Cairo Court of Appeal, proved his worth and showed what influence for good such a man can have over his native fellow-residents.

Another correspondent writes:—By the death of Judge Wakeman Long the Government Service of Egypt loses a very able administrator of its legal code, while the British community of the country mourns the loss of one of its most kindly and popular members. . . . Unfortunately for many years past his strength had been sapped by constitutional delicacy, which neither his early life in Deal, nor subsequent sojourns in Switzerland, nor his later years in the climate of Egypt have been able to arrest, though few of his official associates realised under what tremendous disadvantages his professional duties were performed, or the difficulties under which he laboured at his post.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Thrasybulos Anghelopoulos has been appointed Prefect of Janina. Mr. Anghelopoulos will act provisionally as Governor-General of Epirus.

Colonel Bojovitch has been appointed Military Attaché to the Servian Legation in London.

The *Jeune Turc* announces a number of Ottoman consular appointments:—

Rifaat Bey to be Consul at Resht in Persia.

Ali Kemal Bey to be Consul at Bushire, in Persia.

Ferid Halid Bey to be Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, in Bulgaria.

Munif Bey to be Vice-Consul in Belgrade. He will probably carry out his duties at Nish.

Nasr-Ullah Bey to be Chancellor of the Consulate at the Piræus.

Nurulak Bey to be Chancellor of the Consulate at Monastir, in Serbia.

Suleiman Server Bey to be Chancellor of the Consulate at Geneva.

Ahmed Muhi-ud-Din Effendi, Cadi of Nicosia-Kyrenia, has been appointed to act as Ordinary Judge of the District Court, Nicosia, during the absence of M. Sami Effendi, or until further orders.

Our Sofia correspondent, writing under date of September 21, says with reference to the resignation of Major-General Clement Boyadjieff, hitherto Bulgarian Minister of War, and the appointment of Lieutenant-General Fitcheff as successor, General Boyadjieff himself expressed the wish to take up active military duties with the Army, where he felt he would be more useful. The new War Minister, who was Chief of the Staff during the two Balkan Wars, is one of the ablest Bulgarian Generals and a pupil of General Savoff.

Mr. Robert Greg, of the British Agency, Cairo, has been temporarily acting for Mr. Milne Cheetham during the latter's indisposition.

Bimbashi the Hon. J. N. Bigge, aide-de-camp to the Sirdar, is struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army with effect from October 1, 1914.

Mr. W. B. Heard has been appointed to act temporarily as Consul at Port Said, where Mrs. Heard hopes shortly to join him.

Among the names of gentlemen announced in the *London Gazette* of October 23 as having been appointed temporary second lieutenants in his Majesty's Army we notice that of Mr. Evelyn Louis Blech. Mr. E. L. Blech is the eldest son of Mr. E. C. Blech, C.M.G., until lately his Majesty's Consul-General at Port Said, and now Librarian and Keeper of the Papers at the Foreign Office. After being five years at Marlborough, where he passed through the O.T.C., Mr. E. L. Blech was about to take up residence at King's College, Cambridge, when the outbreak of the war induced him to apply for a commission.

It is stated that an Imperial Iradeh has been issued appointing the German Admiral Suhon to the command of the Turkish Fleet and thirty German Commanders to the command of Turkish warships.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS.

VON DUMREICHER.—On October 21, at Dipperhall Grange, Farnham, Surrey, the wife of André von Dumreicher, Ain el Shams, Egypt, a son.

HIBBERT.—On October 24, at Bedford, the wife of Sidney Hibbert, Egyptian State Railways, of a son (stillborn).

MARRIAGE.

PLUNKETT—MARTIN.—On October 26, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Plunkett, Military Attaché at Sofia, Athens, etc., son of Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. Plunkett, C.B., of Belvedere Lodge, Wimbledon, to Grace Mary, eldest daughter of T. Morgan Martin, M.B., of Sydney, New South Wales.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1914.

SERBIA'S SUCCESS AND DANGER.

By no means the least gratifying feature in the thwarting of the ambitious plans of Germany and Austria-Hungary has been the signal success that has attended the operations of the Serbians and Montenegrins against the troops of the Dual Monarchy. Their achievements are the more significant in view of the very scanty attention which the German and Austrian general staffs must have thought it necessary to give to the campaign on their southern frontier when they made their elaborate preparations for this war. A rapid advance on Belgrade, the capture of the capital and a substantial defeat of the Serbian Army would seem to have been all that the military authorities of Austria-Hungary imagined would be required to reduce Serbia to submission. It was only one, and not the least, of the miscalculations which led the two central States lightly to provoke a European conflagration. The rapid advance took place, but it was not quite rapid enough to forestall the Serbians. Belgrade was bombarded, but not taken, and the Serbian Army showed itself quite capable not only of checking the invasion of the Austro-Hungarian troops, but also of inflicting upon them substantial defeats. All too soon for the Dual Monarchy came the appreciation of the menace on its eastern frontier. The forces operating against Serbia had to be weakened in order to strengthen the army opposing the Russians, and the Austrian Government sought to hide its discomfiture by the foolish bravado of an announcement that a punitive expedition would suffice for the future to deal with the Serbians. To this challenge an effective reply was soon forthcoming. Serbian armies crossed the Save and Drina. Despite temporary checks, Serbians and Montenegrins have advanced into Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the danger threatening Serajevo has been grave enough to compel the Austrians to reinforce their troops in this quarter. The punishment inflicted upon the Austrian forces has been severe, but the Serbians have not gained their victories without suffering heavy losses themselves. They are fighting an enemy who, in spite of being hard-pressed elsewhere, commands resources in men and material out of all proportion to those which Serbia can put into the field. The longer, therefore, the war continues and the further Serbian armies are called upon to advance into Austrian territory, following up their successes, the more serious the strain imposed upon the small State. The good work that Serbia is doing has a useful bearing on the course of the great war, but it is not in itself a determining factor.

This anomalous character of the Serbian campaign requires to be taken very seriously into consideration at this stage of the world-struggle. The defeat of Germany and Austria-Hungary can only be brought about by the Powers of the Triple Entente. Individually and collectively they are prepared to carry on the war for an indefinite period, until such time as their enemies acknowledge themselves beaten. Whether Serbia can view with the same equanimity an indefinite prolongation of the war is an open question. Even if she can, the nature of her operations will cause her to carry on the conflict at an increasing disadvantage, while her allies count on finding themselves, as the war goes on, in a more and more favourable position compared with the Central Powers. At any moment Austria-Hungary might decide that it was in her interest to run the risk of uncovering her eastern side in order to deal the Serbians an overwhelming blow. When we recall the empty triumphs won by Germany at Brussels and Antwerp, such a possibility cannot be altogether disregarded. There are two ways in which Serbia can guard against this very real danger. She can restrict her operations in such a way as not to impose too great a strain on her resources. By so doing she surrenders the advantage of the offensive and stultifies her whole campaign. The alternative is to make it practically impossible that Austria-Hungary should at any time be able to spare any considerable reinforcements for her southern troops, by keeping all her available forces more and more occupied elsewhere. It becomes necessary, therefore, that Serbia should cease to regard her operations as an isolated campaign, in which she profits by Austrian preoccupations in other directions, but is not required to bring either her strategy or her general policy into line with the requirements of her allies. If the armies of the Triple Entente should be defeated at the hands of Germany and Austria-Hungary, Serbia will lose her independence. She has good reason, therefore, to realise that her future is entirely bound up with the cause of her allies, and she ought to be ready to make sacrifices for the success of that cause. If it is not enough, as we have seen, even for her own safety to keep a few Austrian army corps occupied near Serajevo, this work can hardly be an adequate contribution to a cause on the success of which her very existence as a State depends. Something else still remains for Serbia to do, and although it is a small thing, it can exercise a very potent influence on her own destiny and help the cause of the Allies.

The last chance that Austria-Hungary has of increasing the pressure she can bring to bear upon the Serbian Army would disappear if Roumania were to take the field against her. One of the chief causes—if not the only one—that holds Roumania back is the unsatisfactory situation in the Balkans. There can be no certainty, in the event of an indefinite prolongation of the war, that Bulgaria will continue to adhere to her self-denying ordinance and refrain from striking a blow on behalf of her legitimate aspirations. She might entertain no animosity against Roumania, and her concern might be entirely in the west and south; but Roumania would be expected to come to Serbia's assistance, and so would have a war on two fronts, even if she were not herself menaced by Turkey as a result of Bulgaria's action. So long, therefore, as the position in the Balkans is indeterminate Roumania is delayed in taking action against Austria-Hungary, and Serbia remains exposed to the menace of a sudden accession of strength to the Austro-Hungarian forces opposing her. This Balkan difficulty can be disposed of in a very short time if Serbia will take a statesmanlike view of the situation. She is the main obstacle to the realisation of Bulgaria's aspirations. The errors of Bulgarian diplomacy and the fortunes of a war in which the Bulgarians were hopelessly outnumbered enabled Serbia to take certain territory which she had previously recognised as Bulgarian. She defended her claim on the ground that she had herself been robbed of territory in another direction. The Serbians now stand to gain more territory than they could ever have anticipated outside their dreams. Compared with it the amount that they would have to surrender in order to satisfy Bulgaria is altogether insignificant. By making the offer spontaneously they will do nearly all that is required to regulate the situation in the Balkans and to enable just that additional pressure to be applied to Austria-Hungary which will prevent her from increasing the force now operating against the Serbians in Bosnia. It is possible that Bulgaria might still hold out for the surrender of some territory by Greece. She may not obtain all she aspires to in this direction, but it is possible that Greece in turn would be willing, for the sake of settling the Balkan question, to make concessions in the north in return for an extension of territory in Albania. The first step, however, must come from Serbia, for her position, in spite of her successes, is one of danger, and she owes it to the Allies who are fighting for her cause no less than for their own, to make the small sacrifice entailed for the speedier success of the Allied Armies.

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THE PENSION SCARE.

By NIKATS OF ROVINO.

(Translated from the Serbian by Elizabeth Christitch.)

Few of us in this world but have some secret dread. It may be lightning, storm, fire, snakes, sorcery, cholera, accidents, poverty, or vampires. Jovan Kuyungitch, Montenegrin brigadier, famous remover of Turks' heads, was indifferent to all the above; but he feared something else. He lived in dread of being pensioned. He is now ninety-three, one of the last of the Serbian Pleiades who considered the gun and the gousla (one-stringed guitar) the noblest calling of mortals. Jovan participated in sixteen Turco-Serbian wars, from 1848 to 1913, and was wounded seven times. He is still hale, scarred, rugged, and stubborn. In 1905, when King Nikola granted a constitution, he was much perplexed as to what it might mean. He worried over the new laws that interfered with everything. There were rules for the hunt, for fishing, and what not; but when it came to putting men of worth and valour such as Commanders Simovitch and Kovatchevitch on the retired list he was very wroth.

"We will soon be handcuffed with sausages, I suppose," he grunted, "and forbidden to eat them."

At last the day came when his own name stood in the retired list of the official gazette, *Glas Tsrnagorska*.

"I, to be flung into the middle of a pension!" he said, bitterly. "At my age! After my services! Who foresaw this? Have I deserved it?"

He went home from the *mehana*, where the paper had been read to him, and called from afar to his sons:

"Arsenia, Nikola, saddle my horse!"

In a few minutes he was galloping on the road to Cettinje. After three days' journey he reined up outside the War Ministry. But here, too, were changes. He was asked his business and made to wait. The Minister came out to meet him, however, embraced him as a dear old comrade, and led him inside.

"Was it you that threw me into the pension?" asked Jovan.

"What? *You* in pension? Never!"

"It is printed black and white in the *Glas Tsrnagorska*."

"Nonsense! Let me see."

He took the paper from Jovan's hand and studied it carefully.

"Sure enough! The Finance Minister is responsible for this, or—it may be the Home Minister."

"And who are they, in God's name?"

"Why, Pera and Maxim, your old comrades. They are Ministers now. That's the Constitution, you know."

"Worse luck! Nothing but trouble has it brought us."

Jovan set out for the house of the Minister of Finances, who denied any knowledge of the pension catastrophe. He fared no better with the Home Minister. Each made the sign of the cross in astonishment at the news Jovan brought, and finally he decided to refer to the King himself.

"Welcome, welcome, my old wolf! All good be your portion," was the King's greeting.

"Nothing good brings me, Gospodar, but disgrace and sorrow."

"How so, my friend Jovan? Tell it all to me."

Jovan then set forth how after sixty years' war service and the goodly array of Turks' heads to his credit he was condemned to pension.

"It will never find me alive," he declared.

The King listened attentively, and then tried to soothe and explain.

"New times have arisen, my friend," he said, "and we must go with the times. We old men must give the young ones their chance You, Jovan, deserve a rest. You have served me well, and the whole country knows it and honours you. None other than your own sons will be allowed to fill your post. I promise it."

The brigadier listened patiently, and then looking the monarch straight in the face answered him:

"All that you say is true and right, but I want to know one thing: Are you, Sire, the ruler of Montenegro, or is it now Prince Danilo?"

King Nikola frowned and replied, sharply: "I am the King, of course."

"Thanks to God you are. And so am I brigadier. But when your son is king, I say, then let my Arsenia be brigadier."

King Nikola was silent for a while, and then said:

"Very well, Brigadier Jovan. You are a just man, and I'll see to it you never get a pension while I'm alive."

This was many years ago, and Jovan has never since known fear, not even when a bomb carried off his left hand at the siege of Scutari.

SERBIAN DETERMINATION.

H.E. the Serbian Minister has addressed to *The Times* a letter in which he expresses his deep gratitude, and that of the Serbian nation, for the sympathy and help shown to them by the Press and people of Great Britain. "Serbia," His Excellency goes on to say, "is in a way the Belgium of the Eastern theatre and was menaced with a like fate. Heartened by the powerful assistance of Russia, Great Britain, and France, with whom she is proud to be fighting side by side in a common and just cause, she has detained, beaten in several battles, and is keeping at bay superior Austrian forces, resolved to fight on to her last man.

"M. Pashitch, our Prime Minister, has already telegraphed the heartfelt thanks of the Serbian people to the Serbian Relief Committee, comprising such noble names as those of the Bishop of London, Cardinal Bourne, Lord Roberts, Earl Curzon, Mr. Lloyd George, and others, ladies and gentlemen, who have so unselfishly and so untiringly worked to help my country. Serbia will never forget the splendid generosity of the British people, especially at a moment when they have to meet such heavy demands for their own valiant Navy and Army, as also for the cruelly stricken Belgian people."

RED CROSS FOR SERBIA.

An appeal is issued by the Bishop of London, Cardinal Bourne, Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George, Dr. Campbell Morgan, and others as office-bearers of the Serbian Relief Fund, in the course of which they say:—The response to our initial appeal has been so encouraging as to justify the committee in immediately preparing an expedition for the Serbian front, and Lady Paget has placed the committee under a deep obligation by consenting to lead it. We hope, therefore, during the next week (in combination with the St. John Ambulance Association) to despatch to Serbia a first unit consisting of surgeons, nurses, wardmaids, dressers, and orderlies, with proper equipment and stores, and the Serbian Government has already gratefully accepted their services and placed a hospital at their disposal. It is hoped to follow this up with other units as fast as the funds can be collected. In view, however, of the heavy cost of maintenance (heavy despite the most rigid economy), the complete uncertainty as to the duration of the war, and the prospects of large overflow work in the event of prolonged hostilities, funds are most urgently needed. In the majority of cases the staff have generously offered their services for nothing, but owing to the distance and the abnormal state of Continental traffic, even the travelling expenses of each expedition amount to a heavy item. Any help, whether in money or in kind, will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Cheques should be sent to Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., hon. treasurer, Serbian Relief Fund, 22, Berners Street, London, W., or to the account of the Serbian Relief Fund at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, 1, St. James's Square, S.W. Parcels of clothes, etc., should be addressed to Lady (Ralph) Paget, c.o. the Serbian Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND GREECE.

We have received the following from an esteemed correspondent writing from Athens:—

I would wish to call the attention of British manufacturers and exporters, and also of the British Government, to the following important question.

With the outbreak of the European War it was generally believed by everybody in Greece that the whole of the trade which had hitherto been carried on with Germany would at once fall into British hands; and very likely you in Great Britain took this view. In Greece, where, I dare say, hardly anyone sincerely sympathises with Germany and her Ally, it was hoped, as sincerely as in Great Britain, that this expectation would be realised; but, unfortunately, in spite of these mutual desires, and although the ground was most suitable, the circumstances in all respects favourable, and only a slight effort was needed from your side, the British manufacturers and exporters have placed every difficulty in the way of accepting and executing orders from Greece. Some refuse business altogether, and others make business impossible by asking for payment with order, or against bill of lading with a bank in London. Such terms are not justified. They would perhaps be so if Greece was at war, but such terms were not asked during the Balkan war. British manufacturers and exporters would perhaps be justified in refusing credit under the circumstances, and in asking for cash against bill of lading on this side—but nothing further.

On the other hand, German manufacturers and exporters have so far done all in their power to forward all goods which had been ordered before the war, either per parcels post, when this was practicable, or else by steamer viâ Holland, or viâ Trieste or Venice, or even through Brindisi. Moreover, for such goods they did not ask cash payment, but allowed the same terms as before; at the same time they endeavour by all possible means to retain their customers ,and continue submitting quotations for prompt and later delivery; for delivery during the war, they promise to have the goods forwarded by parcels post if possible, or by steamer through Holland, Trieste, Venice, or Brindisi.

In more than one case, when the customer expressed his doubt of the possibility that such orders could be forwarded, the supplier did not hestitate to propose a penalty clause.

My candid opinion is that British manufacturers and exporters are mistaken if they think that their Continental competitors will lose the business without any attempt being made to deprive them of it. Unless British firms make up their minds to work hard, and on more reasonable terms, Greek buyers will be compelled not only to renew, but even to extend, their connections with the German firms. In short, it will be a pity if British firms let such an opportunity slip through their fingers for want of a little energy and common sense. There is still time to gain the market, but action must be taken at once, and with vigour. Greek merchants would consider themselves only too happy should they see the trade taken over by British firms.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Egyptian crop and all pertaining thereto is still under discussion. Reports as to the size of the new crop, due in November, vary considerably. We have optimistic reports—and others, exactly as in previous years. The optimistic note has been in the ascendancy lately, but this week Messrs. Reinhart's report is far from cheerful, and as for *The Egyptian Gazette*, it published a scathing comment on the 17th reminding the Government of the campaign last year in favour of strict Governmental measures against the boliworm, which has been very active again this year, and which has "enormously simplified" the problem of the financing of the cotton crop. For "by the time the Ministry of Finance has elaborated the scheme for moving the crop, Egypt's production of cotton will perhaps be hardly more than sufficient for this year's very reduced requirements." We refer on our cotton page to these two articles, and to an interesting article published towards the latter part of the week by Professor Lawrence Balls in *The Manchester Guardian*.

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Financial or, for that matter, commercial news from Turkey is scarce and not promising. We publish on another page the balance-sheet of the Public Debt Administration, showing gross receipts for February, 1913—February, 1914, to be £T5,442,694, as against £T4,553,863 for the corresponding period of the previous year, or an increase of £T888,831; the net sum available for distribution is £T4,385,914.16, as against £T3,743,334.39 for last year. Further comments concerning the administration of the Debt are out of time, pending the publication of Sir Adam Black's report, which, I believe, is shortly due. It says a lot for the elasticity of Ottoman economics, however, that in spite of years of war the returns, even if we include provisional surtaxes and the Tripolitan tribute, are favourable. The praise due to the administration of the Debt is in no way lessened by the above remark. I hope soon to have an opportunity to go more thoroughly into the figures as published.

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Regarding the abolition of the Capitulations—that is to say, more particularly the imposition of a tax on foreigners and the increase of the import tariff, no definite information is available, but the prevailing opinion is that even if these financial measures have not been introduced (as is likely), they are bound to come sooner or later. I do not know whether sane foreign business men in Turkey are so averse to the introduction of these measures as is generally made out here. Similarly, the opinion is gaining ground that after all Turkey is not so eager to pay lip and arm service to Germany as some people would have us believe, and that the German position in Stamboul is as precarious as it is on the Yser. I should not be at all surprised to see Enver Pasha "downed" and the Entente Party come into power before very long. This would be decidedly to Turkey's advantage. But, leaving aside this purely political aspect, a question which occurs to me is: If the Customs dues are increased by 4 per cent., must not the increased returns be included in the Public Debt Administration's accounts (as happened recently when the dues were increased by 3 per cent.), as well as the increase arising from the proposed general application of the temettu? It is a question of some interest, which I hope to see defined shortly. It will not be amiss to hope that the Turkish Government will agree to some such procedure, for, when all is said and done, there is no better financial institution in the country, and none that has shown itself to be more friendly to Turkish interests, while at the same time safeguarding the interests of the Ottoman bondholders. I may mention that Djavid Bey estimates the increase in revenue from the imposition of the proposed 4 per cent. surcharge on the Customs dues at £T1,300,000 to £T1,500,000 per annum. No figures are available concerning the possible revenue for the proposed general application of the temettu.

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If there is one poor country completely "off the map" at the present moment it is Bulgaria. To be in Sofia now is almost equivalent to being at the Antipodes, or farther away. I refer, of course, to the postal arrangements. I used regularly to receive the *Écho de Bulgarie*, but except for an occasional stray number no trace of that useful publication is now forthcoming. The treatment meted out to our correspondent in Sofia is not a whit better. We had not heard from him for months, and this week we received three letters, the most recent of which was dated September 19. He tells us that he has been writing regularly, so what has become of his other letters heaven alone knows. But better still is the fate of the Agence Télégraphique Bulgare. In normal times I received their news sheets twice or three times a week from Sofia, but now all that has changed, and yesterday morning I received an odd one, dated July 15!

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This is unfortunate, and can do Bulgaria no good. Her friends, the Germans and Austrians, should bear this in mind. Some few weeks ago I pointed out that it would be greatly to Bulgaria's advantage to make herself independent of her neighbours (and of the Dardanelles) by linking up a port on the Ægean with Malta, for instance. From the foregoing it will be seen that some such arrangement becomes imperative. The difficulty is, I know, the lack of direct railway communication between Sofia and the southern coast, but this could be overcome by motor traction, and, pending the creation of Porto Lagos, Dedeagatch could be made use of. It is the only remedy to the actual situation that I can think of. The route via Nish-Salonika is by far too erratic to be useful, but in spite of this I see that it is generally made use of by Sofians. More practical than the latter, and pending the creation of a Dedeagatch service, would be to send letters, etc., either via Bucharest or Constantinople. We do get mails from these two capitals with more or less regularity; compared with the Sofia service they are not short of excellent. However, after all, is it not possible that it is the plan of the enemy to keep Bulgaria isolated for reasons best known to themselves? Such isolation could easily be worked at Constantinople—a circumstance to which I wish to call the attention of the Bulgarian Government.

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Even if oil is an important factor in modern warfare, coal has not lost all its old significance. There is a considerable shortage in Vienna and Austria generally speaking, whereas our Constantinople correspondent's reference to coal for the "Goeben" and "Breslau" makes pleasant reading. If the speed of these two boats is considerably reduced, they will fall an easy prey to the Russian Fleet in the Black Sea or to the Anglo-French Fleet in the Ægean, and thus will end, "coal and steamless," the farcical episode of the "Goeben" and "Breslau." It would almost seem that, though Germany has a great supply of unasked-for commanding officers to be given away cheap to her one friend and her one ally, she can give them neither coal, oil, nor grain.

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The news that Roumania has prohibited the exportation of oil has created a most favourable impression here, where it was generally recognised that Germany and Austria were drawing their supplies from the Roumanian oilfields. As a matter of fact, the current issue of the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* emphasises the recent enormous exports of oil via Predeal as against the complete stoppage of sea transport owing to the insecurity of the Dardanelles. So heavy have the exports been that the line for a time being became congested, and all traffic was interrupted. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Bulgaria, who always has been a purchaser of Russian oil, has been acquiring large supplies of Roumanian oil. I hope that when the prohibition law has been repealed Bulgaria will continue to be one of Roumania's clients.

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I referred in the preceding paragraph to the congestion of the line at Predeal. It is only right to add that heavy exports of grain to Germany and Austria helped to congest the traffic. From which it will be seen how valuable to Germany is Roumanian neutrality. However much we regret it, we cannot blame Roumania as a neutral from disposing of her products as seems best to her, but I should like to point out that, supposing Roumania is called on sooner or later to strike a blow for those of her blood who are slaves in Transylvania, she will regret having fed the enemy and helped him to move his howitzers against her sons. She is certain to realise this sooner or later, and it would, therefore, not come as a surprise to me to hear that grain will shortly be added to the list of Roumania's prohibited exports. It is to be regretted from the point of view of the country's export trade, but in these days of Prussian world-wide Imperial aggression on smaller States other considerations must be foremost.

COMMENTATOR.

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Matchless Cigarettes.
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War on German Trade.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

In continuation of our series of extracts from the bulletins issued by the Board of Trade, we give this week particulars from the same source of the openings for trade in saddlery, harness, and other leather wares (exclusive of boots, shoes, gloves, and machinery belting already analysed in these columns) which present themselves in the Near East:—

In 1912 Germany exported leather wares, exclusive of boots, shoes, gloves, and machinery belting to the value of £2,485,900, Austria to that of £161,650, and the United Kingdom to £1,128,300. The exports of saddlery and harness from the United Kingdom largely exceed (£445,500, as against £148,400) those from Germany and Austria-Hungary combined. On the other hand, the exports of other leathern wares from this country (£682,800), though larger than those from Austria-Hungary, are much smaller than those from Germany.

The following figures for 1912 show Germany's exports to various Near Eastern countries:—

Saddlers' goods, travelling bags and hand bags of leather: Roumania, £1,500; Bulgaria, £50; Turkey, £5,600; and Egypt, £650.

Trunk-makers' wares, purses, cigar, etc., cases, fitted cases for sewing and for travelling, chatelaine bags of real or imitation leather: Roumania, £16,000; Bulgaria, £650; Greece, £900; Serbia, £1,000; Turkey, £31,900; and Egypt, £4,100.

Tents, cleaning cloths, etc., of leather of all kinds, of raw hides, etc., of coarse spun materials, or of ropemakers' work, embroidery on leather, wall hangings of leather: Roumania, £9,800; Bulgaria, £5,300; Greece, £9,100; Serbia, £2,300; Turkey, £69,200; and Egypt, £2,500.

Leather goods of other sorts (not included in previous bulletins): Roumania, £1,000; Bulgaria, £150; Greece, £150; Serbia, £50; Turkey, £1,000; and Egypt, £550.

The total for Germany for the above-mentioned countries is £173,450, of which Turkey alone imported to the value of £107,700, followed by Roumania by close on to £20,000.

For all classes of these goods Austria's principal markets are the various countries of South-Eastern Europe and the Levant, but principally Roumania. The following are the figures for 1913:—

Saddlery and harness: Roumania, £13,600; Bulgaria, £3,500; Greece, £100; Serbia, £2,300; and Turkey, £400.

Trunk-makers' wares: Roumania, £5,700; Bulgaria, £1,350; Greece, £400; Serbia, £600; Turkey, £3,100; and Egypt, £700.

Leatherwares not specially mentioned: Roumania, £5,550; Bulgaria, £900; Greece, £250; Serbia, £650; Turkey, £600; and Egypt, £300.

Leather wares with mountings of gold and silver: Roumania, £750; Bulgaria, £300; Greece, £100; Servia, £100; and Turkey, £150.

Miscellaneous leather wares for technical purposes (including welting leather for boots and shoes, saddle leather cut out for bicycle saddles, blocked raw hides not further worked, travelling buckets, weavers' picker bends, cogged wheels, sockets, washers and rings for packing and the like): Roumania, £1,150; Bulgaria, £150; and Turkey, £150.

The total Austro-German trade can be estimated therefore at about £220,000, a certain proportion of which ought easily to fall to British manufacturing exporters.

The following table shows the imports of various Near Eastern countries from Germany, Austria, and the United Kingdom:—

SADDLERY.

	From Germany.	From Austria.	From U.K.
Roumania	£1,500	£13,600	£2,000
Bulgaria	50	3,500	—
Greece	—	100	100
Serbia	—	2,300	—
Turkey	5,600	400	2,900
Egypt	650	—	6,300

OTHER LEATHER WARES (EXCEPT BOOTS AND SHOES, ETC.).

	From Germany.	From Austria.	From U.K.
Roumania	£26,800	£13,150	£900
Bulgaria	6,100	2,700	100
Greece	10,150	750	2,900
Serbia	3,350	1,350	—
Turkey	102,100	3,900	6,400
Egypt	7,150	1,000	8,200

The following are particulars concerning certain Near Eastern markets:—

Egypt.

The following were the values of the imports of leather manufactures (excluding boots and shoes) into Egypt from the under-mentioned countries in 1913:—

—	U. K.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.
	1913.	1913.	1913.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
Saddlery	5,599	79	225
Leather manufactures (*maroquinerie*)	4,393	3,218	8,455
Other leather goods	19,021	2,685	842

Serbia.

An Austrian Consular report for the year 1911 states that the bulk of saddlery of all kinds imported into Serbia comes from Austria-Hungary and more particularly France. This refers to better class goods, with metal finishings and accessories. Common harness is manufactured in the country. The importation of better class pocket articles of leather has increased greatly. Ladies' purses and handbags of the best quality come from France, but Austria-Hungary and Germany supply practically all the cheaper class of goods. Trunks are supplied principally by Germany.

Greece.

The Austrian Consul-General at Salonika reports that Austria-Hungary supplies the bulk of the imports in purses, ladies' handbags, travelling bags, tobacco pouches, etc.; all of medium grade and cheaper qualities.

Turkey.

The Austrian Consul-General at Constantinople calls attention to the growing trade in leather goods of the cheaper class from Austria-Hungary and Germany. Finer goods are not in great demand.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Smyrna, in a special memorandum on the leather trade of Smyrna, drawn up in 1913, states that all better class harness, saddlery, etc., is imported ready made from Europe, but that the consumption is insignificant. In the trade in leather trunks and bags, the United Kingdom stands first in the list of supplying countries, whilst in the import of purses, small handbags, etc., Germany and France lead the way. There is a considerable demand for German and Austrian fancy leather goods.

An Austrian Consular report from Beyrout states that in 1911 leather purses were imported from Germany; Austria-Hungary, and France, to the value of about £3,000. Ladies' belts come almost exclusively from Germany and Austria-Hungary, which countries also send a large proportion of the total importation of razor-strops.

Bulgaria.

A German Consular report states:—

"Imports of good quality fancy leather goods come from Germany and Austria; the commoner articles are made in the country, and the high tariff makes it impossible for the importer to trade in them."

WOOLLEN BELTS.

A well-known Bradford firm have a large quantity of long woollen belts, known in Turkey as "Kouchak," to dispose of. These would, in present circumstances, be acceptable to soldiers in the field, and would be suitable, for instance, for the Serbian Army. For further particulars apply to the offices of THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, E.C.

MANCHESTER EXPORTS.

The Manchester Association of Importers and Exporters has just issued to its members a valuable booklet containing statistics showing the principal exports in 1911 of goods from Germany to the chief countries of the world in pounds sterling and in marks. The figures in reference to the countries of the Near East are given as under:—

Roumania	£4,550,000
Egypt	2,100,000
Bulgaria	1,150,000
Serbia	1,050,000
Greece	850,000

DECLARATIONS OF DESTINATION.

In accordance with a recent official notification, declarations of ultimate destination will be required until further notice in respect of all British exports (except for goods exported under *license*), without regard to value of consignments, to any foreign port in Europe or on the Mediterranean or Black Seas, with the exception of those of Russia, Belgium, France, Spain, and Portugal. Goods, wares, or merchandise sought to be exported will not be allowed to be shipped until the declarations in the form prescribed have been lodged with H.M. Customs.

Declarations may be made before the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce (Inc.), 97, Cannon Street, London, E.C., from whom particulars are obtainable.

TRADE WITH MOROCCO.

"Within living memory" (says the Tangier correspondent of *The Morning Post*) "Anglo-Moorish commerce has never had a more hopeful outlook, thanks to the extinction of German competition, especially in such articles as green tea and trashy imitations of Birmingham wares. Without any breach of confidence, I may add that among the first indications of renewed enterprise are the negotiations now proceeding for the inauguration of a first-class British motor service, which promises to lack nothing that energy, money, and skill can furnish."

SILK KHAKI.

"There is a serious proposal," says *The Manchester Guardian*, "to clothe the army in silk. It is, indeed, something more than a proposal, for the matter has been discussed with the War Office, and an order has been given for cloth for a battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. It is a homely looking material, made from tussah yarn, wool, and worsted. Its principal drawback is that it costs 1s. per yard, or 3s. 6d. per suit, more than ordinary khaki, but, on the other hand, it is said to have the great advantages of lightness and durability, the strain it will bear being nearly double that of the material now used. Its adoption would expedite the clothing of Kitchener's New Army, and, in the meantime would also give much-needed employment to a number of silk trade operatives, while relieving the pressure upon the woollen industry."

BRITISH TRADE IN TREBIZOND.

Mr. Consul Satow, at Trebizond, reports that, as compared with 1912, there is a decrease in the imports of £187,500, those from the United Kingdom being stated to have fallen off by about £20,000. The chief imports from the United Kingdom include copper, tin, bedsteads, safes, machinery, oils, and paints. The United Kingdom has also a share in the importation of canvas, galvanised iron pipes and sheets, iron, and enamelware. In 1913 almost all the copper imported came from the United Kingdom. Tin comes chiefly from the United Kingdom, iron from Belgium, and steel in bars from Austria-Hungary, vid Trieste, at prices ranging from £1 9s. 9d. to £1 14s. 9d. per 220 lbs., with 2½ per cent. discount against documents. Steel of a harder quality comes from France, c.i.f. Trebizond, at £3 4s. per 220 lbs. Edge tools and saws come chiefly from France, files from Germany, the United States, and France.

Barbed wire comes chiefly from Belgium and the United States at c.i.f. prices so low that British manufacturers apparently cannot compete. About 17,000 rolls are sold annually. Russian trade with the interior, vid the Caucasus, appears to be increasing, and petroleum, iron, agricultural machinery, and matches, which formerly passed through Trebizond, now take the direct route.

The Board of Trade desire to point out to British manufacturers and merchants who wish to obtain information in regard to trade matters in the colonies or foreign countries that it is desirable that applications should first be made to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, as above, before communications are addressed to the Board of Trade correspondents or to H.M. Consular officers abroad. By the adoption of this course much delay will be avoided by the inquirer in cases in which the Commercial Intelligence Branch is already in possession of the required information.

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Egypt Cotton Problem.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 17.

The liquidation of outstanding cotton and cotton-seed contracts, which was especially excluded from the extension of the moratorium for commercial affairs, was on the same day fixed by Ministerial *arrêté* for the 21st inst., and the special Commission, appointed on September 17, will have power to act as and in the place of the ordinary Merchandise Commission, which was suspended, as was reported at the time. It is believed that the liquidation will not give rise to as much difficulty as was expected.

The Difficulty of Cotton Rents.

The limitation of the cotton area in 1915 to one million feddans, and to one-quarter, with some few exceptions, of any one holding, has given rise to an unforeseen difficulty, not as regards the limitation, but as regards the fellaheen tenants. The latter pay rent to their landlords on the basis of the area planted by them with cotton; the more the landlord allows to be planted and the more the tenant agrees to plant, the higher the rental, and consequently the greater the sale-value of the land becomes.

Many of the leases are made for a term of years, and now that the tenants are forbidden by law to plant more than one-quarter, which is invariably much less than that agreed upon between them and their landlords, they stand to lose on the deal. The landlords are averse to reducing the rents, since that would react on the sale-value of their estates. The question will require very careful consideration, but it is evident that something will have to be done by the Government, as it is quite unjust that the fellaheen tenants should be made to suffer by a measure that has been introduced for the benefit of the agricultural population as a whole.

GOVERNMENT'S DIFFICULT POSITION.

Writing in the *Manchester Guardian* on October 26, Professor Lawrence Balls stated that two significant points seem to have been missed in the controversy which the Egyptian Government has provoked by its decision to reduce the cotton area. One of these is that the Government "had no alternative; it could afford nothing else. In the Financial Advisers' Note it is stated that 'the preliminary proposals to purchase a portion of the crop were found impracticable and financially unsound,' and this is the kernel of the matter. The financing of the previous year had been a delicate task, and the effects of the outbreak of European war in 1914 may be deduced from the results within the Government service; that a Government should itself be obliged to increase unemployment under such circumstances in a rich country is almost without precedent."

It is clear that the "Egyptian Government has been obliged to economise most strictly. Presumably therefore it has no available credit with which to purchase the surplus crop, or to make advances on cotton in store, to the amount of about £10,000,000. The alternative was to let the price of cotton fall, which would have done much good in the long run, but in the meanwhile would have had serious disadvantages."

However, adds the author, the price will fall in any case. "The reduced Egyptian area does not mean that Egyptian prices will stay high of compulsion, for the reduction is insufficient to pull Egyptian out of step with the American crop, under the conditions of trade which will probably obtain." It is obvious therefore that "the Egyptian Government was between two stools, and could do nothing other than what it has done; its action is even altruistic, for it will, presumably, have to remit taxation on the prohibition areas, it will lose the export duty, and if no cereals are exported it will lose the duty on imports which the cotton pays for, the freightage of the cotton which the State railways would otherwise have carried will be lost, and it will have the trouble of administering the Decree, which is no light matter.

Admittedly, "the position would seem to be peculiar, and Sir Charles Macara's comments well merited. A better solution might have been found if the matter had been treated as a technical problem in the economics of the cotton trade, and not as a purely financial affair. It may seem strange that the delegates sent to Lancashire should not have included a grower and a merchant proper. Although the Egyptian Government had no alternative to its own action, one cannot but think that a more deliberate consideration might have brought external assistance, through Sir Charles Macara's project of establishing reserves."

Undue Haste.

This brings the author to the second point, "namely, the haste with which the decision in question was taken, so contrary to the usual bureaucratic procrastination. The first special meeting of the Commission with the Lancashire people was held on September 1, only one member being then present, and the Decree was promulgated on September 23, only three weeks later. Less important matters have been known to take much longer. There would scarcely seem to have been such need for haste in legislating for a crop which will not be sown until March and April.

Conclusion.

The following conclusion arrived at by the well-known expert on Egyptian cotton cultivation is worthy of the most careful consideration, and it is to be hoped that it will not fall on deaf ears. The writer says,—"The warnings which have been proffered to Egypt, as to the way in which she will be boycotted, will leave her cold. Egypt believes that the world cannot manage without Egyptian cotton. Therein she is wrong. On the other hand, there is no other country which is quite so perfectly suited to the production of the fine cottons, when properly handled. One would like to see a huge co-operative society founded with fellaheen and spinners as partners. As matters stand at present the isolated action of the Egyptian Government may not save the price from falling, but it certainly will give the Sea Islands, West Indies, Brazil, Peru, South-western States of America, the Punjab, and Mississippi such an opportunity as they had never anticipated for tiding over bad times. Egypt was within an ace of establishing a monopoly. Ten years hence she may again have struggled up to the same position!"

THE NILE FLOOD.

From the latest Survey Department chart to hand, the White Nile flood appears to be at the same level as last year. The Blue Nile is turbulent and the level is much above the average. At the junction of the two at Khartoum the river is 35 centimetres above the normal height, and it is the same at Atbara. At Wady Halfa the river is normal. In the Assuan Reservoir the level is 65 centimetres above that of last year, though the normal has not yet been reached. Downstream the level is normal, but at Cairo the Roda nilometer registers a slight fall.

PESSIMISTIC CROP REPORT.

Bollworm Depredations.

Referring to Messrs. Reinhardt's report for the week ended October 8, *The Statist* regrets to say that it is much less favourable than the reports that have previously reached that paper. "Crop news," says the report, "is distinctly bad." The paper alluded to then continues:—"From the official report for September it appears that the damage done by insects, fogs, and overwatering during the second fortnight of September will be about 20 per cent. This is enormous if the ideal conditions and prospects right up to the beginning of September are borne in mind. The Government has not as yet issued an estimate of the acreage planted, but basing ourselves on our own estimate of 50,000 feddans increase over 1913 the prospects, as given by the Government report referred to, point to about 6½ million cantars as final yield. Though not unfavourable to the cotton plant, the temperature in Lower Egypt has been somewhat irregular, with several cool nights and days. Boll worm has been reported everywhere, and in some localities the pink boll worm is reported in large quantities. Some very heavy fogs and mists have been reported. Damage somewhat greater than last year has, in consequence, been reported. The first picking has begun, and should have been as early as last year had not the general situation caused delay. The results seem to be about equal to last year. The second and third pickings will apparently give an inferior yield to last year. In Upper Egypt and Fayoum the temperature has not been favourable, being colder than usual. Frequent mists and boll worm have caused some damage to the first and second pickings.

On October 10, *The Egyptian Gazette* referred to the depredations of the boll worm and its triumphant march throughout the provinces of Upper and Lower Egypt," and added sarcastically that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and the problem of the financing of the cotton crop will be enormously simplified by this energetic little insect, since, by the time the Ministry of Finance has elaborated the scheme for moving the crop, Egypt's production of cotton will perhaps, thanks to the inaction of the Government last year, be hardly more than sufficient for this year's very reduced requirements." The same journal concludes its editorial by saying:—"In our issue of November 8 last year we reproduced an article from the *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce, in which attention was dawn to this matter, and it was stated that in spite of the circulars, inspectors, and fatherly advice, the infested boll was being hoarded on the cotton sticks on the top of the fellaheen's houses, where the grub would remain, snug and secure, until next year when it thinks fit to emerge as a moth and multiply a thousandfold. We were subsequently informed that a legislative project had been elaborated to deal with the matter, which was to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly, but despite the fact that the entire fabric of Egypt's prosperity was threatened, nothing was done until it was too late, the cotton crop then being planted, and it was only last summer that it was thought desirable to introduce legislation."

BY APPOINTMENT.

JOPP'S BLEND

Old Highland Whisky.

AGENTS for EGYPT and the SUDAN:

COMMERCIAL & AGENCY CO. OF EGYPT, LTD., Alexandria & Cairo.

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MANCHESTER MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, October 28.

The rather improved tone in the market is being fairly well maintained, but any big buying does not appear to be near at hand. Traders welcome the better tone, and certainly in one way and another the turnover shows a slight expansion compared with recent previous weeks. It is evident some buyers are now tempted by the low prices ruling to operate more freely. There is too much uncertainty as to raw cotton prices for a large trade to take place, and operators are nervous as to committing themselves very far ahead. Some advices relating to the Egyptian crop are not so favourable. Merchants complain of the very low prices ruling in certain descriptions. There are now indications of a record output in American cotton this season, the ginners' report just to hand being very favourable. In some respects the outlook in cloth for Egypt is a little more encouraging. Here and there goods have been taken on a rather freer scale, and inquiry has not been altogether absent. There is, however, plenty of room for improvement with regard to the Near Eastern outlets generally. There are no signs of India buyers entering the market with any vigour, and, owing to big shipments and increasing stocks on the other side, it is feared that a further period of waiting will have to be experienced by manufacturers. The demand for China has shown a little expansion, and in addition to miscellaneous cloths being sold, certain styles of shirtings have been purchased. The reports from Shanghai, however, are very mixed. Rather more activity has again prevailed in cloth suitable for dyeing. Shirtings, as a whole, remain flat. In home trade circles khaki drills have again been active, and makers are pressed for deliveries. Rather more business has come round in white goods. Although the orders have been unevenly divided, a larger turnover has transpired in home American yarns. The bulk of the demand has run on the coarser numbers, and certain producers are now able to hold more firmly to quotations. It is said that some of this business has been of a speculative character. Some low offers have come through in bundle yarns for India. In Bolton spinnings things are no worse, but no appreciable increase of business can be recorded.

GERMANY'S COTTON SUPPLIES.

It is understood that the Egyptian Customs Administration has under consideration an important project with regard to the exportation of cotton from this country to Switzerland and Italy, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. It appears that the consignments of certain export firms here to Switzerland and Italy are really intended to be delivered to German manufacturers. In future it will be necessary for exporters to present documents to the authorities of the Customs here to prove that their goods are really going to Italian or Swiss manufacturers. The exporter will also be asked to pay a deposit of fifty per cent., which will be reimbursed on the receipt of certificates from British Consuls in Italy or Switzerland showing that the goods are not going to Germany.

MESSRS. DAVIES BENACHI'S REPORT.

Messrs. Davies, Benachi, and Co. report from Alexandria (October 14) that cotton receipts from August 1 amount to 135,614 cantars, as against 1,603,290 cantars for the corresponding period of last year. The stock is estimated at 783,000 cantars, as against 1,433,000 cantars in 1913. Total shipments amounted to 28,738 cantars (11,852 cantars to Great Britain), as against 119,241 cantars for the same period of 1913.

ALBERT SINGER
KHARTOUM SUDAN

EXPORT OF GUM ARABIC AND SUDAN PRODUCE.

Agency for firms desirous of introducing their brands of goods into the Sudan.

Established 1900.

Near East Markets.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

The following information is compiled from the weekly bulletins received at the London office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank from its correspondents in the Near East :—

Mossul. September 1.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for August :—

The pessimistic news as to the condition of the gall-nut crop has just been confirmed. Reports from the Zakho and Akra districts are especially bad. It is everywhere the same story, viz., if the crop is not abandoned altogether it will be delayed in consequence of the shortage of labour caused by the mobilisation. In addition, owing to the monetary stringency here, no business at all is being done in this article.

Business here has been practically at a standstill during the month of August, the fast of Ramazan, the outbreak of war in Europe, the declaration of a moratorium in Turkey, and the general mobilisation followed by arbitrary and exacting requisitions—all has contributed towards paralysing our market, and this situation, aggravated by the money stringency, grows worse every day.

Angora. September 20.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for August :—

The general mobilization and the military requisitions have rudely dissipated all the hopes which had been founded on the new crops. These are this year of good quality and yield, and might have afforded to both farmers and merchants some compensation for the losses occasioned last year by the consequences of the Balkan wars. In many districts the crops have been only partially gathered in either from lack of labourers or owing to the fear of requisition, and it would be disastrous if the heavy rains surprise the farmers before they have completely harvested their crops.

The commercial situation is deplorable. In consequence of the exigencies of the general mobilization, military requisitions, which have included cereals, flour, wool, animals, and transport material, have arrested business to such an extent that most of the shops are closed. The prolonged interruption of communications with the capital and the impossibility of exporting or importing merchandise have increased distress by greatly augmenting the dearness of necessaries. Payments for exemption from military service have been made at great sacrifices, and to raise sums for this purpose many have pledged securities, jewellery, etc., at absurd rates of interest. The seizure of transport animals has prevented the arrival of goods from the interior in anything but insignificant quantities. In brief the situation could hardly be worse.

Serres. October 10.

The following are extracts from the monthly report for September :—

The gathering of the tobacco crop has come to an end; the crop is to all appearances very abundant. It seems certain that holders will have difficulty in making their first sales, owing to the shortage of money.

On the other hand, the cotton and maize crops are poor, and the latter has suffered severely from the ravages of rats.

The prevailing drought has been unfavourable to agriculturists since they have been prevented thereby from preparing the fields for sowing wheat and barley.

The money stringency has paralyzed all commercial activities.

With reference to the use of sesame seed, it is stated that two-thirds of the world's production (says *The Agricultural News*) goes to Marseilles for oil extraction, largely used for making soap, in perfume, and for burning in lamps. It is also extensively used in certain places, *e.g.*, Egypt, as a substitute for olive oil. As is well known, the residual matter, or cake, is employed as a cattle food, in which connection it has been observed to have a great influence upon the butter and fat of dairy cows.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Dates.

The United States Consul at Baghdad writes on August 29 :—

The date crop of this consular district has now sufficiently matured to warrant the growers in building the date-packing sheds and collecting the people to gather the crop. Many men have recently left this district on account of the mobilisation of the Turkish army, but as most of the date crop is gathered by those who come into the cities from the outlying villages, there seems to be no shortage of labour. The size and quality of the crop this year are better than usual, and the growers anticipated a very successful season. However, recently the British steamers running between Busrah and Bombay have been discontinued on account of the war.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. London, October 29.

About 1,800 tons were brought last week, consisting of all qualities, but including very few Provincial. This latter growth is much neglected here this season on account of its comparative dearness. There has been a good demand for all other qualities, but except in Vostizza no advance is reported. Apart from some poor parcels of Provincial all growths continue to arrive in excellent quality. Even the rain-damaged fruit is for the most part so well prepared as to be very desirable.

From Liverpool it is reported that there was a good demand for Vostizza at 28s. to 31s., and for shade dried up to 37s. Gulf and Patras sold well at 26s. to 28s., being cleared at these rates. Up to last week the arrivals are about 4,000 tons short as compared with same period last year.

Sultanas.

The 120,000 boxes which arrived by "Antæus" and "Edenhall" were much less, quantity than was anticipated. The demand has been large, and prices have advanced 1s. to 2s. per cwt. for common and fine, medium remaining practically unchanged. The few Greeks that have arrived per "Joshua Nicholson" were sold at from 38s. to 56s.

The Liverpool market is almost cleared of arrivals per "Tyria," and further supplies are due this week per "Asturian." Last sales of good to fine grades showed an advance of 2s. to 4s., old fruit from 26s. to 35s. is now good value. The position at present is very uncertain, but consignments are sure to be light, and the prospects are for higher prices in the immediate future.

Figs.

The "Antæus" and "Edenhall" have brought 1,800 skeletons and 90,000 bags naturals. Prices for layers are maintained. Naturals are somewhat slow. The Liverpool market is cleared. The "Asturian" will bring the next supplies, for which an active demand is anticipated.

Coffee.

The fair supplies offered at auction this week met with a better demand at steady prices to 2s. advance for washed Dumont. Mexican mid. sold at 62s., and good bold at 71s. 6d. Costa Rica low mid. 62s., and fair bold 68s. to 70s. Washed Dumont, small to bold, 52s. 6d. to 63s. 6d. Uganda, small, 45s. 6d. to 46s. 6d., and mid. at 53s.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm but quiet. Rapeseed remains idle, and cottonseed is firmly held, London-Egyptian f.a.q. loading and November shipment quoted £7 6s. 3d. per ton. Hungarian and Danubian haricot beans are held for 90s. to 95s. Canary seed is practically unchanged, and hempseed is offered at 35s.

Oilcakes.

Linseed Cake.—There is still a total absence of any speculative inquiry, the trade being, generally, purely of a hand-to-mouth description. Best London-made find a more ready sale at £8 10s. to £8 15s. Cotton Cake.—Arrived parcels of Egyptian meet a good inquiry, and quotations are well maintained at £5 8s. 9d. to £5 10s., while for October shipment there are sellers at £5 6s. 3d. to £5 7s. 6d. ex ship, and November shipment at £5 5s. ex ship, with English makes fully as dear at £5 13s. 9d. to £5 15s., and Bombay at £5 per ton.

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GREEK TOBACCO.

No statistics are available, says a writer in *The Financial News*, as to the number of acres under cultivation or of men employed in the tobacco industry in the newly acquired provinces of Greece, but it is well known, from figures in the possession of the Ottoman Régie, that the quantity of tobacco which came under the supervision of that august body exceeded 100,000,000 English pounds, of which fully one-half was produced in European Turkey, the remainder, and that only of the commoner sorts, being raised in Asia. The whole of the European-grown tobacco is raised in the portion of the Ottoman Empire which has now passed out of her hands, and it is generally assumed that of the 50,000,000 lb. grown in Macedonia and Thrace three-fifths is produced in the provinces which now acclaim King Constantine as their monarch. The figures given by the officials of the Régie by no means represent the actual quantity of tobacco either grown or sold; for there was an immense trade done in contraband leaf, and this was openly winked at by the Ottoman officials and warmly encouraged by the people themselves, to whom the very name of the Régie was anathema. Of the tobacco-producing regions, that of Xanthi, where some of the finest leaf is grown, is under Bulgarian rule; but the officials in Salonika assure me that they calculate on an annual production, in the newly conquered provinces, of upwards of 70,000,000 lb. The last figures furnished by the Customs authorities at Cavalla and Salonika show that in the year 1912 tobacco of a value of close on £3,000,000 was exported from those two ports:—

	Tons.	Value.
Cavalla	13,094	£2,430,000
Salonika	5,795	380,000

Here then we have an export from the two Macedonian ports of no less than 41,555,800 lbs. Principal purchasers were:—

	Lb.
Austria-Hungary	18,700,000
The United States	7,970,000
Egypt	1,540,500
Italy	1,442,000
Great Britain	1,410,000

The figures for Egypt and the United Kingdom, however, by no means represent the actual quantities of tobacco purchased by those countries. For instance, Egypt purchases no less than 1,000 tons of inferior tobacco from one district in Thessaly alone.

The following description of the Cavalla tobacco plant is culled from an interesting article which appeared in *The Financial News* of October 19:—"By the middle of July the plants are ready for the harvest, having shot up to a height of from 2 ft. to 3 ft., the leaves being from 2 ins. to 8 ins. or 9 ins. in length. There are, as a rule, eight groups of leaves on each stalk; the two lower are of little value, and never reach the better markets of the world. They are, however, bought up readily by German and Dutch purchasers at prices varying from 2d. to 4d. a lb., and, doubtless, manufactured into those cheap cigars which poison the air in the beer-halles of Northern Europe. The next three rows of leaves are known in the trade as basma, and these, though not of the highest quality, are readily sold to British buyers by the Dresden merchants. The three upper groups of leaves are known as dubec, and these fetch the highest prices, and are, as a rule, purchased by Russia and Roumania, which two countries are known as buyers of the highest grades of tobacco, though Austria-Hungary also is a keen competitor for the dubec.

EGYPTIAN CIGARETTE TRADE.

"The Egyptian cigarette export trade has been ruined by the war,' says *The Egyptian Gazette*, "and the sole manufacturing industry of any importance is absolutely paralyzed. A large number of cigarette-rollers have left Egypt for Greece, where they will be employed by the Hellenic Government, which has set up a monopoly. Owing to the trade in Egypt being at a standstill, and the skilled workers having been taken by Greece, there is a genuine danger that when the trade attempts to revive it will find a serious competitor in Greece. In face of such competition, and of the heavy taxation imposed by the Government, it looks as if the Egyptian cigarette industry is destined to extinction. Could not the Government afford some protection to the industry instead of crushing it under revenue charges?"

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 9.

The first statement of the Government accounts covering a period since the outbreak of war has been published this week. It shows the figures up to the end of August. The revenue amounted to £E6,114,730, and the expenditure to £E7,540,786, as against £E6,036,898 and £E8,043,790 respectively during the same period last year. On these figures the current year shows a net improvement of £E580,836.

This comparison is, however, neither a fair nor a true one, as the period ending July 31 this year was so much better as regards revenue than that of last year. A closer analysis is necessary if one wants to obtain an accurate idea of the actual position. A comparison of the improvement, or otherwise, under each head registered at the end of July and August this year and last year or, in other words, a comparison of the receipts during August, 1914, and 1913, gives the following net result:—

	Difference on the Month.
Land Tax	£E– 50,523
Customs	– 65,158
Tobacco Dues	– 21,676
Ports and Lights	– 13,799
Legal Dues	– 26,951
Railways	– 40,775
Telegraphs	+ 5,490
Post Office	– 7,413
Rent of Government Land	– 1,927
Divers Receipts	– 9,610
Sale of Land	– 15,233
Sundry Items	– 14,282
Total	£E–261,857

Under practically every head, with the exception of telegraphs—which is perhaps explained by the abnormal rush which ensued during the early days of August, as a natural result of the outbreak of war—a falling off has been recorded.

This was but to be expected owing to the practical stoppage of all external trade brought about by the Decrees forbidding export of foodstuffs and defining contraband issued by Egypt and other countries in the early days of the war. September will probably show a similar, if not greater falling off than the £261,857 suffered in August, but there is reason to hope that from now onward, although normal receipts cannot be expected, a marked reduction in the decrease will be recorded owing to the relaxation of the various embargoes and the throwing open of the seas, in addition to the facilities afforded for moving the crop.

The authorities have been quite right to prepare for a deficit in receipts, which the above plainly foreshadows, and the expenditure side, which even in August showed a marked reduction, will undoubtedly help to attenuate the effect of a shrinkage in revenue, thanks to the economy which has now been ordered in all departments.

AUGUST TRADE IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Gazette publishes the following extracts from Egypt's August trade returns, showing the effect of the first month of the European war:—

Compared with August, 1913, there has been a falling off of imports into Egypt of £E769,998 and a falling off in exports of £E805,253. Tobacco imports have fallen off by £E25,866, and cigarettes by £E19,610.

A feature of the returns which will attract some interest is the figures for trade with Germany and Austria. Egypt imported from Germany goods to the value of £E124,658, as compared with £E132,367 in 1913, and exported to Germany goods to the value of £E17,347, as compared with £E136,040. No cigarettes were exported to Germany. The imports from Austria-Hungary were valued at £E61,967, compared with £E135,121, and the exports at £E5,800, compared with £E95,345. Both imports from and exports to Norway have increased. Imports to and exports from England have fallen off by nearly a half, and the decrease of our trade with France is much greater even than this, the slump in exports being as remarkable as in the case of Germany.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Owing to the considerable increase in the business of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, and to the fact that, for some years past, accommodation has had to be found for some branches of the fire department away from the head office, the directors have acquired the freehold of No. 11, Cornhill, E.C., and propose to concentrate the whole of the fire business at that address on and after November 2 next.

The export of petrol is prohibited by the Roumanian Government.

A Reuter telegram from Lemberg states that a number of Galician settlers in Canada have sent a telegram rejoicing at the freeing of their country from the Austrian yoke, and adding that they are enlisting in the British Army.

A Russian prize court has been established at Sebastopol.

The Bulgarian moratorium ends on November 7.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* for September 26 contains a notice to the effect that the exportation of dates from the Oasis of Siwa is to be allowed as an exception to the general prohibition.

On October 7 a new section of the Baghdad Railway, from Istabolat to Samara—21 km.—was opened to traffic. It is a prolongation of the Baghdad-Istabolat section.

With a view to promoting the commercial relations between Egypt and Spain, it has been decided to hold an exhibition of Spanish industries in Cairo.

Following the announcement made at Washington that cotton shipments are not to be subject to seizure, it is reported that representatives of German interests are making large purchases of cotton in New York, which will be shipped viâ Italy.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has devised a scheme for the distribution of cotton seed which is to be given on credit to small cultivators, or against cash to those who are not entitled to receive it on credit.

An order has been issued by the Ottoman Ministry of Agriculture, Mines and Forests and the Ministry of Interior that hereafter only Ottoman subjects shall be employed in the mines of the country, foreign technical employees alone being allowed.

The Greek steamer "Assimacos," with a cargo of coal for Braïla (says *Syren and Shipping*) has been lying at Piraeus for over two months, her owners not considering it safe for her to proceed through Turkish waters under present conditions. It is now reported that spontaneous combustion has taken place in her cargo: this, naturally, may mean a serious claim. Her hull is insured in London for £16,000.

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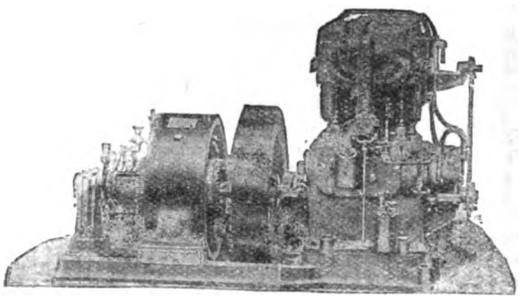

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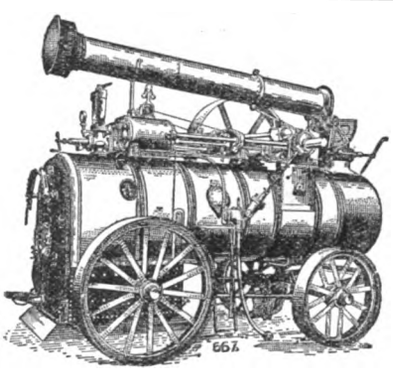

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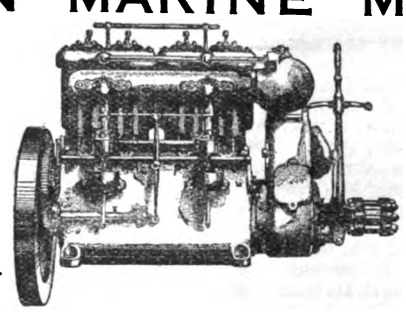

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Engineering Notes.

Agricultural Machinery.

The latest information given by the Board of Trade in connection with the present trade campaign deals with the important subject of agricultural machinery exported from Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the United Kingdom. For the first-mentioned the year 1912 is taken, and for the two latter countries the year 1913. In those years Roumania bought from Germany agricultural machinery to the value of £215,900, from Austria-Hungary to the value of £64,750, and from the United Kingdom to the value of £17,000; Greece, £1,800 from Germany, £1,730 from Austria-Hungary, and £6,000 from the United Kingdom; Bulgaria £69,350 from Germany, £20,450 from Austria-Hungary, and £5,000 from the United Kingdom; Serbia £20,300 from Germany, £9,810 from Austria-Hungary, and nothing from the United Kingdom; Turkey £23,050 from Germany, £3,340 from Austria-Hungary, and £17,000 from the United Kingdom; Russia £938,200 from Germany, £315,800 from Austria-Hungary, and £1,103,000 from the United Kingdom. The above figures show that in the Balkan States, including Turkey, we are doing less trade than Germany, while in Russia, the biggest European market for agricultural machinery, our share of trade is larger than that of Germany and more than three times as large as that of Austria-Hungary; and as Southern Russia includes the vast and richest agricultural districts of the Empire, more than half of the above sum may be calculated as from Southern Russia.

Necessary to Act Now.

A unique opportunity presents itself to British engineer manufacturers for the capture of a great part, if not all, of the above German and Austro-Hungarian trade in the Near East. But they must act now. This is the season when agriculturists and landowners realise the value of their crops in money and decide as to the kind of machinery and implements they require for the approaching sowing season and for the treatment of the next crops. It is probable that some manufacturers are influenced by repeated statements that long credit is expected by buyers in the Near East, and that by giving such credit the Germans succeeded to a certain extent in securing those markets. Such statements are misleading, and naturally may tend to discourage the necessary efforts on the part of British manufacturers to do business there. But, as we have often pointed out in these notes, the success of the Germans in the Near East is due to their systematic energy and to the methods of dealing through and with their agents. Where credit is given full security is required and obtained. They select agents or representatives of good standing and capable of assuring themselves as to the trustworthiness of buyers. To such agents, as a rule, the credit is given, and not directly to the average buyers. British manufacturers, on the other hand, are not so careful in the selection of agents, and that is strengthening the position of their competitors. But wherever the British firms are well and substantially represented they have an advantage. Thus, while in the Balkan States and Turkey the Germans are doing, according to the official reports, excellent business by giving credit, etc., the German Consul-General at Cairo, in his report for 1912, indicates certain difficulties affecting the development of business in agricultural machinery in Egypt, which is none the less steadily increasing. Long credit and extended periods of instalment payments have to be granted, and, according to the report, German manufacturers seem to have been somewhat discouraged by this circumstance!

Openings for British-Made Agricultural Machinery.

Roumania is the best market for agricultural machinery in the Balkan States. Threshing machines used formerly to be the monopoly of British firms, but they are now being driven from the market by German and Austrian competition. Under present circumstances the position will be regained. The steam engine burning straw for fuel is still in favour, and iron wheels, instead of wooden on engine and threshing machine are preferred in most districts. Motor ploughs are steadily taking the place of steam ploughs, and are supplied by Germany and America. A great demand for agricultural machinery of all kinds in the new territory is anticipated. Ploughs are imported at Constantza, mainly from Germany, but none from the United Kingdom; reapers from America and a few from Germany. Reapers of British manufacture are said to require six horses, and, consequently, to be too heavy for local requirements, as only four horses are used for the purpose. This heavy type of British reaper has been replaced by the light American reapers, now so popular in the Balkan States.

Serbia.

In Serbia sowing machines, hay-presses, small threshing machines, etc., have been supplied by Austria-Hungary; other or larger agricultural machinery by Germany, America and England. In 1911 170 steam threshing machines were imported, chiefly from Great Britain; 150 harvesting machines were purchased from America, but forward orders were given to Germany and Austria.

Greece.

In Greece threshing machines are imported from Great Britain, binders from America, ploughs from Germany, and other machinery from Austria-Hungary. The greater demand for ploughs is satisfied by home production. The prospects for business in agricultural machinery for the district of Salonika are excellent. An American Consular report states that unquestionably the best method of ascertaining the prospects of that market is to send out representatives to canvass the field thoroughly and, if found satisfactory, to select agents. Salonika merchants are opposed to dealing with European or Constantinople agencies of foreign concerns. They prefer to deal directly with the manufacturer. This is true, we have often pointed out in these columns, not only for Salonika, but almost for every district in the Near East.

Bulgaria.

In Bulgaria steam threshing machines are now popular, and are frequently purchased by small groups of farmers sharing the expense of a machine for their common use. Machines of from 4 to 10 and 12 horse-power, fitted with a straw-cutting apparatus, are most in demand. Mowing machines are supplied by America, sowing machines by Germany and Austria, binders by America, and ploughs by Austria-Hungary, in the face of the most active competition by German manufacturers. The whole of the business in agricultural machinery of the expensive varieties in Bulgaria is carried on by dealers possessed of strong financial resources, enabling them to accept long credit, carried sometimes over several years, to the actual purchasers. Large stocks of reserve parts have to be carried, and this fact, of course, serves to establish an enduring connection between dealer and customer. This long credit system, often mentioned in official and other reports from various parts of the Near East, creates the belief that such terms are demanded from or allowed by the manufacturer.

An enormous trade in agricultural machinery, in traction engines, steam rollers, power-driven ploughs, and in fencing-wire, barbed-wire and wire netting, is done annually in almost all parts of the Old and New Worlds. For many years (says *Engineering*) Great Britain has enjoyed a very large share of this trade, but during the last decade Germany has extended enormously in this direction, and this extension has largely been at the expense of manufacturers in the United Kingdom. Let us take, for instance, the import of road traction engines and steam rollers into Egypt, under British control, last year and the year before last. So recently as 1912, British and Germans, who held the whole import trade in this particular type between them, sent almost exactly equal amounts. In a short twelve months, the position had, however, completely changed, Germany serving forty times as much as Great Britain, or 94 per cent. of the total import.

THE CAR IN THE NEAR EAST

The Motor, in an article on cars abroad, gives the following particulars concerning some Near Eastern countries:—

Egypt.

Until just recently the French had held the lead in the exportation of cars to Egypt, but latterly England has had a little larger share, whilst great efforts have been made by Germany and the United States. Those who know their Egypt only from a few years ago would be surprised at the extent of roads now available for motor-car use, due, of course, to the great activity lately shown by the Government. For instance, Alexandria and Cairo are now linked up by a good main road, and the construction of other similar thoroughfares in the Delta has been undertaken. It is considered that there is a good opening in Egypt for a well-made cycle-car at about £100. Egypt is a country to which it would probably pay English motor manufacturers to send out a capable observer to study the conditions and market requirements.

Roumania.

Although of quite recent date, the use of motor-cars in this country is growing largely. Here again England is "off the map" so far as supplying the motor market is concerned, the chief countries selling cars in Roumania being France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium. The requirements of the local users are light, cheap cars rather than expensive and heavy vehicles, and it is considered that the Roumanian market is quite an important one, well worth studying. One sign of English activity is to be seen in the establishment of a branch repair works for a certain English firm. Cars are usually sold for part cash, the remainder, perhaps three-quarters or half of the purchase price, being secured paper, which is readily discountable at the local banks. Any English manufacturer contemplating entering this market on a large scale should undertake the trouble and expense of sending his own representative, as the few local dealers have as many lines as they can handle with success.

Turkey in Asia.

So far as Turkey in Asia is concerned, the motor trade is not as yet enormous, but great interest in future possibilities is evident. Until the roads are put in better condition it is not likely that a very large trade can be done, but the Syrian market merits attention, as this is likely to grow in the near future.

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Government Contractors, Engineers, Importers of Machinery of every description, Diesel, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Pumps Windmills, Agricultural Machinery, &c. Large stocks kept at all depots.
Sole Agents for over 40 first-class firms.

SULZER BROTHERS, WINTERTHUR, SWITZERLAND
Steam Engines of all sizes, especially Uniflow Engines, Boilers and Superheaters. Sulzer Diesel Oil Engines from 20 to 6,000 B.H.P. Pumps of various systems, particularly Sulzer's high and low lift Centrifugal Pumps. Fans of all kinds. Steam and hot water heating. Ice and Refrigerating Machinery (Linde system)
ALEXANDRIA OFFICE: 26, CHERIF PASHA STREET.
O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY.
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

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Clearing the Suez Canal.

British Prize Court in Egypt.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 17.

All arrangements have now been made in connection with the holding of the Prize Court, which was recently authorised by the British Government. Only one Court will be held in this country—at Alexandria, where it will sit at the Arsenal. Judge Grain, of the Supreme Court for the Ottoman Dominions, will be the judge, Mr. A. S. Preston will act as procurator, and D. Morice Bey, as Marshal. The Court will first deal with the prizes at present in Alexandria—subsequently with all those that may from time to time be brought into that port—but it will also be called upon to deal with the status of the enemy ships stationed at Port Said and Suez, as also at Alexandria, and which declined to leave within the days of grace. The most interesting questions will be those connected with the two canal ports, and important precedents will very probably be established, as this is the first occasion where the interpretation of the Suez Canal Convention has been called into question under such peculiar circumstances.

Judge Cator is expected to arrive in Alexandria shortly from Constantinople. He will sit with Judge Grain on the Bench of the Prize Court.

Enemy Vessels in Egyptian Waters.

According to information received by the Liverpool Underwriters' Association the following twelve enemy vessels were at Port Said :—

Vessel.	Tonnage.	Line.
Gutenfels	5,528	Hansa
Werdenfels	4,504	Hansa
Helgoland	5,666	Norddeutscher Lloyd
Concadoro	1,793	A. Giancovich & Co.
Rabenfels	4,678	Hansa
Anna Rickmers	4,083	Rickmers
Rostock	4,957	Deutsch-Australische
Barenfels	5,398	Hansa
Derfflinger	9,144	Norddeutscher Lloyd
Pindos	2,933	Deutsche Levante
Lauterfels	5,811	Hansa
Koerter	5,440	Lloyd Austriaco

The three German vessels named below were at Suez :—

Lützow	8,826	Norddeutscher Lloyd
Goslar	4,331	Deutsch-Australische
Annaberg	4,463	Deutsch-Australische

And the Austrian—

Marquis Bacquehem	—	—

[*The Financial Times* estimates the value of the above ships at £750,000, exclusive of cargo.]

Seven enemy vessels were already at Alexandria, as follows :—

Andros	2,991	Levante Contor
Emil	2,991	"Union"
Achaia	2,733	Deutsche Levante
Istria	4,221	Hamburg-Amerika
Paros	—	—
Südmark	5,113	Hamburg-Amerika
Haidar Pascha	3,424	Deutsche Levante

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt will be glad to assist British owners of cargo shipped by these vessels in any way possible, and to advise them as to the necessary steps to be taken to protect their interests.

Clearing the Canal.

As was to have been anticipated, the Government's communiqué clearing the Suez Canal of enemy "loiterers" created the greatest satisfaction here, and has been ably commented on in the Press. We reproduce below some opinions from representative papers, and at the same time call our readers' attention to the special article on the legal aspect of the question published on another page of the current issue.

Yorkshire Post.—The case of the German and Austrian ships which have taken shelter in the canal from the risks of capture is not contemplated by the Suez Canal Convention, and the Germans have shown a certain slimness in trying to avail themselves of the omission. They are proceeding on the assumption that the canal is like a neutral port, which the merchantmen of an enemy are entitled to use in the ordinary course—or to lie up in, if they like, for the whole duration of the war. These German refugees cannot be permitted to block the canal by their mere presence, any more than by blowing it up. If they can stay there indefinitely, so may any number of ships, and navigation can thus be brought to an end. To allow this would be absurd. The course is clear for them, and they are given a sporting chance at each end of the canal by the proviso that there must be no blockade of the egress and ingress. The canal is a waterway, not a place to lie up in; and the Egyptian Government are entitled to see that it is put and kept to its right use.

Newcastle Chronicle.—The Suez Canal is a waterway pure and simple, and it is not less than an outrage to use it as a harbour of refuge. We trust the authorities are wide awake to the danger of the waterway being tampered with. It would be the easiest thing in the world for a vessel, loaded, say, with cement, to be sunk in the canal, and thus cause serious delay and inconvenience.

South Wales Daily News.—Several of the ports of the canal have not been accessible to other ships since the war began, and this has led at times to a complete block of traffic, entailing great delay and expense to shipping. The Egyptian Government have international sanction for whatever action they may deem necessary to terminate this congestion. A further misfortune, due directly to the partial paralysis of traffic, has been the dismissal of a large number of persons from various forms of employment connected with the operation of the canal, and the authorities at Port Said have been obliged to take steps for their partial relief. The Suez Canal, like the Panama Canal is an international highway, open in time of peace and time of war alike to the merchantmen and the warships of all nations, but on certain conditions. The Panama Canal Commission have been consulted, and have replied that no ship will be allowed to remain in the Panama Canal for more than twenty-four hours without special permission.

The Daily Telegraph (October 26).—It has been ascertained that certain German and Austrian vessels carrying British goods left the canal, put out to sea, and were captured and taken to Alexandria as British prizes, to be dealt with by a British Prize Court there, such vessels being destined with their cargoes for India. It appears that the usual procedure of a British Prize Court is that the cargo of a captured prize is not discharged until the vessel itself has been dealt with by the Court, with the result that after such discharge the cost of re-stowing, re-shipping, and freight to destination falls on the owners of the goods, who have, in addition, to send documents of title—in this case to Alexandria—and engage an agent to claim ownership. It has therefore been suggested to His Majesty's Government that in the case of the steamship "Barrenfels" and the steamship "Gutenfels," those vessels should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Prize Court by the process of an Admiralty requisition, and in the event of this suggestion being adopted the committee will be able to arrange for fresh crews being sent out to work the ships in question on to their destination in India, the general expenses for so doing falling on the owners of the cargo on an average basis, the prizes being available afterwards. It is understood that the authorities consider this idea practicable.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

Official Notices.

The following two notices were published in Egypt on October 13 :—

In Prize.

Notice is hereby given that H.B.M. Supreme Court for the Dominions of the Sublime Ottoman Porte has been constituted as a Prize Court to exercise Prize Jurisdiction in Egypt.

Due notice will be given by advertisement of the times of the sittings of the Court, which will be held at the Arsenal, Alexandria.

Alexandria, this 12th day of October, 1914.

Peter Grain, Judge.

In Prize.

Owners and others interested in cargo in ships, in respect of which Prize proceedings are or are about to be instituted should communicate with H.M. Procurator in Egypt at his office, 17, Rue Nebi Daniel, Alexandria.

Due notice will be given by advertisement of the names of the ships in respect of which Prize proceedings have been instituted.

Alexandria, this 12th day of October, 1914.

Arthur S. Preston,
H.M. Procurator in Egypt.

Shipping Intelligence.

The "Belgian King."

In connection with the loss of the "Belgian King," reported in last week's issue of The Near East, *The Orient* (Constantinople) writes on September 30 :—

"The British steamer 'Belgian King,' Captain W. R. Aikman, one of the vessels bought by the Gumushian Steamship Company, of Constantinople, and which made trips along the shores of the Black Sea, left Trebizond a week ago last Sunday, September 20, with a cargo of about 3,500 sheep and 400 head of beef, and perhaps 150 passengers, but with no ballast nor any cargo in her hold. About ten or fifteen miles west of Trebizond the steamer was listing badly; there was no storm, but on the slanting decks the cattle were thrown from side to side of the ship. The captain tried to get the animals taken below, as their presence on that deck made the ship top-heavy. But this proved impossible; and within a very short space of time the steamer listed over and turned turtle. Had it not been for the timely help of the Russian Steam Navigation Company's steamer 'Evghenia,' which had left Trebizond about the same time, and was quickly put about to give aid, the whole party would have gone to the bottom. The Russians gallantly did their utmost to save the shipwrecked persons, and were able to rescue about a hundred passengers and officers and sailors. The vessel sank very quickly, and all else, including the mail, the sheep and oxen, and, most unfortunately, a large number of lives were lost. The rescued passengers and crew were brought by the Russian steamer to Constantinople on Thursday, the 24th. A telegram from the Vali of Trebizond to the Minister of Interior expressed great admiration for the gallant and heroic rescue work of the Russian crew."

Freights.

From the Mediterranean there is but little business doing. Alexandria will pay about 8s. per ton to the United Kingdom for cottonseed and general cargo, but the demand is very limited.

Reported Shipping Alliance.

There is substantial foundation for the report that an alliance between Liverpool and New York shipowners has been formed with a view to the capture of Germany's shipping trade, particularly with South America. The proposal, says *The Manchester Guardian*, has been under consideration for some time, and the details of the scheme are now being worked out.

Oil Steamer Mined.

The steamer "Shiraz," flying the Persian flag, is reported in a Lloyd's telegram from Varna, the Bulgarian Black Sea port, to have collided with a floating mine and sunk off Euxinograd. The "Shiraz" was laden with cases of petroleum, and was bound from Kustenje for Constantinople.

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The Egyptian Loan.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 17.

With regard to the Treasury bills that are to be issued in Egypt, various misleading statements have been circulated during the past week. These bills will be discounted by the National Bank of Egypt at a rate fixed between it and the Government. The process will be credited to the latter's account, where it will bear interest at the same rate as the ordinary Government balances. The bills will be lodged by the National Bank of Egypt as security for bank notes that will be issued for their value. It is by no means certain, as so many affirm, that the Government's loss will be heavy, and the Bank's profit great. Everything will depend on the bank rate and the period during which the extra notes will be in circulation, and over which the major portion of the liquidation of the cotton situation will be extended.

It should be pointed out that, although the Government has obtained power to issue bills up to £5,000,000 in Cairo and in London, the total of its borrowing power in both places is limited to £8,000,000. The amount of bills issued in any one of these two centres at any one time may never exceed £5,000,000, but the exact proportion in which the £8,000,000 will be divided up between London and Cairo will vary from time to time according to the exigencies of the situation.

One of the first transactions the Government will in all probability execute with the assistance of the National Bank of Egypt will be the payment in London and Paris of about £E1,600,000 for account of the Caisse de la Dette Publique, which had to pay the privileged coupon on the 13th inst and the Unified on November 1. The money will be paid from the proceeds of the Government bills in London, and the Caisse, which, of course, holds the equivalent amount here from the revenues paid into it, will deliver that sum at the National Bank of Egypt in Cairo.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

Satisfactory results were secured by the Anglo-Egyptian Bank in the financial year to August 31 last, profits having been apparently maintained at the high level reached in 1912-13. The dividend, which has been 15 per cent. since 1906-7, is maintained at that rate less income-tax, and, while no further contribution is made to the reserve fund, to which £20,000 was transferred last year, the carry-forward is increased by £25,000 to £77,000. The reserve fund at £680,000 exceeds by £180,000 the amount of the bank's paid-up capital.

TURKISH COMPANY PROMOTIONS.

At a recent sitting of the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Brougham, the public examination was held of Mr. Sanford Reich, company promoter, of Bank Chambers, High Holborn, W.C. The debtor stated that in 1909 he came to England and commenced business as a company promoter. He formed the Asia Minor Syndicate, Limited, to construct a railway in Turkey in Asia, but the flotation was unsuccessful, for the reason that the German Government would not allow any contract to be signed between the Turkish Government and an English company. Other promotions included the Anglo-Ottoman Syndicate, Limited, which was formed to make loans to the Turkish Government, and the London Bosphorus Company, Limited, to make loans to the Municipal Council in Constantinople. The debtor admitted that he had lost £38,000 on the Cairo Stock Exchange.

JAFFA-JERUSALEM RAILWAY.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Railway News* says that the receipts of the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway for 1913 have recently been published. They amount to 13,000,000 frs. The company distributed 4.0625 frs. per share on the original shares of the nominal value of 500 frs. each, and on each bond of the nominal value of 500 frs. a dividend of 33.9584 frs. The company is believed to have a very large reserve fund, but, curiously enough, the report omits all mention of the amount.

MORATORIUM TABLES.

We are able to reproduce below, thanks to the courtesy of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, tables of the Turkish and Egyptian moratoria. They will be useful guides to trade s and others having dealings with the above-mentioned countries:—

EGYPT.

I.—Negotiable Values (including Bills) dated before August 4.

Instalments (in per cent.).

Due On or Before	Nov. 15.	Nov. 30.	Dec. 31.	Jan. 31.
Nov. 15	15	25	30	30
Nov. 16/30	—	40	30	30
Dec. 1/31	—	—	70	30
Jan. 1/31	—	—	—	100

II.—Non-negotiable Commercial Debts dated before August 2.

Instalments (in per cent.).

Nov. 15.	Nov. 30.	Dec. 15.	Dec. 31.
25	25	25	25

III.—Bank Deposits Payable on August 8.

Instalments.

Nov. 1/16.	Nov. 16/30	Dec. 1/15.	Dec. 16/31.	Jan. 1.
25% of balance* as per Nov. 1	40% of remainder.	60% of remainder.	80% of remainder.	Balance.

*15% of the deposit was payable under previous moratorium notices.

TURKEY.

Debts due between	Payments.				
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 3
Aug. 3-Oct. 3	13th—5 p.c.	4th—5 p.c.	14th—5 p.c.	—	balance
Oct. 4-Dec. 3	—	date due 5 p.c., month later 5 p.c.			balance
Dec. 4-Jan. 3	—	—	—	latedue —5 p.c.	balance

Interest at 7 per cent. on balance unpaid.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended September 30 amounted to £E3,611, a decrease of £E4,321 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

PIRÆUS ATHENS PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY.—The directors have declared an interim dividend of 2 frs. per share (at current rate of exchange), less tax.

Coupon No. 52 is payable on and after 28th instant at the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

SOCIETE ANONYME AGRICOLE ET INDUSTRIELLE D'EGYPTE.—The meeting which was to have been held on the 15th inst. has been adjourned *sine die* owing to the state of affairs in Belgium, where the company has its registered offices.

SOCIETE GENERALE D'ASSURANCES OTTOMANES.—The annual meeting was held in Constantinople on the 14th inst.

SUEZ CANAL.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 26th inst. amounted to 340,000 frs., against 420,000 frs. last year.

THE DROGUERIE CENTRALE D'ORIENT, LIMITED.—Profits for 1913-1914 amounted to £T9,972.12¾, and net profits to £T4,400. £T440 have been placed to the statutory reserve and the remainder distributed at the rate of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The annual general meeting was held on August 28 last.

WHEN WILL THE STOCK EXCHANGE RE-OPEN?

(BY OUR CITY EDITOR.)

It is now well understood that Mr. Lloyd George has prepared a scheme which he hopes will enable the Stock Exchange to re-open as soon as the moratorium ends. The delay has come about because the Chancellor did not wish to give help to the Stock Exchange which was not equally available to the rest of the trading community. He wished to protect the broker and the jobber, but he also had to think of the client, and he could not help him unless he extended his aid to the general trader who might never have done a deal on the Stock Exchange in his life.

Those whose capital has been tied up because they could not get in any money owing on the Continent have, whenever they have had bills against the debts, been able to discount them at the Bank of England and obtain a release of the locked-up funds in full. This was a reasonable scheme and the taxpayers will have to meet any loss that may accrue. It was not ideal because a landowner who never traded in his life will be called upon to make up his share of a loss incurred by a person he has never seen, does not know, and cannot control. Nevertheless, the acceptance business is so important and the re-establishment of exchange so equally urgent that Mr. Lloyd George's scheme got little or no criticism. He acted in a panic, not perhaps very wisely, but, at any rate, with the honest intention of during the best for the City. This exchange remains difficult, and that he probably helped the German as almost as much as he did the Englishman was the result of ill-considered action taken in a moment of stress.

Having helped holders of bills he is now called upon to help traders and the Stock Exchange. He has now grown more cautious, and, as far as his intentions are known, he does not intend to come forward with a 20s. in the pound grant in aid. He will only help to the extent of 75 per cent. And in each case those who require help must prove that their troubles are due exclusively to the war. A firm that was in difficulties before the war began will therefore get nothing at all. But whether any loss since the war will be considered is uncertain.

The weak point in the scheme is the ridiculous disparity between the aid given to holders of bills, and this to be extended to the ordinary trader. The man who did his business with bills may lose nothing, the trader who had open accounts on his books may lose 25 per cent.

The banks met the Chancellor in the fairest manner. They agreed to continue all Stock Exchange loans for one year after the signing of peace. The minimum rate of interest was fixed at 5 per cent., but in the event of the Bank rate suddenly jumping up the banks had the right to increase the interest. The stipulation that their interest should be paid fortnightly was also made. But the banks agreed not to ask for any more cover, whatever the price of the securities might fall to. The price of the stocks was to be paid at end of July prices. This really seems an excellent arrangement, but it is not yet sure that it will be accepted. However, the banks fully realise that under no circumstances can they call in loans, and they have one and all agreed not to do this.

No one can say that Mr. Lloyd George's suggestions are sound. They are merely the best that can be arranged under circumstances of immense difficulty. They will probably be announced in a few days—perhaps before these lines are in print.

The Government must now begin to make arrangements for a War loan. It cannot go on borrowing on short-dated bills. The Chancellor is thus putting himself into the hands of the banks, who will never be able to resist the temptation to push up rates when the bills fall due. The various markets in which prices have not been fixed seem to depend for their activity more upon the weather than anything else. Prices go up on a fine day and droop in a shower of rain. Victories or repulses have an equally quick result. But the business done is so small that hardly any brokers are paying expenses or even lunch money. Kaffirs have been sold on the South African news, which is not as bad as it appears; nevertheless it would require great courage to buy gold mining shares at the moment.

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ROUMANIAN OIL NOTES.

(From the *Moniteur du Pétrole.*)

The present daily output of various fields is as follows:—Steaua Romana, 93 wagons; Astra Romana, 122 wagons; and the Roumania Oilfields, 45 wagons. The total output is estimated at 450-470 wagons per diem.

The Roumanian Consolidated Well No. 1 at Baicoi-Fierbatori has been re-opened, and was producing towards the beginning of October about 35 wagons per diem.

In August the above company's output was 5,452 tons, as against 8,029 tons in June, and 9,525 tons in July. The following are the corresponding figures for some of the leading companies:—Steaua Romana, 24,467 tons, 31,748 tons, and 28,848 tons; Astra Romana, 38,160 tons, 42,184 tons, and 40,716 tons; Romano-Americana, 30,631 tons, 29,581 tons, and 29,691 tons; and Orion, 6,773 tons, 4,179 tons, and 6,159 tons. Roumania's total output in August was about 137,000 tons, as against 148,722 tons in June, and 148,565 tons in July.

The Roumanian Consolidated Oil Co., Limited, has acquired from Mr. G. L. V. Criveteanu, for 5,500 frs., a concession at Moreni.

The London offices of the Roumanian Consolidated Oil Co., Limited, have issued the following communiqué:—"Telegraphic and other communication between this country and Roumania is still uncertain and frequently interrupted and delayed. The company will resume weekly published reports as soon as possible. The production for the three months ended September 30 last was 21,128 tons."

EGYPT'S COAL IMPORTS.

According to Messrs. R. J. Moss and Co., the importation of coal into Egypt from January 1 to October 15, 1914, was:—

	Tons.
Welsh	466,158
Newcastle	183,619
Scotch	122,867
Yorkshire	94,801
Other Qualities	204,424
	1,071,869

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The following was the position of the bank's encashments on Sept. 30 last:—

	1913. £E		1914. £E
Existing Loans:—			
Category "A"	65,976	..	64,350
Category "B"	6,702,759	..	6,087,894
	6,768,735	..	6,134,244
Matured Loan Instalments:—			
Due	203,265	..	163,631
Falling due	1,185,761	..	1,059,180
	1,389,026	..	1,222,811
Perceptions:—			
Outstanding on Jan. 31	653,334	..	704,977
Balance	501,643	..	540,918
Encashed	151,691	..	164,059
Matured Loan Instalments:—			
Encashed	90,280	..	39,211
Total encashments of instalments due	241,971	..	203,270

SOCIETE GENERALE DE PRESSAGE ET DE DEPOTS.—The annual general meeting was cabled to be held yesterday at Alexandria.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £55,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:

BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).

Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. — EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. — J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G. — G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON. *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.

State Bank of Emission. Established 1879.

Head Office - - SOPHIA.

Branches at Sophia, Roustschouk, Varna, Philippopolis, Tirnovo, Burgas, Widin, Plevna, Sistov, Sliven, T.-Pazardjic, Shumla, Stara-Zagora, Gabrovo, Dede-Agatch, Xanthie, Gumuldjina, and 70 agencies.

Capital - 20,000,000 leva gold = £000,000. Reserve Funds - 10,500,000 leva gold = £420,000

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Governor, CHR. TCHAKALOFF.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - 485,588
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 65,000

Head Office—LONDON.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Fayoum, Minieh, and Mansourah, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF BULGARIA

(BANQUE AGRICOLE DE BULGARIE).

PRIVILEGED CREDIT ESTABLISHMENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

CAPITAL (fully paid-up) - - Frs. 45,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS - - - ,, 14,500,000

Head Office: SOFIA.

85 Branches and 100 Agencies in all the principal centres of Bulgaria.
All Banking and Stock Exchange Operations undertaken. Special Service for Debt Collection Transfers, Letters of Credit, etc.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £850,000
RESERVE - - - - - £210,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.

Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.

Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti, Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI.
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.

CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU
C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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ADMINISTRATION DE LA DETTE PUBLIQUE OTTOMANE.

Revenus Concédés par Iradé Impérial du 8/20 Decembre 1881—32me Exercice: Situation du mois de Février 1914-1329.

	Impots.	Recettes brutes du mois. Ltq.	Total (12 mois) au 28 Fév. 1914 au 13 Mars 1914 Ltq.	Total au 28 Fév. 1913 au 13 Mars 1913 Ltq.
Revenus. Gérés	Sel	56.134 32	1,103.023 32	978.424 45
	Surtaxe Provisoire sur le Sel	22.912 11	481.059 54	209.885 83
	Timbre	39.419 88	419.241 66	417.831 67
	Spiritueux	37.901 53	240.478 56	258.390 76
	Surtaxe Provisoire sur les Spiritueux	12 275 26	121.919 46	77 713 13
	Pêcheries	6.802 95	77.426 15	65.032 75
	Soie	1.609 81	82.497 05	57.230 37
Affermés	Tabac — Redevance de la Régie	— —	750.000 —	750.000 —
	Tabac — Part de Bénéfices, Parts de Fondateurs, etc	184.600 —	202.600 —	113.980 04
Assignations fixes	Dime des Tabacs (Prélèvement sur) en remplacement du Tribut de la Bulgarie	— —	100.000 —	100.000 —
	Dime des Tabacs (Prélèvement sur) en remplacement de l'Excédent de Chypre	— —	130.000 —	130.000 —
	Dime des Tabacs (Excédent de la)	62.141 37	232.930 65	118.122 44
	Excédent sur Dimes et autres Revenus, en remplacement de l'ancienne redevance de la Roumélie Orientale	— —	114.019 74	114.019 74
	Droits sur Tumbéki en traites sur la Douane	25.000 —	58.333 34	50.000 —
	Parts contributives de la Serbie, du Monténégro et de la Grèce	— —	— —	— —
Surtaxe Douanière 3%		95.961 19	1,061.580 49	1,012.916 37
Divers	Recettes diverses	3.792 30	24.430 85	15.963 97
	Intérêts du Compte "Fonds de Reserve"	4.156 05	69.610 20	81.285 08
	Solde Actif du Compte "Trésorerie"	25.823 58	48.708 76	12.156 29
Part contributive de la Tripolitaine		(1)124.834 38	124.834 38	—
	Total	703.364 73	5,442.694 15	4,553.862 89
Frais	industriels et spéciaux afférents aux Revenus		410.687 52	363.776 33
	du Personnel et divers (Siège Central et Provinces)	Ltq. 386.569 20		
	à déduire: commission pour gestion des dimes et autres revenus	Ltq. 112.000 —		
			274.569 20	267.381 49
Débets des Provinces			13.568 58	10.072 24
Restitution à la Régie des Tabacs des droits de Reftieh			50.000 —	50.000 —
Excédent sur Dime des Tabacs revenant au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman		Ltq. 233.396 37		
	Moins frais	Ltq. 3.600 —		
			(2)229·796 37	118.122 44
Solde Passif du Compte "Trésorerie"			6.529 28	1.176 —
Etats Balkaniques (Comptes Débets)			65.629 04	—
Montant revenant à la Régie des Tabacs sur la part contrib. de la Tripolitaine pour l'Ex. 1329 (1913-14)			6.000 —	—
	Total		1,056.779 99	810.528 50
	Total Net		4,385.914 16	3,743.334 39
Sommes provenant des Titres amortis et primés du dossier "Lots turcs rachetés," etc., etc.			69.522 72	30.486 44
Solde actif du Compte Amortissement de l'Exercice précédent			125.123 76	47.481 52
	Total Général Net		4,580.560 64	3.821.305 35
Applications	Pour le service de l'Intérêt de la Dette Convertie Unifiée		1,496.805 20	1,522,861 56
	Pour le service de l'Amortissement de la Dette Convertie Unifiée		760.572 15	548.112 70
	Pour le service général des Lots Turcs		438.232 46	435.738 05
	Part de 75% sur la Surtaxe douanière 3%	Ltq. 796.185,36		
	Moins 75% de Ltq. 7.512,53 frais	Ltq. 5.634,70		
			(3) 830556 30	759.687 28
	Part de 75% sur les Surtaxes du Sel et des Spiritueux		452.234 24	208.949 22
	Part de 75% sur les Excédents des Revenus Concédés		338.613 56	220.832 78
Solde disponible			213.546 73	125.123 76
	Total Egal		4,580.560 64	3,821.305 35

Constantinople, le 27/9 Septembre, 1914.

(1) de Septembre 1327-1911 à fin Février 1328-1913 ..... Ltq. 57.496,62
Pour l'Exercice 1329-1913/14 ..... Ltq. 67.367,76
Ltq. 124.834,38

(2) Y compris Ltq. 465,72 provenant de la part contributive de la Tripolitaine.
(3) Y compris Ltq. 40.005,64 provenant de la part contributive de la Tripolitaine.

Pour le Conseil d'Administration.
(Signé) { Le Président: J. de la Boulinière.
Un des membres du Conseil: A. Block.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 August, 1914, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	522,321
Titres divers	498,798
Comptes-Courants	427,751
Avances sur Marchandises	1,041,073
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,641,934
Avances sur d'autres garanties	1,006,186
Effets sur l'Etranger	483,961
Effets sur l'Egypte	573,161
Immeubles et mobilier	257,786
Placements à courte échéance	308,422
Comptes Banquiers	664,661
Gouvernement du Soudan	382,628
Encaisse:	
Espèces:	
Or £E.464,962	
Argent et nickel £E.470,387	
£E.935,349	
Billets de Banque £E.442,566	1,377,915
Divers	134,092
	£E.9,320,670

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,462,500
Fonds de Prévoyance	24,375
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	2,410,538
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,632,157
Ministère des Finances	345,362
Ministère Compte spécial	26,716
Comptes Banquiers	69,058
Chèques et effets à payer	59,880
Divers	325,184
	£E.9,320,670

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.1,799,426
Titres	1,700,574
	£E.3,500,000
Billets émis	£E.3,500,000
	£E.3,500,000

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE SHEET, SEPTEMBER 26, 1914.

Assets.

Metallic reserve: Gold ..... 153,660,016; Foreign bills payable in gold 56,475,044		210,135,060
Silver and other coins		605,900
Roumanian and foreign bills		258,875,760
Advances against Government securities ..... 34,874,500; On current account 145,428,000		121,502,116
Unused balance .. 56,792,384	86,627,616	
Loan of 15 millions to the State		11,273,958
Bank's capital invested in Government stock		11,999,357
Reserve invested in Government stock		16,759,377
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery		4,036,281
Premises		6,742,809
Furniture and printing machinery		1,088,511
General expenses		774,235
Government and other securities deposited		134,170,095
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged		310,951,610
Current accounts		37,672,144
Security accounts		23,064,782
Sundry accounts		6,843,350
Total Lei		1,156,495,345

Liabilities.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	37,203,800
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,526,192
Notes in circulation	566,083,205
Profit and loss account	3,810,594
Interest and sundry profits	3,675,766
Current accounts and drafts at sight	25,396,874
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	445,121,705
Sundry accounts	57,677,209
Total Lei	1,156,495,345

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

The British loan of £5,000,000 for the benefit of agriculture in Egypt is, it is reported by Reuter from Cairo, occupying the attention of the Porte, which contends that the authority of Turkey is required before any loan can be made to Egypt.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has issued the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1914 (new style: January 14 to September 13, 1914):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Aug., 1914	2,765,870.70	1,454,530.00
Do. do. do 1913	2,271,615.11	1,961,343.75
Estimated Receipts for 8 months (Law of Control)	19,266,666.67	7,133,333.33
Actual receipts for 8 months, 1914	25,045,689.90	18,809,703.82
Do. do. do. 1913	18,522,638.98	15,816,815.62
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 8 months 1914	+ 5,779,023.23	+ 11,676,370.49
1913	— 744,027.69	+ 8,683,482.29

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

The Cyprus Gazette (Extraordinary) of September 21 contains a Proclamation ordering the Cyprus Currency Commissioners to issue not more than 3,400 notes of the value of £5 each, and 18,000 notes of the value of £1 each. A further Proclamation prohibits the export of these notes from Cyprus without the written permission of the proper authority.

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NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

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F. EDWIN WHITTALL.
H.E. AHMED DJEMAL BEY.
H.E. NAIL BEY.
RECHID SADI BEY.

LONDON.

HON. SIDNEY PEEL, Chairman of London Committee.
HON. HUGO BARING.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, C.M.G.
C. S. GULBENKIAN.
R. H. MACAULAY.
E. N. MEYER.

Head Office: CONSTANTINOPLE (KENADJIAN HAN STAMBOUL).

MANAGER - - H. P. KINGHAM.

London Agency: 50, CORNHILL, E.C.

MANAGER - - - R. HECHT.

The National Bank of Turkey undertakes every description of Banking business. It opens current accounts according to the custom of Bankers. Customers have the facility of discounting approved bills and of obtaining advances upon negotiable securities. The Bank will undertake the purchase and sale of bonds, shares, etc., on the London Stock Exchange, on the local and on all Continental Bourses, the safe custody of customers' securities and valuables, and the collection of drawn bonds and coupons when due. The Bank issues drafts and telegraphic transfers payable in all principal towns in the world Letters of credit for the use of travellers are also issued. Advances made on merchandise. The purchase and sale of coupons, foreign bank notes, coin and bullion are undertaken. Bills negotiated or sent for collection. Mercantile credits opened.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, Ltd.

Head Office: 7, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCHAREST.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £175,662.

DIRECTORS:

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.V.O., C.B.
HON. H. A. LAWRENCE.
THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.
E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
P. NAVILLE, ESQ.

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A general banking business is carried on. Correspondence is invited from those doing business with Roumania, and should be addressed to THE MANAGER in LONDON or BUCHAREST.

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Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000.
Paid up Capital - - 500,000.
Reserve - - - - - 600,000.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

HON. HUGO BARING,
HON. ALGERNON MILLS,
SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.,
HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 3 and 4, LOTHBURY, E.C.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

(Incorporated by Firman of His Imperial Majesty The Sultan.)

Capital - £10,000,000. £5,000,000 Paid up.

RESERVE FUND - - - £1,250,000.

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Mr. ARTHUR NIAS, Director-General. Mr. LOUIS STREG, Director-General-Adjoint.

M. I. DUPUIS, M. G. CABTALI, } Directors.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.	PARIS.
Messrs. THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.V.O., C.B.	Messrs. CHARLES DE CERJAT.
E. W. H. BARRY.	LE COMTE ADRIEN DE GERMINY
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.	GEORGES HEINE.
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HON. HERBERT A. LAWRENCE.	ALBERT MIRABAUD
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE.	RAOUL MALLET.
SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, BART.	PYRAME NAVILLE.
	LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE.
	FELIX VERNES.

London Office: E. W. H. BARRY, Manager. C. E. L. CORTHORN, Assistant Manager and Secretary.

LIST OF BRANCHES OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

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Cavalla
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Janina
Pera (Constantinople)
Rodoste
Salonica
Scutari (Albania)
Serres
Stamboul (Constantinople)

ASIA.
Adatia
Adana
Afion-Carahissar
Aidin
Ak-Chehir
Angora
Ada-Bazar
Bagdad
Balikesser
Bassora
Biledjik
Bitlis
Bolavadina
Boulou
Broussa
Castambol (Castamouni)
Cesarea (Vilayet of Angora)
Dardanelles
Denizli
Diarbekir
Djihan
Erzeroum
Eski-Cheir
Ineboli
Konia
Kutahia
Kerassunde
Kharput, same as (Mamouret-ul-Asis)
Mersina
Mitylene
Mossoul
Nazli
Ordou
Ouchak
Panderma
Rhodes
Samsoun
Sandikli
Sivas
Smyrna
Sokia
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Aintab
Beyrout
Caiffa
Damascus
Hamah
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Homs
Jaffa
Jerusalem
Djeddah (Arabia)
Saida
Tripoli
Urfah
Zahlé

EGYPT.
Alexandria
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